New summer reads from UWM authors

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

It’s finally summer, which means it’s time to start your summer reading list and gather up your books for the beach. We’ve got a few suggestions to get you started – and they’re all new books by UWM authors.

*The Expanse Between* by Lee Krecklow ('00, BA Film Studies)

Krecklow’s debut novel tells the story of Thomas Stone, an author who enjoyed success with his first few books but has been struggling with his craft for the last decade. Inspiration strikes when he catches a glimpse of the woman in the apartment across from his, leading Stone down a twisted path to manipulate and novelize the unsuspecting neighbor’s life.

“It’s a dark book,” Krecklow warns. “There’s no hero. Most of the characters are flawed in a very human way.”

Krecklow began at UWM intending to major in Geosciences, but an appetite for movies led him to switch to Film Studies. After graduation, he directed several short films, but quickly discovered his interests lay more in crafting a narrative than bringing it to life.

The novel’s origins lay in reality television, of all places. Krecklow conceived the idea during his undergraduate career while watching shows like *Survivor*. How was it, he wondered, that producers and directors were given such acclaim for creative talent when the filming was supposed to just reflect reality? He began exploring the idea in his writing, drawing on films like “Rear Window” and “The Conversation” to see how other writers had handled the idea of voyeurism.

“I like to tell people that they should read *The Expanse Between* for all the things that it’s not,” Krecklow said. “It’s not a typical beach read. It’s suspenseful and a page-turner, but it’s a very literary book. It feels very different and I hope people are satisfied.”

*The Expanse Between* is available at Boswell Book Company (2559 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee) and online at Barnes and Noble ([http://bit.ly/2sYYJgt](http://bit.ly/2sYYJgt)) and Amazon ([http://amzn.to/2rsnBet](http://amzn.to/2rsnBet)).

*Lou Sullivan: Daring to Be a Man Among Men* by Brice D. Smith ('10, PhD History)

When Brice D. Smith was researching a paper for a course on gender and American history, he was dismayed that no biography existed for transgender activist Lou Sullivan. So, he decided to write it.

“Sullivan essentially founded an international FtM (female-to-male) transgender community,” Smith explained. “I found his story extremely compelling. It had a very visceral effect on me. I felt like I couldn’t learn enough.”

Smith enrolled in the UWM History PhD program specifically to write about and research Sullivan. The effort turned into Smith’s recent book, which details Sullivan’s life starting from his birth in Wauwatosa as a girl. However, Sullivan, at heart, identified as a gay man.

“At the time, such a thing supposedly did not exist,” Smith said. “(Medical professionals) saw themselves as helping people transition so that they didn’t have to lead gay lives. They were helping people become straight.”

*Continued on page 10*
English professor's *Cold Pastoral* hot on poetry lists

*By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science*

It's been seven years since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill released nearly 5 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, devastating marine life and decimating the livelihoods of thousands of people on the gulf coast who relied on the ocean for fishing, trapping, and commerce.

Rebecca Dunham has captured it all in her new book, *Cold Pastoral*.

Dunham’s collection of poetry, which features works exploring the aftermath of Deepwater Horizon alongside other poems decrying the destruction of the environment, has been hailed as one of “25 Protest Poetry Collections to read Right Now” ([http://bit.ly/2nx3nls](http://bit.ly/2nx3nls)) and one of “15 of the Most Anticipated Poetry Collections of 2017” ([http://bit.ly/2hHL6N5](http://bit.ly/2hHL6N5)).

“I was really surprised by the praise,” Dunham admitted. “I think that the politics of the moment have made people more interested in poetry than usual. There’s been a lot of interest right now in writing in general the connects to the environment. We now have an oil executive as our Secretary of State.”

Her book is less about politics, though, and more about the ways in which humanity has been willfully blind to the damage we’ve done to our surroundings.

Dunham’s parents are gulf coast residents in Florida, so that region is near and dear, but what really inspired her to write were the horribly beautiful images that were released in the days after the oil rig exploded. People could watch in real time on “spill cams” as gallons of crude oil rushed to contaminate the water. For Dunham, even though the gulf was far away, the event held a kind of immediacy.

A year after the oil spill, she began traveling throughout the area, talking with people who had been affected and incorporating their stories into her writing.
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee physicists and their Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory colleagues around the world on June 1 announced their third detection of gravitational waves.

The first detection of gravitational waves in September 2015 confirmed a major prediction of Albert Einstein’s 1915 general theory of relativity, and a second detection in December 2016 confirmed that the first wasn’t a fluke.

This third detection of ripples in the fabric of space-time confirms the existence of a new class of black holes with large masses that had gone undetected. Analysis of the wave may also contribute to our understanding of how binary black holes – pairs of black holes in orbit around each other – are created.

As was the case with the first two detections, physicists at UW-Milwaukee’s Center for Gravitation, Cosmology and Astrophysics played a key role in confirming and characterizing waves generated when two black holes merged to form a larger black hole. The UWM team led the development of a network of supercomputers used to analyze the huge amount of data coming from the LIGO instruments.

“Black holes like this can only be detected through the ripples in space-time produced as they merge,” says Patrick Brady, director of the Leonard E Parker Center for Gravitation, Cosmology and Astrophysics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and senior member of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration. “This observation reveals a little more about the types of black holes that form and merge in our universe.”

The newfound black hole, formed by the merger of two black holes, has a mass about 49 times that of our sun. This fills in a gap between the masses of the two merged black holes detected previously by LIGO, which had solar masses of 62 (first detection) and 21 (second detection).

The recent detection is the most distant yet, with the black holes located about 3 billion light-years away. (The black holes in the first and second detections are located 1.3 billion and 1.4 billion light-years away, respectively.)

The new detection occurred during LIGO’s current observing run, which began Nov. 30, 2016, and will continue through the summer. LIGO is an international project with members across the globe. Its observations are carried out by twin detectors — one in Hanford, Washington, and the other in Livingston, Louisiana — operated by Caltech and MIT with funding from the National Science Foundation.
The newest observation also provides clues about the directions in which the black holes are spinning, and this offers clues about how the pair formed.

As pairs of black holes spiral around each other, they also spin on their own axes — like the Earth spinning on its axis as it orbits around the sun. Binary black holes whose axes are aligned likely formed together; binaries with unaligned axis may have fallen into orbit together after they formed. The new LIGO data suggest that the spin of at least one of the black holes may have been tilted. More observations with LIGO are needed to say anything definitive about the spins of binary black holes, but these early data offer exciting clues.

“With this detection, we are starting to unravel the mysteries of binary black hole formation,” says Jolien Creighton, a professor at UWM and co-chair of the group responsible for identifying and interpreting the signal in the LIGO data.

Forming a global network

LIGO is part of a planned global network of gravitational-wave detectors that will include the European Virgo detector.

Over the next few years, LIGO and Virgo will continue to alternate observing runs with periods of detector improvements that will bring better measurements of binary black holes and other new insights into the universe. Brady and his colleagues expect those refinements to offer a new window on less massive but no less exotic objects, such as neutron stars.

“Neutron stars are basically massive nuclei, and we have no idea how matter behaves at that density,” Creighton said. “Neutron stars provide the only physical laboratory we have to study matter of this sort.”

Jo van den Brand, the Virgo Collaboration spokesperson, a physicist at the Dutch National Institute for Subatomic Physics (Nikhef) and professor at VU University in Amsterdam, said: “The LIGO instruments have reached impressive sensitivities. We expect that by this summer Virgo, the European interferometer, will expand the network of detectors, helping us to better localize the signals.”

David Shoemaker, the newly elected spokesperson for the LIGO Scientific Collaboration (LSC), added: “It is remarkable that humans can put together a story, and test it, for such strange and extreme events that took place billions of years ago and billions of light-years distant from us. The entire LIGO and Virgo scientific collaborations worked to put all these pieces together.”
Journalism in Japan: Student wins travel award

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

On her first day in Japan, Miela Fetaw was sent on a scavenger hunt which got her lost in Osaka, made her new friends, and gave her the opportunity to hold an owl. It was one of her favorite parts of the trip.

Fetaw, a Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies major, was one of just nine student journalists from across the U.S. who won the 2017 Roy W. Howard National Collegiate Reporting Competition. Her prize was a 10-day trip to Japan in May to absorb the nation’s culture and to learn first-hand about foreign correspondence and journalism. The award honors Roy Howard, a journalist in the first half of the 20th century who regularly traveled to Asia and wrote about the continent and its leaders.

“I feel like using the term ‘life-changing’ is cliché,” Fetaw said after she returned, “but I think it was a great stepping stone. We spent the 10 days trying to immerse ourselves in Japanese culture. … The experience was a culture shock, but it opened my eyes to other traditions I never knew.”

Fetaw is a storyteller by nature. In the 1980s, her parents emigrated from Eritrea in east Africa to Italy, where Fetaw was born. Her family later relocated to the United States, but living among different cultures gave Fetaw a healthy respect for viewing the world through multiple lenses. It’s part of what draws her interest to foreign correspondence.

So when she found an advertisement for the competition, Fetaw began to whip up an application— even though she was just hours away from the deadline. She submitted her essays with minutes to spare and was astounded weeks later when she learned that she was one of the winners.

The trip itself was packed full.

Fetaw and her fellow award winners traveled extensively throughout the country, visiting local and international media outlets to observe first-hand what international reporting is all about. Touring Bloomberg’s Tokyo bureau was especially exciting, she said. The group had dinner with a Reuters reporter and met a reporter working for the Associated Press.

Japanese television stations present news much differently from the U.S., Fetaw observed. Japanese news studios felt more comfortable and inviting, filled with plants and bright, warm colors. Japanese news anchors also tend to share more positive stories than their American counterparts do, she added.

On other days, the students visited temples and parks to absorb local flavor— and sobering history.

“We got to go to Hiroshima, and that was like nothing I’ve ever seen before,” Fetaw said. “Journalism requires seeing things from lots of different perspectives. Hiroshima drove that point home. … As much as you do want to know everything, you’ll never know all the sides. Everyone has their own truth, but which is most correct?”

Continued on page 6
Laurels, Accolades, and Grant Awards


Miela Fetaw, Tisia Muzinga, Kristopher Schimmel, and Paul Willems (all Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) received a first-place national award from the Society of Professional Journalists. The students won for best online sports reporting in the country for their coverage of the UWM Athletic Department Controversies for Media Milwaukee.com, the JAMS department student news site. The award winners are honored at the national SPJ conference in Anaheim, California. [http://bit.ly/2tyEqXc](http://bit.ly/2tyEqXc)

Diane Reddy (Psychology) received the 2017 New Media Consortium Henderson Prize, recognizing exemplary ongoing passion for teaching, learning, and innovation.


Jean Creighton (Planetarium) was given the 2017 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award by the UW System Board of Regents during their Milwaukee meeting on June 9. Creighton is the director of the UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium and in 2014 was one of 24 educators nationwide chosen to fly on NASA’s Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy. [http://bit.ly/2sb0pUb](http://bit.ly/2sb0pUb)

Journalism in Japan

continued from page 5

Hiroshima is one of two Japanese cities where the United States military dropped an atomic bomb during World War II. The American students, who had learned about the event in their own history classes, toured the city’s museum which presented the Japanese perspective of that fateful, violent day.

There was one aspect of culture she hadn’t anticipated; Fetaw is black, and that’s a rarity in Japan. She would sometimes catch people taking photos of her on the street for the novelty.

“It made me feel like I was at a zoo or something. It made me uncomfortable,” she said. “The language barrier does not allow you to explain that this is wrong or abnormal coming from the western world. I really tried to let this in as a learning and reporting experience.

“The biggest challenge for me was knowing when to put my American identity aside,” she added. “There were times when my peers or I were frustrated that we were lost or couldn’t figure out something. … We had to get to a point where we were comfortable with being uncomfortable.”

Fetaw said she hopes this won’t be the end of her travels, or journalism, abroad. She’s more than ready to be uncomfortable.
People in print


Alumni Accomplishments

Havidán Rodríguez (’86, MA Sociology) was named the new president of UAlbany by the State University of New York Board of Trustees. He will take over in September after having served as the founding provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. [http://bit.ly/2srp7S0]

Michael Price (’88, BA Mathematical Sciences) was elected to the board of directors of the Hanover Insurance Group, Inc. He is a senior insurance executive who will serve on the board’s audit committee. [http://bit.ly/2qGgLBM]

Brice D. Smith (’10, PhD History) was lauded by the Wisconsin Gazette for his research and work on his book Lou Sullivan: Daring to be a Man Among Men, chronicling transgender activist Lou Sullivan’s struggle for acceptance. [http://bit.ly/2qWYjFX]

Susan Barnett (’11, MA Art History) was recently named the new Curator of the Erie Art Museum in Erie, Penn. She will be responsible for programming exhibitions in the Museum’s galleries and collaborating with its education staff and other regional arts organizations. [http://bit.ly/2sDPimu]

Andy Schlingman (’92, BA Economics) was named a director of sales for U.S. Cellular’s business channel in Wisconsin and northern Illinois. [http://bit.ly/2sDD4dr]

Amanda Davis (’04, BA History) joined Associated Bank as a senior vice president, senior counsel, Legal. She is leaving her position of general counsel at Advicent to take the job. [http://bit.ly/2sLlpUB]

James Pampush (’10, MS Anthropology) recently joined the faculty of High Point University in North Carolina. He will be teaching in the Congdon School of Health sciences as an assistant professor of exercise science. [http://bit.ly/2sLWuA2]

Martin Shanks (’11, MPA) was recently hired as the administrator/clerk/treasurer of the Village of Poynette. Shanks previously interned with the village before completing his Master’s in Public Administration at UW-Milwaukee. [http://bit.ly/2smXw4a]

Kenira Thompson (’01, PhD Psychology) was chosen to serve a three-year term on the National Steering Committee for the Group on Research Advancement and Development (GRND) of the Association of American Medical Colleges. Thompson is the President of Ponce Research Institute and Vice President of Research at Ponce Health Sciences University. [http://bit.ly/2tTpaUw]

Join the UWM Planetarium to mark The Sun’s Disappearing Act!

In celebration of the 2017 solar eclipse, the UWM Planetarium is hosting live performances about how cultures around the world have interpreted eclipses and how eclipses have been at the root of turning points in history. We’ve come a long way in understanding these events since the days of these ancient civilizations. Come learn how we understand eclipses today and how you can watch this year’s eclipse safely and enjoyably!

Tickets are $5.

Show dates:

July 21 and 28
August 4, 11, 17, and 18
Shows are 7-8 p.m.
UWM Planetarium, 1900 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee.
Michael J. Mikos (Foreign Languages and Literature) was an invited speaker at the International Scientific Conference at the Warsaw University in Poland, May 25-26, presenting, “Polish Archival, Cartographic, and Photographic Collections in the American Geographical Society Library at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.”

Mark Schwartz (Geography) was one of four speakers on a panel discussing how climate change affects public health at an event in June organized by the Milwaukee Area Science advocates. (http://bit.ly/2rbHCCq) WUWM attended the event and quoted Schwartz in their coverage. (http://bit.ly/2sJ2MG9)


A federal election study into voter fraud has several key questions to address, William Holahan (emeritus Economics) opined in a column for Urban Milwaukee. http://bit.ly/2qFV6i3

Alida Cardos Whaley (Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latin@ Studies) was featured on Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service for her work in co-founding STITCH Milwaukee, an open mic series that tries to bring Milwaukee’s minority communities together. http://bit.ly/2ssnFMf

Research by Itziar Lazkano (Economics) shows that improving electrical storage technology can kickstart innovation both in renewable and fossil fuel energy production, Science Daily reported. http://bit.ly/2sgmDX1

After 42 days hiking on the Appalachian Trail, Lauren Groh (’12, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) penned an essay for WUWM Radio reflecting on the day-to-day challenges of the hike. http://bit.ly/2rB3bDm

The Milwaukee Institute for Drug Discovery and James Cook (Chemistry and Biochemistry) were hailed as examples for developing innovative methods to treat anxiety and panic disorders by MedGadget. http://bit.ly/2qWD0El

A badger has taken up residence at the UWM Field Station, station director James Reinartz told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. In the same article, Emily Latch (Biological Sciences) discussed the health of Wisconsin’s badger population. http://bit.ly/2r3yUKQ

Marc Levine’s (History) analysis of Wisconsin’s labor market was cited in an opinion piece for The Cap Times. http://bit.ly/2s1ImXO

Parenthood is hard to navigate with so many thorny subjects to talk about with your kids, but UWM Africology professor Erin Winkler has some ways to make one talk go a little easier. She went on Buzzfeed to give tips on how to talk to your children about race and racism. Watch the video above (http://bit.ly/2strge6) or read her tips in the article at http://bzfd.it/2rwaCt6.
Smith’s book chronicles Sullivan’s move to San Francisco, his struggle to make the medical community understand his sexuality, his eventual transition, and his work to establish resources and a community for trans men. Smith drew heavily on Sullivan’s detailed journals and correspondence. He enjoyed the full support of Sullivan’s family in writing his biography as well. Sullivan passed away in 1991 from AIDS.

“His story is so inspirational. It’s helped me to understand my identity and helped me to transition,” Smith said. “People should read this to better understand not only what it means to be trans, but what it’s like to be gay, and what it means to be human. … It’s the spirit of using your trials to help others overcome theirs.”

Lou Sullivan: Daring to Be a Man Among Men is available on Amazon at http://amzn.to/2s1fx8d and on Transgress Press at www.transgresspress.org/lou-sullivan.html.

The Last of August by Brittany Cavallaro (PhD student, English)

Sherlock Holmes is one of the most adapted characters of all time, but he’s almost always remained male. That’s why English PhD student’s Brittany Cavallaro’s new novel, The Last of August, is groundbreaking – Charlotte Holmes is a crime-fighting, mystery-solving, teenage girl at boarding school.

The Last of August is the second installment in Cavallaro’s Holmes trilogy, in which her main characters are descendants of the original Baker Street duo. The book revisits Charlotte Holmes and Jamie Watson, introduced in A Study in Charlotte (2016), as the pair race across Europe in a bid to find Charlotte’s missing uncle and unravel an international art forgery ring.

“In the second book, things get darker, more dangerous, and more out of control,” Cavallaro warned.

Danger and mayhem were far from Cavallaro’s mind when she began her PhD at UWM. She was initially focused on poetry, but after taking a few fiction classes and teaching a class about detective fiction, she found herself gravitating toward mysteries. That was how Charlotte Holmes and Jamie Watson were born.

“I knew I really wanted to do the traditional Sherlock Holmes opening with Watson being the fish out of water,” Cavallaro said. “I also knew that I wanted to be writing for teenage girls. I wanted to give them a Sherlock Holmes character who wasn’t well-behaved, who’s not afraid to fire the gun into the wall when she’s angry. I wanted to write a messy, complicated detective who was the star of the show.”

The Last of August was released in February and recently hit the New York Times bestseller list. It and the previous book, A Study in Charlotte, are available wherever books are sold, including on Amazon at http://amzn.to/2rs9mLK.

In the Media

continued from page 9

Do happy faces or sad faces raise more money when it comes to encouraging people to donate money to charity? Xiaoxia Cao (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) researched the answer and wrote about her findings for The Conversation (http://bit.ly/2sPCF18). Her article was reprinted in several other media outlets, including The LaCrosse Tribune (http://bit.ly/2sMoKlu) and the Lincoln Journal Star (http://bit.ly/2sx1749).

Men who were victims of violence as boys are more likely to exhibit violent tendencies towards their intimate partners as adults, a study by Shawn Cahill (Psychology) says as reported by Science Magazine. http://bit.ly/2svvuUn

Thomas Haigh (History) explored the claim that Shiva Ayyadurai is the inventor of email, with researching dating back to the 1970s, Ars Technica reported. http://bit.ly/2swsBmT
Many of her interviews were planned, but some unexpected meetings proved to make the best poems.

“There are three poems in the book about a man named Wilbert Collins. He’s an oyster fisherman. There was this sign outside [of his store] about how they had gone out of business after 90 years,” Dunham recalled. “I went back, and Wilbert welcomed me in. We talked for a few hours and he showed me around, and showed me his boat. … The fresh water that they released to try and get the oil out was what actually killed all the oysters. Even after re-seeding the beds, it takes 15 years for them to come back.”

Other poems touch on the Flint, Mich. water crisis, or challenge the reader to pay attention to the environmental problems surrounding them. It’s a book of pastoral elegies – poems that deal with confronting death in nature – in addition to being a book of protest.

“I feel like this witnessing is political. I’m not saying we have to go out and march, but I do feel it’s trying to raise attention toward things that are unjust and wrong,” Dunham said.

That includes her own attention. During the course of writing Cold Pastoral, Dunham took a hard look at her own life and made changes. She and her family now own a hybrid car and she’s very conscious of how she disposes of her trash – especially recyclables like water bottles. The Dunhams also garden to grow their own food and try to buy organic in order to mitigate the damage of harmful agricultural practices on large, corporate farms.

It can be hard to make those sweeping changes, but it’s not an all-or-nothing proposition, Dunham said. She hopes the people who read her book walk away with a better understanding of small things they can do to take care of their surroundings.

“One of the themes of the book has to do with the poet-speaker, and thinking about this idea of how we don’t want to see things like [environmental damage], this willful blindness,” Dunham said. “I hope there would be an introspection in that way. … I think we need to try to be better and just do the best we can, and do everything we can do.”

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Mark your calendars for these upcoming Planetarium Events!

**Planetarium Show: Splendor of the Solar System.** June 30 and July 7 and 14, 7-8 p.m. Tickets are $5.

**Planetarium Show: The Sun’s Disappearing Act.** July 21 and 28 and August 4, 11, and 18, 7-8 p.m. Tickets are $5.

**Stargazing:** July 28 and August 4 and 11, 9-10 p.m. Stargazing is free; hot chocolate is on sale for $1. *Note: This event is held on the UWM Physics Building Skydeck.*

**Solar Eclipse:** August 21. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. A solar eclipse will pass over the Milwaukee Sky. The Planetarium will help patrons view the event with special glasses and mark the occasion with live music, food trucks, games, and arts and crafts.

For more information on these events, please visit [http://uwm.edu/planetarium/](http://uwm.edu/planetarium/).