

Biology alumna helps Oceans of Fun live up to its name

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science



Astronaut, ballet dancer, and zookeeper seem to be the popular career choices among the nation's five-year-olds, and Kelly Kamrath was no different: She wanted to work with marine animals. In landlocked Wisconsin, she wasn't sure she'd ever get the chance.

Her five-year-old self would be very pleased today.

Kamrath is the Director of Training and Husbandry at Milwaukee County Zoo's Oceans of Fun, the zoo's marine mammal facility. Kamrath is responsible for the welfare and training of the Oceans of Fun sea lions and seals, collectively called pinnipeds. In addition, she coordinates educational programs for zoo patrons and the general community and oversees the training of the Oceans of Fun staff.

"It's an all-encompassing job," she said. "I think the best part of my job is really the animals themselves, but it goes so far beyond the animals. The smiles we bring to the guests' faces are great. They fall in love with the animals and then engage in conservation practices."

Marine conservation is one of the major missions of Oceans of Fun. Kamrath's passionate about that mission, and it started during her days at UWM.

Originally from Sussex, Kamrath chose UWM for its proximity to home and because of the strong Biological Sciences department. She majored in Biology, focusing on animal care and behavior courses, and began volunteering and interning with Oceans of Fun even before she graduated in 1996.

After graduation, Oceans of Fun hired her, and 20 years later, she's still in love with the job.

Working with pinnipeds requires patience and a commitment to building a strong, trusting relationship with each animal. Oceans of Fun trainers utilize positive reinforcement and the help of a clicker to communicate with the animals.

"The click indicates a job well done, and is a communication tool which lets the seal or sea lion know that they have performed their task correctly – and lots of positive reinforcement, like fish, a back rub, or toys, is on the way," Kamrath said.

Training often makes use of their natural behaviors. Seals and sea lions like to "greet" each other and anything new by nudging it with their noses. Kamrath uses that behavior in



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Supreme Court class sees justice

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science



(From left) Political Science majors Joshua Boschke, Omar Abu Ali, Aymen Issa, Kyle Beesley, and Daniel Kafka enjoy meeting a member of the counsel for Trinity Lutheran Church (middle, red striped tie) while waiting to hear oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia v. Comer. Photo courtesy of Aymen Issa.

Last fall, several UWM Political Science majors researched and argued the case Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia v. Comer for Professor Sara Benesh’s “Supreme Court” class.

In April, they went to see how the pros do it.

Omar Abu Ali, Kyle Beesley, Joshua Boschke, Aymen Issa, and Daniel Kafka are as different in their political ideologies as they come, but the students all share a deep interest in American politics. Abu Ali, Beesley, Boschke, and Issa bonded in Benesh’s

capstone class, where they were expected to research and argue actual cases that had potential to be heard by the United States Supreme Court. Acting as attorneys and Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) justices, the four tackled Trinity Lutheran v. Comer, writing cert petitions (documents that petition the Supreme Court to hear a case) and other court documents in addition to preparing oral arguments and researching how the actual judges might decide the case.

“The experience in Professor Benesh’s class is how judges and attorneys feel at the federal level,” said Issa. “The semester after that ... we saw that Trinity vs. Comer got a date for the oral arguments. Josh and I flirted with the idea – wouldn’t it be cool to go to the oral arguments? We talked about how Benesh’s class really pushed us to pay attention to the Supreme Court.”

Kafka, who was taking another class with Professor Benesh at the time, signed on for the trip as well, and Benesh gave the students her whole-hearted support. They were on their way to Washington, D.C.

The city’s history was awe-inspiring, from the monuments to the country’s founding documents stored in the National Archives. Less inspiring was the hostel where the group stayed the night – the room was cramped, miserable, and smelly. It turned out to be a blessing in disguise; unable to sleep in the poor accommodations, Issa left the room and went to join the line to get tickets to the hearing.

The Supreme Court allows only about 50 people or so to watch hearings, and tickets are first-come, first-serve. The line to secure tickets for the Trinity Lutheran case had already formed by the time Issa arrived at midnight, with several people camped out in sleeping bags to hold their place. He called in the rest of the group, and they waited, dressed in suits and unable to sit down, through the night. They were in time; each student was able to get a ticket to hear the oral arguments.

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Alum goes out to the old ball game – every day

By Kathy Quirk, University Relations

UWM alum Mike Kennedy has a dream job for a baseball-loving writer who grew up in Minnesota.

“Not many people get to say that they grew up rooting for a team their whole life and then get to work for them,” said Kennedy, the manager of communications and publications for the Minnesota Twins. “I come to a professional baseball field every day for work. That’s pretty sweet.”

He credits his UWM experiences, particularly his December 2008 bachelor’s degree in journalism and media studies, for launching his career in sports communication. After growing up in suburban Minneapolis-St. Paul, he wanted to go someplace different for college. “I came to UWM on a whim,” Kennedy said. “I visited the campus and liked the city, and it’s close enough to drive back home.”

After starting out in criminal justice, he switched to journalism because he was intrigued by the major. He had friends in the program and had worked on the newspaper and yearbook staff in high school.

UWM’s program was just the right size to offer the skills and hands-on experience he wanted. Easy access to the athletic department helped improve his sports coverage skills. He also worked as a sports writer and sports editor for the *UWM Post*.

He liked the small class sizes in the journalism program. “I’m not a big lecture hall kind of guy,” Kennedy said. “Having those smaller classes of 15 or 20 people really helped me get hands-on experience and develop my skills that prepared me for the workforce.”

“ With all the social media sites, news is now a 24-7 thing. It doesn’t matter if it’s 3 a.m. or noon. Anything can happen anytime. ”

He joined the Twins communications staff in 2012 after jobs with other sports teams, including the Colorado Rockies. While his focus is on publications, he’s helped with the overall content for the Twins across a variety of platforms. “With all the social media sites,” Kennedy says, “news is now a 24-7 thing. It doesn’t matter if it’s 3 a.m. or noon. Anything can happen anytime.”

While major league ballplayers are a different kind of co-worker, most are pretty cooperative about working with the communications staff, said Kennedy. A few, such as two-time All Star Michael Cuddyer, who was with the Twins from 2001 to 2011, have become friends, and it’s a personal loss when they leave for another team.

“You get used to seeing people around, and you do build relationships with some of them, so you try to keep in touch.” And given the nature of baseball, former colleagues do return – Cuddyer rejoined the Twins this season as a special assistant.

Kennedy deals with everybody from million-dollar athletes to members of the media to front office staff to fans. “It’s all different types of personalities,” he said. “The challenge is saying the right thing, doing the right thing, helping people get what they need. It’s a service department.”

With blogs and tweets and other social media, sports information is also much more participatory these days. “Obviously, the media have a little more inside access,” said Kennedy, “but everybody has their own voice now. Everybody can have their own opinion.”

Off the field, he enjoys family time with wife Brittany, who works for the Twins in the corporate partnerships department, and their 14-month-old son, Caden, and the family’s yellow lab, Knox. They both play rec league softball in the summers, and can’t wait until Caden starts baseball. “I can’t wait to watch his love for the game develop,” said Kennedy.

When he has time, he added, he likes brewing beer and enjoying and analyzing movies. “That’s something I learned from a lot of my film studies electives at UWM.”

Kennedy, who played baseball growing up, also likes the pace, strategy and unpredictability of baseball. “It’s a long season. You can’t just win five and go to the World Series. You have to be a well-rounded team so much of the time.” And, he added, “you can be bad one year and good the next.”

Spring is the time of year when every baseball team has a shot at a winning season — and maybe a postseason appearance. Said Kennedy: “It’s a high optimism point in the year, no matter how you did last year.”



Mike Kennedy grew up rooting for the Minnesota Twins. Now, the UWM grad works for the team. (Brace Hemmelgarn/Minnesota Twins)

Complex to Curious: A Science Communication Boot Camp

By Mike Kay, Journalism, Advertising and Media Studies major



Jean Creighton (left) and Robin Mello.

Dr. Jean Creighton (Department of Physics) and Dr. Robin Mello (Department of Theatre) were selected by the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University to participate in a summer Boot Camp. This intensive week-long training is designed specifically for scientists and focuses on making complex scientific topics accessible, meaningful, and relevant to non-scientists and spark curiosity among the general public. Creighton and Mello participated in a series of workshops, simulations, on-camera interviews, and public presentations, and talked about their experiences upon their return.

What is your background, and what interested you in the boot camp?

Mello: My love of stargazing and astronomy goes back to when I was a child – back then the nights were dark enough (even living near New York City) to see the stars clearly. I spent many nights sneaking up to the roof of our garage, looking up, and trying to name the constellations. In Boston, while I was earning my doctorate, I became the Scientific Storyteller at the Museum of Science. And now, many years later, I've been very lucky to be able to work with Jean at the Manfred Olson Planetarium. We are working on a project called Tale of Scale - a trans-disciplinary outreach program that integrates astronomy, mathematics, and storytelling to teach UWM students how to interpret the cosmos. To advance and support Tale of Scale, we wanted to attend this program.

Creighton: As a little girl, I remember asking my mom where stars come from as I stared up into the sky. Also, I loved storytelling. I grew up in a household where we always told stories and discussed ideas. To learn more about how the universe works I studied physics and attended the University of Athens for my undergraduate work. Eventually I earned a master's degree from Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and a PhD from the University of Waterloo. After I left Waterloo I spent almost two years working in California on an infrared satellite called the Wide-field InfraRed Explorer (WIRE). Then, I moved to Milwaukee to start my family, teach Astronomy, and since 2007 I have been directing the UWM Planetarium. (Robin and I) wanted to continue to work on our interdisciplinary project and to increase the audience and the imprint of the planetarium on the community and beyond. We had a chance to apply this year, and luckily, they accepted both of us so we could attend as a team.

Mello: Jean is an obvious choice [for the boot camp] because of her work here, her TEDx talk, and the fact that she is a SOFIA NASA Ambassador, but for me it wasn't as obvious a fit. It is very unusual for them to accept a theatre-maker and I am so grateful that they accepted me.

Best parts of camp and what did you learn?

Creighton: This team of 32 scientists was supportive and generous, providing thoughtful feedback to each other. My favorite part was seeing the growth of each participant as they took on each challenge. For example, we worked on the one minute talk – it's when someone asks you about your work and you answer the Who, What, Why in a minute. Your goal is to engage someone enough so that they are curious about your work and ask more questions.

Mello: [Boot camp] helped me discuss the benefits of my research in clear and interesting ways. We were guided through a series of leadership trainings as well as simulations and challenges that used theatre techniques. It's a model that has been developed by the center, nationally and internationally, over the past five years. One [moment] that stands out for me is watching a woman who is a chemist and an Associate Dean of a major university. She came in a bit tongue-tied. Then, during her on-camera interview she suddenly came alive! Her joy at being able to talk about how research impacts daily life was contagious. Just watching people, including myself, come out of our shells was meaningful.

Creighton: It is important to find a connection with your audience through a common interest. I've learned to think about making realistic goals in the time allotted and to break things down incrementally. I've learned to consider what goals the audience might have and then ask myself "what goal do I want to focus on for this audience?" Also, being enthusiastic – enthusiasm really helps others be interested in what is going on.

Robin: The lesson that I have taken away from the boot camp is how to be a better listener, researcher and leader. A good listener is one who shares and creates ways to have dialogue. Conversation is a two-way street. We all benefit from learning

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Oceans of Fun [Continued from page 1](#)

target training, teaching the animals to touch an indicated object with their noses. It's fun for both parties involved.

And, if you were wondering – and a lot of people do, Kamrath said – there are easy ways to tell the difference between seals and sea lions. Sea lions have external ears and large front flippers. Seals lack an external ear, and their front flippers are much smaller, so they move on their bellies while on land. Sea lions, on the other hand, can move quickly, sometimes reaching speeds of 15 miles per hour at a full gallop.

In addition to training the animals and introducing zoo visitors to marine mammals, Kamrath and her staff pay close attention to the Oceans of Fun mission of conservation. Not only do they educate the public about the dangers facing these creatures in the wild, including warming oceans, declining food sources, and decreasing habitats, but they work on the practical side as well. In recent years, there have been several unusual mortality events along the California coastline resulting in thousands of sea lion pups stranded and starving.

Fun Fact – How to tell a seal from a sea lion:

Sea lions have external ears and large front flippers. Seals lack an external ear, and their front flippers are much smaller.

With the water temperatures changing, the food sources in the ocean are affected. Sea lion mothers often are forced to abandon their young pups due to their inability to find fish, Kamrath said. Oceans of Fun has stepped in directly to rescue and provide a permanent home for several young sea lion pups

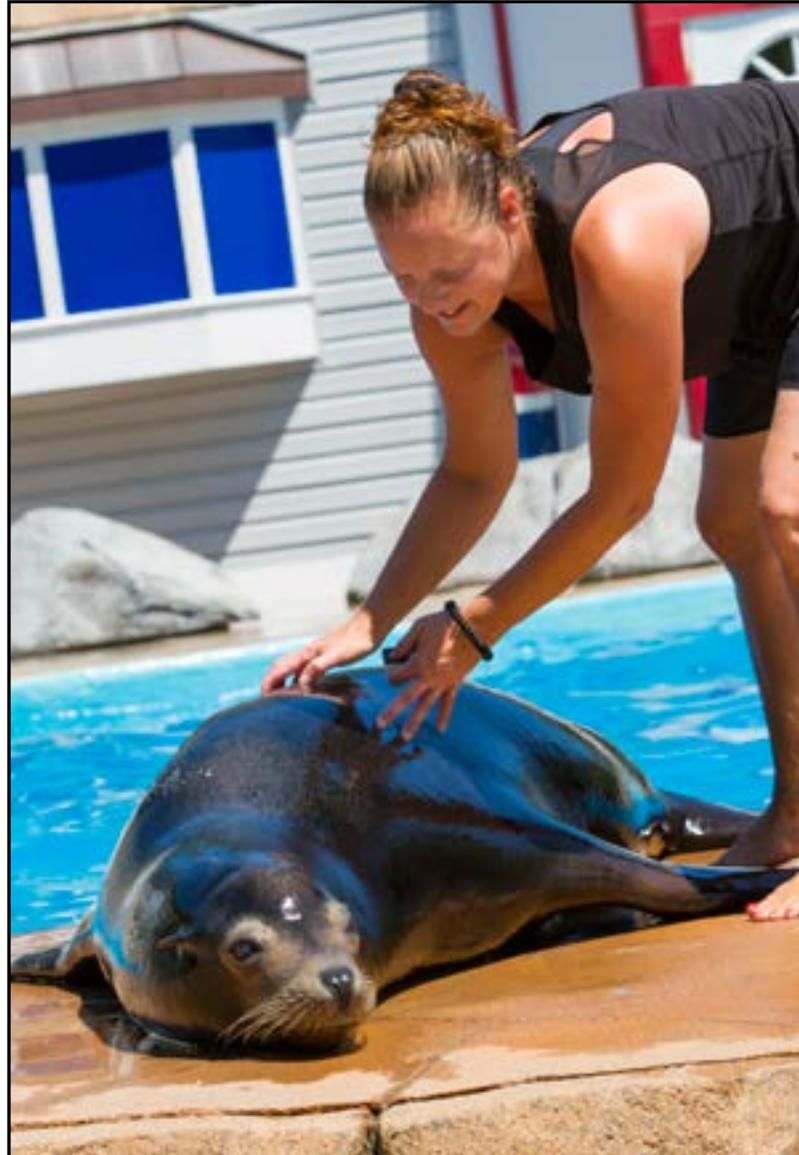
affected by these events, who are otherwise unable to survive in the wild.

Caring for the animals is a full-time job, too. Pinnipeds need to eat regardless of whether the calendar proclaims a weekend or a holiday. Medical emergencies don't happen on a 9-5 schedule. Even so, Kamrath said, working at Oceans of Fun is a dream come true.

“I was always that little girl who went down at Sea World to volunteer for the dolphin and orca shows. ... I've always been a water lover, and I love the ocean and nature,” she said. “Over the years, I fell in love with not only the animals at Oceans of Fun, but the mission of what we do here.”

See more imagery of Kamrath and her staff with their marine animals at :

<http://bit.ly/2hOIHnX>



Hearing the oral arguments was fascinating, they all agreed. Each Supreme Court justice has their own brand of politics and personality, and it shone through in the questions they asked each attorney. Chief Justice Roberts ran the proceedings calmly, while Justice Stephen Breyer asked pointed questions and was an overall “sassy pants” according to Kafka and Abu Ali.

But the most interesting moment was when newly-minted Justice Neil Gorsuch, an appointee by the Trump administration whose confirmation by the U.S. Senate was extremely controversial, asked his question. The Trinity case marked Gorsuch’s first major hearing as part of the Supreme Court.



Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia, Inc. v. Comer

The Trinity Lutheran Church Child Learning Center in Columbia applied for a program run by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources

which would provide reimbursement funding to replace the Center’s playground surface with a rubber surface made from recycled tires. The Missouri Department of Natural Resource’s policies forbid the state from giving grants to any organization controlled by a religious entity, and so Trinity Lutheran was denied the funding, even though the Center was ranked 5th out of 44 applicants to receive the grant.

Trinity Lutheran sued on the basis that this refusal violated the Free Exercise of Religion clause in the First Amendment, which prohibits the government from restricting the exercise of religious practices.

The 8th District Court of Appeals ruled that the Free Exercise clause did not obligate the state to award the money.

The Supreme Court heard the oral arguments on April 19, and, on June 26, reversed the lower court’s decision. By 7-2, the justices decided that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources had violated the rights of Trinity Lutheran under the Free Exercise Clause, saying that a generally available benefit cannot be denied solely on account of religious identity.

Chief Justice John Roberts delivered the opinion of the court. Justices Sotomayor and Ginsburg dissented.

The Supreme Court’s full opinion is available at <http://bit.ly/2sdVIMR>.

“When he finally asked a question when Missouri argued, the entire crowd leaned his way to hear him. It was a historic moment,” Issa said. “We all watched the news. We know what happened with his confirmation. To hear him ask a question on this case while we were sitting in this courtroom was huge.”

Watching the justices work was an exercise in understanding psychology and law, Abu Ali noted.

“With a lot of questions the Supreme Court was asking, they were giving the lawyer from Missouri the answers in the questions. They wanted to help him build an argument, but he missed it every time, and the justices got more and more frustrated as a result,” he said.

“I’ve listened to the case three times now, and it seems to me that Breyer’s not asking the questions because he wants to know the answers; he already knows the answers,” Kafka added. “He’s asking the questions because he wants to sway somebody else on the court to change their mind.”

The students walked out of the courtroom exhausted from their wait in line, but with a deep appreciation for the judicial branch of the United States government. The trip actually inspired Abu Ali to consider applying for law school after graduation, though he had no interest in it before.

And, Issa said, the trip made him even more of a Supreme Court junkie.

“When I got back, I started pursuing law. I started reading more Supreme Court rulings and listening to more arguments,” he said. “I really started appreciating Professor Benesh even more, since she helped make this happen. Now I want to go back to the Supreme Court and listen to more arguments.”

And, Beesley added, the trip gave the group a deeper friendship and appreciation for different political stances. Beesley is a staunch conservative; Issa is a libertarian; Boschke leans independent while Abu Ali calls himself a liberal and Kafka proudly declares his socialist stance.

“It’s funny that we can all get together, joke at each other’s expense and rag on each other, but at the end of the day, we’re all talking about these intellectual subjects and we’re all learning from each other.”

“It’s funny that we can all get together, joke at each other’s expense and rag on each other, but at the end of the day, we’re all talking about these intellectual subjects and we’re all learning from each other,” Beesley said. “There are times that my view has changed from something that Aymen or Dan said. If you’re in an echo-chamber, you’re never going to get that. You’re never going to learn from other people’s perspectives.”



People in print

Ryan B. Holifield (Geography), Jayajit Chakraborty, and Gordon Walker, eds. 2017. *The Routledge Handbook of Environmental Justice*. Routledge. <http://bit.ly/2o3shXv>

Robert R. Hoffman, Daphne S. LaDue, H. Michael Mogil, Paul J. Roebber (Mathematical Sciences and Atmospheric Science), and J. Gregory Trafton. 2017. *Minding the Weather: How expert forecasters think*. The MIT Press. <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/minding-weather>

Shohua Han, John S. Heywood (Economics), and Guangliang Ye. 2017. "Informative Advertising in a Mixed Oligopoly." *Review of Industrial Organization* 51(1): 103-125.

Ryan B. Holifield and Michael J. Day (Geography). 2017. "A framework for a critical physical geography of 'sacrifice zones': Physical landscapes and discursive spaces of frac sand mining in western Wisconsin." *Geoforum* 85: 269-279. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016718517302348>

Xin Huang (Women's and Gender Studies). 2017. Book review: "Queer/Tongzhi China: New Perspectives on Research, Activism and Media Cultures." *Frontiers of Literary Studies in China* 11(2): 423-426.

UWM linguist's new book helps develop multilingual abilities

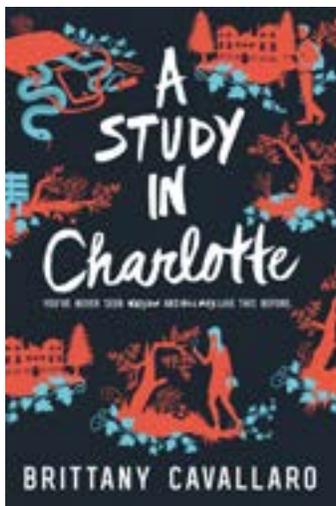
Research shows that successful language learners intuitively build on their existing knowledge as they learn a new language. A recently published book by Anita Alkhas, associate professor of French at UWM, and Patricia V. Lunn, professor emerita of Spanish at Michigan State University, aims to help adult native English speakers exploit this capacity to add a language to their repertoire.

"Learning French from Spanish and Spanish from French," is a short guide to using the skills acquired in learning one of those languages to learning the other.

Alkhas and Lunn show that, because language learners are used to thinking consciously about language, they can capitalize on what they know about one language to understand another. The book describes grammatical concepts and includes resources such as exercises, parallel reading texts, and audio files.

The book is targeted at people with intermediate proficiency in French or Spanish, including students and travelers interested in acquiring another language.

- By Greg Walz-Chojnacki, University Relations



If Holmes and Watson had great-great-great grandchildren..."

Brittany Cavallaro, a PhD candidate in English, has published her second book in the Charlotte Holmes series. "A Study in Charlotte" and "The Last of August" imagine a modern-day generation of crime-solvers – the teen descendants of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson. The series is a trilogy, with the third book planned for future release. Both books are available on Amazon at <http://a.co/9RW06Z>



Alumni Accomplishments

James Bartelt ('75, BA Economics) was named to the Board of Directors of the Marshfield (Wisc.) Area Community Foundation. Bartelt was a trust officer with Associated Trust Company for 35 years.

Rebecca Ewald ('02, Master of Public Administration) has been hired by the Village of Shorewood as their next village manager. Her previous experience includes assistant village manager and zoning and planning administrator for Elm Grove and village manager in Waterford, Wisc.

Jill Van Calster ('10, MS Nonprofit Management) has been named President and CEO of HEAR Wisconsin, a West Allis-based nonprofit that helps individuals with hearing loss.

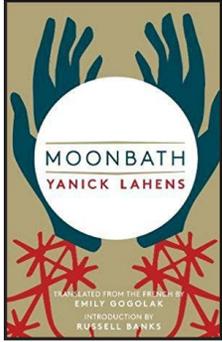
Upcoming Events

September 8th

Milwaukee Memory Symposium 2017: Modality specific retrograde amnesia. 2:00-3:00 pm, Lapam Hall N101

September 15

When And Why Do We Overbuild? Lessons From Chicago. Fall Lecture organized by the Urban Studies Programs. Keynote presentation by Professor Rachel Weber, University of Illinois at Chicago. 2:00-3:00 pm, UWM Greene Hall



September 22

Yanick Lahens in conversation: Writing In Haiti – Telling Stories Of Universal Human Truths. Yanick Lahens, the acclaimed Haitian novelist, short story writer and activist, returns to UWM and Milwaukee to launch “Moonbath” the translation of her award winning novel “Bain de Lune” (prix Femina 2014). 4:00 - 6:30 pm, 4th Floor Golda Meir Library <http://bit.ly/2imvYcq>

September 23

Author Reading: Yanick Lahens reads from “Moonbath”. Following her appearance at UWM, author Yanick Lahens will read from and discuss the context of “Moonbath”, a socio-historical saga that stretches out over 4 generations in the Haitian countryside. 11:00am - 12:30 pm, Boswell Books, <http://bit.ly/2x9GtDc>

October 1

Archaeology Lecture – Milwaukee County Poor Farm Cemetery Research: A 25-Year Retrospective. Patricia Richards, Director of the Milwaukee County Poor Farm Cemetery Project and Senior Scientist in Anthropology, presents. 3:00-4:30 pm, Sabin Hall, Room G90. <http://bit.ly/2gi2ED6>

October 3 - First American Woman to Walk in Space

Looking at the Earth: Thanks to the Space Age, we are the first generation of human beings to see the Earth as a whole. Astronaut and Earth scientist Kathy Sullivan will take us on a stunning tour of our planet as seen by astronauts and give us a glimpse into how earth-observing satellites improve everyday life on earth. 7:00 pm. UWM Union Ballroom.



Dr. Sullivan was the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from 2014 to 2017, a former astronaut, and the first American female to walk in space.

In addition to her NOAA and NASA roles, she was also President and CEO of the Center of Science & Industry in Columbus, Ohio; inaugural Director of the Battelle Center for Mathematics and Science Education Policy in the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University; and Chief Scientist at NOAA where she oversaw research and technology for projects ranging from climate change to satellites and marine biodiversity.

Before and after the presentation, Boswell Book Company will be selling copies of Kathy’s children’s book, “To the Stars!: The First American Woman to Walk in Space,” which she co-authored with Carmella Van Vleet. A book signing will take place after the lecture.

It’s UWM Homecoming Week – so we especially encourage alumni to come back and visit campus for this event.

Tickets are free and can be obtained online at : <http://bit.ly/2vPJSqo>

Underwriting provided by Dr. Robert Greenler as part of the Dean’s Distinguished Lecture in the Natural Sciences.

In the Media and Around the Community

Nationally recognized designer, **Ken Hanson** ('77, Economics), sold half of his creative agency Hanson Dodge to focus on his nonprofit, Greater Together, which promotes racial and economic equality in the creative industries in the Milwaukee area. <http://bit.ly/2uthKI3>



Associate Professor of Economics, **N. Kundan Kishor**, expressed his perspective on the 2017 Best & Worst Places to Rent in America in an interview for WalletHub. <http://bit.ly/2uthN6H>

Atmospheric Science faculty members work alongside CIRES scientists and NOAA members propose a solution to computationally represent clouds in layered models to help scientists better understand weather patterns and climate change. <http://bit.ly/2vkTRGZ>

Several faculty with backgrounds in economics provided media commentary on the Foxconn plans to build in Wisconsin. **Marc Levine** (History) addressed the economics of the deal between the State of Wisconsin and Foxconn in both the Northwest Indiana Times and the Wisconsin State Journal. <http://bit.ly/2viMx7G> and <http://bit.ly/2hNSHgX>.

Also, **Jeffrey Sommers** (Africology and Global Studies) spoke with Fox 6 News. <http://fox6now.com/2017/07/28/doubts-stir-up-after-foxconn-is-welcomed-to-wisconsin/>



Noelle Chesley

Noelle Chesley (Sociology) was interviewed by the Associated Press regarding Three Square Market, a River Falls, Wisc., company that offers implantable microchips to its employees for purposes of opening doors, logging into computers, and buying snacks. The story was distributed globally including the *Chicago Tribune*. <http://trib.in/2ugz1Zb>

Shale Horowitz (Political Science) talked with WTMJ radio during the afternoon drive time on both August 1 and August 9 about the nuclear threat from North Korea.

Amanda Seligman (History) spoke with Next City about the impact of block clubs in the Flint community. <http://bit.ly/2i8Licn>

SafetyNet, a Madison-based startup, offers a new type of cash flow insurance. This may be one option to protect against a loss of income due to injury, illness or job loss, says **Rebecca Neumann** (Economics). <http://bit.ly/2vJ3s7P>

Every night is Latin dance night at the new Points View Boite. Recently opened by **Marcos Ramos-Garcia** ('08, BA Communication), the night spot incorporates French and Latin culture into its music and drink menu. <http://bit.ly/2x7GOW9>

Alyssa Armbruster ('16 BS, Conservation and Environmental Science) and **Julia Robson** ('12 BS, Biological Sciences) are co-workers at Milwaukee County Parks and are embarking on a 320-mile hike north from Lake Michigan to Lake Superior. The duo hopes to raise awareness and funding for lake restoration. <http://bit.ly/2wKYJpy>

The *Corpus Christi Caller Times* gave a positive review of **Larry Baldassaro's** (Emeritus, Italian and Comparative Literature) classic book, *Reflections of a Splendid Life: Ted Williams*. <http://bit.ly/2wKGSPi>



Laurels and Accolades

Clark Evans (Mathematical Sciences/Atmospheric Science) was the recipient of a 2018 Editor's Award from the American Meteorological Society. He was honored for "thorough, constructive, and insightful reviews of an impressive number of manuscripts" in both *Monthly Weather Review* and *Weather and Forecasting*.

Putnam County High School graduate and current UWM Conservation and Environmental Science student **Marlee Giacometti** was awarded a full ride scholarship to study in Thailand and Vietnam for the upcoming fall term. <http://bit.ly/2uKj8W8>

Bill Pavelchik ('69, MS in Urban Affairs) died on July 17, 2017. His 30-year career with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) took him and his family throughout the Southeast part of the U.S. He and his wife settled in Tennessee for retirement where he was an active volunteer in the community. <http://bit.ly/2flB6qd>

Dr. Johanna Moore-Baxandall passed away on August 11, 2017 at the age of 89. She was an alumna of UWM, having received graduate degrees in Education. Originally from Germany, she taught German language and culture at UWM for more than 25 years. A full obituary ran in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel with more detail of her full and adventure-filled life. <http://bit.ly/2vYYwOK>



Professor Emeritus of Geography Donn Haglund passed away on August 9, 2017; he was 90 years old. A beloved family man, he also left a legacy in his field. He was a known expert on the Arctic Circle and far North, and spent his career instilling his passion for that part of Earth to the next generation. His field of specialty was economic geography, and he was recognized world-wide for his commitment to sustainability, research, and economic development of the Polar north. During his 40-year+ UWM career, he served as President of the Wisconsin Geographic Society; Governor of the American Polar Society; Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Arctic Institute of North America; and Vice President of Monaco's Comité Arctique International under the Honorary Chairmanship of Prince Rainier. Donn was also inducted into the prestigious Sigma Xi for his service to Science and Society. He was welcomed as a visiting scholar at the Universities of Alaska, Carleton, Calgary, Saskatchewan, and Stockholm. Donn was a loyal supporter of academic excellence and was a founding member of the Phi Beta Kappa national honor society chapter at UWM; he will be missed at the annual induction ceremony which he attended every year he could. A man of honor and integrity, he served his country during WWII and was a devoted Eagle Scout for more than 60 years. He is survived by his wife, Alma, his son Erik (Lisa), six grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends. <http://bit.ly/2uZ3ztE>

Retired Colonel Thomas "Tim" Lawrie, 73, died on August 12, 2017. He was a 1965 graduate of the economics program at UWM. His distinguished 26-year military career included two tours in Vietnam in the Army Airborne division. He received the Silver Star, the third-highest decoration for valor in combat, as well as the Purple Heart for injuries incurred during the war. He went on to become a partner in the Wing Group, an international power development firm; founder and owner of Simon Creek Winery in Door County; and a military consultant for media outlets including NBC, MSNBC, and the Canadian Broadcast Corporation. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Barbara Jean, two daughters, and many other family and friends. <http://gbpg.net/2x8HTwC>

Video Story



Milwaukee PBS featured the excavation of a site on North 13th Street in Milwaukee conducted by a UWM archaeological crew. Human remains were excavated and examined from dozens of graves under a team led by Anthropology Senior Scientist Patricia Richards. <https://youtu.be/CRHvutp83iU>

New Faculty Profiles

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science



Rachel Bloom-Pojar: Assistant Professor, English

PhD 2015, University of Kansas

Previously Asst. Professor of English at University of Dayton

Research Focus: I study cross-cultural rhetoric and community health in Latin

America/El Caribe.

Current projects: I'm currently finishing my book, which draws from a qualitative study that I conducted in the Dominican Republic to examine how visiting health practitioners from the US and local residents negotiated linguistic and cultural differences when working together with a summer health program. I'm also working with a colleague on a new project that explores medical interpreters' rhetorical tactics for responding to language variation and discourses of health that they encounter in their work with Spanish-speaking patients in the U.S.

Goals for the coming year: I look forward to getting to know UWM students and my colleagues in the English department, as well as connecting with others across campus who might have similar interests. My scholarly goals include applying for a few grants, seeing my book through production, and getting started on a new project focused on promotores de salud in Latin America and global health rhetoric.

Fun fact: I love yoga and bachata dancing.



Thomas Haigh: Associate Professor, History

PhD 2003, University of Pennsylvania

Previously Associate Professor, UWM School of Information Studies

Research Focus: I focus on the history of information

technology.

Fun research fact: Women built ENIAC, the famous World War II-era electronic computer, in addition to operating it.

Current projects: I'm working on two edited volumes on the "Early Digital" in conjunction with workshops I have organized at Siegen University, an updated edition of *A History of Modern Computing* as coauthor with Paul Ceruzzi of the Smithsonian, and a research project on the World War II British code-breaking Colossus machines.

Goals for the coming year: I'm transferring to the College of Letters & Science from the UWM School of Information Studies, so I want to settle into the History Department while making progress with the above projects.

Fun fact: I love to mix cocktails.

For more information:

<http://www.tomandmaria.com/Tom/>



Chris Cantwell: Assistant Professor, History

PhD 2012, Cornell University

Previously Asst. Professor of History and Religious Studies at University of Missouri-Kansas City

Research Focus: As a researcher I am interested in the ways Christianity, capitalism, and collective memory have formed and shaped each other throughout American history. This includes looking at the religious history of museums, as well as exploring the commemorative practices of religious communities. I'm also interested in how methods in the digital humanities have shaped the study of religion more broadly.

An interesting fact uncovered in research: The first fully-functional database of human language, which was a necessary precursor to the development of computer programming languages, was developed in 1949 by a Jesuit priest who partnered with IBM to use the company's punch card technology to digitize the writings of Thomas Aquinas.

Current projects: I am completing a book on the ways nostalgia has shaped the political imaginations of American evangelicals, editing a collection on digital methods in the study of religion, and finishing a digital exhibit that maps Chicago's religious diversity in the era surrounding the 1893 World's Fair.

A Wisconsin past: I'm an alum of the UW System, graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 2003. I'm excited to be back home where the winters are cold and ice hockey is more abundant.

New Faculty [Continued from page 11](#)



Karolina May-Chu: Assistant Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature

PhD 2017, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Previously Lecturer of German at UW-Milwaukee

Research Focus: My research focuses primarily on 20th and 21st century German literature,

German-Polish literary relations, cosmopolitanism, border studies and world literature. In my approach to German literature, I am especially interested in expanding our understanding of “German” and contributing to the ongoing transnational reorientation of German Studies.

Current projects: My main project for the near future is to expand on my dissertation research and prepare a book manuscript for publication.

Another project I am working on is related to the refugee crisis. I am tracing public debates on migration and refugees in contemporary Germany, and especially how to include these topics in the foreign language classroom. Concerns about migration and German national identity will be major issues in the German federal election this fall. At the same time, these topics are of global concern, and they are also relevant in one way or another to students in North America. When it comes to foreign language instruction, however, it is often difficult to discuss such complex issues in the target language, especially at the early stages of language learning.

Fun fact: Before beginning my graduate studies at UW-Madison, I lived and worked in Berlin, Germany, where I managed academic events at two different institutes. I also worked as a freelance translator and I translated, for example, historian Maria Höhn’s study “GIs and Fräuleins: The German-American Encounter in 1950s West Germany” into German. Through these experiences I had the opportunity to meet many fascinating academics and public intellectuals, and they have motivated me to seek a career in academia.



Lia Wolock: Assistant Professor, Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies

PhD 2017, University of Michigan

Research Focus: My research and teaching bring together two central interests, the first being a focus on transnational

communities and their media production. I look at how texts are produced, how media companies and projects come together, and trace the flow of texts and production and consumption practices across regions and nations. The second is about race and identity, or, put another way, how these communities manage citizenship and belonging. Using such media, how do transnational and marginalized communities manage and transgress national identifications, claims to citizenship, and racial hierarchies? How has this changed in the digital era? In both cases, my entry point is through work on South Asian (e.g. Indian, Bangladeshi) heritage populations.

Current projects: My larger project examines the emergence of a discourse and identity of being South Asian American over the last 15 years or so. This is a nascent formation, contested both within and outside the community. It has implications for the building of coalitional solidarities across minority groups and for how we understand citizenship and belonging in the U.S. As for my second project, I am developing a curatorial framework as a complement to the representational framework most commonly used in the study of race and media. The latter focuses on the images of minority communities provided by mainstream media sources and often how they can be limiting, misleading, or harmful. The former considers how people find and share media, build a media diet, and produce new media pleasures in a community of viewers who have increasing access to the means of media production, editing, and distribution.

Fun fact: Although I study digital media, I love to send traditional mail, especially postcards. I’ve sent hundreds of postcards, to at least 23 states and eight different countries.

Science Communication Boot Camp

[Continued on page 4](#)

how to open the lines of communication. We all need practice so we can inspire and connect science to our every-day lives.

What was the biggest challenge of the boot camp?

Mello: The biggest challenge I faced when was trying to change a habit I have of over-explaining things. I worked on approaches like how to clarify, communicate salient facts, and also to engage people in conversations instead of talking at them so much.

Creighton: Another challenge we faced is one that the entire Alan Alda Center faces - how to get people interested in, and invested in, the great discoveries that scientists make every day. We practiced with each other and gave each other honest feedback.

For more information on the Tale of Scale project, see <http://people.uwm.edu/jcreight/>.

STUDENT WELCOME WEEK EVENTS!!



August 30

History Department Pop-In: Drop by the History Department and meet the Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Lisa Silverman. Learn more about the major and research opportunities. 2:30 - 4:00pm, Holton 341.

August 31

Atmospheric Science BBQ: The Atmospheric Science program welcomes all new and returning students interested in the weather to join us for a BBQ and fun outdoor activities on the Alumni House front lawn, just steps from Lake Michigan! Transportation to/from Alumni House will be available upon request. 5:00 - 7:00pm, UWM Alumni House. Contact Clark Evans at evans36@uwm.edu for more information.



September 6

Art History Pop-In: Our new state-of-the-art gallery is opening later this Fall. If you are considering an Art History major or minor, come and learn more! Talk to faculty, advisors and staff to get your academic questions answered about majoring or minoring in Art History. Highlights from the UWM Art Collection will be on display. There will be snacks too! 1:00 - 3:00pm, Mitchell 158.

Political Science Open House: Freshmen and Undecided Students – come and learn more about the political science major! Talk to faculty and current students about courses and career opportunities. 1:00 - 3:30pm, Bolton 614.

September 7

Journalism, Advertising, & Media Studies Open House: Meet and mingle with JAMS students and instructors. Learn more about the major, the tracks within the major, and internship opportunities. Refreshments will be served. 12:30 - 1:30pm, Bolton 510.

Celtic Studies Meet and Greet: Join us to learn more about the exciting courses you can take in Irish language and culture. Now's the time to start exploring study abroad opportunities to the Emerald Isle! 1:30 - 3:30pm, Merrill G42.

English Department Open House: Come and explore the many different tracks within the English major, including creative writing, professional writing, and literature. Meet faculty and fellow students who love the written word. 2:00 - 3:15pm, Curtin 368

