

SUSTAINABILITY

May 2017

CES students work to recover wetland wildlife

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

During mating season in April, the ephemeral ponds in Waukesha County are bursting with the sound of amorous wood frogs. Directly to the east in Milwaukee County, silence reigns. There are no frogs left to send up a chorus.

Five UWM students are looking to change that.

Demi Fohl, Lily Gierke, Joe Schmitz, Frank Schroyer, and Katie Slater are Conservation and Environmental Science majors in Neal O'Reilly's Practicum in Natural Resources Management class, a capstone course designed to connect students with professional environmental contacts and give them hands-on experience working with conservancy projects.

The five seniors were tasked with assisting the Milwaukee County Parks Department with an ongoing project: Reintroduce wood frogs and tiger salamanders to the county's wetlands. The amphibians have disappeared from Milwaukee County and represent an integral part of the wetland ecosystem.

The missing amphibians

The county relies on volunteers to report amphibian sightings, so there's no formal timeline noting when wood frogs and tiger salamanders vanished from the wetlands. Over time, though, urban development and chemical changes to the environment have negatively impacted these highly sensitive animals.

Gierke, the secretary of UWM's Conservation Club and herself a "citizen scientist" volunteering to track wildlife species, jumped at the chance to work on the project. "It increases [the county's] biodiversity," she explained. "There are complicated interactions between organisms that we don't fully understand yet. We don't want to mess them up by taking out one species."

The reintroduction is in the research phase, Schroyer added.

"Our main role was to do the field work," he said. "Our job was to find wood frogs and tiger salamanders and another goal was to narrow down which ephemeral ponds would be good for reintroduction."

Field work and frog-whispering

For hours at a time over the course of 10 days, the group slogged through Waukesha County Land Conservancy wetlands near Menomonie Falls, Wisc., in order to identify thriving populations of frogs and salamanders. The hope is that when it comes time to reintroduce the animals to Milwaukee County, project managers will have identified several populations to draw upon for transplants.



(Clockwise from left) Lily Gierke, Katie Slater, Frank Schroyer, Demi Fohl, and Joe Schmitz document one of the frogs they found during an excursion in the ephemeral wetlands of Waukesha County. Photo courtesy of Frank Schroyer. (Below) Wood frogs are gone from Milwaukee County, but this group of Conservation and Environmental Science majors hopes to help reintroduce them. Photo by Brian Gratwicke.



[Continued on page 7](#)

CONTENTS

Feature Stories

- CES students work on wetlands . p.1
- A study of early springs p.2
- Switchgrass for biofuel..... p.3
- An alumna and agriculture p.4
- Student works for Clean Cities... p.5
- Alum looks on the sunny side p.6

Columns

- Video Stories p.7
- Urban Studies spotlight..... p.8
- Laurels & Accolades p.9
- L&S Retirees..... p.9
- Length of Service awards p.10
- Alumni Accomplishments p.11
- In the Media p.12
- People in Print..... p.13

PUBLISHED THE LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH BY
THE COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE.

CONTACT US AT LET-SCI@UWM.EDU OR

(414) 229-2923.

L&S DEAN: RODNEY SWAIN

IN FOCUS EDITOR: DEANNA ALBA



FIND US AT [UWMILWLETSCI](https://www.uwmilw.edu/letsci)

From the environment to racial justice, and from medicine to poetry, our faculty, students, and alumni in the College of Letters & Science have an array of fascinating passions and causes.

That's why this year, we are proud to bring you several special editions of In Focus that highlight one area of interest and the many ways the people of the College of Letters & Science approach it.

This month, we shine a spotlight on sustainability.

An early spring

By *Laura Otto, University Relations*

Flowers were blooming in February in Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state, and if recent trends hold, its colorful blooms will show up earlier on contemporary calendars than they did on your grandmother's.

That's because spring is coming earlier than its historical average in many of America's national parks, according to a recent study of 276 sites by researchers from UWM, two other universities, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Park Service. For more than half of those parks, evidence shows extreme early onsets of spring.

The project used temperature records at the parks from the past 112 years and correlated those with climate-change indicators developed by Mark D. Schwartz, UWM distinguished professor of Geography.



Mark Schwartz

"My model provides the key to knowing when plants are responding to the growing season," Schwartz says. It pegs the start of spring to seasonal events, such as the first bud and bloom of certain plants. "Coupling this with temperature data offers a standard way of looking at the park. It tells you what the trends have been."

This gives scientists a fuller picture of how climate change will affect each park. One example: Warmer springs are giving some invasive plants a head start on the growing season.

That's just one reason why the sustainability efforts of the College of Letters & Science's faculty, students, and alumni are so vital: combatting climate change and environmental pollution is an essential step to procuring a safe future for the globe.

A switch for switchgrass: Unlocking the future of biofuel

By Silke Schmidt, University Relations

If you live east of the Rocky Mountains, you've probably encountered switchgrass, perhaps without even realizing it. A hardy perennial, the roadside and prairie grass is as ubiquitous as it is unassuming.

You may get to know it better soon, though. Switchgrass has been lauded as a promising source of biofuels with multiple advantages over current favored options, including corn. Genetically modifying switchgrass could boost crop yields and its commercial viability.

But to close in on realizing that potential requires one small tweak: a genetic sterility switch that prevents the modified grass from contaminating the genes of nearby unmodified grasses. Dazhong "Dave" Zhao, a UWM associate professor of Biological Sciences, hopes to build that switch.

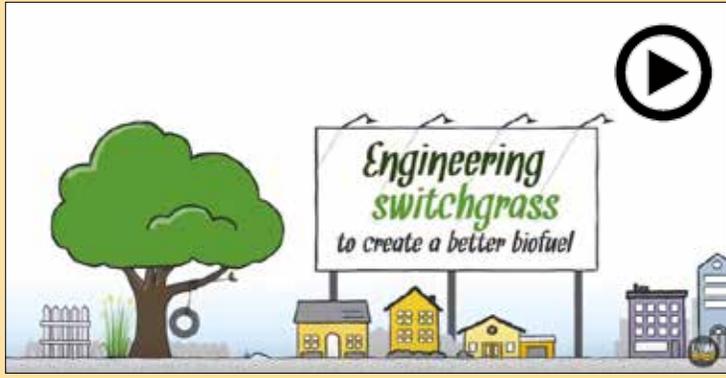
Unlike fossil fuels, which consist of decomposed organic material buried underground for millions of years, biofuels are derived from plants grown today or from animal waste. Burning fossil fuels releases new carbon dioxide into our atmosphere and contributes to global warming, while biofuels emit only as much carbon dioxide as the plants absorbed during their lifetime.

Switchgrass is an attractive biofuel feedstock because it can grow on marginal lands of little agricultural value. It also requires less chemical fertilizer than corn, the dominant source of ethanol currently mixed into unleaded gasoline. "Grasses can grow anywhere and are not in competition with human food production," Zhao says.

In addition to being a low-input and fast-growing crop, switchgrass can survive for 10 years or more, while corn must be sown at the start of each growing season. Last but not least, switchgrass greatly reduces erosion by holding soil in place while providing habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife.

To make biofuel production more sustainable, Zhao and postdoctoral researcher Jian Huang are tackling the main obstacle keeping genetically modified switchgrass off the commercial market. It's the possibility that lab-engineered genes could escape human control by mixing with genes of wild-growing grasses, which might interrupt natural processes in unpredictable ways.

[Continued on page 15](#)



UWM Biologist Dave Zhao may have the key to unlock the future of biofuel. He is working to prevent genetically modified switchgrass from breeding with other grasses with potentially unpredictable results.

<https://youtu.be/mf2-OgrbUbY>



Communication alum connects small farms and sustainability

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

After she graduated from UWM with a Communication major, Layne Cozzolino ('04, BA) took a few months to travel solo through Europe. Her favorite part was the food.



Layne Cozzolino ('04, BA Communication) is the executive director of the nonprofit Farmshed.

“In Europe, champagne is made in a certain region of France, and it’s not made anywhere else in Europe. The culture around food there is because of ancestry, and the soil that’s in those places, and the families who have been doing it for forever. It’s what community is built upon,” Cozzolino said. “I became so inspired by that. Food continued to be the thing I did and the thing I was inspired by outside of my job.”

Years later, food became her full-time job. Cozzolino is the executive director of Farmshed, a nonprofit organization based in Stevens Point, Wisc., that connects local farmers, sellers, and other members of the area food community. Farmshed also runs a community supported agriculture-share program, farmers market programs, and greenhouses, in addition to promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

It’s not exactly the expected track for someone who majored in Communication, but then, Cozzolino isn’t your typical Communication major. She began UWM by taking only classes that interested her. When it came time to declare a major, she looked back over her transcript to see where she had the most credits.

“A Communication degree allows you the flexibility to find a career in a space that you’re passionate about, and not necessarily in one path you had to go down,” Cozzolino said. “It’s played a huge role in being able to do what I do as the director of a nonprofit. Because I had that base of knowledge in communication, you can build structures on top of that to be successful at your job.”

Her initial job was with GMR Marketing in New Berlin where Cozzolino spent four years working with corporate clients, but her interests really lay in grassroots organizations. Drawing on her passion for food, she went back to school at UW-Stevens Point for the university’s new community food program in the Nutritional Science Master’s degree. She joined Farmshed as a volunteer during her studies.

[Continued on page 11](#)

Sustainable land use and farming

Farmshed, a nonprofit, grassroots organization in Stevens Point, Wisc., connects local farmers to buyers and also strives to promote sustainable farming and land use practices, said executive director Layne Cozzolino ('04, BA Communication).

“We work with and promote small agriculture that includes an array of products. We also study how those farms work within the ecosystem,” Cozzolino said. “Most of the farms that we work with aren’t likely to use chemicals or spray. They’re thinking about how things can work in symbiotic ways to have a high production yield, like having animals that fertilize your crops and then reduce the number of chemicals you need.”

Using commercial pesticides and fertilizers can increase crop yield, but the chemicals found in those products often end up in local waterways, washed into streams and rivers by rainfall or draining into the porous soil that sits atop groundwater sources.

Many commercial farms are devoted to only one crop, Cozzolino added. Large commercial farms in her area focus on growing potatoes for the Lays Potato Chip factory in the region. While the factory is an intrinsic part of the local economy and vital for jobs and a strong tax base, the farming practices needed to sustain it can be harmful to the environment, and consequently, the local population.

“The pesticides applied to potato fields per pound is crazy,” Cozzolino said. “We have sandy soil which means that everything that is applied goes right into the soil then right into the water. That water is what we’re drinking. In particular, the rural communities that are getting the water straight out of the ground and don’t have the waste water treatment plants.”

Corporate agriculture isn’t going away, however, and Cozzolino knows there are benefits to having large farms in the area. But, she said, a commitment to sustainable farming means that Farmshed and other local organizations should be working with big business to make sustainability a reality.

“They’re still a part of the community. It doesn’t mean they don’t have anything in common with smaller farmers. They’re still farmers,” Cozzolino said. “We get so much further when we find common ground.”

Urban Studies student cleans up with Clean Cities

By Zachary Julius, College of Letters & Science

Stephanie Stilwell likes people – working with them, helping them, connecting to them. One thing that she’s not a big fan of is cars.

That’s what made her recent internship with Wisconsin Clean Cities so interesting.

Wisconsin Clean Cities is a non-profit organization that aims to reduce vehicle gasoline usage by providing education about alternative fuel sources and fuel efficiency. Stilwell, who is working toward a Master’s degree in Urban Studies at UWM, worked on multiple projects involving alternative fuels, vehicles, and technology with the goal of reducing America’s dependence on oil.

“I consider myself an environmentalist,” Stilwell said. “I was not only excited develop my skills professionally, but the mission and message behind Clean Cities fulfilled personal aspirations of mine to work toward something I had been so passionate about in my personal life.”

Stilwell originally graduated from UWM in 2012 after majoring in International Studies. She moved to Minnesota and after a string of internships, realized that her passions did not lie in either Minnesota or International Studies. She moved back to Milwaukee and began working with an Americorp VISTA team to come up with solutions to problems related to economic, social, or environmental issues on the city’s north side. Through this Americorp VISTA position she was nudged toward attending UWM again, this time focusing on Urban Studies.

During her classes, she found an ad for the Clean Cities internship and jumped.

“The Clean Cities mission is important because our transportation sector is going to reach a breaking point where petroleum-based fuels are no longer going to be a viable option,” Stilwell said. “By promoting and educating members of transportation industries to new alternative fuels and technologies, we can move towards a more sustainable future for all of us.”

Her job with Wisconsin Clean Cities is Stilwell’s fourth non-profit internship. When she first started, she was taken aback by how different it was from what she had expected.

“I didn’t react to this internship the way I thought I would,” Stilwell said. “The job description made it seem primarily about vehicles, but I was pleasantly surprised to find that there was a lot of human interaction that goes along with that. I get to go out in the field and gain new experiences that better me.”

She fondly remembers one of her biggest successes working for Wisconsin Clean Cities.

“We were working with Nissan to try and sell a fuel-efficient vehicle to a program called Rev Up Wisconsin,” Stilwell said. “By providing a discount on Nissan’s most popular electric vehicles to promote fuel efficiency, we ended up selling over 40 vehicles, which actually exceeded our expectations.”

While vehicles may not be her favorite pass-time, Stilwell values her new-found knowledge on Wisconsin’s economic, environmental, and energy policies, which she plans on taking with her in future jobs. She plans to graduate in August and wants to pursue her passions in the nonprofit world.



Stephanie Stilwell (left), a graduate student in Urban Studies, shows off a fuel-efficient vehicle at an event for her internship with Wisconsin Clean Cities.



Nonprofit alum looks on the sunny side of life

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

The future of solar energy in Wisconsin is bright, according to Peter Murphy, and yes, he added, the pun is absolutely intended.

“It lowers emissions. It reduces dependence on fossil fuel. It increases the resiliency of a community because they’re more energy independent,” he said of solar energy. “For the most part, people who are going solar are finding that they are saving money on a monthly basis.”

Solar energy is quietly and cleanly sweeping the nation. It uses solar panels that convert sunlight into electricity without the carbon dioxide release associated with burning coal or fossil fuels that contributes to climate change. Murphy, who graduated from UWM in 2014 with a Master’s in Nonprofit Management and Leadership, is the Solar Program Manager for the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA). The MREA is a professional training organization that educates workers about how to install solar and wind energy systems, as well as coordinating an annual energy fair and coordinating solar group-buys.

The group-buys are the crux of Murphy’s job. It’s the process by which home and business owners all switch to using solar energy with the same solar installation company. By pooling their resources, communities can switch to cleaner energy at an efficient cost. It’s similar to a co-op or buyer’s club.

Murphy’s always been interested in cooperatives as a business model, especially one that can be used to leverage social change. After he completed his undergraduate degree at DePaul University in Chicago, he helped start the Riverwest Public House in Milwaukee, a consumer-owned, cooperative tavern. As the Riverwest Public House’s event coordinator, he met City of Milwaukee Sustainability and Solar Program Manager Amy Heart. Through Heart, Murphy connected with the MREA, and the group worked to launch a solar group-buy in the Riverwest neighborhood.

“It went really well, so we replicated and did it again in Bayview. The following year we did it in Layton Boulevard West and Washington Heights,” Murphy said. “We’re kind of going neighborhood by neighborhood doing these solar programs.”

His interest in co-ops and his work with MREA drove him back to school – this time at UWM. The Nonprofit Management program was perfect because there was so much overlap with his interests. Like co-ops, nonprofits have to work with boards of directors, establish a social mission, and procure funding.



Nonprofit Management alum Peter Murphy works for the Midwest Renewable Energy Association helping to organize solar group-buys.

[Continued on page 15](#)

Congratulations, graduates!



More than 3,400 students graduated from UWM in May, venturing out into the world to pursue further education, career opportunities, and ways to impact the community. We especially congratulate all Letters & Science graduates, like Biological Sciences major and pre-vet student Juan Orjuela! https://youtu.be/6ms_ChPgluc

Finding frogs and scouting salamanders

[continued from page 1](#)

That involved a lot of wading through cold water and mud in ephemeral ponds, bodies of water that appear in early spring and dry up as the year goes on.

“You go out to those ponds and set those traps out,” Schmitz explained. “The next few days, you come to the pond and check the traps.”

The group lucked out; they began their count during mating season when frogs were so plentiful that Schroyer could – and did – catch them with his hands, leading Slater to dub him “Frank the Frog-Whisperer.” The students also found plenty of egg masses and, at one point, were able to witness some of the eggs hatching. Unfortunately, they didn’t find as many tiger salamanders as they’d hoped, but they did count some blue-spotted salamanders.

“I learned a lot,” Fohl said afterward. “I initially didn’t know anything about ephemeral ponds or how to find a viable population. I didn’t know how to do funnel trapping. ... But doing this, I think our project was the most fun out of everyone’s.”

Sustainable ecosystems

Wetlands, Gierke said, are a good measure of an environment’s health and essential for ground water quality.

“Wetlands slow water down,” she explained. “The soil oftentimes filters out a lot of contaminants from water runoff. It’s good for keeping contaminants out of the lakes. If you pave over that, the contaminants don’t get filtered.”

Animals like wood frogs and tiger salamanders are called “bioindicator species,” meaning that they make good bellwethers to determine the health of the environment. If frogs and salamanders are doing well, their environment probably is too. If they disappear, that could spell trouble for the wetlands. Preserving natural species interaction is essential for the wellbeing of any ecosystem. Projects like this have the potential to bring a missing balance back to some of the natural areas in Milwaukee County.

And, Schmitz added, it’s always good to inspire others to get involved.

“This could spark other reintroduction projects,” he said. “This is a great way to get people outside.”

Get involved

You can help Milwaukee County wetlands by getting involved. Visit <http://county.milwaukee.gov/CitizenScienceOpportunities> to learn more about volunteering.



Frank Schroyer and Katie Slater check a trap to see if they've caught any frogs or salamanders. The frogs were very loud during mating season. Click the link below to hear video recording by Joe Schmitz of wood frogs calling! <https://youtu.be/frsM55LyE-A>

Program Spotlight: Urban Studies

On April 28 in the UWM Union Alumni Fireside Lounge, Urban Studies majors enrolled in the Capstone Seminar presented their semester-long research during a juried poster session, along with graduate students in Urban Studies and several other graduate programs at the Urban Studies' 22nd Annual Student Research Forum.

Urban Studies majors Dakota Crowell and Trevor Jung won the undergraduate award for their posters, respectively titled “Spatial Patterns in Affordable Housing: An Analysis of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Developments in Milwaukee County,” and “Political Infrastructure for Rail Infrastructure: The Political Needs of Commuter Rail in Racine.”



Groundwork Milwaukee. A talk-back panel, moderated by PhD candidate Renee Scampini, discussed several themes related to urban agriculture in poor neighborhoods.

Panelists included Danell Cross, Interim Executive Director of Metcalfe Park Community Bridges Neighborhood Association; Nick DeMarsh; John Flaig; and Deneine Powell, executive director of Groundwork Milwaukee. This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Stefanie A. DeLuca, associate professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. She is co-author (with Susan Clampet-Lundquist and Kathryn Edin) of the book, *Coming of Age in the Other America* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2016), which examines the lives and resiliency of children who grew up and left Baltimore public housing over a ten-year period.

Read more about the event at <http://bit.ly/2pvmleq>.

Top: Urban Studies majors Dakota Crowell (left) and Trevor Jung won the undergraduate award for their posters at the Urban Studies 22nd Annual Student Research Forum. Middle: Panelists discuss the documentary “Planting Seeds”, created by UWM film student John Flaig, examining the Young Farmers program founded by Urban Studies graduate student Nick DeMarsh. Bottom: Keynote speaker Dr. Stefanie A. DeLuca speaks about children in Baltimore public housing.

Caitlin Taylor received the Graduate Best Poster Award for her poster “Who Cares?: Lived Experiences of Home Care Aides in Milwaukee.”

Isabella Rieke received the Urban Studies Award for Best Paper for her paper “‘We All Gotta Drink the Water’: Discordant Discourses in the Remediation of Milwaukee’s Lead Service Lines.”

Part of the afternoon event included a screening of *Planting Seeds*, a short documentary produced by UWM film student John Flaig, that examines the Young Farmers program in Metcalfe Park. The program was co-founded by Urban Studies graduate student Nick DeMarsh and is supported by



Laurels, Accolades, and Grant Awards

Amanda Seligman, Joseph Rodriguez, and Chia Youyee Vang (all History) are among faculty members from 36 universities and colleges nation-wide chosen to lend their expertise to the American Historical Association's 2017 Career Diversity Faculty Institute. They will attend workshops in Washington, D.C. and Chicago over the course of the year, making the UWM History Department eligible for an award subsidizing a doctoral student as a Career Diversity Graduate Fellow in 2018-19. The Career Diversity Faculty Institute aims to help graduate departments restructure curriculum to help prepare students for careers beyond academia.

WUWM's entire team of journalists won a regional first place award from the Radio Television Digital News Association in the "Overall Excellence" category. Also, WUWM's education reporter, **Rachel Morello**, won a first-place regional award for her story, "Real Food, Not Ramen: College Students More Food Insecure than Ever." These are among the highest honors for radio journalism. Both entries now move on to national competition with winners announced this June in New York City.



Rachel Morello

Octavio Santos (Psychology) has been awarded the 2017 APA/APAGS (American Psychological Association and American Psychology Association for Graduate Students) Award for Distinguished Graduate Student in Professional Psychology. This prestigious national award will be presented to him at the APA/APF Awards Ceremony during the 2017 APA Convention in Washington, DC.

Cari B. Rosoff (Psychology) was awarded the Graduate Student Ethics Prize, awarded by the APA Ethics Committee and the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students, for her paper, "Ethics in College Sexual Assault Research." This award is given to only one graduate student nationally each year.

Ionel Popa (Physics) was named a winner of the 2017 Shaw Scientist Award and will receive \$200,000 in seed money from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to support his research related to cancer and biological sciences. <http://bit.ly/2qt6KJG>



Ionel Popa

The College of Letters and Science's **German** program has received \$172,500 through the Rudolf and Helga Kaden Memorial Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. These funds will be used to expand the activities and scope of the German program from better preparing Milwaukee Public School students for German language courses at the college level, to expanding German language courses on campus and tailoring them to more specific student audiences.

Graduate student **Brittany Cavallaro (English)** appeared at Star Line Books in Chattanooga, Tenn. to read from and sign her young-adult books, including *A Study in Charlotte* and *The Last of August*. <http://bit.ly/2qjWOnB>

Diane Reddy (Psychology), **Dylan Barth**, and **Ray Fleming (Psychology)** were the recipients of an Effective Practice Award at OLC Innovate 2017 on April 6 in New Orleans, La. and discussed how they increased online learning success using a learning analytics tool with messaging about how to study productively in an Effective Practice Award Emerging Idea Session.

Congratulations to Letters & Science retirees!

Letters & Science bid farewell to 17 amazing faculty and staff this year. Collectively, they have touched the lives of thousands of students, conducted groundbreaking research, and enriched the university. We wish them long and fulfilling retirements.

- Dennis Bennett (Chemistry & Biochemistry)
- Thomas Danner (Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies)
- Fred Eckman (Linguistics)
- Jugal Ghorai (Mathematical Sciences)
- David Hoeveler (History)
- Reinhold Hutz (Biological Sciences)
- Doreatha Mbalia (Africology)
- Genevieve McBride (History)
- Jean Mileham (English as a Second Language)
- Helena Pycior (History)
- Kim Romenesko (Advising)
- Rita Rutkowski Weber (English as a Second Language)
- Jeffery Smith (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)
- Anastasios Tsonis (Mathematical Sciences)
- William Velez (Sociology)
- Linda Whittingham (Biological Sciences)
- Mark Zorowski (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)

2017 Length of Service Awards

The College of Letters & Science is pleased to recognize the outstanding faculty and staff who have provided dedicated service to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee over the years. The following people are celebrating milestone anniversaries with the College and we are honored to work with them on a daily basis.

5 Years

Brooke Barker
Ashia Gripentrog
Daniel Harvey
Kate Negri
Niko Papakis
Nicole Schueler
Arthur Schultz
Valeria Volante

10 Years

Michael Aschenbrenner
Nancy Bird-Soto
Anja Blecking
John Blum
William Bristow
Benjamin Cambell
Brenda Cardenas
Gregory Carter
Christopher Celi
Winson Chu
Mike Darnell
Xavier Siemens
Mark Dietz
Rebecca Dunham
Kyla Esguerra
Leslie Harris
Ryan Holifield
Kristin Horowitz
Narayan Kishor
Khuloud Labanieh
Christine Larson
Veronica Lundback
Simonetta Milli Konwko
Michael Newman
Andrew Porter
Gyaneshwar Prasad
Marius Schmidt
Peter Schwander
Natasha Sugiyama
Lijing Sun
Kristin Sziarto



UWM Chancellor Mark Mone thanks Professor of Economics Swarnjit Arora for his 45 years of service.

Michael Westendorf
Anika Wilson
Chao Zhu

15 Years

Scott Adams
John Berges
Gilberto Blasini
Cynthia Boettcher
Niloy Bose
Mary Brehm
Derek Counts
Elisabetta Cova
Jolien Creighton
Robert Graziano
Douglas Howland
Michael Jacques
William Keith
Maurice Silwein-Guevara
Stephen Leeds
Elana Levine
Daniel Listoe
Matthew McGinty
Cary Miller

James Moyer
Bernard Perley
Linda Randolph
Kent Redding
Caroline Seymour-Jorn
Gary Stark
Richard Tierney
Filip Vesely
Dexuan Xie
Erica Young

20 Years

John Bartelt
Peter Dunn
Carol Hirschmugl
Shale Horowitz
Douglas Ihrke
Robert Jeske
Kelly Kohlmetz
Kimberly Matthews
Diane Pfister-Drews
Patricia Richards
Rachel Spilka

Rodney Swain
Kyle Swanson
Dao Vang

25 Years

John Isbell
Iris Preuss
David Pritchard
Lex Renda
Mark Schwartz
Gwyn Wallander
Jane Witten

30 Years

Nancy Barbieri
Kimberly Blaeser
Garry Davis
Raymond Fleming
Timothy Grundl
Gregory Jay
Kevin McLeod
Jennifer Peshut

35 Years

Jay Beder Joseph
Gray Tzu-chu Lin
Margaret Mika
Robert Schwartz
William Van Pelt

40 Years

Dave Edwards
Trudy Turner

45 Years

Swarnjit Arora

★ Alumni Accomplishments

Chris Nelson ('13, BS Atmospheric Science) joined the CBS 58 Ready Weather team as the CBS 58 Morning News weather anchor. Nelson was awarded "Best Weathercast" from the Wisconsin Broadcast Association in 2016. <http://bit.ly/2p4FTVm>



Chris Nelson

Matthew Prigge ('12, MA History) was named the winner of the Milwaukee County Historical Society's Gambrinus Prize for his work *Outlaws, Rebels, & Vixens: Motion Picture Censorship in Milwaukee, 1914-1971*. It grew out of research he conducted for history classes at UWM. <http://bit.ly/2qJdK4I>

KrisAnne Madaus ('14, BA English) was hired as a production assistant at *Vanity Fair* magazine in New York City. She is finishing an MFA in Creative Writing at the New School.

Rob Sweitzer ('89, BA Spanish) was promoted to CEO of SunTech Medical, a company that provides blood pressure monitoring technology. Sweitzer takes over after three years as vice president of sales and marketing. <http://bit.ly/2pPft6M>

Kelly Renz ('03, BA English) was a recipient of the 2017 *Milwaukee Business Journal's* "Women of Influence" award. Renz is the president and CEO and director Novo Group, Inc.

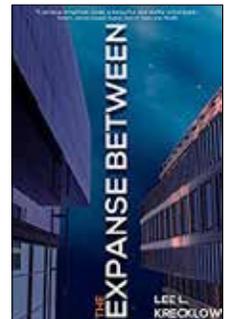
Wendi Devan ('03, BA International Studies) recently acquired *Edible Milwaukee* magazine alongside her partner, Arthur Ircink. Both work with the PBS television show "Wisconsin Foodie" and were lauded in the *Milwaukee Business Journal* for the expertise they bring to the print venture. <http://bit.ly/2pCJueS>

David Wegge ('78, PhD Political Science) will lead the Donald J. Schneider School of Business & Economics during the next academic year at St. Norbert College, the *Green Bay Press-Gazette* announced. <http://gbpg.net/2pGEoNV>

Shawna Lipton ('16, PhD English) was named the new chair of the MA in Critical Studies program at Pacific Northwest College of Art. <http://pnca.edu/news/press/P175>

Jeffrey Towne ('00, BA Geography) was named Racine, Wisc.'s new Economic Development Specialist. <http://bit.ly/2qPhySl>

Lee Krecklow ('00, BA Film Studies) recently published his first novel, entitled *The Expanse Between*. The book tells the story of a former writer trying to reclaim himself by writing a novel about his neighbor's life. <http://bit.ly/2qP44GA>



Ashley Falzetti ('06, MA Philosophy and Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies) was named one of 10 Nancy Weiss Malkiel Scholars for 2017 at the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The award supports junior faculty members focusing on contemporary American history, politics, culture, and society. Falzetti will receive a \$17,500 award as she works toward tenure at Eastern Michigan University. <http://bit.ly/2rEdlyC>

Alumna promotes sustainable farming

[continued from page 4](#)

That morphed into a full-time job after Cozzolino earned her Master's, and she's been the executive director ever since. It's her responsibility to see to Farmshed's long-term future, as well as its day-to-day management and budgeting. And, like any nonprofit, she has to find ways to make sure Farmshed's business model is sustainable.

"Within the past few years, we've figured out a few things that can help support our programs yet are also a service to the community and pay our farmers very well – for example, providing local frozen food that normally wouldn't be available in the winter," Cozzolino said. "By being creative, we try to figure out ways that Farmshed will make it for the long term."

A large part of that is sharing Farmshed's message and getting people interested and engaged enough to use the organization's services. That's where Cozzolino's Communication major comes in so handy.

"So much about why people tend to take action ... comes back to communication and how the initial story that sparked their interest was told, how that story or message made them feel," Cozzolino said. "On our individual journey as humans, communication plays such a big role."

In the Media and Around the Community

Meg Noodin (English) was a scheduled guest at the conference “Transformations: Clowns, Jesters, and Tricksters: Laughing from Inside the Outside” at DePaul University in May. <http://bit.ly/2nbsmf9>

Writing Center Director **Margaret Mika (English)** and Assistant Coordinator **Dan Harrigan (English)** wrote about their recent professional job search-and-hire process for *Another Word*, UW-Madison’s Writing Center blog: “Searching for a Writing Center Assistant Coordinator: 1 Job, 2 Views, 8 Months.” <http://writing.wisc.edu/blog/?p=7627>

Affording college tuition is a tricky proposition for the middle class, **Jessie Garcia Marble (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** said in an essay for WUWM (<http://bit.ly/2pj5lou>) and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (<http://bit.ly/2r7GLJv>).

Shale Horowitz (Political Science) appeared on WTMJ radio 620 in late April to discuss the likelihood of war between the United States and North Korea.

Urban Milwaukee contemplated whether nonprofits need a new approach, and the **Nonprofit Management program** is an important part of that conversation. <http://bit.ly/2qFo9hd>

Do not underestimate the importance of indirect costs to yielding important medical research breakthroughs, **William Holahan (emeritus Economics)** warned in the *Montgomery Advertiser*. (<http://on.mgmadv.com/2pFBgPU>) He also moderated a forum addressing the “Breaking the Transportation Funding Gridlock” in Milwaukee on May 12 (<http://bit.ly/2q43Dt6>).

A Mishicot family turned a personal tragedy into a learning opportunity for UWM students, and **Patty Cobb (pre-professional advising)** expressed her gratitude in Manitowoc’s *Herald Times Reporter*. <http://htrne.ws/2pdS52Q>



Elana Levine

Elana Levine (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) was an invited speaker at the “Streaming, Binge-Watching, and Second Streaming: Online Social Television in Perspective” conference at Boston University on April 20 and 21.

Bettina Arnold (Anthropology) was an invited speaker at an international conference in the Weltenburg Monastery in Bavaria, Germany April 29-May 1. Sponsored by the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung and organized by the University of Munich, 30 archaeologists, biochemists and paleobotanists gathered to present new research on the evidence for Celtic Iron Age feasting and drinking behavior. The conference proceedings will be published next year. <http://bit.ly/2pA7MLR>

Graduate student **Nick DeMarsh (Urban Studies)** was the subject of Groundwork Milwaukee’s documentary “Planting Seeds,” which has been submitted to the Milwaukee Film Festival. The film follows DeMarsh and Milwaukee’s work with Young Farmers Program. <http://bit.ly/2pvmleq>

Mark Schwartz (Geography) gave a presentation on phenology, the study of recurring plant and animal life cycle stages and how they coincide with weather and climate, at the Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum meeting in Fond du Lac in May. <http://fondulac/2rcOdnH>



Doug Stafford (Chemistry & Biochemistry) explained on TMJ4 News how researchers from the Milwaukee Institute for Drug Discovery, including **James Cook** and **Alexander “Leggy” Arnold (Chemistry & Biochemistry)**, are developing a pill to combat asthma. (<http://bit.ly/2rZzfye>)

Their research was also featured on News-Medical.net (<http://bit.ly/2pAdzI6>), BioSpectrum (<http://bit.ly/2pNI7Gu>) and WUWM (<http://bit.ly/2qkvLbD>).

[Continued on page 14](#)

People in print

Michelle Fetherston, Maura Cherney, and Thomas Bunton (all Communication). 2017. Uncertainty, technology use, and career preparation self-efficacy. *Western Journal of Communication* (online). <http://bit.ly/2pqeMm4>

Erin Ruppel, Thomas Burke, and Maura Cherney (all Communication). 2017. Long-distance friends' patterns of communication technology use: Channel complementarity and multiplexity. *New Media & Society* (online). <http://bit.ly/2qfn9nc>

Michael H. Farrell, Clair Sprenger, Shelbie L. Sullivan, Bree A. Trisler, Jessica J.F. Kram, and Erin K. Ruppel (Communication). 2017. Benefit of report card feedback after point-of-care assessment of communication quality indicators. *Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews*, 4: 7-17. <http://bit.ly/2qf3rrZ>

Erin Ruppel, Clare Gross, Arrington Stoll, Brittanie Peck, Mike Allen, Sang-Yeon Kim (all Communication). 2017. Reflecting on connecting: Meta-analysis of differences between mediated and face-to-face self-disclosure. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 22: 18-34. <http://bit.ly/2qg4Pal>

Robin Pickering-Iazzi (French, Italian, and Comparative Literature), ed. 2017. *The Italian Antimafia, New Media, and the Culture of Legality*. University of Toronto Press. <http://amzn.to/2qttzPx>

Xiaoshan Chen, Yu-Jui Huang, Qingshuo Song, and Chao Zhu (Mathematical Sciences). 2017. The stochastic solution to a Cauchy problem for degenerate parabolic equations. *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, 451(1): 448-472. <http://bit.ly/2pqfvgV>

John Heywood (Economics) and Jed DeVaro. 2017. Performance Pay and Work-Related Health Problems: A Longitudinal Study of Establishments. *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 70(3): 670-703. <http://bit.ly/2pLU43n>

Richard W. Edwards, Robert J. Jeske (both Anthropology), and Joan B. Coltraine. 2017. Preliminary Evidence for the Efficacy of the Canine Surrogacy Approach in the Great Lakes. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 13: 516-525.

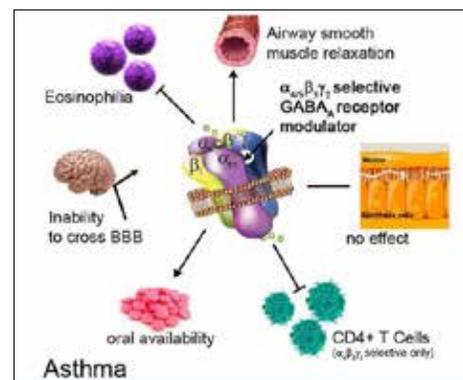
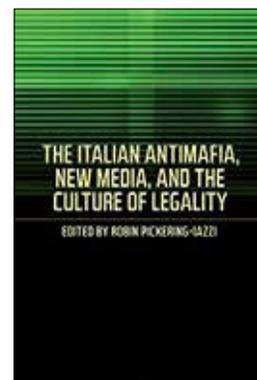
Jessica Valle Orero, Jaime Andres Rivas-Pardo, Rafael Tapia-Rojo, Ionel Popa (Physics), Daniel J Echelman, Shubhasis Haldar, and Julio M. Fernandez. 2017. Mechanical deformation accelerates protein ageing. *Angewandte Chemie* (online). <http://bit.ly/2qxp02X>

Tracey L. Heatherington and Bernard C. Perley (both Anthropology). 2017. Fieldnotes from Svalbard: How Global Dreamings Take Root in the Arctic Frontier. *Special Feature on Facing the Anthropocene*, 7. <http://bit.ly/2qT4Swm>

Gloria S. Forkuo, Amanda N. Nieman, Nina Y. Yuan, Revathi Kodali, Olivia B. Yu, Nicolas M. Zahn, Rajwana Jahan, Guanguan Li, Michael Rajesh Stephen, Margaret L. Guthrie, Michael M. Poe, Benjamin D. Hartzler, Ted W. Harris (all Chemistry and Biochemistry), Gene T. Yocum, Charles W. Emala, Douglas A. Steeber (Biological Sciences), Douglas C. Stafford, James M. Cook, and Leggy A. Arnold (all Chemistry and Biochemistry). 2017. Alleviation of Multiple Asthmatic Pathologic Features with Orally Available and Subtype Selective GABAA Receptor Modulators. *Molecular pharmaceuticals* (online). <http://bit.ly/2rrtljx>

M. Smidman, M.B. Slamon, H.Q. Yuan, and Daniel F. Agterberg (Physics). 2017. Superconductivity and spin-orbit coupling in non-centrosymmetric materials: a review. *Reports on progress in physics*, 80(3). <http://bit.ly/2rs5VB2>

Janine L. Kwapis, Timothy J. Jarome, Nicole C. Ferrara, and Fred J. Helmstetter (ed.) (all Psychology). 2017. Updating Procedures can Reorganize the Neural Circuit Supporting a Fear Memory. *Neuropsychopharmacology* (online). <http://go.nature.com/2qxCGX2>



This graphic begins the illustrations for the article "Alleviation of Multiple Asthmatic Pathologic Features with Orally Available and Subtype Selective GABAA Receptor Modulators" written by several members of the UWM Chemistry & Biochemistry Department.

[Continued on page 14](#)

People in Print

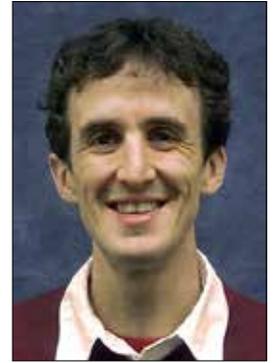
[continued from page 13](#)

L. Feng, R. Vaulin, J. N. Hewitt, R. Remillard, **David L. Kaplan (Physics)**, Tara Murphy, N. Kudryavtseva, P. Hancock, G. Bernardi, J. D. Bowman, F. Briggs, et al. 2017. A Matched Filter Technique for Slow Radio Transient Detection and First Demonstration with the Murchison Widefield Array. *The Astronomical Journal*, 153(98). <http://bit.ly/2qxhB5i>

A. D. Kapinska, L. Staveley-Smith, ... **David L. Kaplan (Physics)**, C. J. Lonsdale, S. R. McWhirter, E. Morgan, D. Oberoi, S. M. Ord, T. Prabu, K. S. Srivani, A. Williams, and C. L. Williams. 2017. Spectral Energy Distribution and Radio Halo of NGC 253 at Low Radio Frequencies. *The Astrophysical Journal*, 838(68). <http://bit.ly/2pMad94>

Robert Schwartz (Philosophy), ed. 2017. Perceptual Veridicality. *Philosophical Topics*, 44(2).

Winson Chu (History). (2017). Review of Eric C. Steinhart, *The Holocaust and the Germanization of Ukraine*. *The Journal of Modern History*.



David Kaplan

In the Media

[continued from page 12](#)

Labor markets change too quickly for schools to guess at what skills their sixth-graders may need to compete after high school graduation, **Marc Levine (History)** argued in *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article discussing how local schools are trying to do more to prepare students for jobs (<http://bit.ly/2qkNfVD>). The article was reprinted in several news sources, including *USA Today* (<https://usat.ly/2rclPNV>). Levine was also quoted in an opinion piece regarding school vouchers, segregation, and housing in Milwaukee in the *Journal Sentinel* (<http://bit.ly/2rJuZmY>) which was again repurposed for *USA Today* (<https://usat.ly/2rampRo>).

Dylan Barth and **Diane Reddy (Psychology)** presented “Impact of Using Pattern with Messaging about How to Study in a Focused, Productive Fashion” at the UW System Learning Technology Virtual Showcase in April and presented “Impact of Open Textbook Use on Student Success” to the UW System’s Center Directors Leadership Forum in March. Reddy also presented “Social influences and medical mistrust in the hormonal contraceptive decision-making process” and “Perceived belonging among male and female U.S. military service members” alongside **Sarah E. Kienzler and Heidi M. Pfeiffer (both Psychology)** at the Association for Women in Psychology Conference in Milwaukee. All three also presented “Social referents influence women’s hormonal contraceptive decisions?” at an invited talk for the Planned parenthood of Wisconsin’s 2017 Safe Healthy Strong Conference in Milwaukee.



Diane Reddy

President Trump’s mishandling of classified information shows the danger of electing someone who does not know about politics, **Glen Jeansonne (emeritus History)** told WUWM. <http://bit.ly/2rgbULT>

Delve into the finer points of the **College of Letters & Science** with Acting Dean Dave Clark, who went on WUWM to talk about the school’s points of pride. <http://bit.ly/2pU3s59>

Genevieve McBride (emeritus History) retired this month and earned emeritus status at the same time as her brother, Dr. Patrick McBride, who is set to receive his status from the UW-Madison Departments of Medicine and Family Medicine in July. <http://bit.ly/2pTZ5H4>

The Smithsonian Institution’s National Zoological Park website wrote a news story to highlight a new publication by **Emily Latch (Biological Sciences)** in which she and colleagues used genetic paternity analyses to document a complete lack of reproduction by translocated male desert tortoises, revealing a potential unexpected shortcoming of wildlife translocations. (<http://s.si.edu/2qgROkX>) The scientific article was published in *Biological Conservation* in May (<http://bit.ly/2r0aAu3>).

Switchgrass fuel

[continued from page 3](#)

Genetically modified tomatoes were first approved for human consumption in 1994, but food crops are typically short-lived and tightly managed. Grasses are less domesticated and live a long time, heightening the concern about genetic contamination. “Completely eliminating both male and female fertility is the only fail-safe way to prevent gene flow,” Zhao says.

Under current federal regulations, only genetically modified grasses that are absolutely sterile in the lab can enter field trials. That’s where researchers determine whether sterility and other introduced properties can be maintained long-term in real-world conditions.

Zhao hopes to create sterile switchgrass by introducing a fusion gene into its reproductive cells, using a harmless bacterium as a delivery vehicle. The fusion gene merges the Solo Dancers, or SDS, gene – an essential player in the reproduction of many plant species – with a toxic gene called Barnase.

“By combining the SDS and Barnase genes, we have created a new gene with very specific toxicity: It kills only the tissue that makes a plant’s version of eggs and sperm,” Zhao says. The new gene acts without affecting plant growth or flower development.

Zhao is testing this method in *Brachypodium distachyon*, a model grass very similar to switchgrass. He has already demonstrated that his fusion gene, for which he’s filed a patent application, works well in tobacco and *Arabidopsis*, a flowering plant commonly used as the first test case for genetic modifications.

If the fusion gene works well in the model grass, Zhao plans to collaborate with USDA scientists on testing it in switchgrass. Success in the lab could lead to funding for field trials and eventual commercialization.

Zhao’s work has been funded, in part, by a Bradley Foundation Catalyst Grant administered by the UWM Research Foundation. These grants support UWM projects with strong potential for commercialization.



Dave Zhao

Alum's solar work

[continued from page 6](#)

Murphy began working at MREA full-time after he graduated. He currently works with municipalities all over Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa to introduce them to solar energy and help them set up group-buy programs for their residents. The benefits go beyond being environmentally-friendly.

“We’ll work with them to help them become solar-friendly through permitting, planning, and zoning, and we’ll run a group-buy program where we have 15-20 information sessions geared toward homeowners and business owners,” Murphy said. “When we do that, we see a spike in the adoption of solar. We can see that this effort actually has an impact and we can measure that. We can measure how much carbon dioxide will be offset as a result of all of these solar arrays being installed. When these solar firms get a lot of business in a small amount of time, they have to increase their capacity and they create new jobs as a result.”

Solar isn’t for everyone, Murphy is quick to caution. Home and business owners should do the research to make sure installing panels will be cost effective. However, he added, shifting to solar energy typically pays off in eight years in terms of energy cost savings.

And for those who protest that Wisconsin’s long winters make solar energy a pipe dream in this state, Murphy’s optimistic.

“Germany has a goal of 50 percent renewable (energy) by 2030. Already, for days at a time, they’re producing all of their energy from solar ... and their solar opportunities (amount of days with sunshine) are worse than anywhere in the continental US,” Murphy said. “There’s plenty of sunlight in Wisconsin. We could be a leader, based on the amount of sun we have. The real obstacles are not technical; they’re social and political and financial.”

“ We can measure how much carbon dioxide will be offset as a result of all of these solar arrays being installed. When these solar firms get a lot of business in a small amount of time, they have to increase their capacity and they create new jobs as a result. ”