

Dead Men Do Tell Tales - at least, in Forensic Science

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

It's that time of year when UWM students and faculty gather together to sit down and listen to what stories the dead might tell. But it's not a séance – it's science.

The Forensic Science program is in full swing this semester, including the introductory course to the Forensic Science certificates, a class entitled “Dead Men Do Tell Tales.” Courses are packed with students eager to learn the basics of forensics – everything from how the Medical Examiner's Office operates to Wisconsin's history of serial killers.

At the helm of it all is visiting assistant professor of Anthropology Emily Middleton, who is helping coordinate the program this year after former director Professor Fred Anapol retired. She sat down with Letters & Science to talk about her work.

Tell us a little bit more about UWM's Forensic Science certificate program.

The Center for Forensic Science is a very strong program in that it is, from the ground up, so multi-disciplinary. Forensic anthropology is a small part of forensic science. To give students a comprehensive training in this topic, we need to have chemistry, criminal justice, anthropology, the health sciences –everybody working together, because forensic science is a really broad field. It's simply the application of science to criminal investigation. Our curriculum starts by introducing students to all of the different subfields of forensic science and then lets them to specialize in one or more of the areas that they find interesting.

What do forensic scientists actually do?

They analyze the physical evidence collected at crime scenes. Think about how varied that's going to be. You're going to get anything from DNA, blood, other biological tissues, to chemicals, paints, drugs, diseases or other pathology, plant remains or bugs. That's why you need to take this broad approach to educating students about it. We're pulling in experts from all of these different fields and working to integrate all of these different disciplines.

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Visiting professor of Anthropology Emily Middleton examines a human vertebra in her office. Middleton is the new director of UWM's Forensic Science program. Photo by Sarah Vickery.

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UWM film studies students Christian Balistreri (left) and Hugo Ljungbäck inspect one of the 16-millimeter films in the Patricia Mellencamp collection, named after one of the founders of the film studies program. (UWM Photo/Troye Fox)

Students breathe life into a long-forgotten film archive

By Claire Hackett, University Relations

Two UWM students, Hugo Ljungbäck and Christian Balistreri, are spearheading a project to preserve and restore a long-forgotten 16-millimeter film archive in Curtin Hall.

“We are reviving history,” Ljungbäck said.

They are supervised by Tami Williams, an English and film studies associate professor whose academic expertise includes early cinema history.

The Patricia Mellencamp collection, named after one of the founders of the film studies program at UWM, contains over 90 films originally screened in film, English and art history classes in the 1970s and '80s.

“Hugo has been researching the history of our film studies program and Pat’s foundational role as a first-generation film studies scholar,” Williams said.

The UWM film studies program was one of the first programs of its kind in the 1970s, due in large part to Mellencamp.

There is a wide selection of the types of films in the collection. Marquette University gave UWM 60 old film reels, mostly educational or instructional films, last year. These films provide a rare opportunity for student research since the distribution and preservation of institutional films have been poorly documented.

There are many hidden gems found in the film archive from the early days of cinema, including Georges Méliès 1902 classic “A Trip to the Moon,” several Charlie Chaplin movies and a few Alfred Hitchcock films.

“We have three copies of ‘Citizen Kane,’ and I think we all have this kind of crazy ambition or dream to project them all at the same time,” Ljungbäck said.

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Classroom confidence, community connection: Language Tables at UWM

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Tuesdays over lunch, students gather to converse about anime over Japanese tea. On Thursdays, another group meets to learn songs in Spanish. On Friday afternoon in the UWM Gasthaus, there is a table of students having a lively discussion on how modern-day Russia views Stalin.

They're meeting at Language Tables, informal gatherings where students studying almost any of UWM's language offerings – up to and including American Sign Language, Latin, and Anishinaabemowin (the Ojibwe language) – can meet to practice their vocabulary and conversation.

“Unlike in the classroom, students who go to the Language Tables aren't so worried about making mistakes. They're not afraid it's going to affect their grade. This is optional, outside of class,” explains Allison Libbey, the Spanish Language Coordinator who oversees the Spanish Language Tables. “It's student-driven for students who are interested in learning more, bettering their skills, getting ready for study abroad or for using the language in a more professional setting.”

The value of a table

There are 14 languages that offer Tables. Each have their own schedule and way of running things, but Tables typically allow students to drive conversation, both in English and in the foreign language. Topics range from classes they like, to questions about other cultures to, yes, Stalin.

Though Tables are not structured lessons, they still have an impact back in the classroom.

“Every semester, at least a handful of my own students go to the Language Tables. What I see is not necessarily their precision, but their confidence (improving),” Libbey said. “When they're speaking, you can tell that they're comfortable and they're confident and not afraid to make mistakes because they've gotten past that barrier a long time ago just by going to speak.”

And, added Yuko Wert, a senior lecturer who runs the Japanese Language Table, the gathering allows students to imagine the possibilities if they continue learning their language.

“They see the vision. They see senior people who study abroad and come back and present about their experiences,” Wert said. “They think, I want to get to that level. I think that helps with retention. They want to keep learning.”

Tables foster community

Language Tables primarily serve UWM students, but they're open to the Milwaukee community.

For some, said Russian senior lecturer Meghan Murphy-Lee, the Language Tables have become a means to practice their native tongues or to keep homesickness at bay.



Students gather in the UWM Gasthaus to attend the Russian Language Table. Photo by Sarah Vickery.



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UWM adds pre-professional tracks leading to careers in demand

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

UWM has debuted two undergraduate tracks that can lead to a virtually guaranteed job with a six-figure starting salary.

The College of Letters & Science rolled out new pre-anesthesiologist assistant and pre-pathologist assistant tracks this year, meant to prepare students for careers as anesthesiologist and pathologist assistants. Students in these tracks typically choose a major like Biochemistry or Biology, with classes tailored to meet the specific requirements of graduate programs that will train and certify them in their field.

Unlike anesthesiologists or pathologists who undergo four years of medical school and then complete a minimum four-year residency program, anesthesiologist assistants and pathologist assistants complete a two-year Master's program and are then ready to join the work force.

"I think it's more financially viable for health care systems to hire these very well-trained Master's-level professionals who can fill the gap. Just as physician assistants (PAs) work as a team with physicians in many settings, the anesthesiologist and pathologist assistants work closely with their respective supervising physician. You don't have to have a physician managing every single detail of a patient's care," said Patty Cobb, the advisor for pre-professional programs in the College of Letters & Science. "I think it's an answer, at least in part, to how our country's health care system is changing overall."

But what exactly do anesthesiologist assistants and pathologist assistants do?

A lot of what a regular anesthesiologist or pathologist does, according to Cobb. Anesthesiologist assistants are responsible for putting patients to sleep during surgeries, monitoring their vitals, and waking them up again afterwards. They'll often preform pre-operation assessments and talk patients through their impending surgical procedures. Pathologist assistants often collect and run tests on tissue samples much like a pathologist does. In both cases, the assistants are supervised by a full anesthesiologist or pathologist.

"That higher-level professional is right there, supervising, making sure they're available to step in should something more serious happen ... rather than having the physician tied up strictly in a one-to-one capacity," Cobb said.

She was inspired to create the pre-pathology track because of a UWM alumna, who is now directing the clinical education component of the MS Pathologist Assistant program at Rosalind Franklin University. "In talking with her, it became evident to me that there is a whole new layer of health care that is evolving," Cobb said.

It became more evident when the Director of the anesthesiologist assistant graduate program at the Medical College of Wisconsin, reached out to Cobb as well. MCW, which partners with the Froedtert Health Network, is seeing more and more hospitals across the region relying on anesthesiologist assistants.

"It's been slowly picking up momentum," said Abby Haak, an Education Program Coordinator in MCW's Master of Science in Anesthesia program.

Students in the Medical College of Wisconsin's Master of Science in Anesthesia program get clinical practice in class. Photo courtesy of MCW.



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UWM grad designs theater fight scenes that look and feel real

By Maren Orłowski, University Relations

When director Christopher Elst choreographed swordfight scenes for “Bonny Anne Bonny” at Milwaukee’s Theater Red, he wanted to make sure that audience members thought that they were going to witness a murder, while never actually fearing for the actors’ safety.

His goal? To make the audience believe that the characters are really trying to kill, or at least seriously injure, one another.

“Even those people who are experienced in theater will say, ‘I can’t believe you let that person hit that other person,’” Elst said. “And I say, ‘I didn’t, it was fake.’”

Elst, who majored in English and graduated from UWM in 2012, has built a career in theater, both as an actor and fight director, over the past two decades. He’s performed dozens of roles in theaters in the Milwaukee area, including Oliver “Daddy” Warbucks in a Sunset Playhouse production of “Annie” and Gaston in a Lakeland Players production of “Beauty and the Beast.” In 2013, he co-founded Theater Red with his wife, Marcee Doherty-Elst.

But it’s his specialty of choreographing both fight and intimacy scenes that has had him working on numerous productions throughout southeastern Wisconsin. He’s one of the few doing so.

As a theatrical combat instructor, Elst prides himself in creating safe spaces for actors to learn how to fight safely, and giving them the power to speak up when asked to do things that they are not comfortable with.

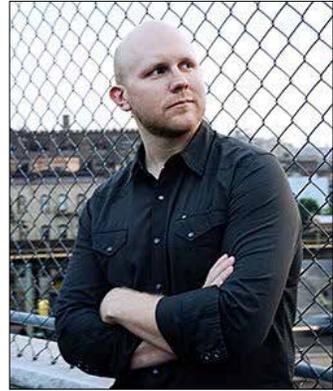
“There was a moment where one of the actors that I worked with on ‘Bonny Anne Bonny’ didn’t feel comfortable with what was happening onstage while she was in another, unrelated production,” Elst said. “She called me and asked what she should do, and she was very comfortable advocating for her own safety and for the safety of the other actors and of the audience. That is what I’m trying to do; I’m trying to create a world where actors feel safe advocating for their own safety, especially in the world we’re currently living in.”

Elst is a strong proponent of creating safe spaces where actors can learn to fight safely and convincingly onstage. He has trained in taekwondo, Krav Maga, and tai chi, and draws inspiration from each of these diverse martial arts styles when choreographing theatrical violence, which he considers a “modern martial art.”

A certified teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors and associate instructor with Dueling Arts International, Elst has taught numerous workshops throughout Wisconsin and Illinois, and has choreographed and directed fight scenes in over 100 theater productions, including “Romeo and Juliet,” “The Pirates of Penzance” and “Fiddler on the Roof.”

“As a stage violence teacher, Chris is an outstanding facilitator of enthusiasm and excitement,” said Jared McDaris, a playwright, actor and director who has collaborated with Elst on numerous occasions. “I think his sense of humbleness and focusing on others is helping to forge a bright new generation. I’m seeing a lot more focus on the arts and the artists from the newer generations of directors, and I think role models like Chris are largely responsible for that.”

In order to make fight scenes believable onstage, the actors have to believe in what they are doing, and trust their scene partners and director, so that they feel comfortable taking risks. Elst’s teaching style takes this into account, and the combination of empowerment and skill that he concocts paves the way for fight scenes that leave the audience on the edge of their seats.



Christopher Elst



Zach Thomas Woods and Alicia Rice square off in a scene choreographed by Christopher Elst in a production of “Bonny Anne Bonny.” (Photo courtesy of Traveling Lemur Productions)

Dean's Planetarium gift puts a lens on science, philanthropy

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Saturn has never looked so good.

Stargazers can get a great view of the ringed planet, and countless other celestial bodies, thanks to a generous donation from Stan Stojkovic, the dean of UWM's Helen Bader School of Social Welfare. Earlier this year, he gifted a \$10,000 telescope mount for the Planetarium's stargazing deck, allowing astronomers and amateurs alike a clearer picture of the skies above.

Stojkovic, though not a regular stargazer, was compelled to contribute to the Planetarium after attending one of the facility's regular Friday night shows. At the end of the show, Planetarium director Jean Creighton appealed to her audience for help. She's in the process of trying to enhance the Planetarium's Apollo-era equipment, including the outdoor stargazing facilities and the Planetarium's projector in the theater – an expensive endeavor.

"I went up to her and said, I'll help you out. I think this is really important to UWM and important to students," Stojkovic said.

"I am so grateful for Stan's support of my vision," Creighton said. "I want to inspire our community with the beauty of the night sky, which is elusive to urban audiences. Also, through live programming, I wish to bring the elegant ideas of how we understand our cosmos to people of all ages. In the last 11 years, the UWM Planetarium has had over 120,000 visitors including 50,000 K-12 students—our future space explorers."

It's important to support the Planetarium, Stojkovic said, because stargazing speaks to the fundamentals of science.

"As a scientist who's interested in the scientific method, this is the first order of science," he said. "It's the stars. Having students get the opportunity to look at the stars, study the stars, to me is really essential. There are enough young people who are really interested in that and so, why not support them?"

The new telescope mount represents a significant upgrade in equipment from the smaller and older telescopes the Planetarium has used before.

"Thanks to the generous donation of Dean Stojkovic, we have a Paramount MX+ computerized mount and a 14-inch Celestron (C14) telescope permanently housed on the Physics Building's observation deck," Creighton said.

Now, operators can locate and point to objects, near and far, with the push of a button. Once there, the computerized telescope will keep the point of interest in view, enabling visitors to see the object without needing to adjust the telescope every few moments. As a result, viewers can spend more time looking at a particular celestial body, while seeing more objects per stargazing session than ever before.

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Stan Stojkovic, dean of the UWM Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, recently donated a \$10,000 telescope mount the UWM Planetarium. The new equipment focuses on celestial objects with increased clarity. Stojkovic took these pictures of the moon (background) and Saturn while gazing through it.



Stan Stojkovic gazes into the new telescope he donated to the UWM Planetarium while Planetarium director Jean Creighton looks on. Photo courtesy of Creighton and Stojkovic.

Planetarium donation

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Creighton added, “This mount supports future growth of the observatory, with possibilities including astrophotography and observational astronomy lab classes.”

Stojkovic hopes that his donation represents the first step in encouraging other individuals, public foundations, and private corporations to invest in the Planetarium as well.

“They have tons of stuff that they need repaired. They’re running this fantastic program on a shoestring over there, and that’s wrong,” Stojkovic said. “We can come together under a common purpose to try and move (funding) forward. I think the stars are the limit.”

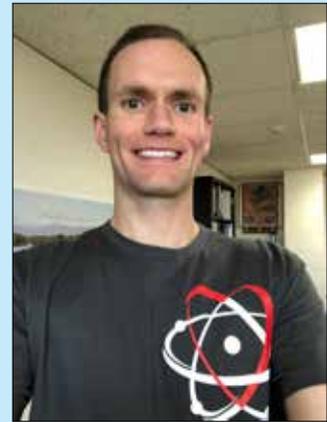
And, he adds, he hopes his gift will inspire more people to get involved with the Planetarium by attending stargazing events or one of the Planetarium’s many programs throughout the year.

“The Planetarium is the first order of science. It lets us see things that we would not otherwise see, or would see only in a very limited, opaque way. This gives us an opportunity to see things totally differently and advance our belief in science,” Stojkovic said. “I think it’s so important to what the essence of the university is about. Let’s recognize it. Let’s appreciate it. Let’s understand it and make sure other people can understand it.”

You can contribute to the Planetarium, or plan your next visit to a Friday night show or a stargazing session, by visiting uwm.edu/planetarium.

Tweeting for science

Associate professor of Atmospheric Science Clark Evans took to Twitter this month for the annual Science-a-Thon, a day where scientists around the world Tweet about their work to introduce audiences to their fields. He shared his day with the College of Letters & Science.



What inspired you to participate in the Science-a-Thon this year?

I learned about the Science-a-Thon through Twitter, primarily through friends of mine at other institutions who liked or retweeted tweets from either the Science-a-Thon account (@scienceathon) or the Earth Science Women’s Network (@ESWNtweets). This was my first time participating (via Twitter @ClarkEvansWx), although this is the third or fourth year that the Science-a-Thon has taken place.

I was inspired to participate in large part by some of UWM’s Atmospheric Science students. We’ve had a number of excellent young women graduate from our program in recent years, but as a smaller program there just haven’t been many peers in the program for these ladies. We also do not have any women as faculty members. Thus, these students have felt somewhat isolated, without others like them to who they can directly relate. I can’t fill that role, but I can do other things to support them. Since the Science-a-Thon is the annual fundraiser for the Earth Science Women’s Network, I felt that this would be a great way to support their mission, communicate my desire to be an advocate for *all* atmospheric science students at UWM, and share a day in my scientist life with the world.

What message did you want to share with audiences?

Apart from sharing some of the cool things I get to do in my job, I wanted my audience – whoever it would be! – to get a real taste for a day in the life of an atmospheric scientist. While that certainly involves intensive research, teaching, and service activities, it also includes some self-care, like a healthy lunch and an end-of-the-day run. Scientists are real people, too!

How did the day go?

It was fun watching the likes and retweets come in through the course of the day! While I knew many of those who interacted with my posts, there were a few new people – including some well outside the atmospheric sciences – who liked or retweeted something I posted.

★ Alumni Accomplishments

Bernard Bull ('06, Master of Liberal Studies) was named the next president of Goddard College. Bull travels to his new home in Vermont after serving as the vice provost for curriculum and innovation at Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin. Administrators hope Bull will be able to increase Goddard's lagging enrollment numbers. <https://bit.ly/2NnFWUS>



Bernard Bull

Emily Voss ('13, BA English and Italian; '18, MA Language, Literature & Translation and Master of Library and Information Science dual degree) has joined Wesleyan University as an Outreach & Academic Engagement Librarian. Voss will be working with the Romance Languages and Literatures department to provide subject-specific research assistance, and will be responsible for the purchase of new materials. She will also collaborate with the Friends of the Wesleyan Libraries to develop programming that supports the campus and the broader Middletown, Connecticut, community.

Jessica Hermanny ('12, MA Language, Literature, and Translation) joined Bowman, a manufacturer of XRF coating measurement instruments as the company's new Operations Analyst. Hermanny is fluent in German and will also assist with marketing text translation for Bowman's German distributor. <https://bit.ly/2xSjtQD>

Michael Aldana ('87, BA History) was appointed managing partner of Quarles & Brady LLP. Quarles & Brady is Milwaukee's second-largest law-firm. Aldana will be the third managing partner in the firm's history and will lead the firm's operations and strategic growth initiatives. <https://bit.ly/2xDJHAM>

Maxine Webb ('10, BA Communication) was appointed as the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin's (ACLU) Director of Development. Webb will represent the ACLU in the community and is responsible for the organization's statewide Annual and Major Gifts programs. <https://bit.ly/2OUsljn>



Maxine Webb

Maria Karstedt ('14, BA Communication) joined the marketing agency Credit Union Story as a storyteller/production artist. The agency specializes in marketing for credit unions and Karstedt will be responsible for research, concept development, scriptwriting, copywriting, and campaign execution. <https://bit.ly/2Oq35eR8>

Kari (Egerstrom) Collins ('15, MA Urban Studies) was named the new director of the Community and Economic Development department of Ramsey County in Minnesota. She will be responsible for managing contracts to advance the county's development initiatives. <https://bit.ly/2ErzPjg>



Yui Hashimoto

Yui Hashimoto ('18, PhD Geography) joined Dartmouth College's Society of Fellows, a close-knit intellectual community that fosters mentorship between postdoctoral fellows. Admission to the society is extremely competitive; the admission rate is less than 1 percent. Hashimoto's research focuses on how race, class, and gender intersected with urban economic change. <https://bit.ly/2AmsWvD>

Izmira Aitch ('08, BA Global Studies and German), a legislative assistant for Wisconsin Congresswoman Gwen Moore, was featured in a Vice News article detailing how black women are making an extra effort to support each other in the current political climate. <https://bit.ly/2OJRWWg>

Valerie Austin ('01, Masters of Public Administration) just released her debut book, "The Student's Comprehensive Guide For College and Other Life Lessons," with publisher Vaubois Publishing LLC in September. Drawing on her own experiences of earning four degrees at four institutions, Austin offers matriculating students an honest look at what it takes to succeed in college. <https://bit.ly/2PEhQYO>

Kristen Wendler ('05, BA International Studies) joined the Farhang & Medcoff law firm as senior counsel. She brings her significant experience in real estate and construction law and represents developers, contractors, and subcontractors in all areas of construction and corporate law. <https://bit.ly/2AtbPbB>

Upcoming Events

October 30-November 1

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

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

October 31



A Window to the World: Watching Television, Emotional Bonding, and Political Communication in the Late Soviet Union. Curtin 939. Noon. Kirsten Bönker, Bielefeld University. Sponsored by the Ctr. for 21st Century Studies, History, and

Journalism, Advertising & Media Studies.

Samhain Celebration: Scary Fairies-A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Encounters with the "Little People." Hefter Center. 6 p.m. Celtic New Year celebration with presentation by paranormal investigator Allison Jorlin.

<https://bit.ly/2PVRi4A>

November 1

Material Form, Female Friendship, and the Making of a Love Novel. Mitchell 361. 12:30 p.m. Luciana Sanga, Stanford University. Sponsored by the Japanese program.

<https://bit.ly/2D668CU>

Embattled Earth: Commodities, Conflict and Climate Change in the Indian Ocean. UWM Music Building Recital Hall. 7 p.m. Featuring novelist and essayist Amitav Ghosh. Sponsored by the Institute of World Affairs.

<https://bit.ly/2RfVDzS>

November 2

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

All Derangements, Great and Small: A Roundtable Discussion with Amitav Ghosh. Curtin 175. 3:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Vilas Trust and the Institute of World Affairs.

<https://bit.ly/2O9ycXc>

November 2-3

9th Annual Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books. UWM at Waukesha, 1500 N. University Dr. 5 p.m. Friday thru 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Featuring writers Nick Petrie and Liam Callanan (English Dept.). Free and family-friendly. Tickets to Friday keynote lecture are \$10. <https://bit.ly/2z72rZh>

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November 2-30

Science Bag: Life in Glass Houses-the World of Diatoms. Physics 137. 7 p.m. John Berges and Erica Young reveal the world of single-celled creatures called diatoms. Free and family-friendly. Shows run Fridays in November with a Sunday matinee on Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. www.uwm.edu/science-bag/



November 4

Archaeology Lecture: 1177 BC-The Year Civilization Collapsed. Sabin G90. 3 p.m. Eric H. Cline, director of the Tel Kabri Expedition. Sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America, Milwaukee Society; departments of Anthropology and Art History; and the Classics program.

<http://aia-milwaukee.uwm.edu>

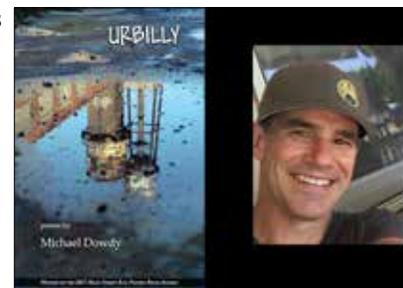
November 6

Native Americans and Trauma – A Conversation about Definitions, Policies and Possibilities for the Future. Zelazo 250. 1 p.m. Panel includes Joe Gone, Harvard University; Tara Williamson, University of Winnipeg, and Mark Powless, Indian Community School. Sponsored by the Anthropology Department and Electa Quinney Institute.

<https://eqicolloquium2018.eventbrite.com/>

Poets, Critics, and the Limits of Literary Citizenship.

Curtin 175. 2 p.m. Michael Dowdy, University of South Carolina. Lecture is followed by a reading and craft talk at 7 p.m. at Woodland Pattern Books, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. Sponsored by the English Dept. <https://bit.ly/2RkQdDT>



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Upcoming Events

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November 7

The Poetry of Margara Russotto: A Trilingual Reading and Conversation. AGS Library. 3 p.m. Margara Russotto, UMass-Amherst. Reading in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.



Margara Russotto

Popular Feminisms Roundtable. Curtin 175. 3:30 p.m. Kristen Warner, University of Alabama, and Jessalynn Keller, University of Calgary. <https://bit.ly/2Atzc4Q>

November 9

Geography Colloquium: Digesting Resilience – Emotions and Black Food Geographies. AGS Library. 3 p.m. Naya Jones, Medical College of Wisconsin.

November 11

Science Bag: Life in Glass Houses-the World of Diatoms. Physics 137. 2 p.m. John Berges and Erica Young reveal the world of single-celled creatures called diatoms. Free and family-friendly. Shows also run Fridays throughout November. www.uwm.edu/science-bag/

November 14

GIS Day 2018. 4th Floor Library Conference Center. 8:30 a.m. UWM GIS Council's GIS activities include workshops, luncheon keynote speaker Bill Buckingham (UW-Madison), student GIS project competition, and more. Free and open to the public. www.uwm.edu/gisday

November 15

Immigration and the City in the Trump Era: Immigrant Rights, Advocacy, and Communities in Milwaukee. Union Fireside Lounge. 5:30 p.m. Urban Studies presents the 12th annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit. <https://bit.ly/2z5aq9i>

November 16

Neuroscience Seminar: Ca²⁺ signaling and neuronal regeneration in planaria. Lapham N101. Jonathan Marchant, Medical College of Wisconsin.

November 28

Women's & Gender Studies Fall Brown Bag Series: Just One of the Boys: Female-to-male cross-dressing, gender and class in nineteenth century popular theater. Curtin 904. Noon. Gillian Rodger, UWM.

November 29

Geosciences Colloquium: Late Paleozoic glaciation on the Rio Grande do Sul Shield, southernmost Parana Basin, Brazil. Lapham N101. 4 p.m. Nick Fedorchuk, UWM.



November 30

Geography Colloquium: Cul-de-sacs vs. Alleys: The Geography of Childhood. AGS library. 3 p.m. Krisann Rehbein, UWM.

New professional tracks

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"In Wisconsin, there's a big demand for certified anesthesiologist assistants. We just can't fill enough of the open positions," she added. "With our program, our first class will graduate this December. There are 12 of them, and they all had job offers by this past April."

That high demand correlates with a high starting salary, Cobb said.

"Students who are passionate about working in health care are very excited about the prospect of being able to complete a two-year Master's degree, command a salary of \$160,000-\$180,000 and almost be guaranteed a job. There's very wide appeal for students to go into this field."

Besides the almost 100 percent job placement rate and the lucrative starting salary, there are other advantages to the programs. Students opting for a traditional medical school route may incur significant debt and often devote eight to 10 years of their lives to medical school and residency after they graduate from college. Compare that to the two years – and significantly less debt – required to become an anesthesiology or pathologist assistant.

Though the pre-anesthesiology and pre-pathologist assistant tracks have few students enrolled this year, Cobb anticipates that the numbers will only grow as they learn more about the programs and the job opportunities that follow.

And soon, it might just be a UWM graduate delivering your anesthesiology in the operating room.



Patty Cobb

Congratulations Alumni Award winners!

Each year, the UWM Alumni Association honors UWM graduates who have made significant career achievements or community impacts. Several awardees graduated from the College of Letters & Science. Congratulations to all of our alumni award winners!

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Paul Hemmer, BS Biological Sciences '85

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD - David Misky, BS Biological Sciences '92

GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE:

- Nathaniel Deans Jr., BS Education & English '11
- Eric Miller (posthumous), BA Mass Communication – Journalism '06
- Julia Robson, BS Biological Sciences and Conservation Science '12
- Natalie Harlan, MHRLR Human Resources and Labor Relations '08
- Angela Meyers, BA Sociology '02, MLIS Library and Information Science '08
- Mark Speltz, MA History '09



Dr. Paul Hemmer is a professor of medicine and vice chair of educational programs at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Department of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland.
<https://youtu.be/vnfb2jpluVU>



Dave Misky was elected to the UWM Alumni Association Board of Trustees in 2012 and recently completed a five-year term president of the Alumni Association.
<https://youtu.be/qSdjgfgo>

Laurels, Accolades, and Grants

Rina Ghose (Geography) was given the 2018 Distinguished Community Scholar Award by Citizen Science GIS, an organization that aims to connect society with science by introducing communities to Geographic Information Systems technology and drone technology. The award honors Ghose's work and mentorship in the GIS field. <https://bit.ly/2QjApAP>



Rina Ghose

The National Science Foundation has renewed the Science & Technology Center's "Biology with X-ray Lasers" for a further five years. The \$25M award follows a highly competitive nationwide process open to applicants in any area of science and engineering. **Abbas Ourmazed (Physics)** and his team are leading participants in this Center.

Allison Kotowicz (Anthropology) has been awarded dissertation research funding from the Fulbright-Hayes program to conduct her fieldwork on conservation, tourism, and development in Tanzania. Kotowicz is also a McNair scholar.



Peter Blewett

Peter Blewett (English) received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to participate in the NEH Summer Institute, "The Book: Material Histories and Digital Futures," at Salt Lake Community College during June and July 2018. During the institute, Blewett produced "See Something? Say Something!," an artist book that interrogates the tour book genre. "See Something? Say something!" was on exhibit at the Salt Lake Public Library from July through September.

Karyn Frick (Psychology) and her team have developed an altered estrogen molecule, a new compound that could lead to improvements in existing drugs or the creation of new drugs to treat memory loss in women. Her discovery was announced on WisBusiness.com. <https://bit.ly/2CLM9cD>

The SR Education Group released rankings for online undergraduate and graduate programs, and the College of Letters & Science scooped several high rankings. The **History** Department's online bachelors program is ranked 7th nationally in the 2019 Best Online Colleges rating system. The **Psychology** Department's online bachelors is ranked 23rd, and the **Sociology** Department's online bachelors is also ranked 23rd.



In the Media and Around the Community

Chia Youyee Vang (History) gave the audience a broad overview of Vietnamese history for the UWM at Washington County's Community Lecture Series. The focus of this year's series is Vietnam.

<https://bit.ly/2xR8pNa>

Did Stanford researchers on an archaeological site in Israel really find the earliest evidence of beer brewing ever discovered? Bettina Arnold (Anthropology) said in a *Newsweek* article that the evidence in this case is lacking. <https://bit.ly/2Q9Pqoz>

Wisconsin Public Radio reported on Karyn Frick's (Psychology) efforts to pinpoint why Alzheimer's Disease and dementia disproportionately affect women. <https://bit.ly/2N2JwUp>

Martha Carlin (History) provided some tips for foodies on a budget in a WalletHub article. <https://bit.ly/2A5MfJp>

William Holahan (emeritus Economics) decried efforts led by President Trump and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker to dismantle parts of the Affordable Care Act, especially as it pertains to pre-existing conditions, in an opinion piece for UrbanMilwaukee.com. <https://bit.ly/2N9bGwW>

How does gravity help maintain the earth's atmosphere? Jean Creighton (Planetarium) went on WUWM's Lake Effect program to explain escape velocity and how it relates to black holes. <https://bit.ly/2QiMqq9>



As the Mega Millions lottery hit a record \$1.6 billion jackpot earlier this month, TMJ4 turned to Brendan Healy (Mathematical Sciences) to find out how to improve the odds of winning.

<https://bit.ly/2q9wQ4V>



Sara Benesh

It would take "a lot" for the public to lose faith in the legitimacy of the U.S. Supreme Court, Sara Benesh (Political Science) told *Vox* in an article that ran in the weeks preceding the vote to confirm Justice Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court. (<https://bit.ly/2pvH0N0>) After the vote, Benesh told *Vox* that the bitter partisan battle over Kavanaugh's nomination "could do damage to the institution."

(<https://bit.ly/2RygUWu>) And, she added in a piece for the Sinclair Broadcast Group, conservative groups may be more likely to bring cases before the Supreme Court now that there seems to be a reliable conservative majority (<https://bit.ly/2Qz3iJc>). Some may think that this will lead to more close rulings, but, Benesh told *Politifact*, while controversial cases do tend to produce 5-4 votes, only the public's perception of 5-4 rulings is rising. <https://bit.ly/2P5cAiU>

The most exciting thing about America's early circuses was probably the animals, said Nigel Rothfels (History and Undergraduate Research) in a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article. <https://bit.ly/2NlLK1h>

WBUR reported that the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University curated a playlist to celebrate native peoples' poetry to honor Indigenous People's Day (the counter to Columbus Day). The list featured poetry by Meg Noodin (English). <https://wbur.fm/2CvyDtr>

In an article in *The Atlantic*, Eric Lohman (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) blames smartphones, social media, and the rising influence of wedding websites for the booming popularity of engagement photo shoots. <https://bit.ly/2CKzrLf>

An article on Black Agenda Report regarding black voter turnout in Milwaukee quoted Marc Levine's (emeritus History) research indicating that no other metro area had experienced as precipitous a decline in black employment.

<https://bit.ly/2J4uihm>

Wisconsin's health care networks are highly-consolidated compared to states like Maryland, which is why Wisconsin sees higher health care costs compared to those states, Scott Adams (Economics) told *BizTimes*. <https://bit.ly/2IYRnBZ>

Rachel Buff (History) discusses the history of labor strikes and their relevance in today's "rape culture" in a piece for TruthOut.org. <https://bit.ly/2Nlg8D7>

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People in print

- Haig Khatchadourian (emeritus Philosophy)**. 2018. Starting-Points in Philosophy. *Wisdom*, 10(1): 30-39. <https://bit.ly/2NKuLL8> (published posthumously by daughter **Sonia Khatchadourian (English)**)
- Yichun Chi and Wei Wei (Mathematical Sciences)**. 2018. Optimum insurance contracts with background risk and higher-order risk attitudes. *ASTTIN Bulletin: The Journal of IAA*, 48(3):1025-1047. <https://bit.ly/2CBIOQj>
- Ryan B. Holifield (Geography)**. 2018. Review of *What is Critical Environmental Justice?* by David Naguib Pellow. *Review of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Studies*: 1-4. <https://bit.ly/2PpXC9>
- Uk Heo (Political Science)** and Terence Roehrig. 2018. *The Evolution of the South Korea-United States Alliance*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press. <https://bit.ly/2A2utXu>
- Marcus Filippello (History)**. 2018. Review of *The Green State in Africa* by Carl Death. *African Studies Review*, 61(3): 222-223. <https://bit.ly/2RCgNJH>
- Jeffrey Sommers (African and African Diaspora Studies and Global Studies)**, **Rachel Hegland (Masters in Public Administration)**, and **Patrick Delices (African and African Diaspora Studies)**. 2018. American public policy and full employment: The imperative of Martin Luther King's political economy in the 21st century. *SAGE Open*. Online. <https://bit.ly/2RLz5bq>
- Erica B. Young, Jessica Sielicki, and Jacob Grothjan (all Biological Sciences)**. 2018. Regulation of hydrolytic enzyme activity in aquatic microbial communities hosted by carnivorous pitcher plants. *Microbial Ecology*, 76(4): 885-898. <https://bit.ly/2yzYexR>
- Keith E. Maskus, Sahar Milani, and Rebecca Neumann (Economics)**. 2018. The impact of patent protection and financial development on industrial R&D. *Research Policy* (online). <https://bit.ly/2D7qrQa>
- Christine Evans (History)**. 2018. Risk and the End of History: the problem of indeterminacy on television and in film of the Brezhnev era. *Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie*, 4(152). <https://bit.ly/2O7gHqj>

Media mentions

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An article on New York City Blog touting the virtues of Milwaukee's bus routes that connect inner city workers with jobs cites a report by the Center for Economic Development. <https://bit.ly/2Etkmzi>

Peter Dunn (Biological Sciences) was quoted in a press release published on Eureka Alert (<https://bit.ly/2ym7eGM>) and Science Daily (<https://bit.ly/2PdzS6n>) that details a new study into the decline of tree swallows.

Mark Schwartz (Geography) gave a talk at the USA National Phenology Network 10-year Anniversary Event at the University of Arizona in October. As one of the co-founders of the USA-NPN, Schwartz was also recognized for his ongoing contributions to the group. <https://bit.ly/2yNgDGH>

When journalists from Radio Suisse spent two days in Milwaukee reporting on midterm elections, **Larry Kuiper** and graduate student **Kati Latta (French, Italian, and Comparative Literature)** were both interviewed for a radio broadcast. Latta can be heard here at <https://bit.ly/2RZCofi> and Kuiper can be heard at <https://bit.ly/2AgaSD9>.

How did UWM become a top research university in just 60 years? Former UWM Chancellor **John Schroeder (emeritus History)** went on WUWM to explain. <https://bit.ly/2yp9f4Y>

There are many reasons for Latvia's declining democracy, **Jeffrey Sommers (African and African Diaspora Studies and Global Studies)** wrote in an opinion piece for Social Europe. <https://bit.ly/2J7RBqv>

Kathy Dolan (Political Science) was a guest on Wisconsin Public Radio where she explained some of the challenges facing voters in North Dakota, Georgia, and Wisconsin. <https://bit.ly/2CB19Jo>



Mark Schwartz

Language Tables

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“We try to bring in interested native speakers from the community who want to talk about their home country and practice their language with other people,” she said. “We have a few senior auditors who come to practice their Russian. We have another who grew up speaking Russian and has lived in the United States for many years, and he comes just for the community.”

Language Tables have also become a home-away-from-home for international students, she added. They enjoy visiting with students who speak their language and are curious about their culture.

“The whole point is about community,” Libbey added. “Students in different classes can get to know one another. We have students who drop by who are native speakers from Colombia or Costa Rica who just come to see this Spanish conversation group. They spend the whole time teaching students about their home culture and they love it so they come back.”

Speaking of fun...

Though Language Tables are great for helping students work on their skills and fostering a sense of community, at their core, they're just fun.

“Somebody's grandma showed up once. That was cool. A couple years ago, a bunch of us took the train down to Chicago to see a Soviet art exhibit about propaganda,” Kostya Stratman recalled. He's the tutor who facilitates the Russian Language Table each week. Kostya is his Russian name; many students taking Russian language classes choose regional names to make their classes more enjoyable.

He and a bevy of other students are gathered around a table in the Gasthaus, talking about their classes and challenging the newest speakers with words like *vzglyad* – which means “perspective” or “view” and contains the most consonants in a one-syllable word in the Russian language.

There's a tangible sense of camaraderie. Stratman and the other students even have a phrase for it – and unofficial motto of the Russian Language Table: *Razgovory, Druzhiba, i Napitki!* Conversation, Friendship, and Beverages!

Attend any of UWM's Language Tables, and you might find all three.

Fall Semester Language Table Schedule

American Sign Language: First and third Fridays, 7 p.m., Qdoba, 3101 N. Oakland Ave.

Anishinaabemowin: Every other Monday, 6-7:30 p.m., Urban Ecology Ctr-Riverside, 1500 E. Park Pl.

Chinese: Thursdays, 12-12:50 p.m., Curtin 187

French: Thursdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Curtin 187

German: Nov. 6 and Dec. 4, 12-1p.m., Curtin 839

Hebrew: For future meetings contact, hillelmke.org

Irish Gaelic: Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30 p.m., Merrill G42; Sundays, 10-11 a.m.; Colectivo Café Prospect, 2211 N. Prospect Ave.

Italian: Every other Tuesday, 3-4 p.m., Curtin 187

Japanese: Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m., Curtin 187

Korean: Every other Wednesday, 12-12:50 p.m., Curtin 187

Latin: Beginning level: first and third Mondays, 3-4 p.m.; Advanced level: second and fourth Mondays, 12-1 p.m.; Curtin 866

Portuguese: Mondays 1-2 p.m., Gasthaus; Tuesdays 10-11 a.m., Union Grind

Russian: Fridays, 3-5 p.m., Gasthaus

Spanish: All levels: Mondays & Wednesdays, 3-4 p.m., Curtin 187; Advanced levels (300+): Tuesdays, 3-4 p.m., Curtin B74; Learning songs in Spanish: Thursdays, 3-4 p.m., Curtin 187.

For a complete schedule, visit uwm.edu/letters-science/events/.



Video Stories

Political Science major Andrea Lozano is a “Dreamer” student, brought to the U.S. from Mexico as a young child. Grateful for the hard work of her family, Lozano hopes to become a lawyer and give back to her community.

<https://youtu.be/2LLTOVLaYZO>

Film preservation

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Auspicious beginnings

Balistreri first approached Williams two years ago with an interest in doing more film archiving with the unused and untouched collection at UWM. He was able to get SURF funding through the Office of Undergraduate Research to start digging into the film reels, first cataloging the collection and noting their condition. Williams cleared space in her office for him to work.

Then the Office of Undergraduate Research reached out to Williams about Ljungbäck becoming another SURF-sponsored researcher because of their mutual interests.

“The 16 mm archive was not the project that we were originally supposed to be working on, but when Marquette donated their collection that became my primary focus,” Ljungbäck said.

Together, the films from Marquette University and the Patricia Mellencamp collection formed the Film Studies Moving Image Archive. Along with the archive, a few students created a student organization called the Moving Image Society to create awareness of the archive on campus and through the film studies program.

A home of its own

The Center for 21st Century Studies agreed to host the archive in an empty office space. The space is small, with a white sheet of paper on a metal cabinet as the projection screen, but Balistreri and Ljungbäck finally had space to themselves to continue their work.



UWM film studies students Christian Balistreri (from left), Haley Richards and Hugo Ljungbäck, along with Tami Williams (back), English and film studies associate professor, journeyed to New York in June for a film conference. (Submitted photo)

C21 turns 50

The Center for 21st Century Studies marked its 50th anniversary this month with a celebration that looked back over the center's storied history.

As part of the festivities, Distinguished Professor Emerita Patricia Mellencamp and her daughter Dae Mellencamp, the former president of the digital video sharing platform Vimeo, presented “Archiving Moving Images: From 16mm to Vimeo - Celebrating the Patricia Mellencamp Collection.”

The Mellencamps helped dedicate UWM Film Studies Archive on Oct. 25. The archive contains several films that Mellencamp donated to the university.

To read more about the Mellencamps and the Center for 21st Century Studies' 50th anniversary, visit <https://bit.ly/2JhtyWh>.

A typical day in the office includes them manually inspecting the film for damage or splices, in case the film had been split and taped back together. After that, the film is projected and watched all the way through to see if there are any spots or discoloration.

An eye on the future

In June, Balistreri and Ljungbäck, with Film Studies student Haley Richards, traveled to Rochester, New York, for the Domitor 2018 conference at the George Eastman Museum.

“It is one of the most important archives in the United States for nitrate film,” said Williams, who is president of Domitor, the International Society for the Study of Early Cinema.

A grant from the UWM English Department paid for their registration, but the three students paid for transportation and a hotel to meet some of the foremost early cinema scholars and archivists from around the world, including Brazil, Turkey, France and Sweden.

“My colleagues couldn't believe it when I told them my students are reviving our 16 mm collection,” Williams said.

The three students impressed the George Eastman Museum staff so much, they were invited to tour the archival facilities.

Forensic Science

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When you say experts, you mean academics but also professionals like medical examiners and law enforcement.

We have very strong links with the Wisconsin State Crime Lab and with the Medical Examiner's Office. We've had multiple students from the program working for those two institutions.

That's been a strength of the program from the beginning. Some of our courses are primarily taught by people from those institutions. For example, this spring we have a criminalistics course that's taught by one of the members of the Wisconsin State Crime Lab. She has them do a mock-crime scene, and then a mock-trial where she has them presenting the evidence. It's really good preparation for the actual types of things you'll be doing on the job.

With Halloween around the corner, let's talk about what's on everyone's mind: How do dead men tell tales?

The skeleton provides a wealth of information, beyond things like height, body size, male versus female, age. For example, your health as a child is encoded in your teeth: Times of nutritional stress will leave markers in the enamel. You can also find evidence of antemortem pathologies in bones, such as signs of arthritis or healed fractures, as well as clues about injuries that happened around the time of death.

What changes would you like to make to the program?

I want to work to grow this program. We're starting small by revamping the website. We have internships available with the Wisconsin State Crime Lab and with the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's office, and I want to make students more aware of these possibilities. I'm working to forge new links on campus to bring in more people, more departments, to provide additional hands-on training for students or other opportunities to better prepare them for the job market. There's some good stuff in the works to grow it beyond the 'core' departments.

Do you think shows like "CSI" or "Bones" have an impact on Forensic Science classes?

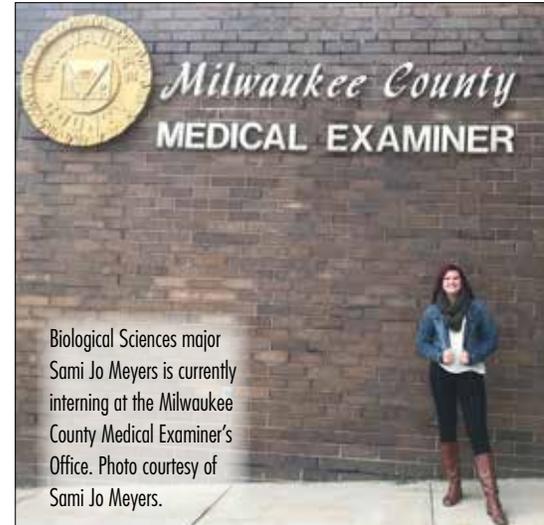
It gets students in the seats. There's something about it that captures people's imagination. Yes, you do get the misconceptions. ... The portrayal of some of the techniques is not too far off, but the time scale is off. You're lucky to get a lot of these tests back in a month. You're not going to be running after the criminals. You might be the one collecting the sample, but then you're going to be working in the lab, running the tests and writing reports. That's a big part of the job, is just writing reports. They're not putting that in a TV show.

ME internship fulfills forensic dream

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

On the first day of her internship, Sami Jo Meyers saw a dead body.

"I walked in my first Monday at 8 a.m., and they said, 'Hi. We have a suicide. Let's go,'" Meyers recalled. "The police asked me to retrieve a bullet casing from a puddle of congealed blood and I said, 'OK!' I strapped my gloves on and went."



Meyers, a Biological Sciences major working towards her Forensic Science certificate, is in the middle of an internship at the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office. Two days a week, she assists the county's criminal death investigators and medical examiners in investigating incidents of death – whether by suicide or homicide, in natural or suspicious circumstances.

It's the perfect internship for Meyers, who has been interested in science and crime ever since she received her first chemistry set as a child. She chose UWM for the Forensic Science program, and was delighted to learn that the university partners with the Wisconsin State Crime lab and the Milwaukee County ME's Office to offer three internships each year. Meyers applied and was accepted.

"I did not expect to be so involved in the processes that go on at the office," she said. "We work with the criminal death investigators themselves, who go out on the scene; the medical examiners and assistant medical examiners who do the autopsies of the bodies downstairs; and the toxicology unit, which is super-intriguing to me. They handle all the samples that are collected during the autopsies."

In addition to retrieving bullet casings, Meyers has observed autopsies, taken blood and vitreous humor samples from bodies, and read the Jeffrey Dahmer case files stored in the ME's Office.

"I feel useful and important. I'm not just observing or being a nuisance," Meyers said. "I've learned that death is not as scary as I thought it was. ... I look at it more as, I want to get justice for this person because of how they died, or I want to give closure to a family. I'm coming away with a lot of life lessons."

And, she added, UWM has helped prepare her to learn them.

"I think UWM and the Forensic Science program have really changed my life. It's been a dream that I've always wanted, and now it's attainable. You don't get this internship opportunity at a lot of other schools," Meyers said.