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Finding Flint

findingflint.mediamilwaukee.com/



In Harvey's Wake

harvey2017.mediamilwaukee.com/



Generation Lockdown

gunmarch2018.mediamilwaukee.com

JAMS students scoop grant for journalism immersion trips

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

When she arrived in Port Arthur, Texas, in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017, Talis Shelbourne expected to see people cleaning up the damage wrought by the storm. What she found was a neighborhood struggling to breathe in the shadow of one of the nation's largest oil refineries.

"I was coughing and my eyes were stinging. It's sickening, the air and how polluted it is," she said. "All of these people have respiratory problems. We went there thinking, oh, hurricane victims, we'll find them cleaning up. Instead, we found out that they'd been suffering for a long time and hadn't really had a voice."

She and 18 of her fellow students spread across the town over the next two days, asking questions, conducting interviews, and writing stories. At the end, Shelbourne composed an overview – a summary of all the stories the students crafted during what has become a popular journalism immersion experience.

Revealing those untold stories is exactly the point of the immersion trips, according to Jessica McBride, a senior lecturer in UWM's Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies (JAMS) Department. Once a semester, she and other department staff accompany students on a two- to three-day journey to a new locale to uncover the personal stories of national events.

Between gas money, airfare, train tickets, and hotels, the trips can get expensive, though McBride is good at sticking to a strict budget. That's why she's excited that she and fellow JAMS instructor Jessie Garcia Marble recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Journal Foundation Walter Jay and Clara Charlotte Damm Fund meant to support the trips. This is the second and largest grant the program has been awarded; the group was awarded a \$6,000 grant from the Journal Foundation in 2017.

"We appreciate the grant money because it will give our students opportunities, open doors for them to do some pretty amazing journalism on some of the biggest national stories," McBride said.

Wisconsin beginnings; national growth

The immersion trips grew out of the 2016 presidential election. McBride and Jessie Garcia Marble, noticed that western Wisconsin held a large number of counties that flipped from blue to red, reflecting the state's voting as a whole – a stunning upset in a state that had twice voted for Barack Obama.



Welcome to Barron

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(414) 229-2923.

L&S DEAN: SCOTT GRONERT

IN FOCUS EDITOR: DEANNA ALBA



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Portuguese language coordinator Susana Antunes and *O Canto Do Mar* student editor Luis Filho display the first and second editions of the Portuguese language creative writing journal. Photo by Sarah Vickery.

O Canto Do Mar journal gives Portuguese speakers a creative voice

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, and other Portuguese-speaking countries may be separated by thousands of miles, but they're all connected by the oceans.

So when it came time to name their literary journal, UWM's Portuguese students chose "O Canto Do Mar" – the song of the sea.

O Canto Do Mar is a creative writing journal steered by Portuguese speakers in UWM's Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Featuring submissions from UWM students and members of the Milwaukee community alike, the journal has just one guideline: all entries must be written in Portuguese.

"We have articles about music, about food, about places, about Portuguese cultures. We have poems. We have literature," said Susana Antunes, UWM's Portuguese language coordinator and one of the editors of *O Canto Do Mar*.

The magazine started in part because of Japanese poetry. In the spring of 2017, Antunes asked one of her classes to write a haiku in Portuguese.

"The following class, they brought their haikus, and I was fascinated. I was like, I can't stay with these beautiful haikus in my pocket. We have to do something to spread these beautiful, short poems to the community," Antunes said.

Around the same time, Luis Filho was practicing his own creative writing and looking for an outlet to publish it. A Brazilian native, he moved to the United States to major in journalism at UWM. He also found a home in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and he's completed a minor in Portuguese.

"I was taking a class here on editorial design in (the Department of Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies). I was just learning to work with this kind of platform to make magazines," Filho said. "I thought, okay, this is the very best moment to start working on this."

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New dean brings student-success mindset to Letters & Science

By Angela McManaman, University Relations

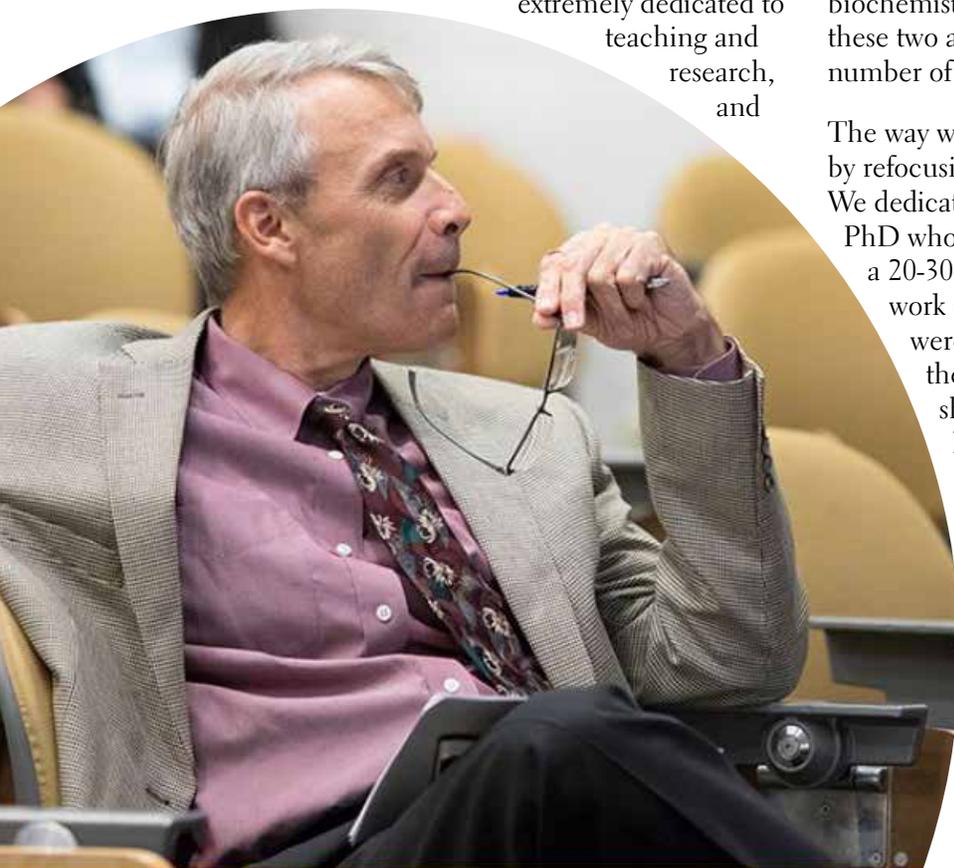
College of Letters & Science Dean Scott Gronert can relate to the uncertainty faced by many UWM undergraduates. A STEM-minded student at California State University in the early 80s, Gronert didn't know exactly what he wanted to do and didn't settle on a major until his senior year.

In many respects, he was a first-generation college student when a chemistry professor saw his talent and stepped up as a mentor to tell him, under no uncertain terms, that he should enter graduate school to become a research chemist. Gronert's plan to get a job at a local oil refinery after graduation was out, and his path to teaching and research began. Today, as the top administrator in the College of Letters & Science, he is using his own college experience to focus on student success initiatives for L&S' undergraduate and graduate students.

How are you finding life in the Midwest?

Milwaukee constantly exceeds our expectations. I've been telling friends and family: "You just don't know what Milwaukee is until you come here and take a look." It doesn't align with stereotypes of an industrial Midwestern city. Between the culture and community, it's a remarkable place.

My first visit here was my interview trip. After 12 weeks here, I'm feeling very good about the campus not only matching my expectations but exceeding them. I've been welcomed by faculty, staff and the administration, meeting people who are extremely dedicated to teaching and research, and



it's through them I've seen that UWM is an exciting place to be. I feel like I just got here, and I'm already starting my fourth month.

How does UWM compare to San Francisco State and Virginia Commonwealth University?

All three universities have in common the dual mission of faculty and students engaged in research and scholarship at high levels and opening their doors to the broadest, most diverse set of students. That's been a defining part of my academic career. I've always been at institutions that are broadly focused on access and diversity and that place a high premium on research and scholarship. People might look at my career and see the research side, but I've spent a great deal of time looking at student success. I really appreciate both pieces of the mission.

During your tenure as chair of the VCU chemistry department, your department was ranked No. 2 in the U.S. for baccalaureate chemistry degrees awarded to women and No. 3 for baccalaureate chemistry degrees awarded to African-American students.

Those were very flashy numbers, but let's start with the asterisks. VCU was viewed as the pathway to its health science campus, where they had the largest medical, pharmacy and dental schools in the state. We only offered chemistry, not biochemistry, so the degree numbers were not split between these two areas like it is at UWM. We had an unusually large number of chemistry majors because of these factors.

The way we were able to boost chemistry graduation rates was by refocusing and reinvesting in the undergraduate program. We dedicated a faculty line to advising, hiring a chemist with a PhD whose career had moved into advising. I could attribute a 20-30 percent increase in our graduation rate just to her work over two or three years. She found students who were one or two classes away from graduating, brought them into her office, told them what classes they should take and made sure they took them. Intensive, hands-on advising made a big difference.

We also examined the teaching in our introductory and foundation courses, which is absolutely key for continued success in the major. Improvements in this area were also vital – stronger and better-prepared freshmen and sophomores led to exceptional juniors and seniors who then went on to graduate. As an added bonus, it created a sense of community among the students and faculty in the program.

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New L&S dean

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Could you see a similar approach, funding issues aside, working at UWM?

Every school is so different. We can't automatically say we'll do X and Y at UWM because X and Y worked at VCU. But I definitely think there are similarities among young universities – the processes that are in place now were built around a small institution that has grown and evolved in both teaching and research. The institution has changed, but the processes haven't always grown at the same rate.

I am looking at many things — our per-student advising capacity in L&S, how we're deploying instructors and faculty in entry-level and pipeline courses, and our degree requirements, to name just a few. What I'm trying to do is look at the student experience from the first touch in recruiting to graduation. Are there places where we have practices, systems, policies in effect that create obstacles to graduation but aren't aligned with a desirable academic outcome? What can the faculty and I change to improve the student experience?

Do you have any early ideas on expanding the research portfolio in L&S?

It's not that common that in a unit as big as L&S you have this number of departments doing truly outstanding research. We have strengths all the way across the college that are holding together very well during some really difficult times. Between faculty leaving UWM and departments shrinking, faculty are maintaining dedication to the highest level of scholarship and engaging students in that.

A new challenge we have is to look back at the impacts this downsizing has had on research and scholarship and ask ourselves how to make sure we keep those going strong. As we start having the ability to rebuild our faculty ranks, how are we going to leverage our current successes? We'll be looking at areas where we can create new knowledge that benefits UWM, Milwaukee and Wisconsin – that's where we need to invest.

What are your thoughts on the enrollment challenges Wisconsin universities face due to demographic trends – from how this impacts UWM as a whole to enrollment in the College of Letters & Science, specifically?

Half of the students at UWM are in L&S. Our educational pathways lead to attractive jobs – the types of jobs that dominate our economy and contribute to the function and growth of businesses big and small, nonprofit agencies, and governmental units. I'm more concerned with the ability of the university to react to demographic shifts – simply that there are fewer students in Wisconsin to draw from – than anything about L&S being less attractive. L&S embodies the liberal arts and sciences, and the liberal arts and sciences have



Dean Scott Gronert (middle) chats with faculty and staff from the College of Letters & Science during the College's Fall Welcome celebration earlier this year. Photo by Sarah Vickery.

a long tradition of producing successful people. I have a lot of confidence in the college's ability to attract students.

Please describe your leadership style.

I like to make decisions tied to the best data we can get our hands on and create opportunities for discussion as a part of decision-making. I am a proponent of consulting with people and getting input before a decision is made. I like to talk with others, both individually and in groups, about my ideas and the pathways I imagine we might go down so that I can get feedback. From there, I move on to decision-making but still provide opportunities for people to continue to provide feedback, positive or negative, so that we can continue to improve.

My goal in leadership is to weigh options and make decisions in terms of the mission and values of the institution. We're really focused on students. Offering them the best education means having the best faculty and staff work with them. Having the best faculty and staff requires that their work, their scholarship, and their research is supported. In turn, supported research creates more student learning opportunities. Leading is about understanding and building all parts of this looped cycle.

Your career was very focused on chemistry and the sciences until your last role at Virginia Commonwealth University. What does it mean to you to have oversight over humanities and social sciences disciplines?

The two mentors I had in chemistry both spoke German, lived abroad and were huge opera buffs. I have lived in France as a Fulbright Scholar, love to travel, and carry a wallet stuffed with museum membership cards. To build credibility as the leader in L&S, it helps to be able to work across and into the social sciences and humanities, rooted in a genuine interest and curiosity about those areas. Having a broad appreciation for what the college offers is critical. If you're going to lead L&S, you have to love all of L&S.

What's in a species? Biologist helps determine wolf taxonomy

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

It's right there in the name: The Endangered Species Act is meant to protect endangered species of animals.

Emphasis on *species*.

“Or they have to be a sub-species, or for vertebrates, they can be a distinct population segment,” said UWM Biological Sciences associate professor Emily Latch. “It's important to delineate taxonomic groups appropriately, because taxonomic classifications have important implications for conservation efforts and ESA protection.”

That means there could be high stakes for red wolves and Mexican gray wolves as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducts an assessment on the taxonomic status of each breed. Taxonomy refers to an animal's classification – its genus, species, etc.

Currently, red wolves are classed as a separate species from the ubiquitous gray wolf that most people are familiar with. Mexican gray wolves are considered a sub-species of the gray wolf. As part of an appropriations bill passed earlier this year, Congress directed USFWS to determine if those designations are correct. The outcome could impact conservation efforts for each animal.

Congress directed the USFWS to conduct an independent assessment of each wolf, so the USFWS turned to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

The scientists convened an independent group of experts, including Latch, to give the Academy a crash course in wolf taxonomy. Because wolf conservation can be a controversial topic, each expert is a scientist who has a good understanding of genetics or animal behavior, but has not been previously involved in wolf conservation debates.

“We've presented information at a series of meetings and webinars. The webinars have been on topics like, ‘What constitutes a species or a sub-species?’” Latch said. “I talked about how hybridization occurs, how hybrids are maintained, and what approaches we might use to evaluate hybridization in species in the wild. Those are the sorts of things my lab does. We use genetic tools to help understand how animals use landscapes and how changes to those landscapes affect evolution.”

Most people are already familiar with hybridization, if only because they've seen purebred dogs versus mutts – hybrids between two or more breeds.

“But they're all one species: Dogs,” Latch explained. “One of the purest definitions of a species is that they're two things that don't interbreed. So once they start to interbreed, it becomes challenging to determine what is a species.”

Hybrids are not afforded protection under the ESA.

She's talking specifically about red wolves. Today, red wolves can only be found in a recovery area in eastern North Carolina. Red wolves frequently interbreed with coyotes and produce hybrid pups. Sometimes, hybrid offspring are sterile and cannot produce babies of its own, like with mules, hybrids between horses and donkeys. But red wolf x coyote hybrids are fertile, challenging managers to keep the populations from mixing and to remove hybrid pups from the wild. With only about 30 red wolves left in the wild, Latch said, it's an ongoing struggle.



The red wolf is currently classed as a distinct species of wolf.



Mexican gray wolves are considered a subspecies of the gray wolf.

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Congratulations, graduates!

UWM marked its 119th commencement on Sunday, Dec. 16, at the UWM Panther Arena. We are very proud of the Letters & Science students to earned their degrees, like Biochemistry major Parker May.

By his own account, May was an average student without direction when he began UWM, but he discovered a passion for chemistry because of instructor Christine Carlson. May went on to study abroad in Mexico, win an award for undergraduate research, and volunteer as a mentor for struggling students in the Milwaukee Public Schools. An honors graduate in biochemistry, he plans to go on to medical school. https://youtu.be/0a_ZrL1LOKE



French professor named 'Teacher of the Year'

By Claire Hackett, University Relations

Every year the Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers (WAFLT) nominates one teacher from the state for the Teacher of the Year award sponsored by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. This person exemplifies the best in foreign language teaching and pedagogy.



Anita Alkhas

The teacher selected this year is Anita Alkhas, an associate professor in the French department at UWM. Alkhas has been teaching at the university for 20 years. She has been involved with the Wisconsin association for a long time as the group's chair for professional development.

"While much of her work is done behind the scenes, Anita's commitment to world language education, outreach and advocacy has had a positive impact throughout the state of Wisconsin," the state association said in a news release.

Alkhas will represent Wisconsin at the regional level at the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Milwaukee in March.

WAFLT also gave a Recognition of Merit to Shinji Takahashi, associate professor of Japanese at UWM, for his work in Japanese education and community building. Takahashi is heavily involved in the Japanese community in Milwaukee, and he serves as president of the Wisconsin Association of Teachers of Japanese and chair of the Milwaukee Japanese Association.

Endangered wolves

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By comparison, conservation efforts for Mexican gray wolves have seen more success, though it has been hard-won and recovery remains a challenge. At one point, the subspecies was extinct in the wild, and the initial captive population was started with just 5 wolves. Through careful breeding efforts, said Latch, the population began to grow and researchers began releasing wolves back into the environment. Today, there are 114 individual Mexican gray wolves in the wild in the US and a good captive breeding program, according to the Wolf Conservation Center.



Emily Latch

The future of conservation efforts for both breeds is uncertain as the government debates their taxonomic status. Latch isn't sure of her own opinion either – the fact that red wolves can hybridize with coyotes makes determining a designation tricky, and the evolutionary history of wolves is complex – but she's enjoyed learning from her colleagues around the country as she's listened to their webinars.

And if she was able to shed some light on hybridization, so much the better.

"I was honored to be able to help the National Academies with this difficult charge, and happy to apply my lab's work and experience to a new and important conservation problem," Latch said.

The committee's report will be released in March. You can learn more about the taxonomic debate at <https://bit.ly/2USYnWo> and you can view Latch's presentation at <https://bit.ly/2EAdY8n> starting at 29:20.

Fun games, Serious Play: Gaming group spreads analysis via Twitch

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Twitch is a live-streaming Internet platform where worldwide audiences can watch gamers of any stripe playing through their favorite video and board games.

Now, a collection of UWM faculty and students is using their own Twitch channel (https://www.twitch.tv/serious_play) to explore the academic side of those games.

The group, called Serious Play, brings together UWM gamers from an array of disciplines – English, Anthropology, LGBT Studies, and more. Several days each week, they gather to put on several shows, like “The Cat’s Moustache,” a show exploring collaborative puzzle-solving through traditional adventure games, or “Lunch Zone,” where moderators offer critical analysis of the video game they’re currently playing and spin off on discussions as the live audience adds their own commentary.

Together, the group is breaking down game theory and building up a seed-bed for gaming scholars to conduct their research.

“Gaming is a huge industry. It should occupy a relative proportion of our academic interests just by that,” said Thomas Malaby, an Anthropology professor and one of the faculty members of Serious Play. “But there’s a lot of the politics of ‘mere-ness.’ They’re *merely* games. What’s behind that statement? I’d rather bet on the long proposition that games have demonstrated themselves to be not just economically massive, but a site of real meaning-making for people.”

That’s because video games, just like literature and film, draw on a variety of themes, character tropes, visual mediums, and more to create a cohesive experience for the player and audience.

That was always apparent to English graduate student Kristopher Purzycki, one of the founders of Serious Play.

“Serious Play started out in the Digital Humanities Lab at the UWM Library. It was originally a monthly, informal meet-up around a central topic or theme in a computer game,” Purzycki said. “That kind of built into a larger group. Over the course of a few years, we crossed paths with livestreaming technology. ... We thought it would be a good toe-hold to both preserve playing games (through recording) but also to distribute those discussions across the public.”

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Members of Serious Play including (back row from left) Scott Brunner, Kristopher Purzycki, Thomas Malaby, (front row from left) Nathan Humpal, Josh Rivers, Laya Liebeseller, and Kelly Brajevich gather in the Collaboratory to analyze video games for an audience over Twitch. Photo courtesy of Josh Rivers.



Alum staying ahead of weather

By Silke Schmidt, University Relations

Chris Nelson remembers how the sky above his mobile home in Denmark, Wisconsin – a small town just southeast of Green Bay – turned ominously dark on July 5, 1994. A thunderstorm had just passed when Nelson, not quite a fifth-grader, saw the funnel-shaped cloud form about a mile away in Cooperstown.

But he wasn't scared or worried when the tornado appeared. Instead, he was enthralled by the chance to witness the force of nature in person.

"I was the kind of kid who enjoyed the Weather Channel more than cartoons," says Nelson, a 2013 UWM graduate with a major in Atmospheric Science. "I read the TV weather crawl before I even entered grade school and was always taking pictures of clouds, hail and rain with my disposable camera."

It's no surprise that today, Nelson is the morning meteorologist for Milwaukee's CBS 58 TV station. He regularly shares his weather wisdom, especially about tornadoes, with children at elementary schools in the Milwaukee area.

Nelson – along with CBS 58's chief meteorologist, Drew Burgoyne – spent the 2017-18 school year delivering "Tornado Ready" presentations to more than 40 schoolwide assemblies. They use video of severe weather, along with other techniques, to help deliver important safety information.

In one demonstration, wearing white coats and safety goggles, they pour hot water on liquid nitrogen, creating a tornado-like steam cloud and producing childish screams of delight.

Between assemblies, Nelson's 70 classroom visits and the CBS 58 Weather Days events with the Milwaukee Brewers, they've reached an estimated 20,000 kids.

Nelson began turning his childhood fascination with weather into a career when he transferred to UWM prior to his sophomore year. There, he found a mentor in Paul Roebber, distinguished professor of mathematical science and founder of renowned forecasting service Innovative Weather.

Roebber encouraged Nelson to intern with WTMJ 4 TV's chief meteorologist (and local broadcast legend) John Malan. He did so for two years, then landed meteorology jobs in Las Vegas and Wausau. In 2017, CBS 58 came calling, and he happily returned to Milwaukee to continue his dream job.

Today, he's energized not only by the school visits, but also the wide range of weather he deals with in Milwaukee, thanks to its four distinct seasons and the influence of Lake Michigan. "If you ever want a challenge for weather," Nelson says, "come to Milwaukee."

Urban Studies Spotlight: Immigration panel

"Immigration and the City in the Trump Era" was the title of Urban Studies Programs' 12th Annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit held Nov. 15th.

Nearly 200 people turned out to the Alumni Fireside Lounge and an overflow room (with another 200 who live streamed) to listen to a panel discussion on immigration policy, immigrant rights' movements, and refugee resettlement experiences in Milwaukee under the current administration. The panel was moderated by Director of Urban Studies Joel Rast and included:

- Rachel Buff, UWM History Professor and Cultures and Communities Program Director
- Mary Flynn, Program Manager of Refugee Resettlement, Lutheran Social Services
- Janan Najeeb, President, Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition
- Jasmine González, Communications Coordinator, Voces de la Frontera
- Karyn Rotker, Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU of WI

UWM Provost Johannes Britz gave the introductory remarks.

A video recording of the event can be viewed at: <https://uwm.edu/urban-studies/milwaukee-summit-2018/>



Members of the Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit discuss immigration. Photo courtesy of the Urban Studies program.



Happy Holidays!

We wish everyone the best for a happy, healthy holiday season and a prosperous new year. And if you're up for the challenge, see how you stack up against UWM's gingerbread architects, including History professor Chia Vang!

<https://youtu.be/Cc6 En-lu0M>

L&S Salutes: D.A. Leonard

Periodically, L&S highlights one of our generous donors who give to the college to support scholarships and other programs.

One day in 2012, after one of his Anthropology classes, D.A. Leonard struck up a conversation with the teaching assistant, who was working toward her doctorate.

“I found out that she was having to do her dissertation work all through secondary sources. She could not afford to travel to do her research,” Leonard recalled. “I thought, boy, that doesn’t sound right.” So, he decided to do something about it.

“My discussion with her was my inspiration for establishing the Leonard Family Anthropology Scholarship for graduate students and doctoral students to be able to do their research in appropriate places,” Leonard said.

But he didn’t stop there. Since establishing the Leonard Family Anthropology Scholarship, Leonard has also funded the Ross-Leonard Scholarship, awarded to students showing a commitment to supporting rights for the LGBT Community; and the D.A. Leonard Film Scholarship for aspiring students in the Peck School of the Arts.

As a UWM alum, Leonard knows the value of an education. He majored in Sociology and graduated in 1969, and then joined the U.S. Army. After his service, Leonard began a long career in county, state, and federal government agencies. Along the way, he earned his MBA from Marquette University, married and had a family, and later connected with his now-husband, Michael Ross, a UWM alum who majored in Criminal Justice with a minor in Africology. The two are formulating yet another scholarship, this time in Ross’ name, to support students in the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies.

Now in his retirement, Leonard enjoys taking UWM classes through the Wisconsin Advantage program, which allows senior citizen to audit courses.

“It helps keep me young. I’m not a youngster, but being around the students, talking and working with them, keeps me sharp and tuned,” Leonard joked. “I thoroughly enjoy the classes and



D.A. Leonard (left) and his husband, Michael Ross, support several scholarships at UWM.

the dialogue with professors, T.A.s, and students.”

That dialogue opened Leonard’s eyes to the financial struggles that students face today.

“The cost of education is getting almost prohibitive, and I have the ability to help and I want to help,” he said. “When I went to school, the maximum I paid for a full-time student at UWM was \$175 a semester. Now, it’s thousands of dollars. Because we have the ability, we want to help other students who otherwise could not attain a college education.”

Over the last five years, the Leonard Family Anthropology Scholarship has supported several students during their graduate research, including doctoral student Alycia Lewis.

“My preliminary dissertation research would not have happened this past summer without this award,” she said. “I was able to visit my field sites in South Africa, meet new international colleagues, and even collect some samples. I now have a solid foundation on which I can continue building my dissertation research. I can’t say thank you enough for the generosity of D.A. Leonard.”

Leonard hopes that his scholarships will continue to help students achieve their research goals. And maybe someday, he muses, one will do research in his own field of interest – Mesopotamia, the Levant, and Anatolia.

“I love UWM for what it does for our entire community,” he added. “Too many people in the metropolitan area do not realize what a wonderful resource UWM is.”

Serious Play

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As the group grew, Malaby and his colleague, English professor Stuart Moulthrop, applied for support from UWM's Center for 21st Century Studies. The Center granted them space – they call it the Digital Cultures Collaboratory – on the ninth floor of Curtin Hall where the group has a computer set up with a bank of monitors and recording equipment so they can stream their discussions.



“The ‘Lunch Zone’ show discussion varies game by game,” said Kelly Brajevich, an English PhD student and the newest member of Serious Play. “We went really deep into musical analysis one day. One day we talked about creator collaborations.”

“I think it shows what a bunch of scholarly eyes around games, all in the same place, can achieve,” said Malaby. “We’re able to begin and push further some conversations about what’s going on here. Why did this design choice lead to a certain set of outcomes? What does that say about the state of games right now? In what ways are games trying to challenge us? What social commentary is in them?”

The group picks a new game to discuss each week, all based around an overarching theme each month. For example, April was dedicated to games exploring LGBT and queer culture. October was “spooky games” month in honor of Halloween, and November was “cute games” month as a palette cleanser. When Anthony Bourdain passed away, the group focused on video games that involved cooking – “Breath of the Wild” was a popular choice.

Out of those games and discussions has grown a new avenue of research for several students.

“For my own work, a lot of the discussions have led to published articles or articles that are currently under review,” said Joshua Rivers, an Anthropology graduate student who focuses on queer studies. The discussions generated during April’s queer gaming month, centering around games like “tranxiety,” which explores the life and experiences of a trans character, generated plenty of fodder for his research.

Serious Play has even been invited to present their research at conferences, and recently sat for a panel discussion and roundtable at the Meaningful Play Conference at Michigan State.

This type of study is important, Malaby added, not only because it’s a huge industry – video games raked in more than \$36 billion last year, according to the Entertainment Software Association – but also because there are troubling aspects to gaming.

“We are getting (good) at using digital technology to architect a way to command people’s attention, dollar after dollar, hours at a time,” he said. “It’s those kinds of questions around games – that I love – that I think we need to get to the bottom of. What makes them so compelling? What is powerful about them? The better we understand that, the better we’ll make good decisions about them.”

A good first step to understanding those games might just be tuning into the Serious Play Twitch channel.

Get tickets now for The Birth of the Universe!

Explore the origins and development of the cosmos dating back almost 14 billion years!

In this live, interactive presentation, you’ll learn about the clues that astronomers use to understand the birth and transformation of the universe, including the motion of distant galaxies and radiation generated by the early universe. The program includes an indoor stargazing session followed by the opportunity to ask questions of astronomer and Planetarium Director, Jean Creighton.

WHEN: Fridays, Jan. 11-Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. and again at 8:15 p.m.

WHERE: Manfred Olson Planetarium, 1900 E. Kenwood Blvd.

TICKETS: \$5 general admission, \$4 for current UWM students

VISIT: www.uwm.edu/planetarium for tickets and informatin.



Laurels, Accolades, and Grants

Bernard Perley (Anthropology) was invited to speak at the U.S. State Department for a celebration of Native American Heritage Month. His November presentation was sponsored by the Native American Foreign Affairs Council, and he spoke on “Experiencing Native North America: Native American Cultural and Language Revitalization.”

The Fourth National Climate Report released in November by the U.S. Global Change Research Program uses phenology, the study of the cycle of seasons and the start of spring, as an indicator of the effects of climate change on the environment. The study references phenological models developed by **Mark Schwartz (Geography)**. <https://bit.ly/2DQ1rNb>

Graduate student **Stefan Zeidler ('16, BA German)**, who is working towards a Master's in Language, Literature, and Translation, was one of just three recipients nationwide to receive a stipend to attend the International Summer School of German language and culture at Heidelberg University. The award was given by Heidelberg Alumni USA.

Claudia Pessarelli (French, Italian, and Comparative Literature) received the Franco Marchiaro Award of the city of Alessandria, Italy, for her article in the *Alessandria News*, “If a tourist in Alessandria ...” The award was conferred at a ceremony in Alexandria in November.

Richard Grusin (English) and **Richard Stockbridge (Mathematical Sciences)** were named distinguished professors, a rank that acknowledges their significant impact upon their fields of study. There are now 31 distinguished professors at UWM. <https://bit.ly/2EiaExK>



Anthropology professor Bernard Perley speaks at the U.S. State Department for a celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

Science Bag: A Cold Wind Off the Lake ... in August?

You're invited to the January edition of Science Bag, presented by Carmen Aguilar and Russell Cuhel from UWM's School of Freshwater Science.

In 2015, a previously unusual weather pattern caused dramatic late summer cooling along the western shore from Milwaukee to the Sturgeon Canal. 12°C (55°F) or cooler water covered nearly 25 percent of Lake Michigan for almost 2 months, driving away beach-goers and drawing in sport fishermen. How this happened, how high humidity contributed to its effects, and how it affected lake biology are subjects of this demonstration-laced presentation. Take off your shades and put on a sweater as you learn about chillin' in Lake Michigan!

Join us in the UWM Physics Building, Rm. 137.



When: Friday Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 13 at 2 p.m.

Cost: Free! Show is family-friendly.

People in print

Lorena Terando (Translation & Interpreting Studies), translator. 2019. *Spiral of Silence*. By Elvira Sánchez-Blake. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press.

Corneile Minnaar, Bruce Anderson, Marinus L. de Jager, and **Jeffrey D. Karron (Biological Sciences)**. 2018. Plant-pollinator interactions along the pathway to paternity. *Annals of Botany*, 123. <https://bit.ly/2Ehlswr>

Clark Evans, Steven J. Weiss, Israel L. Jirak, Andrew R. Dean, and **David S. Nevius (both Atmospheric Science)**. 2018. An evaluation of paired regional/convection-allowing forecast vertical thermodynamic profiles in warm-season, thunderstorm-supporting environments. *Weather and Forecasting*, 33(6):1547-1566. <https://bit.ly/2RNYMal>

Andrew Lipnicky, Sukanya Chakrabarti, and **Philip Chang (Physics)**. 2018. Relating the H I gas structure of spiral discs to passing satellites. *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 481(2): 2590-2600. <https://bit.ly/2QQ5kbc>

Bettina Arnold (Anthropology). 2018. Review of Ludwig Wamser, *Mauenhemi und Bergen. Zwei Grabhügelfelder der Hallstatt- und Frühlatènezeit aus dem nördlichen Hegau*. 96, 361-365. Germania.

Fubao Xi and **Chao Zhu (Mathematical Sciences)**. 2018. On the martingale problem and Feller and strong Feller properties for weakly coupled Lévy type operators. *Stochastic Processes and their Applications*, 128(12): 4277-4308. <https://bit.ly/2GbEhUj>

Kunal P. Mooley, D.A. Frail, Dougal Dobbie. ... and **David Kaplan (Physics)**, et al. 2018. A strong jet signature in the late-time light curve of GW170817. *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*, 868(1): L11. <https://bit.ly/2SAZxnl>

Andrew Zic, Christene Lynch, Tara Murpy, **David Kaplan (Physics)**, and Poonam Chandra. 2018. Low-frequency GMRT observations of ultra-cool dwarfs. *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 483(1): 614-623. Online first. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1811.09294>

Marcin Sokolowski, Ramesh Bhat, Jean-Pierre Macquart ... **David Kaplan (Physics)**, et al. 2018. No low-frequency emission from extremely bright fast radio bursts. *The Astrophysical Journal of Letters*, 867(1): L12. <https://bit.ly/2G86paz>

Gabriel Courey, **John S. Heywood (Economics)**. 2018. Gender wage gap trends among information science workers. *Social Science Quarterly*, 99(5): 1805-1820. <https://bit.ly/2UxAJpN>

John S. Heywood (Economics), John Sessions, and Nikolaos Theodoropoulos. 2018. Does demand for product quality increase worker trainings? *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 155: 159-177. <https://bit.ly/2B1j4rj>

Francisco M. Gonzalez, **Itziar Lazkano (Economics)**, and Sjak A. Smulders. 2018. Intergenerational altruism with future bias. *Journal of Economic Theory*, 178: 436-454. <https://bit.ly/2B0GTiY>

Nolan Kopkin (African and African Diaspora Studies). 2018. Evidence of own-race bias in Heisman Trophy voting. *Social Science Quarterly* (online first): 1-22. <https://bit.ly/2Ux1SSm>

Robin Pickering-Iazzi (French, Italian, and Comparative Literature). 2018. Il femminicidio e il genere della biografia testimoniale come pratica sociale e simbolica. Marina Bettaglio, Nicoletta Mandolini, Silvia Ross (Ed.). *Rappresentare la violenza di genere. Sguardi femministi tra critica, attivismo, e scrittura*.

Michael Finus and **Matthew McGinty (Economics)**. 2018. The anti-paradox of cooperation: Diversity may pay! *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* (online first): <https://bit.ly/2PMbOZB>

Kim Blaeser (English). 2018. Selected poems. In *Native Women's Voices* (ed. and trans. by Béatrice Machet): Wallada Press. <http://wallada.free.fr/boutique/?p=productsMore&iProduct=75&sName=De-lautre-cot%E9-du-chagrin>

Ionel Popa (Physics) and Ronen Berkovich. 2018. Mechanobiology: Protein refolding under force. *Emerging Topics in Life Sciences*. (Online). <https://bit.ly/2UAouBp>

★ Alumni Accomplishments

Steve Jagler ('84, BA Political Science) will join the Milwaukee-based engineering firm GRAEF-USA Inc. as their director of corporate communication. Jagler takes over in January. He currently serves as the business editor of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. <https://bit.ly/2C7LO29>



Steve Jagler

Joseph Hackett ('15, BA History) will take over as pastor of Peace United Church of Christ in Gladbrook, Iowa, starting in January of 2019. Hackett spent 30 years as a firefighter/EMT before changing careers. He is currently completing his Masters of Divinity degree. <https://bit.ly/2rkWCE8>

Ugo Nwagbaraocha ('97, BA Political Science) is the president of Diamond Discs, a construction equipment supplier and was recognized at the 2018 Diversity in Business Awards sponsored by the *Wisconsin Law Journal* and *The Daily Reporter* in November. He was lauded for his contributions to Milwaukee's job market and his work to increase opportunities for minority-owned businesses. <https://youtu.be/nzkZLHL4FM0>

Erica Hayes (Mitchell) ('03, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) was hired as the director of Marketing and Business Development for LindenGrove Communities, a nonprofit health care organization in Brookfield, Wisconsin. She will expand the awareness and visibility of LindenGrove Communities to a wider audience and build on its community outreach efforts and relationships with strategic business partners. <https://bit.ly/2DRcKET>



Rebecca Owen

Rebecca Owen ('96, BA History) was hired as the new Vice President of Development for the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. The position is newly-created to build a foundation for the symphony's future growth. Owen was previously the Deputy Director of Development for the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. <https://bit.ly/2Qomxsr>

Michael Gotzler ('93, BA History) will open a new office in Madison as Littler Mendelson P.C. expands its practice. Littler hired Gotzler for his expertise in advising businesses on employment-related matters. He was previously a founding partner of employment boutique Clark & Gotzler. <https://bit.ly/2UntERE>

Michael J. Lowry ('04, BA History) was interviewed by the BBC World Service for a report on "The Mysterious Wikipedia Editor." "Orange Mike," as Lowry is known, is a volunteer administrator for the English-language Wikipedia and one of its 500 most-prolific editors. <https://bbc.in/2Q21f4K> Lowry is also one of four nominees for the 2019 Transatlantic Fan Fund, an annual project which sends science fiction fan delegates across the Atlantic Ocean to visit conventions and fan groups. Lowry, who writes book and game reviews, married fellow fan and UWM alumna C. Kay Hinchliffe at a San Francisco convention 37 years ago and their child, Kelly Lowry, is a current art major at UWM. <https://bit.ly/2P9Yf82>

Alex Cirillo ('79, PhD Chemistry) was named to the Forum Advisory Group of the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The group is in charge of Phase 1 of *Reimagining Minnesota State*, a strategic visioning process to rethink current system operations. <https://bit.ly/2AQx5GX>

Najiba Benabess ('07, PhD Economics) was appointed to the Board of directors for Hickory Point Bank. She is currently the Dean of the Tabor School of Business at Millikin University. <https://bit.ly/2FZPW8v>



Najiba Benabess

Lea Telkamp ('10, MA History) was honored as Huron Regional Medical Center's November Exceptional Employee of the Month. Telkamp was nominated by her coworkers for the award that recognizes an employee who provides exceptional service above and beyond expectation. <https://bit.ly/2TSFtyG>

Danielle Stobb ('15, BA; '17, MA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) was chosen as *Urban Milwaukee's* "Newaukeeian of the Week." Stobb is a producer at a local news station. <https://bit.ly/2Uk8qn9>

Stephanie Bloomingdale ('92, BA Political Science) is the first woman to serve as president of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO. She was named to her new position in September after serving as the organization's secretary-treasurer for eight years. She was featured this month in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. <https://bit.ly/2QT293I>

In the Media and Around the Community

The *Westlake Bay Village Observer* quoted research by **Krista Lisdahl (Psychology)** regarding how marijuana use affects teenagers' brains in an article exploring the "high school marijuana epidemic." <https://bit.ly/2Q1Ju5x>

What are the odds of a single game of Bingo resulting in a record-breaking 290 winners at Potawatomi Casino? Roughly 1 in 1.5 million, **Jay Beder (Mathematical Sciences)** told WISN 12 News in a segment broadcast around the country. <https://bit.ly/2FNUK0C>

Rebecca Dunham (English) took part in the Living Writers Series sponsored by the English and creative writing department at SUNY Oswego's Marano campus. She spoke about the "poet as moral witness." <https://bit.ly/2DPPIy7>

Undergraduate **Emily Anderson (English)** has a simple but powerful request: "See me." She wrote about the difficulties she faces as a disabled person living in Milwaukee for *Milwaukee Magazine*. <https://bit.ly/2rbZu6c>

Milwaukee Magazine reported on **Glen Fredlund's (Geography)** efforts to reduce the number of birds dying by striking windows in the city. <https://bit.ly/2Rki33z>



Joel Rast

The route design of Milwaukee's JobLines Route 61 contributed to the public transportation's success, **Joel Rast (Urban Studies)** said in a *Shepherd Express* article exploring the county's struggle to fund the service. <https://bit.ly/2Qc7jYe>

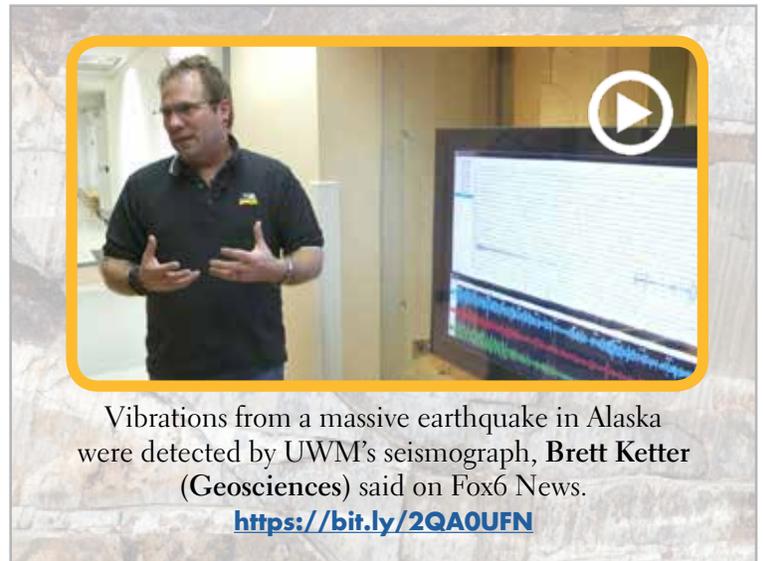
Alison Donnelly (Geography) is working with French and Israeli space agencies to monitor the effects of climate change in Downer Woods, WUWM reported. <https://bit.ly/2zBsb0Q>

Jean Creighton (Planetarium) counted down the top astronomical discoveries of 2018 on WUWM. <https://bit.ly/2PKcvt4>

Is Aurora Advocate Health getting the best people for the job, **Scott Drewianka (Economics)** wondered in a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article covering the health care system's plan to raise its minimum wage. <https://bit.ly/2St7Od5>

Lia Wolock (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) reflected on the academic roundtable she helped organize last month covering Sepia Mutiny for TheAerogram.com. <https://bit.ly/2KRiGz5>

Before she was an academic, **Tanya Tiffany (Art History)** was a puzzle-solving hero in her role as Mandy on the show "Storylords." Wisconsin Public Radio called on her to reminisce. <https://bit.ly/2Ey8YkR>



Vibrations from a massive earthquake in Alaska were detected by UWM's seismograph, **Brett Ketter (Geosciences)** said on Fox6 News. <https://bit.ly/2QA0UFN>

A flurry of legislation aimed at limiting the power of Wisconsin governor-elect Tony Evers passed by the state's government is part of the evolution of a "take-no-prisoners" partisan politicking style of governance, **Kathy Dolan (Political Science)** told *Roll Call* in an article that was printed around the country. <https://bit.ly/2GbXMvP>

Student **Sam Wisneski (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** started a tongue-in-cheek GoFundMe page for fired Green Bay Packers Coach Mike McCarthy, which gained attention from Fox WZAW News. <https://bit.ly/2QbLQPn>

There's a lot of nostalgia wrapped up in using beautiful women as game-show models, **Elana Levine (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** told *The New York Times*. (<https://nyti.ms/2Pwp13J>) She also reflect on director and actress Penny Marshall's impact on Milwaukee for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. (<https://bit.ly/2V0evpm>)



Elana Levine

A move by Wisconsin lawmakers to shorten the state's early voting period is at odds with free, fair, and accessible elections, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin executive director **Erin Grunze ('03, MA Sociology)** told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. <https://bit.ly/2E8RpGQ>

The New York Times quoted research by **Nolan Kopkin (African and African Diaspora Studies)** showing there may be a regional bias at work when it comes time to select the Heisman Trophy winner. <https://nyti.ms/2QJIDal>

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O Canto Do Mar

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The idea for *O Canto Do Mar* was born out of Antunes' and Filho's mutual desire to share the creativity of Portuguese language-speakers. They solicited submissions from both students taking Portuguese classes and from non-students who attend Bate-Papo, the weekly Portuguese language table where students and community members meet to converse. Antunes says that she's even had alumni and students from UW-Madison submit work.

Some students, she added, will even submit the compositions they write for her classes.

"For us it's great, because it's something that the students work on with the idea to be published," she said.

After soliciting submissions, Antunes edits the pieces and Filho designs the publication. The two editions that have been published so far are online on the Department of Spanish and Portuguese's website (<https://bit.ly/2R9OaOy>).

And, Antunes added, with support from UWM's Center for International Education, they were able to print physical copies of the journal as well. That sparked a lively debate among members of Bate-Papo about what the cover should look like.

"When I got the physical copies, I gave it to the contributors. They said, oh my gosh, this is the first time I have something published," Antunes said.

It may also be the first time they have something archived; Antunes reports that *O Canto Do Mar* will be included in the UWM Library's Archives and Special Collections. That includes the upcoming 2019 spring edition, which Antunes anticipates will have more than 30 contributors.

For Filho, the journal has given him and his classmates a chance to flex their creative muscles.

"Since I was a kid, I was very passionate with literature. I always loved to read and to write," he said. "I think the nicest part of this is that a lot of people who write for this journal, they're not 100 percent affiliated with literature. Many are taking this course because they have a language requirement (for graduation), and they're fulfilling it with Portuguese. Usually, it's people who have no idea they can do a creative work, but (this) gives them the opportunity to say, I can express myself as well."

"It's more than writing and a journal," Antunes added. "We love literature. We love the Portuguese language. We love writing. We love to spread the word about creativity. It's kind of a love story."



Visit the Letters & Science Instagram page to hear Susana Antunes read her poem, "Amo-a," published in *O Canto Do Mar*.

<https://bit.ly/2LuyC4a>

Media Mentions

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Why did so many Hmong immigrants settle in Wisconsin? Chia Vang (History) went on WUWM to answer that and other questions about the Hmong American experience. <https://bit.ly/2Tel6uG>

Serving the needs of 7 million passengers, the county board, and on-site businesses is tricky, but General Mitchell Airport director Brian Dranzik ('93, BA Political Science and History) has a few tips that he outlined in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. <https://bit.ly/2EggXSq>

On WUWM, Doug Stafford (Milwaukee Institute for Drug Discovery) and Shama Mirza (Chemistry) explained how scientists in the MIDD are researching new ways of diagnosing and treating glioblastoma, the type of cancer that killed Sen. John McCain. <https://bit.ly/2Esbuby>

Anastasios Tsonis (emeritus Atmospheric Science) was quoted in an opinion letter in the *Lincoln Journal Star* about climate scientists' failure to predict changes over the past decade. <https://bit.ly/2TbQrxX>

JAMS immersion

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“We wanted to embrace the fact that Wisconsin was part of this massive, surprising national story,” McBride said. “We set out just to ask voters, unfiltered, without spin, why did they do what they did. We took about 15 students and four cars and drove to Crawford County, Wisconsin.”

They also hit up voters in Iowa and Minnesota on the three-day journey.

Students loved the trip. They wanted more.

McBride and Marble ran with it. Drawing students from McBride’s news reporting class and Marble’s television reporting class, the pair set their sights on Flint, Michigan, to cover the ongoing water crisis. Then came the Hurricane Harvey trip to Texas. When young people from Parkland, Florida, descended on Washington D.C., for the March for Our Lives event, JAMS students, with help from JAMS senior lecturer Jane Hampden-Daley, hopped an Amtrak train to cover the rally and a nearby gun show. Most recently, they finished up a trip to Barron, Wisconsin, a rural town that has become a new home for many Somali immigrants.

The articles produced from the trips have garnered awards from the Milwaukee Press Club, the Society of Professional Journalists, the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, the Midwest Broadcast Journalists Association and more.

New skills, new perspectives

Students are expected to have a solid grasp of news reporting before they embark on an immersion trip, but each excursion is a chance to hone their interviewing skills – sometimes by literally walking into a restaurant and asking to speak with patrons on their barstools.

At the end of the trip, each journalist writes or produces at least one story. The articles and videos are collected with the help of JAMS Digital Media Specialist Jeff Loomis to be published on a dedicated website.

The technical skills students pick up along the way are invaluable when it comes time to find internships and jobs.



Students gather together for dinner at a restaurant in Port Arthur, Texas, after a long day of gathering interviews. As part of the JAMS immersion experience, they traveled to Texas to report on the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Photo courtesy of Media Milwaukee.

“The work I produced through our trip to Houston landed me a job as a reporter right out of school! The real-world experience was impressive to my employer,” JAMS alumna Amanda Becker wrote. Shelbourne adds that the experience she gained on the immersion trips helped her secure her current internship at the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

And, said Ed Makowski, who traveled to Flint, the immersion trips help students understand the value of boots-on-the-ground reporting.

“I think it’s a really great exercise in experiencing another culture,” he said. “It really impacts the work you do. If you don’t show up and have those experiences, your work is going to be, comparatively, pretty dull.”

Beyond that, however, students are broadening their horizons. McBride recounts how, prior to their excursion to rural Wisconsin in 2016, some of the group had never spoken to a farmer in their lives. Others hailing from rural Wisconsin had to learn to navigate Flint’s urban blight – McBride recalls streets literally lined with foreclosed houses.

An eye to the future

Next year marks some big changes for the immersion trips. Garcia Marble is leaving UWM to take a position as the Broadcast Director at WTMJ-TV. Her shoes will be tough to fill, McBride says. But, she adds, there are positive changes too: the immersion trip is now a dedicated class, which should allow more students the opportunity to participate.

And in the meantime, McBride’s already thinking about where they should go next. She’s contemplating Tijuana, Mexico, to cover the migrant caravans seeking entry to the United States, but there are plenty of possibilities.

“I think, in an era of declining news resources, UWM students are playing a role in civic life by covering some of the stories that the media can’t get to,” McBride said. “Now, with more grant money, we can maybe do more.”