

## Art History alum's art graces the walls of the Fiserv Forum

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

The Fiserv Forum is the new home of the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team, a budding concert venue, and now, an art gallery.

An art gallery?

"It's essentially an art gallery that they put together. You can walk in a complete circle on the luxury suite level and see the art created by these artists from Wisconsin and outside the state," said Eric Oates, a UWM art history alumnus. He is one of the 32 artists chosen to grace the walls of the brand-new Milwaukee Bucks arena.

Oates is from Wisconsin Rapids and a two-time graduate of UWM – once in 1994 for his bachelor's and again in 1998 for his Master's. He initially enrolled hoping to major in architecture, but he soon discovered he was more interested in Art History.

"[Art History] really seemed romantic," he said with a laugh. "What the [artists] went through and the challenges they faced at those points in history are such interesting stories. It's almost like if you watch 'Behind the Music' for a rock band."

Oates' love began long before college. His parents enrolled him in painting classes at age 9 with local artist Susan Nelson Van Sleet, where he took to art like a brush takes to canvas. Later in college, as Oates was studying the greats, "I said, 'I'm going to do this myself.' I went to the art supply store and got what I needed, came up with the ideas of what I wanted to do, and went ahead and did it."

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UWM Art History alumnus Eric Oates stands in front of his paintings hanging on the wall of the Fiserv Forum, the home of the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team. Photo courtesy of Eric Oates.

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## From UWM to UFC, alumna set for ultimate fighting debut

By Anthony Mandella, University Relations

Professional mixed martial arts athlete Leah Letson unlocked a passion for the sport during her time as a UWM student. Now graduated, she recently signed a professional contract and will soon make her debut with Ultimate Fighting Championship, the highest level of the sport.

For Letson, what had started as a way to stay in shape for basic training with the Wisconsin Air National Guard turned into a hunger to succeed at the highest level of one of the world's most violent sports.

From the ages of 5 to 17, Letson practiced taekwondo – ultimately achieving the rank of third-degree black belt. When she moved to Milwaukee to attend UWM, she wanted a new martial art to conquer. That's when she discovered cardio kickboxing through UWM's Sport and Recreation offerings. The course's instructors Jake Klipp and Zak Ottow, who have years of experience as trainers and fighters, saw professional potential in Letson.

"I would always hear someone (in the class) just ripping these kicks off, cracking the pads," Klipp said of Letson, "I would kind of crank it up a little bit in Leah's classes just to see how she'd handle it, and she was a machine. That's what caught our eye."

"They saw that I was a hard worker and that I had some talent," Letson said, "so they invited me to try (Brazilian) jiu-jitsu."

### Serving in Air National Guard

Letson, who graduated in 2016 with degrees in criminal justice and psychology, served in the Air National Guard throughout her time at UWM.

She began training for her MMA debut midway through her degree, after returning from basic training with the Air National Guard. A month and a half in, she competed in and won her first amateur bout on Nov. 9, 2013. A year later, she had her first professional bout – a loss, her first after going undefeated in eight bouts as an amateur.

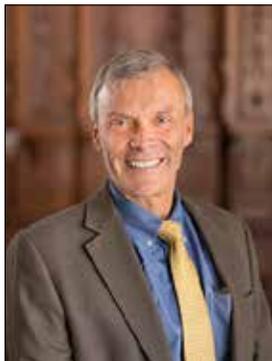
### Tune in!

Leah Letson is currently competing on "The Ultimate Fighter: Heavy Hitters," airing on FS1, for a shot at a six-figure UFC contract. The show airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m.

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# Letter from the Dean

Welcome to the 2018-2019 academic year! I am thrilled to be part of the team in Letters and Science at UWM and look forward to working with the faculty, students and alumni this year and beyond. There are so many positive things happening at UWM and it should be a great year.



Since arriving August 1, I have tried to make the most of opportunities to meet with faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, and members of the community. In all of these encounters, I have been impressed by the dedication of the faculty and staff, the quality of the students, and the generous support from our alumni and community partners.

As the year progresses, I will keep you informed and seek input as we formulate new initiatives for Letters and Science. The success of the College is a team effort, and I look forward to partnering with you in building on the tradition of excellence in the College.

Best Wishes,



*Scott Gronert is the Dean of the College of Letters & Science.*

**Scott Gronert, Dean, College of Letters & Science**

PhD 1987, UC-Berkeley

Previously Associate Dean for Research, College of Humanities and Sciences, at Virginia Commonwealth University

**Research focus:** Chemical Reaction Mechanisms

**Current projects:** Our current focus is on understanding the intricate details of how widely-used catalysts complete chemical transformations. These catalysts are critical in the production of complex molecules used as building blocks for pharmaceuticals and other fine chemicals. Currently, rare and expensive metals such as platinum and palladium are used and one of our objectives is to develop new catalysts based on more abundant metals such as nickel and cobalt. The work is funded by the National Science Foundation and the American Chemical Society.

**Research reveals:** Mass spectrometers can be turned into ion reactors and used to study molecules that are critical intermediates in chemical reactions, but too reactive to be studied by conventional methodologies. In this way, we have identified reactions and reaction pathways that have not been observed by other means.

**Fun fact:** Although I am from Southern California originally, my parents honeymooned in Milwaukee back in the 1950's.



## Video Stories

Get to know UWM Chancellor Mark Mone in 73 questions! Did you know his grade school aspirations were to be a pilot and a chef?  
<https://youtu.be/T3hucijqWZo>

Want to support UWM student scholarships and help students access more opportunities on the UWM campus? Then make tracks for the 14th annual Panther Prowl, coming Saturday, Oct. 13! <https://youtu.be/b89Kxv3jteY>



# WWII Japanese American incarceration echoes in *Someday, Chicago*

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

When Japanese Americans were incarcerated in prison camps during World War II, contraband included items like weapons, ammunition, and cameras.

Luckily for Yasuhiro Ishimoto, the rules on cameras were relaxed in compounds outside of the U.S. west coast. Held in the Amache camp in Colorado, Ishimoto gained access to a camera and began forming an artistic eye that would become the basis of a prolific photography career.

Today, Ishimoto, who passed away in 2012, is celebrated as a gifted artist and his photographs hang on the walls of the DePaul Art Museum in Chicago as part of the *Someday, Chicago* exhibition showcasing his work. The exhibition is co-curated by associate professor of History Jasmine Alinder. As an expert on photography and on Japanese American war-time incarceration, Alinder hopes that audiences will not only appreciate the images, but also ask themselves: What does it mean to be American?



UWM History professor Jasmine Alinder delivers a gallery talk at DePaul Art Museum in Chicago on Sept 6 for the opening of the *Someday, Chicago* exhibit she co-curated. The exhibit explores the work of Japanese American photographer Yasuhiro Ishimoto. Photo courtesy of Jasmine Alinder.

“How do we make claims to American-ness? Who decides who is American and who isn’t American? What does citizenship mean?” Alinder asked. “Those were all questions that were put to Ishimoto during his World War II incarceration that we’re still asking today.”

## Ishimoto’s life and work

Yasuhiro Ishimoto was born in 1924 in San Francisco to Japanese immigrants. He spent his childhood in Japan and returned to the U.S. as a teenager. After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, Ishimoto was among the thousands Japanese Americans swept up in prison camps after the American government questioned their loyalty as citizens.

The War Relocation Authority, in charge of running the prison camps and resettling their prisoners, relocated Ishimoto to Chicago after his release. There, he found a supportive community of photographers who encouraged him to enroll in Chicago’s Institute of Design. Established as the new Bauhaus in 1939, the photography program was run by famous photographer Harry Callahan.

“There aren’t very many places in the country where you could study photography, especially as an art form. In some ways, it’s extremely fortuitous that Ishimoto ends up in Chicago and becomes a product of the Institute of Design,” Alinder said.

After graduation, Ishimoto spent the rest of his life traveling back and forth between the United States and Japan. He loved Chicago, and its people became the subjects of his photography.

## IF YOU GO

Yasuhiro Ishimoto: *Someday, Chicago*

**Where:** DePaul Art Museum, 935 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago

**When:** Now through Dec. 16

The catalogue for the exhibition is available through the University of Chicago Press. <https://bit.ly/2Dtd7qw>

He published his best-known photography book, *Chicago, Chicago*, in 1969, the same year that he became a Japanese citizen. Alinder speculates that doing so was easier for his visas, given that his wife was a Japanese national – and because Ishimoto’s incarceration left a psychological mark.

“What I think is still lingering from the legacy of the way that the U.S. government portrayed Japanese-Americans during World War II is that people couldn’t be Japanese and American at the same time,” she said. “Those two identities were irreconcilable. Understanding Ishimoto, it’s really important that we acknowledge his American-ness and his Japanese-ness. Those identities can exist side-by-side and are important for understanding his work.”

**Continued on page 13**

# Opportunities abound for students in Actuarial Club

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

More than 100 future actuaries descended on the UW-Milwaukee campus in September, eager for actuarial industry news, education, and job prospects. They came from across the region for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Midwest Actuarial Student Conference (MASC), an endeavor that drew sponsorship from prestigious donors like Northwestern Mutual and Milliman.

And the entire two-day event was organized by a club of undergraduate students.

Actuarial Science is the science of predicting risk, especially as it relates to insurance and finance. It requires students to have a thorough education in mathematics, especially in statistics. The profession is lucrative and growing; the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the industry is growing much faster than average at a rate of 22 percent and average salaries top six figures after a few years of work.

To become an actuary, students must pass industry exams to certify them in the field. That's where UWM's Actuarial Club comes in.

"The goal of the Actuarial Club is to provide opportunities outside of the classroom for students to prepare themselves for actuarial exams, career opportunities, and to really grow as professionals," Jason Leurquin said. Actuarial Science majors Leurquin and Brittany Kern-Osthoff are the president and vice president, respectively, of the Actuarial Club at UWM.

MASC fits the bill, which was the driving reason why Leurquin and the Actuarial club volunteered to organize and host the event. Encouraged by the Society of Actuaries (SOA) and the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS), the governing bodies of the profession, the conference allows actuarial students in the Midwest to gather, learn from experts, make industry connections, and meet other like-minded students. This year's conference featured panels with speakers from both the SOA and CAS, and industry professionals gave presentations on everything from interview tips to predictive analytics.

Planning the MASC was an intensive process that began back in January as Leurquin, Kern-Osthoff, and the Actuarial Club began contacting local companies for sponsorship and speakers.

"The big challenge for us was reaching out to companies for sponsorship and also for speakers. Getting speakers rallied together was the biggest hump to go over," Kern-Osthoff said.

Their hard work paid off.

"One of the presentations I really looked forward to was the update from the SOA and the CAS," said Leurquin. "They know what's going on as far as what matters to us as actuaries, and they tell us what's going to be happening going forward in our profession."

Whatever happens, the Actuarial Club is ready to help students prepare for it. The Club, founded about 10 years ago, regularly brings in speakers and provides study materials for students preparing for their actuarial exams. There's an ulterior motive there; UWM has been designated a Center of Actuarial Excellence by SOA and a certain amount of students must pass their actuarial exams to maintain that status.

But perhaps the most important benefit of belonging to the Actuarial Club is staying connected.

"I think one thing that's important for the profession is networking. For me, it made sense to get involved with other people who were as interested as I was," Kern-Osthoff said.

The club meets on the second or last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Contact Leurquin and Kern-Osthoff for information.



Society of Actuaries Senior Fellow Stuart Klugman delivers an update from the SOA at the Midwest Actuarial Student Conference at UWM in September. Photo courtesy of Jason Leurquin and Brittany Kern-Osthoff

# Researcher illuminates the man who shaped going to the movies

By Angela McManaman, University Relations

One question becomes a stumbling block for assistant professor of English and film studies Jocelyn Szczepaniak-Gillece: “What’s your favorite movie?”

“Oh my gosh. That’s really hard,” Szczepaniak-Gillece replied. “Can I talk about my favorite movie from this summer?” Indeed, she can – Debra Granik’s “Leave No Trace.”

Talking, teaching and writing about the movies in America have been among the film historian’s primary pursuits since Szczepaniak-Gillece arrived at UWM in 2014, and even before then. In 2010, she began researching the life and work of Benjamin Schlanger (1904-1971), whose architectural designs and strong opinions about cinema as art strongly influenced how we watch movies today.

He is the subject of Szczepaniak-Gillece’s new book, “The Optical Vacuum: Spectatorship and Modernized American Theater Architecture,” (Oxford University Press).

Though primarily an architect, Schlanger was deeply invested in cinema engineering, how people positioned themselves in theater chairs, the size of the movie screen and even how moviegoers behaved themselves when the house lights went down.



Built in 1962 and designed by Benjamin Schlanger, Cinema I & II continue to operate in New York City as City Cinemas 1, 2 & 3.

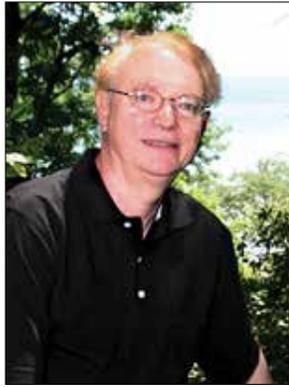
He designed and advised on dozens of theaters across the eastern U.S. and abroad, presiding over the gradual transition from ornate movie palaces and kitsch-cluttered regional theaters to modern auditoriums where all eyes are drawn to the screen. Here, attendees can immerse themselves in a movie, undistracted by their immediate surroundings.

“The central argument of my book is that the impact of film is not only limited to the text,” Szczepaniak-Gillece said. “It’s also about the space in which it’s seen, it’s about the ideologies under which it’s developed.”

While the book is a historical one, Szczepaniak-Gillece thinks her argument, and research, is right for this moment. Milwaukee’s Oriental Theatre, a movie palace built in 1927 – home to East-Indian design flourishes like six golden Buddhas, eight porcelain lions and two minarets – reopened after a major restoration and under new ownership by Milwaukee Film on Aug. 10. Apple has just become the world’s first trillion-dollar business, and its iPads and iTunes make it easy to skip the theater.

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**Dr. Glen Jeansonne, Professor Emeritus of History**, passed away on Aug. 25. Dr. Jeansonne was a highly respected and valued member of the Department of History from 1978 until he retired in 2015.



Dr. Jeansonne was raised in Louisiana and received his PhD in American History at Florida State University in 1973. He published 14 books and dozens of articles during his long career at UWM. He was an expert in the fields of American right-wing movements and presidential history. He wrote his dissertation on the southern racist leader, Leander H. Perez, and he followed up with a biography of Gerald L. K. Smith which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. He also wrote a biography of Huey Long. His book on right-wing women during World War II (*Women of the Far Right: The Mothers' Movement and World War II*) forged a new field in women's history. Recently, he published two major biographies of Herbert Hoover, and co-authored a book on history in the movies along with biographies of Elvis Presley and Barack Obama.

He was a superb teacher who directed legions of Master's theses, and he won the UWM Undergraduate Teaching Award, the Alumni Association Teaching Award, and the Career Research Award. He will be deeply missed by faculty, staff, and students in the History Department.

A memorial gathering and celebration of Glen's life was held on Aug. 29 at Northshore Funeral Services Chapel in Shorewood. Dr. Jeansonne's obituary is available at <https://bit.ly/2ppWF0d>.



**Howard Handelman, Professor Emeritus of Political Science**, passed away on Sept. 8, 2018. Dr. Handelman was a member of the Political Science Department from 1970 to 2006, serving as Chair from 1986-89 and from 2003-05. He served as acting Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese from 1992-93 and in 2000. He was the Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies from 1994 to 1999.

Dr. Handelman received his PhD in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and did his dissertation on peasant political mobilization in Peru. At UWM, he taught a variety of courses in comparative politics. He was a dedicated teacher who inspired countless students to become interested in politics and the world. He led study abroad programs and student tours in London, Chile, Mexico and Cuba. His textbooks, *The Challenge of Third World Development*, as well as *Politics in a Changing World*, which he co-authored with UWM Professor Emeritus Dr. Marcus Ethridge, were reissued multiple times and used in colleges and universities around the country.

Dr. Handelman and his wife, Dr. Kristin Ruggiero, UWM Professor Emerita in History, endowed the Ruggiero-Handelman Field Research Award. The award is given to worthy UWM graduate and undergraduates to support field research in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A memorial service will be held on Oct. 6 at noon at the Hefter Conference Center, 3271 N. Lake Drive in Milwaukee. Dr. Handelman's obituary is available at <https://bit.ly/2xms9sH>.

## People in print

Rosa M. Cerón-Bretón, Julia G. Cerón-Bretón, **Jonathan Kahl (Atmospheric Sciences)**, Reyna del C. Lara-Severino, Marcela Rangel-Marrón, Elena Rustrián-Portilla. 2018. Potential influence of emissions and transport from north and south on Orizaba Valley, Veracruz, Mexico. *Agrociencia*, 52(5): 653-670. <https://bit.ly/2wAVzSH>

**Anna M. Mansson McGinty (Geography)**. 2018. Embodied Islamophobia: Lived experiences of anti-Muslim discourses and assaults in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. *Social & Cultural Geography*. Online. <https://bit.ly/2DiCZoW>

Colin P. Green, **John S. Heywood (Economics)**, Parvinder Kler, and Gareth Leeves. 2018. Paradox Lost: The Disappearing Female Job Satisfaction Premium. *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, 56(3), 484 - 502. <https://bit.ly/2Nuqmvw>

Georgia Zellou and **Anne Pycha (Linguistics)**. 2018. The gradient influence of temporal extent of coarticulation on vowel and speaker perception. *Laboratory Phonology: Journal of the Association for Laboratory Phonology*, 9(1), 12. <https://bit.ly/2PMV9Ao>

# ★ Alumni Accomplishments

**Michael H. Casson, Jr.** ('94, MA Economics) was appointed interim dean of the College of Business at Delaware State University. He is an associate professor of Economics and has been a faculty member in the College of Business at Delaware State for 15 years. <https://bit.ly/2CEI5LL>



Michael H. Casson, Jr.

**Marcus Leppanen** ('10, BA Psychology) joined the staff of Wesleyan University as a postdoctoral fellow in the Psychology Department. He will work with Wesleyan professors on memory research. <https://bit.ly/2M40LnX>



Sally Kuzma

**Sally Kuzma** ('06, Graduate TESOL certificate) was selected for an English Language Teaching Fellowship by the U.S. State Department. Kuzma, an English as a Second Language instructor at Milwaukee Area Technical College, is serving a 10-month fellowship teaching English in the Dominican Republic. <https://bit.ly/2QszYEZ>

**Monica Drake** ('05, BA Art History; '13, MA History and Museum Studies certificate) was named the new operations manager of Heritage Village, a 21-acre living history museum in Pinellas County, Florida. She previously worked as the assistant curator/registrar at the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse & Museum. <https://bit.ly/2NYozLK>

**Leslie Chase** ('90, BS Biological Sciences) is the co-owner of San Laurino Coffeehouse in Musekgo, Wisconsin. She and her shop were featured in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* as a must-go destination in Waukesha County. <https://bit.ly/2wvmolw>

**Kimberly Mathy's** ('92, BA Psychology) latest venture, the Brew Berlin Pub & Grub in New Berlin, Wisconsin, was featured in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Mathy owns four businesses. <https://bit.ly/2xd5Gxh>

**Jason Pruitt** ('03, Master of Human Resources and Labor Relations) is the new executive director of the Gustavus Adolphus College Center for Career Development. He previously served as the career development director at Carthage College. <https://bit.ly/2O923Tt>

## UWM to UFC

[continued from page 2](#)

### Mixed martial arts fighter finds confidence at UWM

From there, her journey to the octagon hit a few speed bumps. She underwent ACL surgery that postponed her training. In November 2015, she got her first professional victory in her first fight since losing a year earlier.

She later fulfilled her other passion – serving her country – overseas as an electronic protection technician from May through November 2017. The decision to serve came with an unforeseen lost opportunity.

“While I was over there, my coach told me that I had gotten a couple of UFC calls,” said Letson. “It kind of bummed me out that I couldn’t take it.”

Knowing she was on the UFC watchlist, Letson resumed training immediately upon her return from duty. Before getting a chance to fight another bout, she got an unexpected call. The UFC offered her a contract, and she signed in January 2018, just three months after her return.

### Lofty goals

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Letson already has her sights set on becoming a world champion. However, that’s only part of what she hopes to achieve.

“I really like being a role model – especially for kids and young girls. I like to show them that they can do whatever they want to do no matter what society’s stereotypes say,” Letson said. “That’s what I want to do with my fame as a fighter.”

Klipp thinks she has the ingredients for success. “Leah is very hardworking and coachable,” he said. “She has a ton of natural talent, but we see plenty of fighters with talent come in the gym. What’s rare is a talent like Leah who works relentlessly to become the best. She has that ‘never give up’ attitude that so many successful people have.”



Psychology alumna Leah Letson is a mixed martial arts fighter with a shot at competing in the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

<https://youtu.be/q1d4Wj3650E>

# Upcoming Events

## September 26-November 1

**Harmony In Print: J.A.M. Whistler Etchings & Lithographs.** Emile H. Mathis Gallery. Exhibit runs Sept. 26-Nov. 1, Monday-Thursdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

<https://uwm.edu/arthistory/>

## September 26

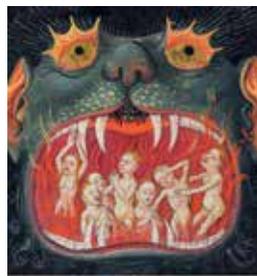
**Women's & Gender Studies Fall Brown Bag: Are you being served? Latin American migrants and postcolonial servitude.** Curtin 904. Noon. Jeffrey K. Coleman, Marquette University.

**Celtic Studies' Kick off Céilí.** Greene Hall. 6 p.m. Music by Ceol Cairde, Scottish dancers, and hurling demonstration.

## September 27

**8th Annual Literature & Cultural Theory Lecture: The Drama of Celebrity – Imitation.** Curtin 368. 2 p.m. Sharon Marcus, Columbia University. Sponsored by the departments of English and Women's & Gender Studies, and the Center for 21st Century Studies.

**Book Talk: The Penguin Book of Hell.** Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Scott G. Bruce, Fordham University. Co-hosted by the Department of Art History. <https://bit.ly/2bKrtE1>



*The Penguin Book of Hell*

## September 28

**Neuroscience Colloquium: Trauma, PTSD, and Neurodevelopment in Youth.** Enderis 107. 3 p.m.

## September 29-October 26

**Planetarium show: Haunted Horizons.** Manfred Olson Planetarium. Show runs Fridays Sept. 29-Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Celebrate spooky tales of cosmic occurrences at the Planetarium and learn about black matter, lost space crafts, and other astronomical mysteries. Family-friendly and open to the public. Tickets are \$5. <https://bit.ly/2wqHoQ8>

## September 30

**Archaeology Lecture: The Middle Mississippian Colony at Trempealeau.** Sabin G90. 3 p.m. Robert Boszhardt, director of the Trempealeau Archaeology Project. Sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America, Milwaukee Society; the departments of Anthropology and Art History, and the Classics program. <https://bit.ly/2xyO2oT>

## October 2

**Department of Spanish & Portuguese Saludos! Meet and Greet.** Curtin 739. 1 p.m. Meet the faculty and learn more about Spanish major and Portuguese minor.

# OCTOBER 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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|     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  |
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |

## October 4

**Higher Education, Free Speech, and Campus Codes.** Physics 137. 1:30 p.m. Alexander Tsesis, Loyola University School of Law. Sponsored by the departments of Journalism, Adversiting, and Media Studies, and Political Science.

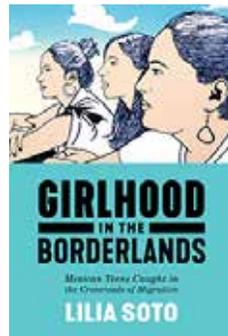
## October 5

**Computer Cognition: A Cyber/Bio/Semiotic Perspective.** Curtin 939. Noon. N. Katherine Hayles, Duke University. Event includes a brown bag lunch at noon and a public lecture at 3:30 p.m. in Curtin 175. <https://bit.ly/2OJl5vS>

**The Harold and Florence Mayer Lecture in Geography: Understanding Harold Rose's Geography of Despair.** AGS Library. 3 p.m. Joe T. Darden, Michigan State University.

## October 11

**Migration Marks: Time, Waiting, and Desires for Migration.** UMOS, 2701 S. Chase Ave., Milwaukee. Lilia Soto, author of *Girlhood in the Borderlands: Mexican Teens Caught in the Crossroads of Migration*. Sponsored by Cultures & Communities, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and UWM Office of Student Involvement. <https://bit.ly/2QMmLqE>



*Girlhood in the Borderlands*

## October 12

**Neuroscience Seminar: Framing the behavioral and neural constituents of spatial navigation.** Lapham N101. 2 p.m. Derek Hamilton, University of New Mexico.

**The vMLK Project: Crafting a Necessary (Digital) Space to Explore Rhetorical Leadership and Civic Transformation.** Curtin 175. 3 p.m. Victoria Gallagher, North Carolina State University. Sponsored by the Rhetorical Leadership Graduate Certificate Program, the Communication Department, Urban Studies Programs, and the History Department. <https://vmlk.chass.ncsu.edu/>

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# Laurels, Accolades, and Grants

Jeffrey Sommers (African and African Diaspora Studies and Global Studies) and his team recently launched Society Networked, an educational initiative that seeks to identify the ways in which sustainable economies and societies can be nurtured. The project launched at Central European University and has received support from Open Society Foundations, a network of foundations, partners, and projects promoting democratic governance. <https://bit.ly/2MR251V>



Jeffrey Sommers

The Gardener, a math-rock duo including Benjamin Formanek ('15, BA; '18, MA Philosophy), garnered a glowing write-up in the *Wisconsin Gazette* following the release of their album *Differences in Distances*. Formanek plays guitar and bass. <https://bit.ly/2MZMhtl>

Student Hannah Sallmann (Psychology) was one of the artists shown in the “Talk of the Towne: Art & Music Night” pop-up art gallery in Milwaukee in September. Sallman and her art were featured in a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article previewing the show. <https://bit.ly/2NQ0Xsh>



John Roberts

John Roberts (Sociology) is the principal investigator on a National Science Foundation grant awarded for research on “Methodological Challenges and Archaeological Interpretations in Network Analysis of Artifact Assemblage Data.” UWM (\$91,132) is the lead institution in this collaboration with Arizona State University.

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) and the Center for International Education (CIE) have been awarded prestigious Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) grants for 2018-2022 by the U.S. Department of Education. The UW-Consortium for Latin American Studies, CLACS with UW-Madison’s LACIS, received approximately \$2 million over four years; CIE’s grant totals \$1.8 million. The grants will support student fellowships, teacher training, public engagement, and research. <https://uwm.edu/cie/scholarships/>

## Upcoming Events

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### October 12

**Geography Colloquium: Breast Cancer, Race and Place.** AGS Library. 3 p.m. Kirsten Beyer, Medical College of Wisconsin.

### October 17

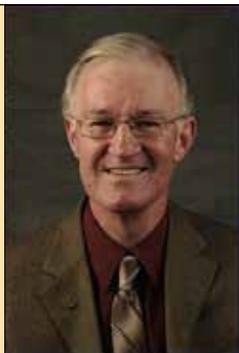
**Women’s & Gender Studies Fall Brown Bag - To Live and Die in Milwaukee: Black Women’s Roles in Liberation and Health.** Curtin 904. Noon. Charmaine Lang, UWM.

### October 19

**Urban Studies Programs Fall Lecture: Live and Let Live.** Greene Hall. 3:30 p.m. Evelyn Perry, Rhodes College. <https://bit.ly/2Nsqq2h6>

### October 23

**Dean’s Distinguished Lecture in the Natural Sciences - Patterns in Nature: A Treasure Trove for the Curious.** Union Wisconsin Room. 4:30 p.m. John A. Adam, Old Dominion University, discusses the unnoticed mathematical patterns in the natural world around us. Adam’s books will be sold before and during the lecture by Boswell Book Company. <https://bit.ly/2DgYBSG>



John A. Adam

**Creative Writers in Nonprofit Careers: Panel Discussion, Reading, and Reception.** Hefter Center. 7 p.m. Sammy Goodrich, TimeSlips and Stage Right; Jenny Gropp, Woodland Pattern Book Center; Dasha Kelly Hamilton, Stillwaters Collective; Laura Soloman, Woodland Pattern Book Center; and Chuck Stebelton, Interfaith Older Adult Programs. <https://bit.ly/2NWQQoX>

### October 26

**Remembering the Center for 20th Century Studies.** Curtin 175. 9 a.m. Amelie Hastie, Amherst College; Andreas Huyssen, Columbia University; Tara McPherson, University of Southern California; Patricia Mellencamp, UWM; Gay Weissman, University of Cincinnati; and Kathleen Woodward, University of Washington. <https://bit.ly/2NrOhvK>

**Geography Colloquium: Ensuring equity for Milwaukee’s under-served communities.** AGS Library. 3 p.m. Deidre Peroff, UWM.

### October 29-31

**PlaneSCAREium Show.** Manfred Olson Planetarium. 7 p.m. Enjoy favorite scary movies projected on the planetarium dome. All shows are free for UWM students. <https://bit.ly/2MPJNtB>

# In the Media and Around the Community

Leisure time as a human right? **Blain Neufeld (Philosophy)** argues that viewing leisure time as such secures an important element of justice for children in a blog post for the London School of Economics and Political Science. <https://bit.ly/2PwrxHA>

Predicting the weather on Lake Michigan is a challenge, but it's one that **Tim Halbach ('01, BS; '03, MS Atmospheric Science)** relishes in his role as the National Weather Service warning coordination meteorologist, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported. <https://bit.ly/2OED7QU>

It might be the most morbid puzzle she's ever done, but PhD student **Alexis Jordan (Anthropology)** loves her work studying and piecing together remains from an Iron Age cemetery in Cornwall, England. She was interviewed on BBC radio about her research. <https://bbc.in/2Mz2jLu>

**Margaret Frasier (Geosciences)** says in *The Atlantic* that scientists have found a remarkable method to measure the change in ecology due to climate change. <https://bit.ly/2MHeVAu>

**Marc Tasman (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** is one of the artists who contributed to the Look Here! collaboration, a partnership between the UWM Libraries and artists from RedLine Milwaukee and the UWM Peck School. The exhibit and some of Tasman's work was featured on WUWM's Lake Effect show. <https://bit.ly/2olqNJE>



**Karyn Frick (Psychology)** is leading a team of UWM researchers to discover why women are at increased risk for Alzheimer's Disease, Fox6 News reported. <https://bit.ly/2x4hAtU>

 Why are there so many Cubs fans in Milwaukee? **Jessie Garcia Marbles (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** tells us the reason in an article in the *Stevens Point Journal*, which was repurposed all over Wisconsin. <https://spjour.nl/2PRJQYy>



Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. was a victim of its own indecision and was unable to respond to the advent of online retailers like Amazon, **Denise Kohnke ('80, BA Art History)** told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* in a "post mortem" of the now-shuttered retail chain. <https://bit.ly/2ME5KAA>

State subsidies supporting the new Foxconn facility could have been better used for job training for unemployed Wisconsinites, **Marc Levine (emeritus History)** said on PBS News Hour. <https://to.pbs.org/2wNTW56>

An *Associated Press* article quoted **Michael Newman (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** discussing parents' fears that their children were spending too much time in arcades. The article explored historical fears surrounding children and phones, television, video games, and even the radio. (<https://bit.ly/2PzP8Hu>) The article was printed around the country, including in the *Washington Post*.

Texting their parents helps students new to college decrease their stress levels, **Erin Ruppel (Communication)** revealed in an article published on Phys.org. <https://bit.ly/2CFbSnD>

**Meg Noodin (English and American Indian Studies)** presented "Anishinaabe Translations of Global Literature" at the University of Louisville in September. The talk focused on her current project of translating the works of authors like Chaucer and Shakespeare into her native language. <https://bit.ly/2NDsxMV>

**Jean Creighton (Planetarium)** revealed the science behind the Northern Lights in an article printed in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. <https://bit.ly/2NXt0cB>

Growing their own food for consumption and sale is a long-time industry and passion for the Hmong, as **Chia Vang (History)** knows from firsthand experience, according to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. <https://bit.ly/2xK12r1>

The collection of art in Turner Hall is unrivaled in the U.S. in terms of its richness and diversity, **Aims McGuinness (History)** was quoted as saying in an OnMilwaukee article about Tavern at Turner Hall. <https://bit.ly/2OFm9St>

**Rebecca Dunham (English)** was invited to join SUNY Oswego's fall Living Writers Series. She will visit the campus in November to read and talk about her poetry. <https://bit.ly/2N2pWaD>

# Alum's art at Fiserv Forum

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These days, Oates works a day job in the IT field and shows his work in the Sadler Gallery in Milwaukee's Third Ward on the side. He calls his work pop-expressionism – an almost comic book-like style of painting influenced by artists like Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, and Sigmar Polke.

"I start by putting a fairly clear image on the canvas – things like Agent Scully from 'The X-Files,' Catwoman from the '60s Batman television show, Wonder Woman played by Linda Carter – and get it on in black and white," Oates explained. "Then the color is the expressionism part. I put that on in a wash and try and get it to simulate a distressed look so that the color is invoking the feelings and the thoughts and emotions within that. One part is very crisp and clear and then one part is more emotional and all over the place."

His work for the Milwaukee Bucks is true to form. Primarily done in blues and greens, the two paintings on public display feature silhouettes of basketball players shooting and dribbling down the court, the Milwaukee Bucks logo, basketballs, and bright colors and bold lines. Interspersed on the canvas are phrases made famous by longtime and beloved bucks announcer Eddie Doucette, like "Rainmaker" and "Downtown J" written in lettering that is part-graffiti, part-comic book, and all Oates.

"The words were what they were attracted to the most. One of the submissions I chose was a Catwoman painting. She's standing confident and there's an explosion in the background, and it says 'Ba-Boom!'" in these large letters behind her. They wanted to go with that," Oates said. "They wanted some of the colorful Bucks phrasing from the past incorporated into this."

Oates submitted a portfolio to the consulting group Sports and the Arts, which acted as the go-between for the artists and the Milwaukee Bucks management. Though the call for entries drew 1,200 submissions, Oates never doubted he'd earn a space on the Fiserv Forum walls. His confidence was well-placed; in addition to the two paintings on the luxury suite level, Oates was also commissioned for a piece that now hangs in the Milwaukee Bucks' executive office.

It's been exciting to have his work on display for masses of basketball fans, but Oates was also delighted to learn something new during his painting process.

"In looking at the Bucks logos and getting ready to paint those, I realized that the antlers form a basketball. I suppose people pick up on it, but it wasn't until I was laying it out that I saw it."



Eric Oates' artwork is on display at the Fiserv Forum, the home of the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team.

# Ishimoto exhibit

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## Bringing the exhibit to life

The *Someday, Chicago* exhibit was born out of a chance remark. In 2016, Alinder was working on another project called the Virtual Asian American Art Museum (that project launches at DePaul in October). At an advisory meeting for the project, a board member suggested that Alinder team up with another board member curate a show about Ishimoto at the DePaul Art Museum.

Two years later, Alinder and her co-curator, John Tain from the Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong, opened the *Someday, Chicago* exhibition. The show includes dozens of black-and-white photographs, two cases with books and pamphlets, three films, one screen cycling through digital photographs, and one iPad.

Alinder and Tain were responsible for selecting photographs for display, as well as compiling the gallery notes and writing extensive essays analyzing Ishimoto's life and work. One research trip took Alinder to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., where she found Ishimoto's case file from his time in the Amache prison camp.

Most interesting was his leave clearance interview: Like all incarcerated Japanese Americans, Ishimoto was required to take a loyalty test which asked if he was willing to serve in the U.S. military and if he renounced all loyalty to the Japanese emperor.

In these transcripts, Alinder said, "You get a sense of Ishimoto creating a political sensibility. In the hearing, he is asked about his loyalty to the U.S. and if he would fight for the U.S., and he says, 'I don't know what I'm fighting for.' He articulates the development of a political conscience that we didn't really have evidence of before. That I think ends up informing the kind of work that he does later in Chicago."

Another trip took Alinder to Ishimoto's family home in Kochi, Japan. Ishimoto donated most of his work to the Kochi Art Museum.

"We found a photo album that Ishimoto had made pretty early on. The first half of the images are all of Amache. He took photographs of Amache, and not just any photographs – photographs that are visually compelling. ... It's important from an artistic perspective because we can see he's starting to develop this interesting artistic vision before he gets to Chicago and goes to the Institute of Design. He's already thinking in terms of light and texture and composition."

## Exhibition takeaways

The photographs in the exhibit reveal Ishimoto's deep love for Chicago and its citizens.

"He also gives us a glimpse into late 1940s through early 1960s Chicago, and he focuses on groups of people that often go un-pictured. He spends a lot of time, in this highly-segregated city like Milwaukee, in African American neighborhoods," Alinder noted. "He really invests his subjects with humanity."

But Alinder suspects that even his feelings for Chicago and Japan didn't erase the fractures in Ishimoto's identity.

"When he's in the U.S., he's not really considered American. When he's in Japan, he's not really considered Japanese. You're constantly trying to answer questions like, who am I? Where do I belong? Where is 'home'? How do I fit in here?" she said.

Those questions echo today as America still grapples with ideas of race, citizenship, and what it means to be American. Inspiring viewers to think about those questions may be one of the greatest legacies of Ishimoto's work.

# The Orange Story

The *Someday, Chicago* exhibit features another piece on Japanese American history. "The Orange Story" plays on an iPad in the display, showing the effects of discrimination and fear on the lives of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The Orange Story is an educational resource created for high school and college students that puts a human face on Executive Order 9066, which decreed that Japanese Americans on the west coast be incarcerated in prison camps during World War II. The project includes a 17-minute movie based on these historical events, broken up into four chapters. Between each chapter, viewers can explore archival documents, images, and oral histories from Japanese American citizens.

UWM History professor Jasmine Alinder is the Lead Advisor and Content Curator for the project. Visit [www.TheOrangeStory.org](http://www.TheOrangeStory.org) to learn more and view the project.



**Yasuhiro Ishimoto**  
Someday, Chicago

Alinder helped design and write the gallery notes for the *Someday, Chicago* exhibit. The bound red book includes essays and examples of Ishimoto's work.

# Researcher's theater book

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“This is a moment that’s ripe for people to reconsider the importance of the place where you’re watching something,” Szczepaniak-Gillece said, “and how it affects your understanding of the text.”

Understand, first, what the movies meant to America in the early 1930s as Schlanger earned an architecture degree and began building his portfolio and writing dozens of journal articles about theater design and engineering. A film ticket was about 25 cents per person. Hollywood owned the movie studios and many of the movie theaters, and executives worried that if they didn’t make going to the movies “a big event,” then the people wouldn’t come.

“He sees the movie palace, which is elaborate, ornate, over-the-top, exquisite, and Schlanger begins to realize that a movie palace is not proper for suitable immersion in a movie. You walk in and you’re overwhelmed by the vastness of the space, how beautiful it is, how upper class it feels. If you can’t forget your surroundings, he thinks you can’t properly immerse yourself in a film.”

In those days, theater technology evolved faster than theater architecture. Synchronized sound and improved projection equipment meant that theaters had to be rapidly renovated to meet consumer demand as film quality improved between the ’20s and ’30s. This helped Schlanger advance some of his early ideas, like removing the layers of velvet or velour “masking” that once bordered movie screens, visually and literally distancing the screen from the audience.



UWM film studies scholar Jocelyn Szczepaniak-Gillece stands in the Oriental Theatre, which reopened Aug. 10 after completing the first phase of a \$10 million renovation. (UWM Photo/Troye Fox)

Szczepaniak-Gillece’s book chronicles how a major cultural and economic force further elevated the renegade architect’s influence: the Great Depression. Suddenly, the chandeliers, velvet curtains, gilt paint and architectural extravaganzas “become symbolic of the excesses of the Roaring ’20s that got America into the Depression in the first place,” Szczepaniak-Gillece said.

Then World War II takes hold, jolting America out of the Depression and consuming lots of building supplies in support of the war effort. Movies matter in the ’40s, but even more so in the ’50s as veterans return to America, build homes and start families. Schlanger remains focused on making the movie theater a place where total immersion becomes possible and where cinema can be appreciated, Szczepaniak-Gillece said, for the art form he believed it to be.

His innovations take greater hold in the ’50s. Szczepaniak-Gillece counts among them the move to wider screens, theater chairs to confine the viewer and direct attention to the screen and theater walls uncluttered by artwork, drapery and other decorations.

Schlanger was both a renegade and a conformist. His designs helped create a code of civic behavior for moviegoers in the ’50s and ’60s. Reclining seats and cell phones give today’s audiences more control over their cinema experience, but Schlanger’s influence still looms.

“If we don’t think about theater architecture now, that’s in large part due to his work,” Szczepaniak-Gillece said.

But we should think about it, she added, noting that this is what the book is all about – and something that her students consider each time they screen a film in one of her courses.

“Even in this moment when we’re told that film is dying and the future belongs to prestige television and that all young people care about is YouTube videos, I see something completely different at UWM,” Szczepaniak-Gillece said. “My students are really interested in the importance of film for understanding what it means to be an American and to understand the history of the United States.”