



## Student's Russia study abroad reveals people beneath headlines

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Special counsel Robert Mueller recently indicted 13 Russian nationals for conspiracy to defraud the United States. National security officials have confirmed that Russian hackers targeted U.S. election technology and systems. Russia is making daily headlines here in the United States.

In Russia? It's business as usual.

In fact, said Mackenzie Tubridy, many Russians aren't even aware that an American investigation into Russian election interference is taking place.

"It's important to remember that the information Russians receive is different from the information we receive in the United States," Tubridy said. "Likewise, the Russians are less conscious of the goings-on in the United States much in the same way that Americans are pretty clueless of the goings-on here in Russia. Ignorance doesn't change much from country to country."

Tubridy, a UWM Russian major, is several months into a year-long study abroad experience in Saratov, Russia, a city 11 hours southeast of Moscow. He is set to return to the United States in July. Despite his home country's current problems with his host country, Tubridy has felt welcomed by the citizens of Saratov.

"Some people are really surprised to see an American here in Saratov, while others couldn't care less. But I would say that, by and large, Russians have had a positive reaction when meeting me, especially the older generations," he said. "[They] always invite me to do something with them – go out for coffee, cook dinner together, or even go hunting for mushrooms."

Tubridy realized early on in his major that in order to really learn Russian, he would have to go straight to the source. It's a difficult language to learn for native English speakers, he said, and even after six months in Saratov, he's still not totally confident in his speaking and comprehension.

But, he added, "Now I barely notice that people are speaking in another language. That doesn't mean I always understand what's being said, but the so-called language shock has gone away, and now I can more or less follow what people are saying."

He's taking several Russian language courses, as well as a literature class and two courses in sociology, his minor. Everything is taught in Russian. It's a busy schedule, but there's time for some fun and excitement too – Tubridy fondly remembers one day-trip to a village a few hours north of Saratov when his van driver got fed up with a traffic jam and literally drove through a farm field to avoid the other cars. He's talked, cooked, and eaten with the citizens of his host city and has had other fun experiences that he says probably aren't appropriate to publish in a newsletter.



Russian major Mackenzie Tubridy sits atop a hill overlooking a Russian city during his study abroad to Saratov, a city 11 hours southeast of Moscow. Tubridy says that despite news of Russia dominating American headlines, life for regular Russians has continued as normal. Photo courtesy of Tubridy.

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# Communication student tackles dying's difficult conversations

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Death is a natural part of life, but people are often uncomfortable when it comes time to discuss the idea – especially with someone who is dying.

Communication graduate student Mary Dantzler is studying ways to make it easier. As a hospice center volunteer who sits with people who are dying, she's seen how difficult those conversations at the end of someone's life can be. Through qualitative questionnaires and research, she hopes to pinpoint the ways that we struggle to communicate with the dying and ways to make it easier.

## Tell me about your research.

My primary interest is in learning about what people are struggling with in those end-of-life conversations. Last year I did a research project on adult siblings who had experienced the loss of a parent. Research questions asked, how, if at all, did you communicate your grief to your sibling?

## This is a pretty heavy topic. How did you become interested in researching these difficult conversations?

I thought about the times in my life when I struggled with communicating with someone who was dying. I wanted to take a route that would improve communication competency for people

like me. I reflected back to six years ago when my mother died from pancreatic cancer. I remember not knowing what to say, and I remember watching my siblings struggle with this as well. I remember thinking, this isn't just me. Everyone feels awkward. No one knows what's right or wrong or if there's rules or will those rules will apply when the next person we know is dying.

*Mary Dantzler studies end-of-life conversations.*

## How do you research this? I imagine it's a sensitive topic for most people.

The adult sibling grief research was based on experiences. For this project, we set up an online qualitative questionnaire with open-ended questions. It shocked me how people poured out their hearts. We had about 75 participants pulled from around the country. Ages ranged from seniors to college-aged students.

## What did you find from the surveys?

A lot of people felt comfortable talking about future planning. They didn't have to put a great deal of emotion into things like finances or burial plans or who's going to pack up the house. Those things seem to come easier than "Dad was an alcoholic and now he's lying here dying as a result and we don't want to touch that."

A lot of times, the talk of death itself was considered taboo – the fact that this is going to end. Even though everyone knew it, they weren't going to talk about it.



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# Economist's big data research provides sources on outsourcing

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Years ago, a Milwaukee train manufacturer tried to cut costs by outsourcing its window production to Indonesia. It turned out to be a very expensive move.

"It was a bad decision because the Indonesian workers take a lot of holidays. The windows wouldn't show up on time and they would miss deadlines," Chris Ford recalled. "The company thought they were winning and they were losing, and they were very dissatisfied that they had outsourced."

UWM Economist Avik Chakrabarti is hoping to keep other companies from making those same mistakes.

Chakrabarti has studied outsourcing among Milwaukee companies for years by using "big data" gathered by student volunteers. Chris Ford, a 2007 economics and political science alumnus and the founder of his own small business, was the first student volunteer who began researching outsourcing by approaching local businesses to survey them about their practices. Together, he and Chakrabarti hammered out a set of questions that the student researchers use as a springboard today – questions regarding production numbers, wages, and factors that drive the decisions to keep jobs local or to move them overseas.

Chakrabarti acts as the "hub" for the data, reviewing his students' research and looking for patterns. It's a daunting task because big data is, well, *big*. It goes well beyond facts, figures, and percentages.

"When we say 'big data', we mean data that has some stories to it, some pictures, some patterns, some case studies to it, that more creative people can analyze, rather than running old-style statisticals or econometric programs," he said.

By compiling and analyzing these massive data sets, Chakrabarti hopes that he and his students will be able to present resources and information to local businesses that are trying to determine whether outsourcing makes economic sense.

Outsourcing involves moving certain parts of a production chain to different locations in order to minimize costs. For example, a car manufacturer based in Detroit can move factories to Wisconsin, Mexico, or China if labor, transportation, and environmental regulations are more favorable in those locations.

The problem, Chakrabarti said, is that while outsourcing often means that the finished product will cost less money for consumers, it's hard to buy anything if your job has been moved overseas.



Economics professor Avik Chakrabarti (right) studies outsourcing among Milwaukee companies. Chris Ford ('07, BA Economics and Political Science) was the first student researcher who began working on the project. Photo by Sarah Vickery.

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# Video Stories

Receiving the Don Walker Memorial Scholarship made it possible for Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies major Jakayla Phillips to finish her degree. <https://youtu.be/mlUy7mQPITY>



An internship at the UWM Library gave Charles Hosale ('11, BA Comparative Literature; '14, MLIS) the skills he needed to work at the American Archive of Public Broadcasting in Boston. <https://youtu.be/usc8h2MQrYE>



The newly-renovated Emile H. Mathis Gallery opened in December, showcasing the UWM Art Collection - including new pieces donated by Mathis that will help students in their research. <https://youtu.be/7CfNKGnwnoQ>



## Outsourcing

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“The blame is on us, the consumers. If I go to the shelves and see that [something] made in China is a dollar less, I’m going to buy it. Our companies have no choice. They have to go abroad. They have to find ways to cut their costs,” Chakrabarti added.

But often, there are hidden costs to outsourcing that many businesses don’t understand until it’s too late. Ford remembers his research findings when he and Chakrabarti first began the project. Many companies, he said, had some unpleasant surprises when they tried moving jobs to China.

“A lot of them didn’t know that the Chinese celebrate their new year in February and would go home for a month. They would have scheduled shipments that they thought would just go on. And it turned out that they were wrong and they were missing deadlines,” Ford said. “They thought if they moved it there, it was just going to roll on along like it always has. Well, these guys had never worked in an assembly or in a factory or anything other than a farm field, so they weren’t skilled. Whole product lines were coming off the lines unsellable.”

By compiling big data, Chakrabarti hopes that the research of his students can serve as a reference point for area companies that are considering outsourcing - and hopefully, convince them to keep jobs local.

“The off-shore outsourcing decisions that they make are often flawed. It does not lead to more efficiency. They realize it later on – but it’s too late at that point,” he said. “This project could inform businesses about specific cases, where we can say ‘Here’s a case-study where somebody decided to move but later on realized that this was a mistake because emerging patterns were not taken into account.’”

To learn more about big data and outsourcing, check out UWM Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies major Tyler Krueger’s article on the outlook on outsourcing in Milwaukee at <http://bit.ly/2hpm6ul>.

# Alum finds homes at Amazon, Remitly and mentors STEM women

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Women make up half of the United States' work force, but hold fewer than 25 percent of the jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math fields.

Emily McMahon thinks an early lack of exposure might be to blame.

"When I was in my first computer science class, there was a fellow student who was leagues beyond me," she recalled. "I thought, maybe he was just smarter. I thought, maybe I'm not that good at this because he doesn't struggle the way I struggle. It took years of experience and reflection to realize what was happening. ... I think the average level of familiarity as an incoming freshman studying computer science is a lot higher for men than for women."

McMahon has come a long way since that first computer science course at UWM. An applied mathematics and computer science major, she graduated in 2008 into a slumping economy. After spending a few years at the actuarial firm Milliman, McMahon found herself at one of the meccas of the technology world – the Amazon headquarters in Seattle.

"A friend that I had met at UWM had just gotten a job at Amazon. He basically forced me to interview," McMahon said. "I started as a junior developer and got promoted to a mid-level developer at the time. I was on different teams, and I got to see different aspects of Amazon."

As a software developer, she was part of the team responsible for rolling out Prime Pantry, Amazon's platform for ordering groceries and other everyday household products. That team was unique because the gender ratio was much higher than average; 30 percent of the programmers and developers were women, McMahon said.

After Prime Pantry launched successfully, McMahon's next project was to tackle forecasting. She and her team members built computer algorithms that predicted how many of what items Amazon should stock. At first, they would allow Amazon's business teams to override their algorithms' prediction if the business people felt the projections were off.

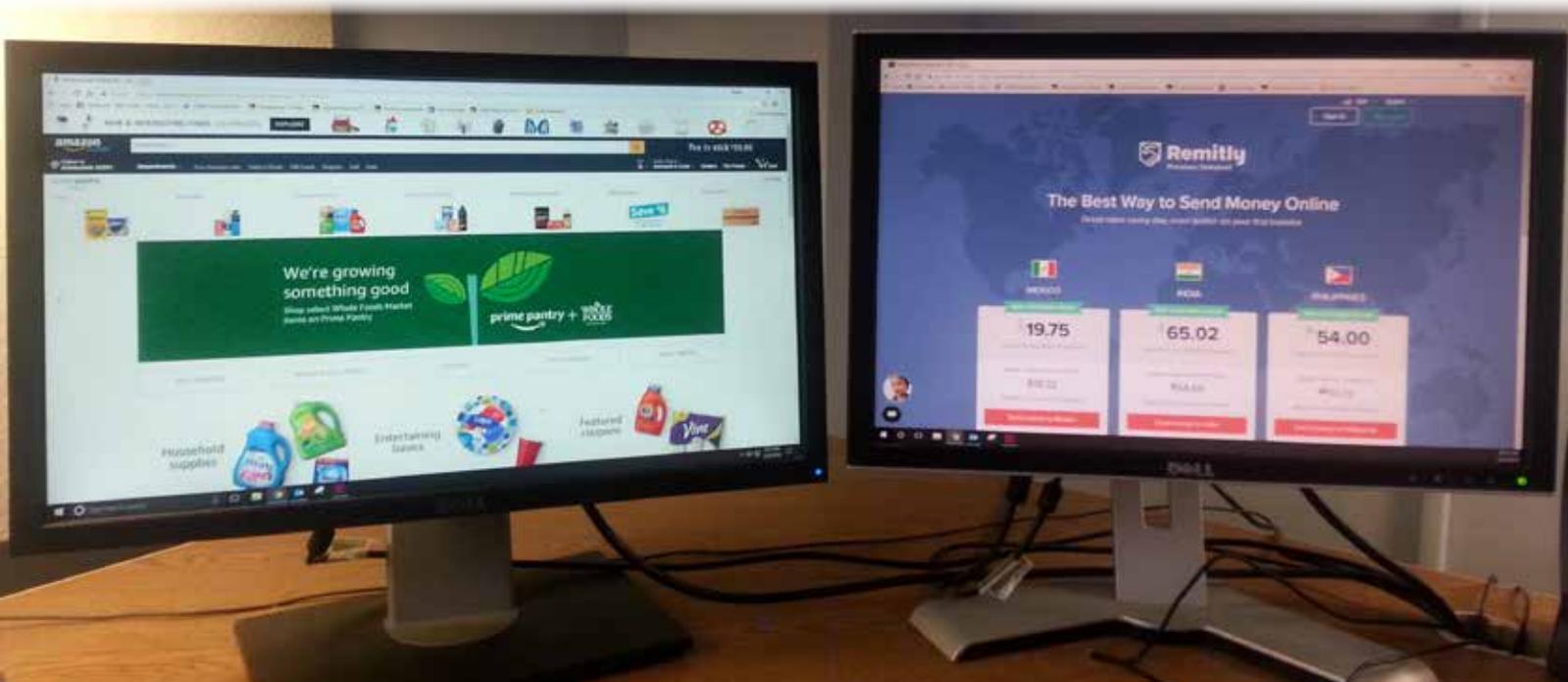
"People thought they could do better than the models, but they never did," McMahon said with a laugh.

While her time at Amazon was fulfilling, McMahon eventually quit her job to pursue personal passions for a year. When she entered the workforce again, she found her current job as a data engineer at a company called Remitly, which helps workers in the U.S. send remittances to their families in other countries.



Emily McMahon ('08, BS Applied Mathematics and Computer Science)

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# Beer me: Geosciences student interns at Foxtown brewery

By Aaron Gash, College of Letters & Science

When an internship opportunity arose at Foxtown Brewery, Geosciences major Duncan Glasford was ready to step up to the challenge of honing his skills as a brewmaster.

“I was like ‘Hey, making beer sounds fun. It could be a good job after college.’ So I applied, and I got hired...or I guess I just kept showing up,” said Glasford.

Glasford learned about the internship through his introductory Food and Beverage Studies class with Geosciences professor Barry Cameron. Glasford is a soft-spoken, modest individual. He downplays his extensive responsibilities (despite his title as “intern”), but beer-making is a complicated, scientific process – nothing to scoff at, especially for a young college student.

“My main responsibilities are helping to oversee the brews, measuring grains, measuring hops, mashing, a lot of cleaning, [and] some recipe development,” said Glasford.

While the connection between geoscience and brewing may not be obvious, the two have plenty in common.

“Malt, hops, and most directly, water, are all impacted by geology,” said Glasford. “Often, soil pH and alkalinity are cited as the most influential [factors] on the extraction of organics in brewing.”

The process of making beer is more complex than most imagine. According to Glasford, “it’s all about enzymes and biology.” The process involves developing different recipes based on different types of beer, measuring the respective ingredients, boiling, milling, mixing, and fermenting.

Glasford was especially excited about the opportunity to design his own beer based off of a pre-Prohibition lager recipe that he unearthed in the archives of the UWM library. “It was based off a Pabst [product] from 1908, so it had all of the ingredients,” said Glasford. “But it was all in German, so I had to find someone to translate. That was really cool.”



Foxtown Brewery has not yet open to the public, which Glasford finds “kind of frustrating,” though he’s relished his internship experience so far. Outside the lack of a clear opening date, though, he’s enjoyed his time at Foxtown.

“It’s super hands on, which I love,” said Glasford. “I can get into the science of it.”

Glasford is still considering his options regarding his career path after his expected graduation in December.

“I really want to do more environmental consulting, so this brewery experience is helping with that,” said Glasford, citing how he’s improved his skills in sample-taking and learned how to work with his coworkers as a team. While environmental consulting is his first choice, he’s not opposed to continuing at Foxtown Brewery if he were offered a full-time position.

Regardless of Glasford’s future as a beer-maker, his ongoing internship with Foxtown Brewery has been a success. It’s hard to complain when you’re, as Glasford put it, “working with cool people [and] drinking great beer all the time.”



Geosciences major Duncan Glasford checks a brew during his internship at the Foxtown Brewery. Photo courtesy of Duncan Glasford.

# How to talk to kids about race? UWM researcher offers advice

By Greg Walz-Chojnacki, University Relations

Racism remains a problem in America, despite hopes that the country was ready to leave that problem behind and become a “post-racial” society. But parents still are often using post-racial language in talking about race to young children.

That, says Erin Winkler, is a mistake.

“Adults often think they should avoid talking with young children about race or racism because doing so would cause them to notice race or make them racist. In fact, the opposite is true,” she recently wrote in a BuzzFeed post, “Here’s How to Raise Race-Conscious Children.” (<http://bzfd.it/2GLleKI>)

Winkler, an associate professor of Africology and urban studies, has studied the way children absorb the lessons of race, and found that children form racial impressions from environmental cues around them. That makes frank, age-appropriate discussions of race an important part of their awareness of racial issues.



Children are constantly trying to make sense of their world, says Erin Winkler, which makes it important to talk about difficult issues like race. “Little kids are trying to solve puzzles, see patterns and understand rules. And we’re teaching them to categorize and match things like shapes and colors at this age.” (UWM Photo/Troye Fox)

biases in kids who are 3 to 5 years old. And they want to know why, because adults think you’re only biased if you are a bad person or are racist, and how can a young child be a racist or a bad person?”

Winkler says it’s not a question of good or bad, but rather the way young minds absorb cues from their environment. And this points to the need for adults to help them.

“Little kids are trying to solve puzzles, see patterns and understand rules,” Winkler said. “And we’re teaching them to categorize and match things like shapes and colors at this age.”

“If children don’t get answers about, for example, why they see disproportionately white people in this neighborhood and black people in this neighborhood, they might think, “There’s a rule no one’s talking about.””

If children ask questions about this, adults may become uncomfortable, and may even give gruff responses that make kids think they are in trouble.

Which brings us to the second issue Winkler addresses: There are systemic forms of racism that are difficult for children to comprehend, but can also be difficult for adults to recognize or admit – and discuss with kids.

She is frequently invited to speak to parents and teachers about how to talk about race with children, and has served as a consultant to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

“It’s hard to talk to little kids about race,” Winkler acknowledges. “People prefer to talk to older children, who can appreciate the abstractions we’re comfortable using to discuss this complex issue.

“On the other hand, parents want to answer their children’s questions.”

Young children are not blind to race, Winkler points out. They see who is more likely to hold higher-status jobs at their school or doctor’s office, or “who’s the Disney princess.”

“When I talk to adults, I encounter this general notion is that little kids are colorblind and don’t have biases,” she says. “Adults are frequently surprised that we see consistent

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# ★ Alumni Accomplishments

**Pamela Harris ('12, PhD Mathematical Sciences)** delivered a lecture entitled, “The Lonely Reality of an Academic Dreamer” at SUNY Geneseo in January. Harris is a “dreamer” under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Harris is a mathematician at Williams College.

<http://bit.ly/2Fu0rMn>

**Ryan Ogren ('06, BA Philosophy)** joined Probst Law Offices in Wauwautosa, Wisconsin, as a family law attorney in January. Ogren’s practice covers a range of areas including divorce, separation, child support, custody, placement, adoptions, and guardianships. <http://bit.ly/2FtIHyt>

**Malynda Johnson ('12, PhD Communication)** was featured in Indiana State University’s newspaper *The Statesman* to help students get to know the university faculty. <http://bit.ly/2DX6Lyt>

**Nathan Mathews ('03, Masters of Public Administration)** performed at the “A Night of Hope for Place of Hope” concert in Sartell, Minnesota, to benefit Place of Hope Ministries in St. Cloud, Minn., in January. Mathews is an accomplished pianist and composer who has played liturgical music his entire life. <http://bit.ly/2r11Lcq>



Pamela Harris



Patricia McManus

**Patricia McManus ('93, PhD Urban Studies)** was recently named the new interim commissioner for the Milwaukee Health Department. McManus is the President and CEO of the Black Health Coalition. <http://bit.ly/2BKr8P0>

**Anthony Capetto's ('85, BA Philosophy)** works of art are temporary but his fame is enduring. Capetto is an internationally acclaimed street painter who creates stunning 3-D sidewalk drawings. He was profiled in the *Long Island City Journal*. <http://bit.ly/2rZtQf9>

**Joe Lamers ('06, Masters of Public Administration)** was appointed by Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele to serve as the director of Performance, Strategy, and Budget for Milwaukee County. He will be responsible for managing the county budget. <http://bit.ly/2BXiwQy>

**Ellen Nowak ('93, BA Political Science)** was appointed by Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker as the secretary of the Department of the Administration. She is currently the Public Service Commission Chairwoman and will assume her new role on March 2. <http://bit.ly/2HxgjPG>



Ellen Nowak

**Brad Hentschel ('07, Masters of Public Administration)** was recently hired as the city planner of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and will be responsible for helping oversee community growth through development and redevelopment projects. <http://bit.ly/2sntP57>



Coleman Peiffer

**Coleman Peiffer ('13, Masters of Public Administration)** won the 2018 Young Professional Award from the Wisconsin Economic Development Association. He is the business and investment attraction director for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. Peiffer was recognized in part for his role in attracting Foxconn and HARIBO to Wisconsin.

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

**Bob Harrison ('94, Masters of Public Administration)** was appointed the chief administrative officer of the city of Renton, Washington. Harrison will direct, coordinate, and facilitate city projects, along with other duties. <http://bit.ly/2stiiBc>

**Peter Tase ('06, BA Italian Studies)** was recently awarded the National Order of Merit from the Honorable Chamber of Representatives of the National Congress of Paraguay. This is the second-most important order-decoration from the Republic of Paraguay and is awarded for distinguished service to the state.

**Sandra Siira ('08, Master of Human Resources and Labor Relations)** was named the executive director of the Career and Professional Development Center at Alverno College, where she will provide career planning and job search assistance to students. <http://bit.ly/2sQSkp>

# Upcoming Events

## Through April 5

**Emile H. Mathis Gallery Exhibition: ReVisioning the UWM Art Collection.** Emile H. Mathis Gallery, Mitchell 145. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday. <http://bit.ly/2naRgtb>

## March 1

**Geosciences Colloquium: Rates, processes, and impacts of coastal geologic change along Western Lake Michigan.** Lubar N120. 3:30 p.m. Ethan Theuerkauf, Illinois State Geographical Society. <http://bit.ly/2BtFu1m>

## March 2-4

**Irish Language Immersion weekend.** Celtic Milwaukee, 1532 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Milwaukee. Events begin 5:30 p.m. March 2. Open to the public. \$75/weekend; \$50/Saturday only. UWM students are free. Email [bairbre@uwm.edu](mailto:bairbre@uwm.edu) to register. [uwm.edu/IrishImmersion](http://uwm.edu/IrishImmersion)



## March 2-30

**Science Bag: Out of Africa? Migration of Modern Humans.** Physics 137. Fridays at 7 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on March 11. Xiaohua Peng applies DNA sequencing to trace the genealogical history of humans.

Free and open to the public. <http://uwm.edu/science-bag>

## March 2

**Neuroscience Colloquium: Visual attention creates structure over space and time.** Lapham N101. 2 p.m. Steve Franconeri, Northwestern University. <http://bit.ly/2BJz7uG>

**Physics Colloquium: Accreting Neutron Stars and the Physics of Dense Matter.** Lapham 160. 3:30 p.m. Edward Brown, Michigan State University. <http://bit.ly/2EKnCG1>

**Planetarium Show: Hubble's Cosmic Quest.** Manfred Olson Planetarium. 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Family-friendly and open to the public. <http://bit.ly/2DHIGOE>

## March 3

**Douglas Hyde Lecture - The Development of Dance in Ireland: A National, Local and Transnational Story.** Celtic Milwaukee, 1532 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Milwaukee. 1 p.m. Danielle Enblom.

## March 4

**Archaeology Lecture: Between the Steppe and the Sea – Scythians, Taurians, and Greeks in Crimea.** Sabin G90. 3 p.m. Adam Rabinowitz, University of Texas. Presented by the Archaeological Institute of America, the UWM Classics program and the departments of Anthropology and Art History. <http://bit.ly/2oq4nXz>

MARCH 2018						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## March 6

**Exhibition Opening and Discussion: Anne Morgan's War: American Women Rebuilding France 1917-1924.** 4th Floor Library Conference Center. 6 p.m. <http://bit.ly/2CgjWdq>

## March 7-9

**Planetarium Show: Lei Under the Stars.** Manfred Olson Planetarium. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5. <http://bit.ly/2BMoAik>

## March 7

**21st Century Studies lecture: Is Campus Protest Protected Free Speech?** Union Ballroom. 1 p.m. Geoffrey Stone, University of Chicago. <http://bit.ly/2oiYqMy>

## March 8

**Developing inclusive second language teaching practices for non-binary students.** Curtin 175. 4 p.m. Kris Knisely, University of South Dakota. <http://bit.ly/2nXrw3U>

## March 9

**Neuroscience Colloquium: Cellular Mechanisms Underlying Forebrain Morphogenesis.** Lapham N101. 2 p.m. Rachel Brewster, University of Maryland-Baltimore. <http://bit.ly/2BJz7uG>

Join the Physics Department on **March 9** for a special colloquium featuring 2017 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry Dr. Joachim Frank!

**Where:** Lapham Hall 162

**When:** 3:30 p.m.

**Title:** New Opportunities in Single-particle Cryo-EM: Mapping States in an Ensemble, Trapping Short-lived States

**More information:** <http://bit.ly/2EKnCG1>



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## People in print

**Bettina Arnold (Anthropology)** and Manuel Fernández-Götz. 2017. Agency in architectural choice: the Heuneburg hillfort as monument and metaphor. *Understanding Ancient Fortifications*, Oxford: Oxbow.

**Bettina Arnold (Anthropology)** and Manuel Fernández-Götz. 2017. Elites before the *Fürstensitze*: Hallstatt C sumptuous graves between Main and Danube. *Connecting Elites and Regions: Perspectives on contacts, relations and differentiation during the Early Iron Age Hallstatt C period in Northwest and Central Europe*, Leiden: Sidestone Press.

**Stuart A. Moulthrop (English)**. 2017. Deep Time in Play. *Paradoxa*, 29: 30.

**Stuart A. Moulthrop (English)**. 2018. Lift This End: Electronic Literature in a Blue Light. *Bloomsbury Handbook of Electronic Literature*. Bloomsbury Academic Press: 59-72.

**SooHo Song (Foreign Languages and Literature)**. 2017. "Narrative Structures in Korean Folktales: A Contrastive Analysis of Korean and English Versions" *Topics in Linguistics*, 18(2): 1-23.

**Songpon Sriwongsa and Yi M. Zou (Mathematical Sciences)**. 2018. Orthogonal abelian Cartan subalgebra decomposition of  $sl(n)$  over a finite commutative ring. *Linear and Multilinear Algebra*, Taylor & Francis (online). <http://bit.ly/2F5eQzu>

J. J. Guerra-Santos and **John D. Kahl (Atmospheric Science)**. 2018. Redefining the Seasons in the Términos Lagoon Region of Southeastern México: May is a transition Month, Not a Dry Month. *Journal of Coastal Research*, 34(1): 193-201.

UNDERSTANDING  
ANCIENT  
FORTIFICATIONS  
*Between Regionality & Connectivity*



Edited by  
ARIANE HALLMOR, MANUEL FERNÁNDEZ-GÓTEZ & DIRK P. WILHELM

## Upcoming events

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### March 9

**Geography Colloquium Series: How to fix a \$400B map – Ways to Improve the Federal Statistical System.** AGS Library. 3 p.m. Seth Spielman, University of Colorado-Boulder.

**Philosophy Colloquium: Hobbes on Love and Fear of God.** Curtin 175. 3:30 p.m. Tom Holden, University of California-Santa Barbara. <http://bit.ly/2CEBR9u>

**Anthropology Colloquium: Costs and Benefits of Cooperative Breeding in Bolivian Tamarins.** Sabin G90. 3:30 p.m. Leila Porter, Northern Illinois University.

### March 11

**Science Bag: Out of Africa? Migration of Modern Humans.** Physics 137. 2 p.m. Xiaohua Peng applies DNA sequencing to trace the genealogical history of humans. Free and open to the public. <http://uwm.edu/science-bag>

**Planetarium Children's Show: Starry Safari.** Manfred Olson Planetarium. 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5. <http://bit.ly/2sRUib6>

### March 13

**Marden Lecture in Mathematics: Why Quantum Theory Chooses von Neumann Algebras.** Lubar N140. 4 p.m. Sir Vaughan Jones, Vanderbilt University. <http://bit.ly/2oiLmai>

### March 15

**Geosciences Colloquium: Active Deformation in Alaska and Western Canada Observed with GPS.** Lubar N120. 3:30 p.m.

Julie Elliot, Purdue University. <http://bit.ly/2BtFu1m>

**Japanese Music Concert with Sato Michiyoshi.** Union Cinema. 6 p.m. Sato Michiyoshi plays tsugaru-jamisen music. Guest lecture by Joshua Solomon, University of Chicago. <http://bit.ly/2ELQiuk>

**The UWM Visiting Writers Series Presents Dan Kois.** Curtin 175. 7 p.m. Essayist and editor Dan Kois reads from his works. <http://bit.ly/2GBXM3r>

### March 16

**UWM Neuroscience Research Symposium.** KEN 1150. 11 a.m. Students present current research.

**Geography Colloquium Series: Geographic dimensions of controversy over unconventional oil and gas development in the American West.** AGS Library. 3 p.m. Nick Schuelke, UWM.

### March 23-30

**Planetarium Show: Native American Star Stories.** Manfred Olson Planetarium. Fridays at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Family-friendly and open to the public. <http://bit.ly/2F1fmkd>

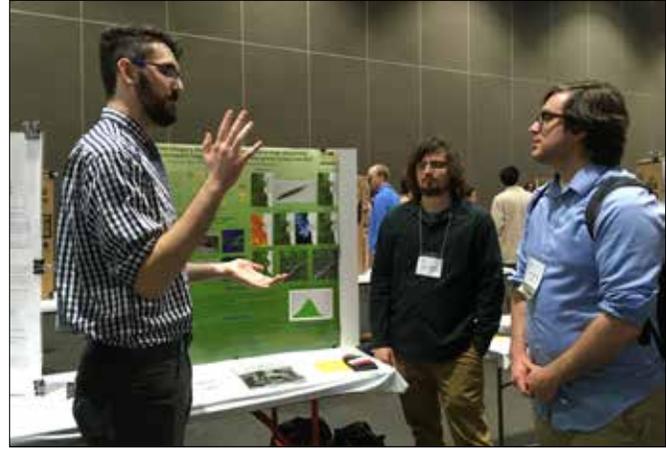
### March 30

**Geography Colloquium Series: Mapping prejudice – tracing the history of racial covenants in Minneapolis.** AGS Library. 3 p.m. Kevin Ehrman-Solberg, University of Minnesota.



# Laurels, Accolades, and Grants

UWM students represented their university well at the 2018 Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego. Undergraduate students **Jacob Beihoff (Mathematical Sciences)** and **Adam Honts (Applied Math and Computer Science)** won the prestigious Outstanding Presentation Award in the Applied Mathematics category of the undergraduate poster session. Their poster entitled, “Quantifying the Distribution of Urban Vegetation based on Google Street View Images,” details the work the students did in the National Science Foundation-supported Undergraduate Research in Biology and Mathematics (UBM) program.



Student **Kyle Goryl (Applied Math and Computer Science)** and fellow students from his summer REU presented a poster on Comparison of Statistics in RNA Secondary Structure Matching Models in the undergraduate poster session in the Joint Mathematics Meetings as well. Student **John McLellan (Mathematical Sciences)** also attended the meeting.



Christopher Cantwell

**Christopher Cantwell (History)** was recently announced as a member of the 2018-2019 Young Scholars in American Religion cohort. This now 25-year-old program, run by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, aims to mentor the next generation of leading scholars in the study of religion in America. As a member of the cohort, Cantwell will travel to the Center four times over the next two years for intensive workshops on research, teaching, grant writing, and other academic issues. <http://bit.ly/2EMwxTD>

Student **Talis Shelbourne (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** is one of nine journalists, and one of the only student journalists, in the country who was awarded an Investigative Reporters and Editors Association fellowship. She received a Chicago Tribune Foundation Fellowship. <http://bit.ly/2EHPXNc>



Simonetta Milli Konewko

**Simonetta Milli Konewko (French, Italian, and Comparative Literature)** secured a prestigious ministerial grant from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago in the amount of \$6,302 to develop a blended course on Italian Women, Food, and Emotions.

## Passings



Former professor of Creative Writing **John Goulet** passed away on Feb. 7.

John was a dedicated, beloved teacher and became a friend and mentor to many students. He joined the English Department faculty in 1975. His students share heartwarming stories of John visiting them out of state, assisting with the selection of first interview suits, and helping them navigate the publishing world. He was often first to read their work and was always ready to celebrate their successes. In 1980, John won the prized University Outstanding Teaching Award. He retired in 2005 and is the author of two novels and many short stories.

Before his university days, John taught English in Ethiopia through the Peace Corps and spent time in jail after marching for civil rights. John loved to fish, tell stories, and perform Shakespeare with his Fish Preservation Society of life-long friends. He authored and performed many musical-parody productions with the Rhubarbarians. He painted and created videos and digital art. He and his wife Susan enjoyed watching birds, entertaining friends, and traveling to his beloved France. He was never happier than when he was sailing any of his temperamental boats, and he loved collecting and

running antique Lionel trains with his son, Matthew.

John’s family will receive friends on Saturday, March 10 at UWM’s Edith S. Hefter Conference Center. Fellowship will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by a memorial service at noon. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the UWM English Department’s Creative Writing Fund would honor John’s memory. A full obituary is available at <http://bit.ly/2sMHLpj>.

# Studying in Russia

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There have been instances of culture shock. For instance, Russians are much more “economical” with their smiles than Americans (“From the Russian point of view, if someone is smiling all the time, it means they must have some sort of mental condition,” Tubridy said). However, American culture, from music to television shows, is popular among younger Saratov citizens and English phrasing crops up everywhere from slogans on t-shirts to everyday conversation.

It’s a small reminder that despite national politics and headlines, the people of Russia are just that – people. To really get to know a foreign culture, even one that is currently at odds with America, you really have to get to know the people.

“You need to go out and experience it every day, by talking and laughing with people, getting to know what they think, why they think it, learning to cook food with them, and listening to music,” Tubridy said. “We call this an ‘immersion experience,’ but I think that term waters down the experience itself.”



## End-of-life conversations

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**Did anything about the results surprise you?**

Opinions and feelings about the parent who was dying varied according to where the sibling was in age. Older siblings tended to hold back more from younger siblings because they seemed to feel like they were taking on a parental role and protecting the younger siblings. I was surprised to discover that so many people chose to hold their grief in rather than discuss it because they did not want to upset another person. Everyone was going around in a circle being strong for each other and becoming weak as a group. It’s not a good plan.

**Do you have any pointers on how to have more effective conversations?**

I found this out through my own experiences, but I think it’s important to value silence when it’s appropriate. When my mother was dying, I wanted say everything right then, that I had thought I had decades to say.

She seemed very distant. I remember asking the hospice nurse, does she not want me here? And she said, “Dying is such a personal experience and it’s so absorbing. Don’t take it personally. Sometimes just let her be silent.”

So where I felt I had to talk to have a relationship and say goodbye, sometimes just my presence was enough. We can deliver very strong messages with non-verbal communication. Human touch is important when we come in this world and it’s important when we leave, too. People like to have their hands massaged or held, just to know that we’re there.

**What’s next in your research?**

Going forward, my proposal for my thesis is going to be based on what people think should and should not be said – what is appropriate and what is not. I want to know what people are walking around thinking, regardless of whether they’ve ever lost anyone. Then we can look into how these fears are created. Is it part of our culture? Where does this stem from? Why do people think what they do? And what can we do to encourage people to look at death differently?

**Why do you think this type of research is important?**

I believe the conversations that we have with the dying have a profound impact on both parties. For the dying, it may be creating a peaceful transition that promotes a good death. For the living, it may affect their closure, healing, and grieving process.

My primary interest is in learning about what lay people are struggling with in those conversations. I really want to find out what those needs are and somehow transfer it into a hospice educational program so that the hospice staff can help the family with this transition. I think that we can make some improvements on how those last days, those last hours, are if we can improve the communication that takes place.



# In the Media and Around the Community

With international tensions with North Korea at high levels, **Nan Kim (History)** discussed how the world might deal with the “rogue state” by listening to women on The Current radio show on CBCRadio in Canada.

<http://bit.ly/2DQD1jG>

A new study shows that crystals formed in hardened magma left over from volcanic eruptions may be able to help predict future eruptions, **Erik Gulbranson (Geosciences)** told *Newsweek* (<http://bit.ly/2rRtebF>). Gulbranson also recently found 260-million-year-old tree fossils hidden beneath the ice of Antarctica, the remains of a prehistoric forest. His find was featured on CBS58 News (<http://bit.ly/2nrKllo>) and Fox6 News (<http://bit.ly/2FTUI7V>).

There is an art to baking, and **Marc Tasman (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** takes that saying to heart each time he crafts a loaf of challah, the braided bread that is a Jewish staple for shabbat meals. <http://bit.ly/2DR9nio>

Woodland Pattern’s annual Poetry Marathon is a wonderful event that fosters the arts and community, **Brenda Cardenas (English)** said on TMJ4’s Morning Blend Show. <http://bit.ly/2na7WkO>



A rare Picasso was stolen from a Milwaukee art gallery in February. Curator of the UWM Art Collection **Leigh Mahlik** spoke with Fox6 News about why the loss of this work is especially painful for the art community. <http://bit.ly/2C9r23q>



Residents of Bemidji, Minn. are debating rules for dressing the city’s statue of Paul Bunyan.

This is no tall-tale: Bemidji, Minnesota city manager **Nathan Mathews** (’03, **Masters of Public Administration**) is helping his city navigate questions surrounding how to dress Bemidji’s large statue of Paul Bunyan. <http://strib.mn/2DLin8C>

**Noelle Chesley (Sociology)** served as a panelist for the Women’s Fund of Greater Milwaukee’s Community Talk Back on Sexual Harassment and Power in January. The event allowed the community to talk with legal and cultural experts regarding sexual and power dynamics in society.

Music, science, and culture came together in February when the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Milwaukee Public Museum teamed up to present “Water Currents: A Prelude to *A Sea Symphony*” in February. **Andrew Kincaid (English)** and **Aims McGuinness (History)** were on-hand as local experts to explain the cultural and historical significance of water in our society. <http://bit.ly/2rNWIY1>

**Mark Schwartz (Geography)** has teamed up with Cornell’s Emergent Climate Risk Lab to produce “Springcasting,” a web tool to predict the onset of spring. The work was reported on Wisconsin Ag-Connection (<http://bit.ly/2nrTPHI>) and on AgInfo.net (<http://bit.ly/2Bqg48D>).

**Jessica McBride (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** and **Dylan Deprey** (’16, **BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies**) spoke at the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center in February about UWM students’ efforts to locate a photograph for every single Wisconsin service member killed in the Vietnam War who did not already have a photo archived. <http://bit.ly/2GG33YV>

What does the name “Milwaukee” actually mean? **Meg Noodin (English)** speculates that the name has an Anishinaabe origin and means “Good Land” in a *Milwaukee Magazine* article. <http://bit.ly/2DVayJG>

**Jasmine Alinder (History and Urban Studies)** and **Mark Speltz** (’09, **MA History**) spoke in February at the “Resistance, Protest, Resilience” exhibit at the Haggerty Museum of Art on Marquette University’s campus about protests and events that triggered social and political change.

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# In the media

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Rachel Buff (History and Jewish Studies) honors her father's itinerant nature in an essay published on Jewish Currents. (<http://bit.ly/2oq7GOj>) She also voiced her opposition to Wisconsin Assembly Bill 553 along with co-author Sandy Pasch in a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* editorial (<http://bit.ly/2C1scK5>) and presented her new book, *Against the Deportation Terror: Organizing for Immigrant Rights in the Twentieth Century*, at Boswell Book Company and on WPR in late January. <http://bit.ly/2DY6YSY>



Rachel Buff

Experts including Margo Anderson (History) are concerned that the U.S. Justice Department's proposal to add a question regarding citizenship would drastically affect the accuracy of the 2020 U.S. census, according to a story on the BBC Thought Show. <http://bbc.in/2rYkpgk>

A deletion of a stretch of genes on chromosome 7 could indicate that a child is at greater risk of having autism, according to a new study by Bonnie Klein-Tasman (Psychology) as reported on Spectrum News. <http://bit.ly/2rY71J7>

Naming or coming-of-age ceremonies for transgender people to celebrate their new identities have firm grounding in historical gender traditions, Cary Costello (Sociology) told *Vice News*. <http://bit.ly/2Eb7Bsr>

The Anthropology Department's Cultural Resource Management team has been tasked with examining a golf course in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the site of the new headquarters for Oshkosh Corp., for cultural artifacts, according to the *Oshkosh Northwestern*. <http://oshko.sh/2BeEdu>

Voodoo has been negatively portrayed in American pop culture for nearly 100 years, Patrick Bellegarde-Smith (emeritus Africology) told the Associated Press in an article discussing voodoo rituals as a possible motive in two crimes targeting Boston children. The article received national attention, including on Fox News (<http://fxn.ws/2BtzvgJ>) and in the *Houston Chronicle* (<http://bit.ly/2ED08jJ>).

Gladys Mitchell-Walthour (Africology) delivered a lecture entitled, "The Politics of Blackness: Racial Identity and Political Behavior in Contemporary Brazil" as part of the LACIS Lectures series. <http://bit.ly/2CfqXqy>

Kennia Coronado ('17, BA Political Science and Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies) delivered a lecture entitled "What is DACA and Who Are the Dreamers?" as part of the LACIS Lecture series. <http://bit.ly/2BVblaA>

*The New York Times* called on Kathy Dolan (Political Science) for her take on President Trump's "objective truths" in a biting editorial. <http://nyti.ms/2nUdlvU>



Watching gold medalists compete is all in a day's work for John Weinsheim ('88, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies), who was in Pyeongchang, South Korea photographing the Winter Olympics for NBC Sports, TMJ4 reported. <http://bit.ly/2Gg1ijV>

After discovering graphene monoxide, a solid carbon monoxide material, Carol Hirschmugl and Marija Gajdardziska (both Physics) developed a business to market their new product. They were featured on WUWM for their efforts. <http://bit.ly/2Cf2MZm>

Kim Blaeser (English) was one of the poets featured in a series curated by Natalie Diaz exploring works by indigenous women on Literary Hub. <http://bit.ly/2BX7lvG>

UWM students are among those affected by the Congressional gridlock surrounding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals law (DACA) that is set to expire, including Political Science and Spanish major "Frida", who told her story on WUWM. <http://bit.ly/2Eed2MI>

The College of Letters & Science hosted UC-Santa Barbara professor Christopher Newfield who gave the annual Dean's Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities in February. Newfield spoke on WUWM about America's need for public universities. <http://bit.ly/2sC7vog>

Economist Hans Isakson ('72, PhD Economics) wrote a column for *The Courier* explaining why he thinks the recent tax overhaul is unlikely to benefit the American economy in the long-term. <http://bit.ly/2sEbocx>

## Alum in STEM

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In her new role, she streamlines data for company analytics, helps engineering teams quickly and reliably log data, and hosts machine-learning models to combat fraud and high-risk transactions. She loves the work and the cause she's supporting.

"Remitly is a company where I feel good about what we're doing," McMahon said. "People come over and work in the U.S. and send money back to their families, small amounts regularly. That's only possible if they're not paying \$50 a transaction. The stories are really touching: how they help their family with an emergency, or how they can help their family obtain visas and other things they wouldn't have had access to."

That drive to give back has prompted McMahon to volunteer her skills in other areas as well. She remembers how intimidated and behind she felt in her computer science classes at UWM, and she wants to ensure that other women don't feel the same way.

"I do mentor other junior female developers. The things we talk about are usually non-gendered. ... I've given a talk at Ada [a developer training boot camp for women]," she said. "I definitely feel some responsibility to encourage and mentor."

The future is increasingly digital, and McMahon wants to ensure everyone has access.

"If I have a daughter," she added, "the world she's going to live in is going to be so cool."

The desire to grow the numbers of women in STEM fields drives some UWM professors and students to participate in the UWM STEM-Inspire group. Partially funded by the Wisconsin Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, the program is commonly known as WiscAMP.

The program pairs participating STEM majors at UWM and other participating UW System universities with a faculty mentor, peer mentor and a tutor. Other opportunities include internships, STEM lectures, workshops, research opportunities and library study nights. This school year, UWM has 18 WiscAMP students. Learn more about the program at [uwm.edu/steminspire](http://uwm.edu/steminspire).

## Kids and race

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"Parents of color have to be concerned about demoralizing their children with talk of systemic unfairness," she says. "White parents need to consider how to give kids a sense of responsibility, as opposed to guilt and shame."

She points out that, in order to speak effectively about race, adults need to first get comfortable talking about race with other adults. That means challenging our preconceptions and attitudes.

"If you can't talk to a 40-year-old why this is happening, then you won't be able to talk to a 4-year-old about why this is happening," she said. "Get rid of the guilt. It's not your fault that you weren't taught in schools about how systemic structures of racism have created many inequalities."

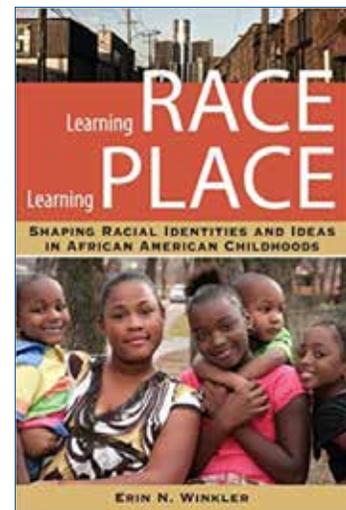
"But it is your responsibility now to learn about it, to practice talking to adults about it, and to do something about it. Then you can learn to teach children about it in age-appropriate ways."

In her talks to adults, Winkler offers practical ideas about how to talk to kids about race. She suggests using the concept of fairness, which is clear and powerful to young children, but also to empower children to respond to unfairness.

"You can empower a 4-year-old by pointing out people in the community who are addressing inequality," Winkler says, "or have them participate with you in efforts to, for example, work with the school library to ensure adequate representation of characters of color in books."

Winkler's approach to talking to children is based on what one researcher called her "groundbreaking" framework of "comprehensive racial learning," which Winkler first introduced in her 2012 book "Learning Race, Learning Place: Shaping Racial Identities and Ideas in African American Childhoods."

"We've been looking at what adults tell kids, focusing on kids as empty vessels," she said. "What we need to do is focus on the kids as active learners and agents, fielding and interpreting messages they are getting from all over – parents, teachers, media messages, and just what they see in the world."



Erin Winkler's book teaches adults how to discuss racial issues with children.