

*From  
kitchen to  
classroom  
to court*

Non-traditional  
student prepares  
for law school  
to help 'the little  
guy'  
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College of Letters & Science

**IN FOCUS**

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# Summertime Salt

## The mystery of chloride in Milwaukee's rivers

Typically, the Port of Milwaukee stores over a million tons of road salt at any point during the winter, and much of what is used on icy roads washes into waterways as the snow melts. So it wouldn't be surprising if high concentrations of chloride, the main ingredient of road salt, were found in area rivers as winter turned to spring.

But the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) has found that elevated amounts of chloride in Milwaukee County rivers, including the Root River, occurs in the summer months, when the chloride crystals aren't in use.

So what is going on? It's a mystery that Charles Paradis, assistant professor of geosciences, is charged with solving.

SEWRPC wondered if the chloride is infiltrating the groundwater and then, when heavy summer rains hit, the salty groundwater is being mass-discharged into the river. It's important to find out because the primary drinking water source for roughly half of the U.S. population comes from groundwater.

"The report from SEWRPC actually posed the hypothesis for our project," Paradis said, "and so far, the data strongly supports that that's what's happening. We think road salt is sticking around in the groundwater for some period of time."

With funding from the UW Water Resources Institute, Paradis and members of his lab are trying to confirm findings by determining how much of the summer water flow in the Root River is from groundwater and how much is from rainfall.

### Taking samples

Three times a week last summer, graduate research assistant Leah Dechant stepped into rubber waders and made her way into the Root River at a spot along 7 Mile Road, west of I-94, near a dairy farm. There, she took water samples before, during and after rain events.

She did the same in the river at Quarry Lake Park in Racine, which is more urban. At both locations, a gaging station run by the U.S. Geological Survey continuously monitors river water conditions, including flow, allowing Dechant to pair each water sample collected with real time river water conditions.

Dechant then passes the samples on to Timothy Wahl, a geochemist at the School of Freshwater Sciences, who provides her with a measurement of two vital clues: chloride concentration and stable water isotopes.



Charles Paradis, assistant professor of geosciences, and his students are investigating why the main ingredient in road salt is turning up in Milwaukee rivers in the summer. (UWM Photo/Troye Fox)

"With this information, I can calculate how much chloride is flowing through the river at that site, for that time, on that day," she said, "And I can find out the age of the water in the samples."

### Age reveals source

Knowing the age of the water in the samples will tell them whether it contains precipitation or groundwater, said Paradis. River water that came from rainfall would be younger than the stored groundwater.

Once they know the ages, Dechant will figure out the ratio of the two sources in her samples, using a complex process that has been described as "trying to unscramble an egg," Paradis said. If higher chloride levels are traced to days during or after rain, and they contain more "old" water, they will have proof of their hunch.

If salty groundwater is leaching into Milwaukee rivers, then how likely is it that the same process is happening other rivers of other cities that have icy winters? Very likely, said Dechant.

"We see this happening in both the urban site and rural sites in Racine County, so I would highly assume it's also occurring in any other place where road salt is applied."

Graduate student Leah Dechant collects water samples at Quarry Lake Park, one of two sampling locations on the Root River. It's the first step in a complicated process to track chloride in the river. (Contributed Photo/Samule Sellars)



The research project also includes Laura Herrick from SEWRPC and Cheryl Nenn from Milwaukee Riverkeeper.

By **Laura Otto, University Relations**

# You're on the air: UWM alum shines as mayor, talk show host

You've probably heard his voice over the airwaves during his morning show on WTMJ Radio. If not, you probably watched him comfort a grieving city in the aftermath of the 2012 Sikh temple shooting.

And if you were at UWM in the early 1980s, you would have seen him in the halls on his way to his mass communication classes.

Steve Scaffidi graduated from UW-Milwaukee in 1983. Since then, he's enjoyed an exciting career spanning the private sector, public service, and – these days in his job as a [radio host](#) on WTMJ – the mainstream media. Through it all, he's kept his focus on his values and forging connections with the people of Milwaukee and beyond.

Scaffidi sat down to talk about his work, his time as the mayor of Oak Creek during the Sikh temple shooting (he even [wrote a book](#) about it), and his dad's pasta sauce.

## Why did you choose UWM?

I grew up in Cudahy. My dad was a meteorologist at the airport. We moved to Oak Creek and I graduated from Oak Creek High School. I was a good student – not great, but good – and wasn't completely sure what I wanted to do, so I took a year off. I worked a ton of different jobs. Then I went to UWM because I started to have an interest in television/radio/broadcasting.

UWM – I loved the campus. I loved getting out a little bit beyond Oak Creek. I remember going to William Ho's down the street on Oakland Avenue. I *lived* there in college. A lot of my friends went to UWM. I started dating my wife of now 37 years at UWM.

## What drew you to broadcasting and media?

I was always a pretty good speaker. I'm a good writer too, and that's part of what I do now. I wanted to do something in communications. Radio/TV seemed like a fun thing to study. The funny thing is, I ended up working in television, but on the research side for 28 years.

## You worked for Nielsen after you graduated college. What was it like working for the famous TV ratings company?

I don't know how much you know about the ratings; in the old days, people filled out diaries – "I watched the 'Dick Van Dyke Show' from 4 to 5 p.m." When I was coming in, it was the advent of new technology. The term is "people meter." It was just a little device that people logged into. I was responsible, at the time, for convincing people to participate. I did that all over northern California. I did that job probably about 3 years.

Fast forward doing a lot of jobs, I became a marketing manager supervisor for Milwaukee/Minneapolis. Then I worked on the national samples. The last five years, I went to special projects, which was taking technology and figuring out the different ways people could watch TV. ... Our group had to figure out, how can we measure what people watch on their phones or their computers? Of course, the answer is software.

## After a long career at Nielsen, you picked quite a different career direction and ran to be the mayor of your hometown, Oak Creek in 2012.

I was interested in politics. I love the city that I lived in, but I never thought that we were respected in southeastern Wisconsin the way that we should be, given all of the things we have going for us. I saw this malaise. Nothing was inspiring about the city. I thought, we can do something bigger and better, and that's what made me run.

I was a guy that appreciated business and came from the private sector. I appreciated economic development and building business. I didn't see a lot of that, and I didn't want Oak Creek to be a one-trick pony. I wanted us to embrace the 21st century.

## What did you bring to Oak Creek as mayor that you're proud of?

We put in a new interchange while I was mayor – Drexel Avenue. It was the first one in 40 years, and it was not an easy decision. People did not want to spend the money, but it seemed like it made sense. Now that's the access point for the downtown and IKEA. If that didn't happen, there would not have been an IKEA. (We also built) Drexel Town Square.

## You were the mayor on what is probably the worst day in Oak Creek's history. Tell me about having to lead the town through the 2012 Sikh Temple shooting.

I was elected in April. The Sikh Temple shooting happened in August that same year. I had literally no ramp-up at the time to even understand what was involved. So, I had a really quick course in public/private (relationships), and how faith groups interact with their communities. Whatever skills I was missing, I had to learn them quickly. That also involved media skills. I went from being a small-city mayor on the day of the shooting to my friends on a trip in Italy watching me on CNN International.

## That had to have been your worst day as a mayor. Can you take us through what happened that day?



Steve Scaffidi

I got the phone call around 10:30 a.m. The fire chief called me: 'We have a shooting.' That was followed up by the police chief: 'One of our officers was shot.' Officer Brian Murphy, whom I knew from a previous meeting as mayor. He was part of our emergency response – SWAT – team.

I was working in my garden that morning. I quickly had to shower and throw a suit on. I went to City Hall and contacted the city administrator, the city attorney, all of the aldermen. I went to the scene and was in this big SWAT vehicle trying to assess what's going on and who else did I need to call for the rest of the day.

At one point, the fire chief comes running up to me and goes, 'You've got to answer your phone! The White House is calling.' We had a live press conference at 4 p.m. where we were basically speaking to the world. I had a short speech. I still have the piece of paper at home where we wrote it out. The city attorney wrote it because my handwriting is so bad. It was, 'Thoughts and prayers, we will cooperate fully with the FBI' – things that mayors say.

I drove back to City Hall in my blue Ford Escape. I'm sitting in the parking lot, and the phone rings. It's a woman's voice: 'Is this the mayor of Oak Creek? Hold for the President of the United States.' Barack Obama comes on the phone.

## That must have been surreal after everything that had happened that day.

It is the weirdest feeling in the world. Everybody knows his voice. You're just listening thinking, this is not real. He did all the things presidents do – reassured us, said we'll provide you all the help you need. If they had a transcript of the call, you would have seen his brilliance against my stuttering nonsense. I'd never talked to a president before.

Because of that conversation and what we did ... I got invited to the White House at least 10 times over the next few years. After the Sandy Hook tragedy, I was invited and I met all of those folks. All of the work the President did on gun violence, I was part of that. It wasn't about politics; whenever I talked with the President I always joked with him that I never voted for him. He laughed about that.

## You handled the situation with aplomb, which is impressive because it's not like there's a training manual for handling the aftermath of a mass shooting in your city.

There is now! This is a cool thing – the night after the shooting, after the President called me, I got a call from Steve Hogan. He was the mayor of Aurora, Colorado, where the movie theater shooting had happened just two weeks before ours. He got my number from the city clerk. He goes, 'Look, I know you're busy, but we just went through this and I have some advice.' ... Just that little bit of wisdom in a five-minute call was life-saving. When people credit me with a good response, I learned from him. I actually got to meet him at the U.S. Conference of Mayors a year later.

Since then, the Department of Justice has put together a guide, and all of the mayors who went through this are cited in it with detail on how we responded. I'm really proud of it.

## What do you wish people would know about that day?

What I am really proud of is not all of the official stuff; it's the friendships and relationships I developed after. ... We all know what happened: Six then, now seven people died from the shooting. We know it was a white supremacist that acted alone. We know that Brian Murphy miraculously survived (after being) shot over a dozen times.

[Continued on Page 6](#)

# Scaffidi Show

[Continued from Page 5](#)

But the other parts of this story – how the community came together, how the faith groups responded, which was unbelievable. In my book, I detail a lot about individuals from the Sikh Temple, and how we interacted and worked together to figure things out. The Sikh community is amazing. So compassionate and smart. They were worried about us, even with all of the tragedy that had happened to them. They are just unbelievable people. I'm close with so many of them now; they invite me to their weddings. They've been to my house. It's a friendship that's endured.

## Five years ago, you stepped down as mayor to go work in radio. How did that happen?

If that shooting doesn't happen, I probably don't have this job. I became very familiar with local media. A couple of people here saw me on TV and that connection was how (I got this job). I literally got a phone call between Christmas and New Years' from (the WTMJ station manager) who said, 'Ever think about doing radio?'

It was a gamble, (but) it's been a fun 5 years. It's the greatest job I've ever had. I grew up with WTMJ. My dad actually taped weather forecasts on WTMJ in the '60s.

## Tell me about the Steve Scaffidi show.

I have three hours (every weekday morning) to talk about things that people care about, things I care about. I can weave personal stuff into it, which is the biggest way, I think to establish a bond between fans of the show and the host. They know that you're going through this things with them. That's the magic of it for me.

Every day, I put together a one-page outline. There's a lot that goes into that. I do a lot of reading. Every night, I watch all of the major networks, from MSNBC to Fox and Newsmax, which is a pretty big extreme. It's a way to get a pulse. That all goes into what I think makes an interesting radio show: You're up to speed on current events and you have life experience that actually relates to the people you're talking to. That combination has allowed me to do this for five years.

## What topics do you cover?

Today I had five guests on a lot of different topics, from re-districting to the Packers. Then I have to back-fill. For re-districting I brought Rick Essenberg, who is way on the right. He's from Wisconsin Law and Liberty. And I had someone from Wisconsin Fair Maps. So left and right; liberal and conservative. These guys have vastly different opinions.

"I don't care what your politics are or who you voted for. We're going to look at issues (from the lens of) who's actually getting work done and how we can help the most people." - Steve Scaffidi

Most people, we just want our elected representatives listen to us. One of the mantras of my show is, I don't care what your politics are or who you voted for. We're going to look at issues (from the lens of) who's actually getting work done and how we can help the most people.

Now, I identify as a Republican and I've voted Republican for almost all of my life. Doesn't mean I've never voted for a Democrat, but that's where I come from. I like to say I'm a reasonable, rational Republican. I get frustrated by the nonsense of politics. Political tantrums, I have no time for. ... Come on. Be adults.

There are a lot of shows out there right now where it's just people shouting. That's not me. I try not to shout. I understand there's a market for it, but that's not me. And if you look at the data from my audiences, they appreciate that.

## You've said that if everything lines up, the shows can be "magic." What makes a magic show?

The right guest on a relevant topic. I've had Sen. Ron Johnson on the show, and he and I argued. That creates a lot of drama on the radio, and I'm typically not known for that. I've had everybody from Vice President Pence to U.S. Senators. But I've also had Dennis Miller the comedian and Chelsea Handler on. One is right; one's left. They were brilliant in their own ways.

## Are there any really memorable shows for you?

My dad cooks great Italian food. He's Sicilian. I was talking one day about his sauce recipe. I said, this is the best sauce ever, and he just sent me the recipe. A listener said, you should share that! To this date, I've sent out that recipe 300 times. People text back with pictures of their sauce. That's that connection. That builds the bond. And we make our sauce together.

**By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science**

# UWM faculty member awarded Fulbright Research Fellowship to France

Carolyn Eichner, an associate professor of history and women's and gender studies, has been awarded a Fulbright Research Fellowship to France for 2022-23.

The [award will allow Eichner](#) to conduct more research for her upcoming book, "The Name: Legitimacy, Identity, and Gendered Citizenship." [Eichner specializes](#) in the study of women and gender in 19th century France and the French empire.

"I am very thrilled and grateful for this honor," said Eichner, who will spend most of the upcoming academic year in Paris.

Her book looks at the significance of first and last names to individuals, families, and communities, as well as how governments use names as a way of monitoring, controlling, counting and taxing populations. It also examines how those individuals and groups resisted government efforts to restrict names.

For instance, in the 19th century, French ruler Napoleon Bonaparte mandated that Jews take permanent last names as part of an effort to make France more inclusive, but also as a way to help to erase Jews' cultural identity, Eichner said. Similar mandates would later be imposed on emancipated Black people in French Caribbean colonies, as well as Muslims in the French colony of Algeria.

Eichner said the idea for "The Name" emerged two decades ago while researching another book in 2004. She describes the new book as a historical work that will touch on contemporary issues such as whether women take a spouse's last name at marriage, hyphenate or continue to use their birth name.

The text will explore societal norms like how men are not expected to change their names when they marry and "the way that our culture values men's identity and individualism differently than it does women's," Eichner said.

It will also delve into reasons behind why immigrants sometimes assimilated to their countries by changing names.



Carolyn Eichner

Since its establishment in 1946 by Congress, the [Fulbright Program](#) has given more than 400,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

The [primary source of funding](#) for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation by the U.S. Congress to the State Department. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support.

**By Genaro C. Armas, University Relations**

# Automation and the Great Resignation: Sociologist takes on hiring systems

In case you haven't heard, there's a worker shortage in the United States. As the country recovers from the pandemic, companies are trying to bring their employees back into the workplace but are finding that many of those employees have resigned – a so-called "Great Resignation."

There are many factors behind this worker shortage, but Noelle Chesley thinks there might be one going overlooked: The use of automated hiring systems to fill those open positions.

Chesley is an associate professor of sociology at UWM and her research focuses on the intersection of technology, work, and family. She's noticed researchers becoming more and more concerned with automated hiring systems and how they might actually be filtering out qualified candidates. These systems include a variety of software, but people might be most familiar with platforms like Indeed, ZipRecruiter, or Monster that use algorithms and keyword screening to automatically sort and match job seekers with employers. Other systems are custom-made for companies and may include applicant tracking, resume screening and ranking, custom analytics, assessment tools, and even personality tests.

"If these algorithms work, terrific. They scale up really, really quickly and can reach millions of people. That can work really well," Chesley said. "But the opposite is true, too. I'm a lot more worried about the opposite case, which is that the algorithms actually aren't working that well and we're scaling them up without attending to what the consequences of that might be."

Chesley has identified four possible problems with automated hiring systems, and also has some possible solutions that may address some of their potential harms.

**By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science**

## 1. Algorithms may not use the best criteria for matching.

Before job seekers can apply, employers have to make sure their job ad actually reaches those looking for work. But research has shown that using an automated system to do that can have some unexpected pitfalls, Chesley noted.

"The algorithms in Google or LinkedIn, or several other platforms, have been tested on how that information gets sent out to different types of users. One of the things we know is that it doesn't work the same way for all users," Chesley said.

The machine learning and programming for these algorithms can often draw conclusions that the programmers never intended. For instance, one audit of Google showed that, due to privacy settings, men were more likely to be shown certain job ads than women. An algorithm at Amazon searching for internal candidates to fill higher-up positions targeted only male candidates – because male candidates had been overwhelmingly hired for those positions in the past.

"You might think that qualified women or qualified men might be equally likely to view that job ad," Chesley said. "The fact of the matter is they're not. The algorithms work in such black box ways that, depending on how people set their settings on their profile, for instance, can influence whether or not they'll even see the ad.

"To the extent that, you know, women are half of the labor force, you're shrinking your applicant pool. There's the connection to the worker shortage," Chesley added.

## 1. Companies should audit their automation.

"If they know that they're launching ads on certain platforms, (companies) should have some of their technical people look and do a bit of testing to see who's seeing these ads," Chesley said. The same holds true for the internal systems that companies use to screen resumes and rank candidates.

"Let's just make sure that we're not scaling up some things that are problematic," she added, referring to the inadvertent sexism, racism, and other potential discrimination that algorithms can inadvertently introduce into a candidate search. Because organizations have control over the platforms they use to distribute job ads and their own automated systems, this is a natural place to think about making changes.

## 2. Using automated hiring systems can create problems at scale

Estimates are that 99% of Fortune 500 companies use automated hiring systems in some capacity. Over the last two years, many more companies have turned to automation in their human resources departments, thanks to the shift towards online and remote work during the pandemic. While automated systems are necessary to wade through the vast pool of applications that companies receive, Chesley worries that their filters may be disqualifying perfectly good candidates – and they're doing it across the board.

"Part of it is the same algorithm issue with the job (ads), which is that there can be things that happen in these algorithms that lead to sort of weird outcomes," she noted. "The other issue is also that there some human tendencies that are getting reapplied and these algorithms are setting some really key filters."

For instance, the algorithms could be told to screen out candidates who have more than a six-month gap in employment on their resume. That's a bad idea when society is trying to emerge from a pandemic in which thousands of people lost their jobs, Chesley said.

And because these automated systems are so ubiquitous, applying those criteria broadly has a tremendous affect on the labor market.

"If you're rejecting automatically with no human discretion, you might not even realize that your system is set up to do that," Chesley said. "That's the idea of rejecting qualified applicants at scale."

## 2. The job ad matters

Research shows that how companies craft a job ad can impact the kind of candidate who applies. Using more masculine language in an ad can inadvertently discourage women from applying, Chesley said. Employers should also think about the qualifications they're requiring: Is that qualification truly necessary for a person's job performance, or is the hiring manager searching for a "purple squirrel"?

## 3. More recruiters want 'purple squirrels'

In recruiter parlance, a 'purple squirrel' is a candidate with superior skills, that meets the qualifications and goes beyond them, the kind a recruiter would dream of hiring. In other words, a candidate as rare as a 'purple squirrel.'

Chesley said that recruiters are searching for them more and more.

"Because it's possible to filter and get so much information about all of (a candidate's) different attributes, we've had a raising of expectations in hiring. There's some research to show that job ads are becoming more and more complex," Chesley said. "There's this uptick in expectations on the part of hiring managers."

For example, employers may want to hire someone fully proficient in the Adobe Suite, but the job only requires using Photoshop. That can eliminate many qualified candidates and could contribute to the labor shortage.

## 3. Treat job seekers like customers

Developers of automated hiring systems should reconsider who their product is for.

"The idea is to harness the current fascination with improving customer experiences online (sometimes called 'UX' research) and translate that to thinking of job seekers as 'customers,'" Chesley said.

Because hiring organizations are the actual clients, any push for change would have to come from them — to call for a product that provides a better experience for job seekers.

"What would that experience entail? More transparency, better communication with the hiring organization, timely decision making, etc.," Chesley added.

## 4. Automated hiring systems could lead to alienation

Much of the "Great Resignation" has been fueled by employees seeking better treatment and wages, but Chesley wonders if there's not an additional reason: Oftentimes, applying for jobs can feel like throwing your resume into a black hole.

"I wonder a lot about the role of a very alienating job-seeking experience that is, at least in part, being fueled by automation," Chesley said. "Public opinion research suggests a general distrust of automation in hiring, and some more targeted studies of job seekers suggest that potential workers find interacting with these systems alienating."

She added that automated systems are designed with the employer as the client with little regard to applicants.

"To me, one of the things that is really unjust ... is that you're actually contributing free labor and information that's going to be used by systems (like LinkedIn or Indeed) whether or not you get a job, so they profit from your information," she said.

## 4. The government might have a role.

"Government and other stake holders, such as non-profits that work with job seekers, may need to develop interventions and policies that directly support job seekers in learning how to best navigate automated hiring practices, as well as policies that better regulate the use of automated hiring tools," Chesley said.



Noelle Chesley

Professor Chesley will also be a featured speaker at the 2022 TDCON (Talent Development Council) sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Being held April 7-8, the topic this year is "Resetting for the Future of Work: Uncover Ways to Deal with the Worker Shortage in Wisconsin."

# A life of service

When Daniel Pope was working as a chef at Lula Café in Chicago, he manned the kitchens with a line cook named Cipriano.

“He was the best line cook I have ever seen. I mean, the way he moved,” Pope recalled. “He was like a ballet dancer. He never spoke during service. He would make jokes before and after, but during service he was always really focused.”

Cipriano took off for a week to visit Mexico. But when the week was up, he didn’t return. Like many kitchens in the restaurant industry, employees are tight-lipped about their immigration status. Pope never knew for sure, but the rumors were that Cipriano was late in returning because there were some problems with the coyotes – guides who help people cross the U.S./Mexico border illegally.

“It really struck me,” Pope recalled. “Here’s this guy that shows up earlier than all of us, who works harder than all of us, but wasn’t getting the same benefits as all of us because there are some lines on a map and some laws that he couldn’t navigate because of language difficulties. There wasn’t an advocate.”

So, he decided to become one. And that was Daniel Pope’s first step on the journey to pre-law at UW-Milwaukee.

## The road to college

Pope is not your traditional student. He’s in his 40s, married, and enjoyed a long career as a chef before he decided to earn his Bachelor’s.

His dad was in the Air Force, and Pope followed his father’s postings around the United States as a kid. His work in the restaurant industry began as a teenager when he was living in Omaha, Nebraska.

“I became a vegetarian. This was 1995 in Omaha, so I had to learn to cook for myself,” he joked. Then he found that he liked cooking. He began working in restaurants, went to culinary school, and established a career as a chef before he and his wife settled in Milwaukee to be close to family. He’s worked at restaurants like AP Bar and Kitchen and Glass + Griddle. Today, he’s a pastry chef at an Italian restaurant in Bayview.

But the restaurant industry is hard on your body, and Pope was ready for a change. He’d always been interested in politics – “I follow politics the way most people follow the Kardashians or cooking shows,” Pope laughed – and was also interested in law. His experiences watching immigrant line cooks being treated unfairly made him want to do more to help.

“And then I guess, it all came to a head when President Trump issued his Muslim travel ban,” Pope said. He watched in fascination as people rallied at airports to protest the executive order that prohibited travelers and refugees from seven majority-Muslim countries from entering the United States.

“It was suspended by a couple of lawyers in New York, and I went, ‘This is something a person can do. ... A couple of people with the right brains and the right words can stop this. You can fight for something.’”

Pope was also inspired by his wife, who after years as a server, decided to attend college to earn her nursing degree. With her example, the inspiration of ACLU lawyers fighting the travel ban, and his desire to help immigrants like Cipriano, Pope enrolled at UW-Milwaukee and majored in political science on the pre-law track.

Pope is set to graduate this May and has been accepted to Marquette Law School in the fall.

## Hopes for the future

Pope has thrived in his classes, and he especially appreciates his courses with professor Sara Benesh.

“She has given me the hardest exams, and because they’ve been the most challenging, I’ve learned the most from her,” Pope said. “She emphasized the importance of (precedent) and the language of the law. I think it’s given me the most preparation for what to come ahead – because I’ve still got to do the law school part.”

# Chef majors in pre-law at UWM to promote social justice



After a long career as a chef, political science major Daniel Pope will earn his Bachelor’s degree in May.

He’s also enjoyed his classes with professor Paru Shah, who teaches about city politics and demographics.

Though he did well at UWM, Pope was still nervous when it came time to apply to law school. He’s older than the typical student and his work experience is in the service industry. He thought his varied background might help him be a better lawyer, but wasn’t sure that law school admissions officers would feel the same.

But they did, and Pope is preparing for his first semester as a law student. He hopes to focus on immigration or labor law – something that will help him help “the little guy.”

He knows he’ll face opposition, especially because immigration can be a controversial issue.

“I’m not getting into this to facilitate illegality,” Pope said firmly. “I’m getting into this to try and facilitate an easier legality. ... You need to feed your family and you can get across (the border) and get that food within a week without

following the (immigration) process, or you can follow the process and you don’t know how long it’s going to take. I’m trying to do this so that the people who do want to work are rewarded for that.”

It might make all the difference for the Ciprianos of the world.

**By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science**

Daniel Pope majored in political science and will graduate this May. He plans to attend Marquette University Law School. Photo courtesy of Daniel Pope.

# UWM students make a rare salamander find at the Field Station

Exploring the outdoors can lead to some interesting scientific finds. Look what happened when Isaac Newton saw that apple fall from the tree.

UWM students Morgan Schmanski and Joey Cannizzaro made an interesting and rare find just by digging in the dirt.

Schmanski, who graduated in December in conservation and environmental sciences, and Cannizzaro, a graduate student in biology, were on a hike at the UWM Field Station last fall as part of a conservation and environmental science field methods class. Schmanski, who was also taking a class in mineralogy, spotted an interesting rock and decided to check it out.

## Tail spotted in the dirt

Digging in the soft dirt around the rock, Schmanski saw the tail of an unusual creature underneath. Classmates told her it was probably a dead snake, but she was intrigued enough to mention it to biology graduate student and herpetologist Cannizzaro when the group went to lunch.

"I was like, 'Dude, you need to look at this,'" Schmanski said. "So Joey put his hands in the dirt and found this little guy."

The "little guy" turned out to be a rare four-toed salamander, the first one ever documented in Ozaukee County.

"Salamanders in general are really hard to find," Cannizzaro said. "They don't call like frogs do, and they're underground most of the year, so they're very, very hard to find." He's familiar with amphibians through his work with frogs in Associate



Joey Cannizzaro



Morgan Schmanski

Professor of Biology Gerlinde Höbel's lab.

"I was ecstatic," said Cannizzaro.

"That's an understatement," Schmanski added with a laugh.

## Find confirmed

The four-toed salamander (scientific name *Hemidactylium scutatum*) is distinguished from other local salamanders by its gray and white speckled belly.

Gretchen Meyer, director of the UWM Field Station who was leading the class, which was actually focused on the beech forest that day, confirmed the find. The identification was later further confirmed by other researchers who verified what the students had found. The salamander was photographed and returned to its home with GPS coordinates documented.

Cannizzaro believes that the field station, which is adjacent to the Cedarburg Bog, provides a good environment for the rare salamander because it has an abundance of sphagnum moss where the females like to nest, so more of the rare salamanders may turn up.

## Hard to find

The finding was submitted to the journal *Herpetological Review* to be published as a new county record. That issue came out March 22.

"These salamanders are found statewide where older forest cover is intact, but distribution records are very spotty because they are hard to find," said Gary Casper, biologist and associate scientist at the field station. "In the southern half of the state they often occur as 'glacial relicts' in forest patches that once were connected to continuous forest cover but are now isolated in moister micro-climates within prairie regions," he added. "This is a new county record, and it is nice that the students recognized it as such and documented it."

The nearest other documented populations are in the North Kettle Moraine State Forest, according to Casper.

Cannizzaro, who has been interested in reptiles and amphibians



This four-toed salamander (scientific name *Hemidactylium scutatum*) is found statewide in Wisconsin, but had never been spotted in Ozaukee County until UWM students Morgan Schmanski and Joey Cannizzaro saw one on a class trip to the UWM Field Station adjacent to the Cedarburg Bog. (Photo courtesy of Morgan Schmanski)

since he was a child, is hopeful that other members of the rare salamander family will be found at the UWM Field Station or nearby Cedarburg Bog. "The habitat is right for them, so it's likely there are more."

## "Happy and fortunate"

He's also amazed that with all the research that biologists have done in the area over the past 50 years, the salamander hasn't been previously discovered, but it's tiny and can stay well-hidden.

Both he and Schmanski really appreciated the opportunity to take the class and spend time at the field station. Each session focused on different topics, including trees and insects.

"It's a great class to take. I'm just very happy and fortunate that the university offers a class like that at the field station," Cannizzaro said.

Schmanski liked the fact that students in the class really bonded and formed a community. "That's why I knew I could ask Joey about what I'd found."

"We spend a lot of time outside during the class and the students find many interesting things, but finding a four-toed salamander was exceptional," said Meyer. "This was an exciting find, both for the two students who found it and for the rest of the class who got to see it and learn about it."

Although Schmanski graduated in December, she plans to eventually

return to school to study more about conservation because she has a great interest in the environment and really felt she learned a lot, especially this past semester, she said.

Taking the class at the field station and finding the salamander really helped wrap up her undergraduate education nicely.

"Gretchen was definitely a phenomenal professor. She just made everything I've learned in the past four years come together."

**By Kathy Quirk, University Relations**

# Se habla español aquí: Professor describes the impact of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture within the U.S. and Wisconsin

Spanish is the official language of 20 countries, plus Puerto Rico, and is the second-most spoken native language in the world. In 23 countries where Spanish has a significant presence, there is a branch of the Academies of the Spanish Language, highlighting the rich diversity of the Spanish-speaking world. Dr. César Ferreira, Professor of Latin American Literature in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at UWM, has been a corresponding member of the Peruvian Academy of the Spanish Language since 2014, and has now been nominated to become a corresponding member of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language as well. This academy consists of a select group of scholars who oversee and promote the use of Spanish within the U.S.

Dr. Ferreira spoke about the influence of Spanish throughout the U.S., Wisconsin, and here in Milwaukee.

## Why is there a North American Academy of the Spanish Language (ANLE), even though Spanish is not an official language in the United States?

The representation of ANLE in the United States, which was founded in 1973, reflects the significant and growing importance of Spanish within the U.S. Current estimates indicate that there are at least 41 million people who speak Spanish at home and another 12 million bilingual speakers of English and Spanish. This means that the United States has more Spanish speakers than any other country except Mexico, and Spanish should not be considered a “foreign” language in this country.

## Where do you see the greatest influence of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures in this country?

While we all see Hispanic influence in everyday culture such as media, food and sports, I see the most significant influence of both Hispanic culture and the Spanish language in literature and in music. In literature, this includes not only the global popularity of Latin American authors, such as Gabriel García Márquez, Isabel Allende and Pablo Neruda, to name just a few, but also the growing presence of Latino literature in this country, with authors such as Sandra Cisneros, Daniel Alarcón and Julia Álvarez. The Hispanic influence in both the language and styles of music in the U.S. is also unprecedented, with musicians such as Gloria Estefan,



César Ferreira

Ricky Martin and Shakira, and it is no longer necessary for Hispanic musicians to “crossover” to English in order to be successful.

## What is your area of interest and what courses can students take in your program?

I teach contemporary Latin American literature, a rich and diverse literature. In fact, Hispanic literature is widely taught, in Spanish and English, at the university level in the U.S. right now. The Spanish program at UWM offers a variety of courses that, along with introductory language courses, include Spanish literature, Hispanic linguistics, Latinx literature and Spanish for the professions (Health, Business, Translation). We also have an MA program

that attracts students from within the United States and abroad. Our department also offers courses in Portuguese language and culture, given its close linguistic and cultural ties with Spanish. We have an active and diverse group of faculty from many parts of the Spanish-speaking world, including the United States, who teach a wide spectrum of topics on the Hispanic world.

## Is there a large Hispanic population in Wisconsin, in Milwaukee, and at UWM?

Wisconsin has almost 400,000 Hispanics, which represents about 7% of the population, and 19% of the population of Milwaukee is Hispanic. The Mexican government opened a consulate here in 2016 and organizations such as the United Community Center provide services in education, human services, health, community development and cultural arts to the vibrant and growing Hispanic community in our city.

UWM is part of the HSI Network of Wisconsin (HSI-NOW) as it works towards the goal of becoming a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). The Roberto Hernández Center supports Hispanic students on our campus, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies is a Title VI National Resource Center that supports teaching and research and serves not only UWM faculty, students and staff, but also K-12 educators and the greater community.

Along with students who study Spanish as a second language, we have many Hispanic students who grew up speaking Spanish at home and want to study their first language formally. Many of them choose to major in Spanish to further develop their language ability and gain knowledge about the Hispanic world.

## Why learn another language?

“Reading a novel, watching a film, or listening to music in another language enriches your understanding of the content far beyond what you can appreciate with a translation of that work..” - César Ferreira

## What kind of jobs can undergraduates or graduates get with a concentration in Spanish?

Being bi/multilingual and bi/multicultural can complement any other specialization, including in the medical field, the healthcare industry, law and law enforcement, business and marketing, journalism, social work, education, and so on. But on a more general level, the study of other languages and cultures helps you to develop a better understanding of other people and other cultures. Learning and using another language also has many cognitive benefits, such as improved memory and critical-thinking skills. Understanding another language opens up new worlds to you and is an enriching and pleasurable experience. Reading a novel, watching a film, or listening to music in another language enriches your understanding of the content far beyond what you can appreciate with a translation of that work.

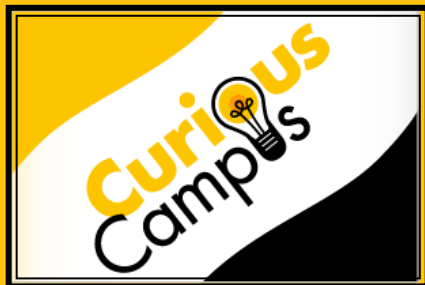
## Speaking of the arts and other languages, what are your thoughts on the success of the Disney film “Encanto”, which won this year’s Academy Award for Best Animated Feature? What is uniquely Hispanic about this film?

This film is a great example of how much Hispanic culture has entered into the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural quilt of this country. Throughout the film and songs, the characters use a blend of Spanish and English, a phenomenon very common among Hispanics in the U.S., and some of the music is entirely sung in Spanish. The melodies and rhythms also represent the richness of the different Latin American musical genres. The film itself focuses on Colombian culture, but the images of violence and displacement and the importance of the multi-generational family unit are familiar to Hispanics from all countries.

Additionally, given the basis of the film in magic realism, a genre widely identified with Latin American culture, the image of the yellow butterflies (*mariposas*) at the end of the song “Dos Oruguitas” (Two Caterpillars), evokes the imagery of the yellow butterflies found in “One Hundred Years of Solitude,” Gabriel García Márquez’s most acclaimed novel.

## Article courtesy of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese



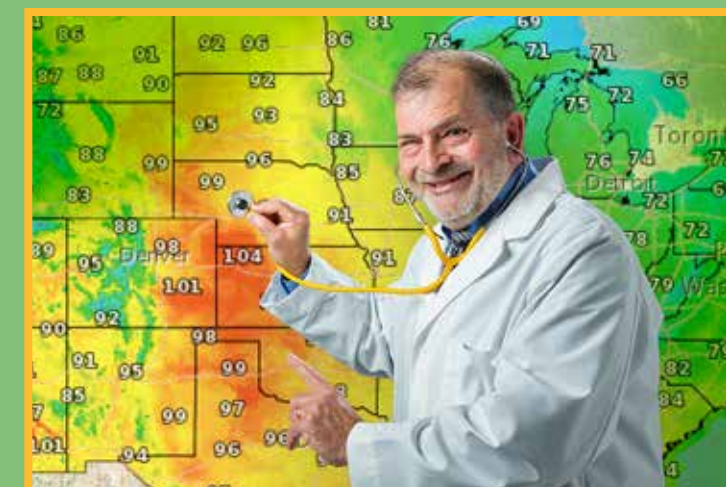


# Catch up with the Curious Campus podcast

Join UWM for discussions on science, discovery and culture. Curious Campus is produced by UWM, in cooperation with its research partners. Our work improves the economic outlook and quality of life of our city, state and global community.

[www.uwm.com/show/curiouscampus](http://www.uwm.com/show/curiouscampus)

# Family fun with Science Bag!



Join the UWM campus community for a brand new Science Bag in April!

## Wondering about the weather?

Have you ever watched a meteorologist standing in front of a weather map and wondered what all those strange symbols and lines mean? This program will unfold the story of one of the oldest and most powerful tools of the modern weather forecaster. Hear the tale of René Descartes, who slept late and discovered the key to naming locations on a map. Become acquainted with Brandes, Galton, and Bjerknes – ground-breaking pioneers in the art and science of weather analysis. And join in constructing your own weather map, enabling you to diagnose and understand the behavior of the wind!

The April Science Bag is presented by Atmospheric Sciences senior lecturer Bart Adrian.

Science Bag is a family-friendly educational program designed to engage all from ages 8 to 88. No registration necessary.

**WHAT:** Science Bag

**WHERE:** Physics 137

**WHEN:** April 1 at 7 p.m.  
April 8 at 7 p.m.  
April 10 at 2 p.m.  
April 15 at 7 p.m.  
April 22 at 7 p.m.  
April 29 at 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** <https://uwm.edu/science-bag/>

College of Letters & Science • UW-Milwaukee •

# Brain study gives insight into how pandemic is affecting adolescents

How much worse was the mental health of “tweens” – children between the ages of 10 and 14 – during the height of COVID-19, compared to before the pandemic? Did adolescents who experienced loss, family strife and social isolation suffer more from depression and substance use than those with fewer pandemic-related stresses?

Using their involvement in a sweeping nationwide research effort, UWM researchers took the opportunity to gain insight into these pandemic questions.

The **ABCD Study** is the largest long-term study of brain and child health in the United States, tracking 12,000 adolescents, including 386 in Wisconsin. The aim is to identify what impact individual life experiences have on developing brains.

Here, Krista Lisdahl, professor of psychology, and Ashley Stinson, a graduate student in psychology, talk about how kids were able to manage – or not manage – additional stress from the pandemic and how it may have changed their brains. Listen to the full show at [WUWM.com](http://WUWM.com) or on your favorite podcast app.

**The ABCD project was already well underway when the pandemic hit. Could you provide some general background on that project?**

*Lisdahl:* Sure. UWM is one of 21 research sites across the country that’s collecting lots of data from children and their parents on how young brains develop and mature.

This is a 10-year project funded by the National Institutes of Health. We’re trying to generate detailed data about what childhood experiences put people on different trajectories.

So we look into a complex mix of things, from family, peer and sociocultural factors to neighborhood factors as well as physical health. And then we pair those with individual brain imaging. We really want to understand these complex risk and resilience factors that are going to influence the brain.



Krista Lisdahl (standing) and Ashley Stinson. (UWM Photo/Troye Foxe)

**In the last two years you’ve had the opportunity to do some research on how disruptions from the pandemic were affecting the ABCD participants. Tell about those sub-studies.**

*Lisdahl:* We were definitely interested in how COVID-19-related factors might be influencing brain development. One of the first COVID sub-studies Ashley and I worked on was comparing substance use patterns before the pandemic and after, controlling for age.

Overall, substance use was stable for the first six months of the lockdown. And COVID infection or worry about COVID didn’t seem to be linked with substance use.

We also found, in several studies, evidence of resilience. In one of the studies, we found that households with lower economic status did have increased COVID-19 disease burden. But they also had more family communication, especially where parents were explaining the “whys” – why social distancing and masking was necessary, and why school was disrupted. This gave kids reassurance, which seems to be very protective for youth mental health.

The data shows that parents who frequently checked in with their kids’ schooling had kids who felt better about remote learning. There was a lot more school satisfaction when parents provided the support to help kids work through their emotions.

On the societal level, what also came through was that experiencing discrimination and racism related to COVID-19 was linked to distress, especially in our teenagers of color.

**Ashley, you were the lead author on a study of whether those with childhood adversity in their backgrounds had worse mental health during COVID compared to those who didn’t.**

*Stinson:* For a little context, when I say “childhood adversity,” I mean experiences that kids might have had, like abuse, neglect or other family dysfunctions broadly. And, we know that individuals who experience childhood adversity are often set up on some trajectories that lead to negative health outcomes.

Our main findings were that youth who had experienced childhood adversity before the pandemic were experiencing poor mental health during the pandemic, and we found that was true regardless of race or ethnicity.

However, when looking at racial backgrounds specifically, we did see that minority youth experienced more worry about COVID or more COVID-related stress, which highlights again how their communities have been more impacted by COVID.

**What do we already know about chronic early life adversity pre-pandemic?**

*Stinson:* In addition to changes in brain structure, some studies that have shown there also are differences in the ability to process emotions or make decisions or inhibit responses.

We also have to think about how it might be impacting future brain development, which might lead to mental health outcomes like depression and anxiety, but also might confer future risk for substance use.

While we look at the effects later in life, it’s really important also look at childhood adversity while the children are actually experiencing it. Looking at it during adulthood isn’t enough since development is happening during adolescence.

**By Laura Otto, University Relations**



# Alumni Accomplishments

**Casey Griffiths ('11, Masters of Public Administration)** became the first-ever [city administrator](#) for the city of Cudahy, Wisconsin in February. He previously served as the village administrator and clerk/treasurer of the village of Wind Point.

**Sandra Mason ('92, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** was recognized as the 2021 Communicator of the Year (Association category) by [PR News](#) as part of its Nonprofit Awards. The Nonprofit Awards program honors the most talented communicators and teams in the nonprofit sector. Mason is the Director of Public Relations for the Association of Equipment Manufacturers and was recognized for her leadership of AERM's public and media relations initiatives.

**Anastacia Scott ('15, Nonprofit certificate; '17, PhD Africology; '18, Museum Studies certificate)** was appointed Director of Community Partnerships and Special Projects of the [Georgia Historical Society](#). She has seven years of experience working in museums and was previously the Director of Educational Programming at the Hermann-Grima + Gallier Historic Houses.

**George L. Christenson ('13, Masters of Public Administration)** was named the new clerk of circuit court in [Milwaukee County](#) in February. Appointed by a majority of Circuit Court judges, Christenson will be responsible for record keeping, overseeing the jury system, preparing the annual budget, supervising staff, and more.

**Briana Ziebell-Glasel ('10, BA Art History)** is the owner of U Paint & Party, which hosts painting parties where participants are guided through creating their own masterpieces. Her business, founded in 2013, was featured in the [Wausau Pilot and Review](#).

**Katelyn Bohr ('14, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** was hired as a partner manager at [Standard Finishing Systems](#), a supplier of post-press and paper handling solutions. She will help the company in its partner outreach and communication strategies.

**Michael Hawes ('06, BA Political Science; '09, Master of Public Administration)** was named the new [village manager](#) of Greendale, Wisconsin, with his job set to begin in April. He is currently the village administrator of Union Grove, Wisconsin.

**Thomas Bunton ('17, PhD Communication)** was hired as the associate vice president and chief information officer at [New Mexico State University](#). He was previously associate vice chancellor and chief information officer at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

**Dan Kaminsky ('97, BA English)** joined national law firm [Quarles & Brady](#). Kaminsky is a Milwaukee-area real estate attorney with 20 years of experience in his field.

**Brianne Heidebreder ('08, PhD Political Science)**, who teaches political science at Kansas State University, was named one of four recipients of the 2022 Commerce Bank and W.T. Kemper Foundation Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Congratulations to **Josh Rosenberg ('06, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** whose short film just won an [Academy Award!](#)

Rosenberg is the head of productions at Breakwater Studios, which created the now Oscar-winning short film "The Queen of Basketball." The film explores the life of basketball phenom Luisa Harris, who, in addition to championships and accolades, was the first woman to score a basket in the Olympics. The film garnered its award in the Oscars' Best Short Documentary category.

Rosenberg and his team are working on another short film to be released in June. The film is called "Small Town Wisconsin."

In addition to his feature film credits, Rosenberg has worked as a Line Producer and Production Manager for Oprah Winfrey for over 7 years, according to his biography. Josh has completed shoots with Steven Spielberg, Beyoncé, Michelle and Barack Obama, Jeff Bridges, Dwayne Johnson and many many other guests.



# Upcoming Events

April 5 - May 12

**Art Exhibit - Off the Press: Exploring Reproducible War Art.** Emile H. Mathis Gallery (Mitchell Hall). Curated by Emily Hankins. The gallery is free and open Mondays through Thursdays from 10 am. to 4 p.m.

April 7

**United We Read – Creative Writing Faculty-Student Reading Series.** 7 - 8:30 pm. Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St. Elizabeth Hoover, Juan Rodriguez, Beth Vigoren, and Claire Davis. Limited in-person attendance with [registration](#) and [live-streamed](#).

April 8

**Planetarium Show: Asian Universe.** 6:30 - 8 pm. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Live indoor stargazing and a storyteller. In between shows, students from South Division High School will perform traditional Indian, Karen, and Lao cultural dances. This event is free.

April 13

**Ctr. for 21st Century Studies: Nonhuman Kinship Lonely No More!** 1 - 1:30 pm. Online. Barbara J. King (William & Mary), Kite aka Suzanne Kite (Concordia University), Juno Salazar Parreñas (Cornell University), and Sonia Zhang (New School). Register [here](#).

April 16 and 30

**Planetarium Show: Solar System Expedition.** 2-3 pm. Manfred Olson Planetarium. An interactive tour of our cosmic neighborhood. This program is appropriate for ages 4 and up. Tickets are \$6. Reserve tickets [here](#).

Incoming freshmen can learn more about the majors in the College of Letters & Science by attending a virtual Open House. Register at <https://uwm.edu/letters-science/open-houses/>. Remaining events before the national May 1 decision day are:

**April 5:** Geography, 4:15 pm

**April 6:** Economics, 5:30 pm

**April 7:** History, 4 pm

**April 14:** Women's & Gender Studies, 3:30 pm

**April 15:** Conservation & Environmental Science; 3 pm

**April 15:** Pre-Med/Pre-Physician Assistant/Pre-Pharmacy and other pre-healthcare; 4 pm

April 18

**Book Launch "A Nazi Camp Near Danzig: Perspectives on Shame and on the Holocaust from Stutthof"** 4 - 5:00 pm. With author Ruth Schwertgeger, Professor Emerita of German. [Register online](#) for this virtual event.

**Clube Lusófono Online Brazil Series: Advertising, TV & Cinema, the Historical Context of Multimedia in Brazil.** 4:30 - 5:30 pm. Luis Mauro Filho is a journalist and advertiser who explores the relation between politics, sports and culture with a focus on Brazilian cultural and Brazil's social framework. Link available via [Facebook](#).

April 21

**Planetarium Show: Milwaukee Shapes the Universe.** 7 - 8 pm. Online. A panel discussion focused on space research and technologies being innovated in Milwaukee. Prasenjit Guptasarma (Physics) presents. Jean Creighton (Planetarium) moderates. Register [here](#).



# Passings

Professor Emeritus of Political Science Brett Hawkins passed away in early March. Dr. Hawkins joined the UWM faculty as an Associate Professor in 1970, already a respected and well-published specialist in state and local government. He was promoted to full Professor in 1971 and served UWM for nearly 30 years, retiring in 1999.

Dr. Hawkins played a key role in the development of the Master's in Public Administration program, and also served as Department Chair. Professor Emeritus Don Pienkos recalled, "Brett was a serious scholar, a teacher with high expectations of his students, and an engaging colleague. His office door was always open

for a friendly chat with colleagues and students."

Brett was born in Buffalo, New York on Sept. 15, 1937. He earned his BA, with high honors, from the University of Rochester in 1959. He attended Vanderbilt University on a National Defense Act Fellowship, where he received his MA in 1962 and PhD in 1964. Prior to joining UWM, Brett was an Assistant Professor in Political Science at Washington and Lee University, and an Associate Professor at the University of Georgia, Athens.

Brett was listed in Marquis Who's Who as a noteworthy political science professor for more than 25 years. Throughout the course of his career, he contributed articles to a wide variety of journals and authored numerous industry-related works. His obituary can be viewed [online](#).



## Laurels and Accolades

**Michael Mirer's (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** co-authored paper, "The virus takes the field: Asserting sports journalistic authority when the games shut down," has been selected for the Sports Communication Interest Group's Top Papers Session at the Annual International Communication Association Conference to be held in Paris this May.

**Anne Bonds (Geography)** received the 2022 **E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Award** from the American Association of Geographers. This award "recognizes members of the Association who have made truly outstanding contributions to the geographic field due to their special competence in teaching or research."

**Dawn Scher Thomae (Anthropology)** received this year's Society for American Archaeology award for Excellence in Collections-based Research and Education at the annual meeting in Chicago on April 1.

**Rina Ghose (Geography)**, Peter Brunzelle (Continuing Education), and John Mantsch (MCW) received a \$600K grant from the **Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE)** for their project, "Precision Epidemiology and the Opioid Crisis: Using Next-Generation Geospatial Analyses to Guide Community-Level Responses in Diverse and Segregated Metropolitan Regions." Also, Ghose's **article**, co-authored with geography graduate student **Amir Forati (Geography)** and John Mantsch (MCW), on their opioid research was recently published in the *Journal of Urban Health*.

Nine undergraduate students, including **Tristan Jarvey (faculty advisor Christine Larson, Psychology)** and **Nathan Tennes (faculty advisor Felipe Alberto, Biological Sciences)**, were selected to present outcomes of their research and creative collaborations with UWM faculty at the System-wide **Research in the Rotunda** event in Madison on March 9. The students shared findings with legislators, state leaders, UW alumni, and other supporters as they advocated for continued support of research activity.

**Kimberly Blaeser (English and American Indian Studies)** was a **featured performer and panelist** in March at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst as part of a three-day series of events entitled, "**The Future is Now: Art, Sustainability, Activism.**" The programs connect artists, scientists, and changemakers addressing climate impacts on culture, the power of Indigenous knowledge, and how science and art communities can work together to address the pressing issues of our time.

**Celeste Campos-Castillo (Sociology)** was selected as the recipient of the Midwest Sociological Society's (MSS) 2022 Early Career Scholarship Award, which recognizes publications by an early career scholar that are particularly meritorious, creative, or enlightening. The award will be presented at the MSS Annual Meeting on April 14.

**Anjana Mudambi's (Communication)** co-authored paper, "A Critical-Reflexive Review of the Communication Discipline's Statements Against Racism through an Anti-Racist Lens," has been selected for the Ethnicity and Race in Communication Top Papers Session at the Annual International Communication Association conference to be held in Paris this May.

**Obiageli "Oby" Nwabuzor ('16, Communication)** was named a 40 Under 40 by the *Milwaukee Business Journal*. She is the director of community impact for the American Heart Association and in 2019 founded Envision Growth LLC, a real estate development firm focused on urban development.



## People in Print

**Blain Neufeld (Philosophy).** 2022. *Public Reason and Political Autonomy: Realizing the Ideal of a Civic People*. New York: Routledge.

**Miren F. Boehm (Philosophy).** 2022. Review of Hsueh M. Qu. *Hume's Epistemological Evolution*. Oxford University Press. *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 60(1):165-167.

**Michael Z. Newman (English).** 2022. *The Media Studies Toolkit*. New York: **Routledge**.

**Sarah E. Riforgiate, Ali Gattoni, and Sierra Kane (all Communication).** 2022. Graduate Teaching Assistants' Liminality and Post-COVID Educational Legacy. In *COVID and Higher Education: Teaching and Learning* (Michael G. Strawser, ed.). Washington, D.C: Lexington Books, pp. 33-50.

**Ruth Schwertfeger (emerita German).** 2022. A Nazi Camp Near Danzig: Perspectives on Shame and on the Holocaust from Stutthof. New York: **Bloomsbury**.



## In the Media and Around the Community

**Robert Baker (African and African Diaspora Studies)** explained some of the history of Milwaukee Public Schools' racial segregation on **Spectrum 1 News**.

What's the cure for loneliness? **Anne Basting (English and 21st Century Studies)** discussed her Lonely No More! project to find the answer on **Wisconsin Public Radio**.

**Joel Berkowitz (Jewish Studies)** served as a consultant for the play "Indecent" and explained the controversy surrounding it as the production prepared to open in Milwaukee, the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** reported.



The **Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service** referenced **Amanda Seligman's (History) Encyclopedia of Milwaukee** in an article about the St. Mary's Orthodox Ukrainian Church. She and student **Lillian Pachner (History)** also took to **WUWM Radio's Lake Effect** to explain how one of her courses teaches Milwaukee history through reenactments via Twitter. Finally, after the U.S. Senate passed a bill to make Daylight Savings Time permanent, Seligman offered **WUWM Radio** a historical perspective of the time change in Wisconsin.

**Shale Horowitz (Political Science)** explained the historic relationship between Ukraine and Russia on **Fox 6 News** as the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues.

Beer played an important role in the relationship between the living and the dead in ancient cultures, **Bettina Arnold (Anthropology)** noted on the **GoodBeerHunting** blog.

Zebrafish can regenerate their optic nerve should it be damaged. **Ava Udvadia (Biological Sciences)** explained how and what that means for human health on **Wisconsin Public Radio**.

It has been 50 years since the first popular video game Pong was released. **Michael Newman (English)** reflected on the game's history on **WUWM Radio**.

In World War I and II, wartime posters were part of each side's propaganda machine. In the war between Russia and Ukraine, the propaganda comes over social media. **Marc Tasman** explained how on **Fox 6 News**. He spoke again on the topic with Neville Bell and Simone Clarke-Cooper, hosts of Kingston, Jamaica's popular morning show, **Smile Jamaica**.

**Daniel J. Russo ('21, MA Media Studies)** appeared on Newsroom Live with Pamela Brown on **CNN** in February discussing recent controversies with Joe Rogan and Spotify.

**Christine Evans (History), John Reuter (Political Science), Maria Haigh (Information Studies) and Jeffrey Sommers (Africa and African Diaspora Studies and Global Studies)** sat as panelists at a **UWM faculty forum** in March that provided discussion of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. **Sommers** also **interviewed** anti-war activist Boris Kagarlitsky, Professor at Moscow School for Social and Economic Sciences, in March.

Though he said he hopes he is wrong, **Avik Chakrabarti (Economics)** told **Fox 6 News** he predicts gas prices could stay above \$4 per gallon for over a year.

Critics say that the US Census' methods of counting prisoners in Census data constitutes gerrymandering. **Margo Anderson (emerita History)** explained the difficulties of counting populations like prisons and college dorms on **KCUR Radio**.

Before President Biden formally nominated Ketanji Brown Jackson for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court, **Sara Benesh (Political Science)** discussed potential picks with the **US News and World Report**.

The **Irish Examiner** referenced **Alison Donnelly's (Geography)** phenological research in an article examining the effects of climate change in Ireland.

**John Heywood's (Economics)** research shows that women in Hollywood earn \$1 million less on average than their male co-stars, **Screenrant** reported.

Death can be a mystery, but **Emily Middleton (Anthropology)** and student **Jana Plotkin (Biological Sciences)** helped **WUWM Radio** understand how death investigators make sense of crime scenes.

**Rebecca Neumann (Economics)** discussed the necessity of financial literacy on **Wisconsin Public Radio**.



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