



# IN FOCUS

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## The art and soul of Cedarburg Bog

Artist alum is Field  
Station's first artist-  
in-residence with a  
mission of giving  
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CONTACT US AT [LET-SCI@UWM.EDU](mailto:LET-SCI@UWM.EDU)

L&S ACTING DEAN: NIGEL ROTHFELS

IN FOCUS EDITOR: DEANNA ALBA



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# A summer in Slovenia: Anthropology students help unearth ancient fort

Picture a blacksmith, laboring over his forge over 2,000 years ago. Think of the heat from his fire that scorched the daubed wall behind it. Imagine the iron shavings that flew off the hot metal he hammered. Hear the clang of each hit, and the murmur of the voices of the fort he serves.

It's not hard for Laura Spear to see that image. In fact, it was her job this summer.

"A lot of archaeologists are not able to see past the artifacts and see the people who used them," she mused. "Ask yourself, are you thinking about who these people are and what these artifacts you're finding mean?"

Spear, an UWM anthropology and classics major, and her schoolmate, graduate student Calleigh Wondra, were part of a cohort of budding archaeologists who spent their summer in Slovenia excavating the remains of an Iron Age hill fort. And yes, they're fairly certain they uncovered what used to be a blacksmith's workshop over the course of their work.

The excavation project, whimsically named "[The Wolves and the Caesars](#)," was led by Adrienne Frie, an assistant professor of anthropology at UW-Oshkosh, and UW-Oshkosh assistant teaching professor of anthropology Kevin Garstki. They collaborated with researchers from the National Museum of Slovenia and the Slovenian Institute of Archaeology to not only lead students in the excavation, but also to deliver lectures on anthropology and the technology of archaeology.

The students, hailing from several UW System schools and from the University of Mississippi, earned course credit for the five weeks they spent abroad. They split their time working on the dig site in the morning and attending lectures in the afternoon. On the weekends, they traveled around Slovenia, exploring as tourists.

"Since we're doing digital archaeology, we had groups for digging, and groups for LiDAR and photogrammetry," explained Wondra, who is working toward her Master's in anthropology with a focus on museum studies. The students sectioned off in thirds and rotated through the three groups every three days. LiDAR is a technology that maps topography using lasers, and photogrammetry uses photography to obtain information about the environment, such as the distance between objects.

"The first week, we were out digging to get the turf off the ground, which is the first layer of dirt that would have built up over time," Wondra said. "After breakfast, (we would) go down to the hill and climb with all of our stuff. ... Carrying that equipment up the hill was not too sexy."

As they dug, they often uncovered artifacts that they catalogued on site. Evidence suggests that the hill fort was abandoned around 100 BCE, and was probably used by the Celts for a few centuries before that.

But what is a hill fort, exactly?

"It's a fortress that has been built to encompass the plateau of the hill," Spear said. "These fortresses were not just sitting alone; they would have had satellite communities around them or even a large community at the base. It's not exactly a castle and medieval village, but it's a well-fortified area that would be able to easily defend the communities if need be."

This is the first time this particular hill fort has been excavated. Wondra recounted how some of the locals would come to talk with the students about their work and learn more about the dig site. She also laughs when she recalls the close quarters.

"We were in a circular pit. We were so close together because there was nowhere to go," she said.

There were also some surprising discoveries – namely, the blacksmith's workshop.

"We were not expecting to find the blacksmith's shop where we did," Spear admitted. She originally thought that having a building that is "constantly on fire" would be dangerous and that it might be located farther away from the fort.

"But we ended up finding it in the opposite area, smackdab in the middle of a bunch of other buildings," she said. The clues were undeniable: There were scorch marks from the forge on daub, a type of ancient insulation; an abundance of an iron-rich stone called hematite; and most telling of all, iron slag, a byproduct of metal-working.



UWM anthropology graduate student Calleigh Wondra (middle, standing) sifts through dirt to find any artifacts she may have missed during her summer spent excavating an Iron Age hill fort in Slovenia. UWM anthropology and classics major Laura Spear (behind Wondra, to left) worked on the dig as well. Photo courtesy of Calleigh Wondra.

It was an important lesson, said Spear.

"You need to be ready for your theories to be totally wrong," she said.

And just as importantly, she said, you need to remember why you're digging in the first place.

"Once a person dies, they are completely vulnerable to the people around them. That vulnerability, as we've seen throughout the centuries, has been taken advantage of. Being the person to intervene between (them) those who would want to take advantage of these civilizations, I think is good."

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



# Professor's podcast parses psychology in "The Patient"

The first episode of Hulu's "The Patient" opens on Alan, played by Steve Carrell, waking up in a basement bedroom. He sits up and stares in horror as he realizes there is a cuff and chain around his ankle, holding him prisoner.

As the show progresses, it is revealed that Alan, a therapist, has been kidnapped by one of his patients. The young man, played by Domhnall Gleeson, has homicidal ideations and is desperate for Alan to cure him of his murderous compulsions.

When Dr. Stacey Nye saw the show's synopsis, she knew she had her next podcast.

"This is the show for me because I'm a psychologist. It's a show about a serial killer. What more could I want in a show?" she laughed.

Nye is a clinical professor of psychology at UWM and runs the university's Psychology Clinic. She's also an experienced podcaster and a self-professed true crime junkie. Most recently, she's the co-host of "[Psychoanalyzing the Patient](#)," a companion podcast to the show that delves into the series' psychological groundings.

## Patiently podcasting

Nye is an old hand at podcasting. Her first podcast, "[The Sh\\*t That Happens to Me](#)," has over 75 episodes in its back catalogue in which she hosts guests like SNL alum [Lauren Holt](#) or local radio personalities Vince Vitrano and Andy "Riggs" Riggle to talk about the – ahem, *stuff* – that makes life funny.

When she pitched her new podcast idea to her producers at Straw Hut Media, they gave the green light and "Psychoanalyzing the Patient" was born.



Stacey Nye

In each episode, Nye and her co-host, Lindsay Jones, dissect one corresponding episode of the show – the things that struck them, their reactions, their predictions. Each episode also features a guest with expertise related to the show.

That's where Jones' connections really shine. Jones is a [music and sound designer](#) for film, television, and theater. He and Nye met when he appeared as a guest on "The Sh\*t That Happens to Me."

"I knew what he did for a living, but I didn't realize when I asked him (to co-host 'Psychoanalyzing the Patient') that he actually knew three of the cast members of the show already," Nye laughed.

Guests have included "The Patient" cast members [Laura Niemi](#) and [Linda Emond](#), as well as the show's Emmy Award-winning score composer, [Nathan Barr](#). But if you're going to psychoanalyze the show, you need some psychoanalysts, so Nye also brought on psychologist [James Kaufman](#) and forensics expert [Laura Pettler](#).

Perhaps the most meaningful guest appeared on the podcast's pilot episode: [Dr. Frank Summers](#), a clinical psychologist who was also Nye's mentor in graduate school.

"I wanted to hear some of his thoughts about Sam (the prospective serial killer character) and I wanted his perspective as a therapist. I had to do a little walking him through how to sign up for Hulu and how to watch the show," she said, laughing, "but it was really fun and his episode is very popular."

Summers gave his take on the first episode of "The Patient," examining how Alan conducts therapy appointments with his patients. He also pointed out a

potential misstep on the character's part which may have led to his abduction, a detail that Nye missed and one which still gives her a bit of consternation.

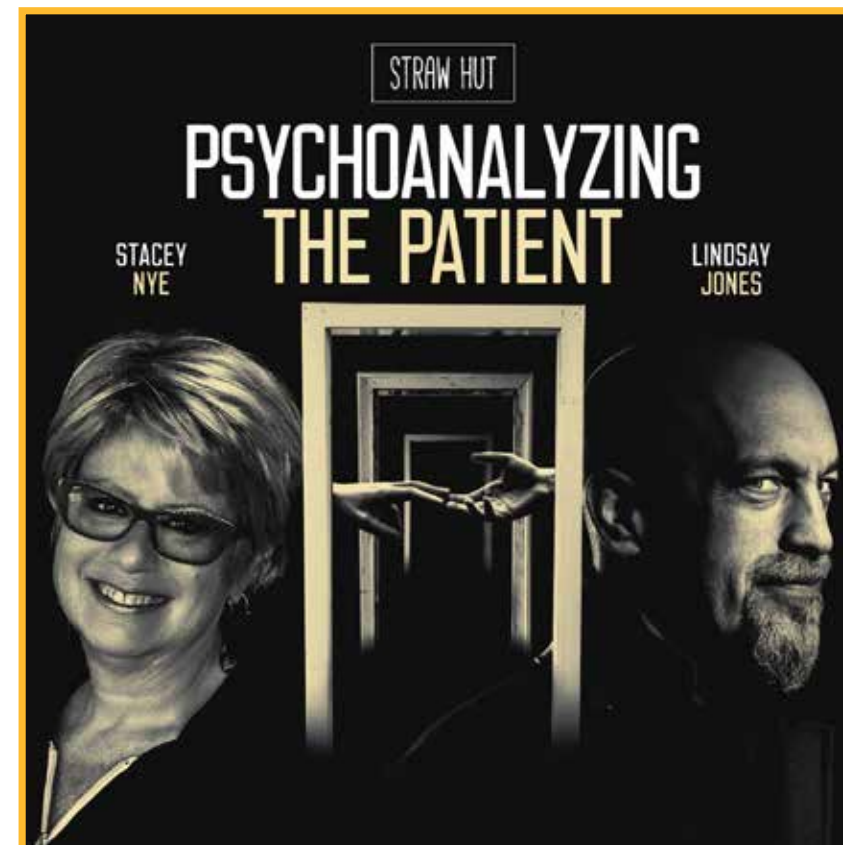
"I've told a bunch of my students that if you want to see your supervisor get corrected by her supervisor, listen to my first episode," Nye joked.

The podcast has received glowing reviews from its listeners, and Nye says she's had a blast recording the show. Sadly, she said, it does not look like there will be a second season of "The Patient," and the podcast will end with the show. Even so, "it's rather addicting doing these podcasts. I've had so much fun."

And, she noted, the title "Psychoanalyzing the..." lends itself to a variety shows. If Nye finds another good series, she's hopeful that there will be even more new podcasts to record in the future.

## A criminal fascination

Nye's been enjoying watching the fictional serial killer, but she's got an appetite for true crime as well. She's not alone; millions of people, the majority of them women, binge-watch true crime shows, listen to true crime podcasts, and devour true crime novels and other media.



So, why are so many people drawn to murders and unsolved mysteries?

"There are a lot of reasons why it's so popular," Nye said. "I think we're really fascinated by evil. I think we really like to solve puzzles."

"But I think for women in particular, in many ways, they have the sense that it helps them feel more prepared," she added. "Almost always, but not exclusively, these crimes are against women. Women are listening and feeling like they are learning things about how to be careful."

In fact, Nye said, the fans of one of her

personal favorite podcasts, "My Favorite Murder," refer to themselves as "Murderinos" who often use the acronym SSDGM: Stay Sexy and Don't Get Murdered.

If this is one of the reasons why so many women are true crime devotees, Nye thinks it's because this demographic has realized they have a profound vulnerability.

"(Screw) politeness," Nye said firmly. "Women are socialized to be polite in almost every situation they're in. ... We should feel like we have the right as much as anybody else to protect our space and our boundaries. We're afraid we're going to look silly or be wrong. You know what? It's better to look silly and be wrong than be dead."

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

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS • CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS • CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS



# Environmentally-friendly retail therapy: Alum expands “green” shop in MKE

Green is a way of life for Sasha Stone. As the founder of [Green Life Trading Co.](#), a Madison-based retail store offering sustainable and renewable products for cleaning, health, and beauty, she’s opened up an avenue for people who want to reduce their environmental footprint while still enjoying quality goods.

Now, her hard work and conservation-conscious ethos has paid off: Stone recently announced plans to expand her business [to Milwaukee](#). Green Life Trading Co. will open in the space formerly occupied by Glass Pantry in the city’s Walker’s Point neighborhood.

Stone, a UWM alumna who majored in sociology, recently sat down to talk about her business, going green, and how UWM helped point her in an entrepreneurial direction.

**You’re a business owner who didn’t major in business, but in sociology. What drew you to that particular major?**

Sociology helped me frame and contextualize the world around me while also teaching me to think critically. I like to explain sociology as “if it walks like a duck and talks like a duck, it’s probably not a duck.” That’s what it did for me; it made me look at things I thought I understood and question my perceptions, which is so important for young adults.

**Do you have any professors who made an impact on you at UWM?**

Assistant professor Oriol Miroso and his environmental sociology class was a turning point in my education and what turned out to be my career. This class showed me there was space for sociology and creativity in the environmental field. After this class, I picked up my Conservation and Environmental Science (CES) Minor.

**How did the idea for the Green Life Trading Co. come about?**

I love this question because it was in a class that the idea popped into my head for the first time. I believe it was Environmental Policy, a senior-level class filled with global studies and CES students. Our discussion prompt was something along the lines of: What actions do you personally take for the environment? The room was partially crickets. Looking around and seeing that the folks who were dedicating their careers to various environmental causes didn’t have the tools to make sustainable decisions in their daily life gave me the Oprah “aha!” moment.

It wasn’t until a few years later, when my partner and I had just moved to Madison, and I could not sleep until I put a pen to paper and listed every single product I wanted to sell, that the idea began to form into a plan.

**What was the plan? What is your business mission?**

Green Life Trading Co. believes that sustainability isn’t an exclusive club. Our mission is to provide friendly and accessible resources for thinking big and shopping small. Whether it’s in-store or online, we hope to bring a sense of eco-friendly ease into shopping for everyday essentials and inspired items.

**And you have plenty of items from that initial list on sale today.**

We offer a variety of sustainable, plastic- and package-free home and personal goods. If you use something every day or week, we probably sell it! Our most popular items are toilet bowl cleaners, laundry detergent, dish soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner and hand soap.

We focus on the end of life of our products. That means if you can’t use it up, or compost or recycle the product or packaging, we won’t sell it. We even have a take back program for compostable goods. For our bulk section, we encourage folks to bring

their own reused jars or grab one from our [free, donated jar shelf](#).

**Green Life Trading Co. started life online. What prompted you to open a brick-and-mortar location?**

We launched our online store in October of 2018 as a way to dip our toes in the water. When I started, I thought I had a good idea of what people wanted, but through popups I realized that these products were not enough. At that point we only sold low waste goods because refilling was not an easy task online.

The brick-and-mortar allowed us to open the refillery where we offer almost 80 products in bulk, and over 60 of these products we also sell on our website.

**But then along came 2020...**

Our biggest challenge, COVID, forced us to create an online bulk refill marketplace that is exceptional in its offerings and sustainability! Our opening day aligned with Dane County’s stay-at-home order, which left us with a store full of bulk products that people couldn’t access.

Until this point, I did not want to deal with the logistics of offering our bulk products online, but COVID left us no choice. We now offer over 60 of our liquid, powder, and packaging-free items online to be shipped anywhere in the lower 48. We ship liquids in refillable pouches that come with prepaid return mailers so folks can easily send the pouches back to be sanitized and reused. We ship using [reused boxes and filler and compostable tape](#).

**Do you have a favorite product you sell?**

I love our bar soaps. They are made by Perennial Soaps, a Racine based woman owned company, their soaps are vegan and palm oil free and come in so many amazing scents.



UWM alumna Sasha Stone is the owner of Green Life Trading Co., an environmentally-friendly retailer. Photo courtesy of Sasha Stone.

You can buy bars online but in store is the fun part! We carry these huge loaves of soap, the length of your forearm, and folks can cut off however much they want to buy.

**You are about to open a second location in Milwaukee - what led to the expansion? What are your hopes for your company here?**

Our Milwaukee expansion was serendipitous. Jenna, the owner of The Glass Pantry, has been a business bud for years. When it came time for Jenna to renew her lease, she decided not to so she could spend more time with her young family. After she publicly announced her closing we had one of our business buds Zooms. I expressed interest in buying her shelves and bins and she expressed sadness that Milwaukee was losing its low waste store.

This conversation snowballed into expanding into the former Glass Pantry. With Jenna’s help we were able to move in and get this project underway, with an expected soft open of mid-November.

I am so excited to continue what the Glass Pantry started! Jenna did an amazing job working with local makers and nonprofits which is a practice we hope to continue.

**What are the challenges associated with being an entrepreneur? What do you like about it?**

The biggest challenge is how often I have to say no. I am surrounded by a team of incredibly smart, creative, talented and positive people. We will have a staff meeting that goes half an hour over because people are overflowing with ideas. If I had all the time and money in the world, we would do them all!

On the flip side, having been the final decision maker for some time now, I am confident in my experience and knowledge. When I have to go back to my team and say no, I can also say, “and here’s why,” knowing I’ve made the best decision for our company, community and environment.

**Have you been able to see your impact?**

The most unexpected experience has been the amount of people that thank us for existing. From my perspective, I need to thank them for letting me have my dream job.

On the business side, we have several vendors who did not originally offer their products in bulk but were open to it when we reached out. Now, I see these vendors in low-waste stores across the country. It’s so fun to see their names pop up in other stores and think, hey, I did that!

**Do you have advice for other budding entrepreneurs?**

Take advice with a grain of salt. While business experts might have a wealth of knowledge and experience, nobody knows your business as much as you do. I was once told I wouldn’t be able to manage more than 7 products. Welp, last I checked we have about 1,000 and we’re managing just fine!

**Did your UWM education help in any way to get you to where you are today?**

It absolutely did. Although more personal than business, I always say my degree made me a better person. That’s what college is supposed to do.

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



# Painting en plein air

## Artist alum uses his brush to benefit Field Station



Mark your calendars for April: There is a new art exhibition coming to the Milwaukee area, featuring scenes from the UW-Milwaukee Field Station. As thanks for serving as the inspiration for the art, profits from the sale of the paintings will funnel right back to the Field Station to support its mission in conservation and education.

The exhibiting artist is Jeffrey Kunkel, who is something of a Renaissance man. Kunkel is an ordained minister, a published author, a trained painter, a philanthropist, and, importantly, a UW-Milwaukee alumnus.

Most recently, Kunkel was the artist-in-residence at the UWM Field Station, which sits on the edge of the Cedarburg Bog. He spent a week last spring and a week this October exploring the bog with his easel and paints in hand, painting the gorgeous landscapes in front of his canvas.

“I had a chance to find the most interesting scenes and perspectives in the bog,” Kunkel mused. “I walked all over until I was too tired to lug my easel around, and did paintings.”

### A residency born of philanthropy

Kunkel and his wife, Rev. Mary Elyn Bahlert, met while they were students at UWM. The pair married, followed their faith and made their careers in California, and eventually decided to give back to the institution that had helped them in so many ways.

“We were impressed with all of the things that UWM was doing to become, really, a near-equal to UW-Madison. There was good leadership, useful research, and we’ve always had a good sense of (what UWM does) for first-generation students or students of color who maybe didn’t have a lot of options,” Kunkel said.

He and his wife wanted to help, so they set up two scholarship funds to benefit students in the College of Letters & Science and the School of Freshwater Sciences. As donors, Kunkel and Bahlert developed a relationship with a UWM development officer Diane Grace. Whenever the couple visited Milwaukee, Grace would show them some of the new and exciting happenings on campus.

Last year, Kunkel had a request: Could he and Bahlert check out the UWM Field Station and Cedarburg Bog? Grace arranged for UWM Field Station director Gretchen Meyer to meet them for a tour. Kunkel was delighted.



“This was coming home into an old landscape for me,” he said. “I used to hunt and fish and trap in marshes just like these, and I’ve always loved it.”

Now, he was itching to paint those same landscapes. So, he put forth a proposal for Meyer: He would become the Field Station’s first artist-in-residence.

“I thought it was a wonderful idea,” Meyer said. “I had never even considered trying to do something like this at the Field Station before. I immediately said, yeah, let’s try it.”

### The Field Station

The UWM Field Station is a research outpost to support the work of faculty and students that can’t be conducted in a lab – think [songbird surveys](#) or [pollinator studies](#), for example – and also hosts classes focused on biology and conservation.

Located on the edge of the Cedarburg Bog in Saukville, Wisconsin, the Field Station also plays host to visiting researchers from other universities and works with an organization called the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog to protect its natural areas.

As its director, Meyer oversees all research and classwork at the Field Station.

“We’re needed heavily for the natural sciences, but I’ve always wanted to expand beyond that,” Meyer mused. She’s hosted creative writing workshops at the Field Station before, and even nature sketching classes, but “We’ve never brought in an outside painter to make paintings and have a public display.”

As part of the residency the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog contributed money toward Kunkel’s expenses. Kunkel and Bahlert spent their two visits to the bog in an old farmhouse that the Field Station uses to house visiting researchers. Kunkel smiled as he recounted hearing coyotes howling at night and seeing the beautiful scenes of the bog each day.

“It’s not just a bog or a marsh,” he said. “It includes wonderful meadows, springs, a lake, and wonderful wooded uplands – beech and maple forests. I’m happy to head into these wooded uplands to capture some of the shadows and sunlight breaking through.”

And capture them he did.

### A brief biography

Jeffrey Kunkel grew up in the Milwaukee area and eventually entered college at his hometown university. At UW-Milwaukee, he majored in English and history with plans to enter law school after graduating, but a higher power must have intervened.

Kunkel experienced a spiritual awakening at UWM. Instead of law school, he entered seminary and became an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. He and his wife, Mary Elyn Bahlert, herself a minister, found their congregations in California and moved from the Midwest to the west coast.

After a while, Kunkel found himself growing bored and restless, so he began writing more seriously and took an interest in visual art as well. He enrolled in the California College of Arts and Crafts (now California College of the Arts) and learned to paint.

Over the years, Kunkel took on a number of artistic projects alongside his ministry work. He is the author of two books on the history of Alaska and two collections of stories for adults. But Kunkel’s audience is broad: He’s worked extensively with children to develop their artistry and creativity. The result is several collections of stories illustrated by the kids in his ministry’s churches, clubs, and schools.

Kunkel’s latest endeavor was his residency as an artist at the UWM Field Station. Kunkel and Bahlert live in California and still occasionally visit Milwaukee.

### A coming exhibition

As the resident artist, Kunkel was tasked with creating 25 paintings, the sale of which would benefit the Field Station, which he noted “does a lot of things on very little budget.” Those paintings will be shown at the Cedarburg Cultural Center next April-June, thanks to some connections between the FCOB and Cedarburg Cultural Center boards.

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# Alum opens children's bookstore focusing on people of color

When Ashley Valentine was a child, she loved to read but was disappointed that few of the characters in books looked like her.

"Books were kind of a haven for me," said Valentine, a UWM alumna who just opened her own bookstore and tutoring center, **Rooted MKE**, focusing on the needs of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color.

"Now that I think about it, it's sad. I was such an avid reader and had a love for reading, but I didn't know there were books with characters who looked like me. I didn't think people like me were capable of the things I was reading about."

Valentine, who earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and a teaching certification and master's degree in exceptional education from UWM, opened the store in March 2022.

Rooted MKE, located in a sunny, colorful space on Vliet Street, across from Milwaukee Public Schools' central office, is also a tutoring and hands-on learning center.

## Teaching in a different way

UWM's School of Education helped shape her career path, Valentine said. She was a classroom teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools when she was working on her master's thesis in exceptional education.

She had come to realize that classroom teaching was not her calling. "I felt that the expectations were unrealistic, and the deliverables weren't really measurable based on where students were performing."

After consulting with her advisors – Judy Winn, now associate professor emerita, and Liz Drame, professor of teaching and learning – Valentine



Ashley Valentine stands in Rooted MKE, her bookstore and tutoring center that focuses on the needs of Black, Indigenous and other people of color. "Books were kind of a haven for me. Now that I think about it, it's sad. I was such an avid reader and had a love for reading, but I didn't know there were books with characters who looked like me. I didn't think people like me were capable of the things I was reading about." (UWM Photo/Elora Hennessey)

focused her thesis on developing a literacy program that was community-based rather than school based.

"I researched what would reading look like when parents were involved, where parents took the initiative rather than an organization. I got ideas from parents of children with special needs."

## Moving into tutoring

The idea of a bookstore/tutoring center took shape in her mind, but she was too busy juggling teaching and graduate school to pursue it. She left MPS to work for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee overseeing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs at their 44 sites.

She started tutoring on the side, keeping up connections and relationships with parents and students from when she was teaching.

"I wanted to provide support for students who were significantly behind grade

level and not making gains in the classroom."

She moved to working virtually when the pandemic hit but realized that working with students in person was her passion. She also realized that many Black and brown students didn't have access to the technology to do virtual learning effectively.

As the pandemic wound down, she opened her own tutoring business.

"Once the schools opened up, I saw the need was overwhelming. I wanted to provide support for students who were significantly behind grade level and not making gains in the classroom."

## Developing a business plan

Meanwhile, Valentine took the first steps toward that bookstore dream, attending bookstore conferences, looking at the financial numbers and developing a business plan with the

help of an advisor from **SCORE SE Wisconsin**, an organization that provides mentors and advice to entrepreneurs.

The tutoring business rapidly outgrew her small office on 18th and Fond du Lac, so Valentine started looking for a larger space that could accommodate a bookstore as well as tutoring. With the help of her husband, who is in real estate, she found the space on Vliet Street and signed a lease in August 2021.

"I knew the space needed to be fully renovated to be what kids deserve – I didn't want something that was thrown together. I wanted to make it as kid friendly as possible."

The bookstore is a key component of Rooted MKE.

"All the titles in the bookstore are written or illustrated or depict BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) characters as protagonists," Valentine said.

"As an educator, I had had trouble finding books that were age appropriate and represented characters of color, so I was always on a hunt to source books for my classroom. It was a passion of mine as an educator. I knew there were many other parents and classroom teachers who wanted to support children in their love of reading."

## Parents praise work

The parents and children who visit the tutoring center have been very excited, Valentine said. "Some parents said they were looking for a resource where their kids could get support from a person who looks like them."

One parent said she could write an essay about how helpful the tutoring has been for her child:

"You have built his confidence, helped him see his own potential. Created a space where he can learn math and apply it during homework and the classroom. This year I gave him an option for tutoring and he wanted to do it on his own. I didn't force him."

"I think he loved seeing his progression – even the smallest increase was a celebration. We ended the year with him scoring the highest in his class on the STAR test (a literacy test) and that alone says it all. My son, very shy, has come out his shell, less tears, less grief, and overall happiness. Math is a difficult subject for him but with Ashley and Rooted MKE we can face any challenge."

These parents told other parents and teachers shared the news. "It's pretty awesome because a lot of our referrals and growth comes from word of mouth rather than marketing or advertising," Valentine said.

Children come into the bookstore with their parents and grandparents and get excited about books featuring, for example, superheroes who are all brown. The adults tell Valentine, "I wish we had something like this when I was growing up."

"We had a Muslim family come in and the little girl started crying because she'd never seen a book about brown people in a mosque that was celebrating being Muslim."

**By Kathy Quirk, University Relations**

## Artist-in-residence

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As a bonus, Kunkel said, retired Field Station director Jim Reinartz will create 25 custom wood frames for the display.

The financial support is welcome, of course, but Meyer says the upcoming exhibition has another benefit.

"That's a whole new audience of people who may not be aware of the Cedarburg Bog and what we do here," she said. "It helps bring knowledge of these natural areas. ... I've been very impressed by his paintings."

Painting landscapes *en plein air* is a challenge; the entire work is supposed to be completed outside. Kunkel is drawn to that challenge.

"You've only got a couple hours, really, if you want to finish the painting out there. So, you've got to move fast," he said. "My natural inclination is when I get nervous about doing something, I slow down. I get careful. Well, that is a good way to kill a painting, in my mind. ... Art filled with energy is generally not careful."

Kunkel's un-careful paintings will be on display at the Cedarburg Cultural Center from April 22-June 4, 2023. Portions of each sale will benefit the UWM Field Station and Cedarburg Bog. You can view Kunkel's work on his [website](#).

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



# New grant to assist in high-performance computing research

An interdisciplinary team of UWM faculty is leading a paid summer school in 2023 to train students in how to integrate machine learning, computational methods, high-performance computing and cyberinfrastructure into a variety of research problems.

With backing from the National Science Foundation, the summer schools will include lectures, lab exercises and research projects from participating faculty from UWM, Marquette University and UW-Parkside.

The three-year, \$500,000 grant supports the Cyberinfrastructure Comprehensive, Applied and Tangible Summer School, or ClberCATSS, led by UWM faculty members Philip Chang, physics; Mahsa Dabagh, biomedical engineering; and Susan McRoy, computer science.

While research needs and tools are diverse, there are many common computational techniques that could help students advance their work, Chang said. The grant will allow UWM and the partner institutions to help grow data science and computing in southeastern Wisconsin, he added.

“The idea behind this is that students apply what they learn to a challenge which, if met, would greatly enhance their research productivity or make some new research possible,” he said. “Students will either become better researchers in areas that rely heavily on computing or bring computing to areas of research that would greatly benefit from it.”



Philip Chang

Students and mentors apply together with a project in mind that would benefit from some aspect of computing. They will learn both basics and advanced topics in the first three weeks and then spend the rest of the seven weeks applying their new skills to their own specific research problems.

Graduate students and undergraduate students who participate will be paid a stipend.

The expertise of participating faculty lies in areas involving large datasets, such as natural language processing, geospatial analysis, predictive modeling, cybersecurity education, computational astrophysics, cancer and disease research, robotics and bioengineering for human mobility. However, student/mentor projects do not have to fall within these areas.

Information on applying will be available later this year.

**By Laura Otto, University Relations**



## People in Print

**Bettina Arnold (Anthropology)**. 2022. National Socialist archaeology as a Faustian bargain: the contrasting careers of Hans Reinert and Herbert Jankuhn. In *Betrayal of the Humanities under National Socialism* (Bernard M. Levinson and Robert P. Ericksen, eds). Bloomington, [Indiana University Press](#): 332-357.

**Jagadeesh K. Uppala, Leena Sathe, Abhijit Chakraborty, Sankhajit Bhattacharjee, Anthony Thomas Pulvino, and Madhusudan Dey (all Biological Sciences)**. 2022. The Cap-proximal Secondary Structure Inhibits Translational Inhibition by Precluding Helicase eIF4A Recruitment on HAC1 mRNA. [Journal of Biological Chemistry](#), 298(3).

**John S. Heywood (Economics)**, Guangliang Ye, and Dongyang Li. 2022. Mixed duopoly under Hotelling with convex production costs. [Annals of Regional Science](#), 69(2), 487-510.

Mehrzad B. Baktash, **John S. Heywood (Economics)**, and Uwe Jirjahn. 2022. Performance Pay and Alcohol Use in Germany. [Industrial Relations](#), 61(4), 353-383.

**Sergey Kravtsov, Ilijana Mastilovic (Mathematical Sciences)**, Andrew McC. Hogg, William K. Dewar, and Jeffrey R. Blundell. A Moist Quasi-Geostrophic Coupled Model: MQ-GCM2.0. [Geoscientific Model Development](#), 15, 7449-7469.

Uchechukwu Jarretta, Steve Miller, and **Hamid Mohtadi (Economics)**. Dry spells and global crop production: A multi-stressor and multi-timescale analysis. [Ecological Economics](#), 203, 12.

**Jennifer Jordan's (Sociology) book, *Edible Memory*, is the free e-book at the University of Chicago Press for the month of November. Receive your free copy [here](#).**



## Alumni Accomplishments

**Tony Atkins ('03, Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** is being hailed as a hero after he paused in his coverage as a reporter for Orlando NBC affiliate WESH 2 to rescue a nurse who was trapped in her car after a deluge from Hurricane Ian flooded the street. Atkins helped pull the woman from the car and then carried her on his back through nearly waist-deep flood water to safety. Atkins' rescue was covered in the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [WISN 12 News](#), [TMJ4 News](#), and other news outlets.



Tony Atkins

**Christophe Jenkins ('20, BA Political Science)** was named the administrator for the [Village of Fredonia](#), a newly created position that begins the first of the year. He will split his time to also handle administrative matters for the Town of Fredonia, a role in which he currently serves. He will be leaving his position as village administrator and clerk treasurer of Elmwood Park, Wisconsin, but continues as the mayor of West Bend, Wisconsin.

**Cody Schreck ('17, BA History; '20, MA History)** was appointed the new executive director of the [Ephraim Historical Foundation](#) in Ephraim, Wisconsin. He was previously the foundation's curator and collections manager. He also chairs the Heritage Alliance of Door County and is a representative on the Wisconsin Council for Local History.

**Amberleigh Henschen ('18, PhD Biological Sciences)** was one of two scientists chosen to receive the 2022 [Kessel Research Fellowship](#) for early-career scientists. The \$15,000 award will support her ornithology research, titled, “Understanding the genetic basis of disease tolerance in wild birds.”



Amberleigh Henschen

**Ian Thompson ('17, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** was hired as the new Senior Communications Manager at [VISIT Milwaukee](#). The company promotes tourism and travel within the city. Thompson will lead VISIT Milwaukee's communication strategy, community outreach, and media relations.

**Jack Fitzgerald ('22, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** joined [Car and Driver](#) as an associate editor, where he now churns out car-related content for the celebrated publication which takes deep dives into the automotive industry.



## Laurels and Accolades

**Karyn Frick (Psychology)** in her role as President hosted the annual meeting of the Pavlovian Society in Milwaukee from Sept. 29-Oct. 1. The event, attended by over 180 people, included posters, discussion panels, and symposia from prominent neuroscientists across the world. One highlight of the conference was the bestowal of the Gantt Medal to **Fred Helmstetter (emeritus Psychology)** for exceptional contributions to the field. The conference was supported by UWM's Department of Psychology, UWM's College of Letters and Science, the Medical College of Wisconsin, and Plexon Inc.

**James Cook (emeritus Chemistry and Biochemistry)** was awarded the Hector F. DeLuca Scientific Achievement Award from BioForward Wisconsin. The award recognizes Cook's scientific leadership and contributions to the state's biohealth industry.

**Wilfred Tysoe**, graduate student **Nicholas Hopper**, and post-doctoral researcher **Resham Rana (all Chemistry and Biochemistry)**, along with collaborator François Sidoroff from the Ecole Centrale de Lyon in France wrote an article entitled, “Critical Stresses in Mechanochemical Reactions,” that was selected as the *Chemical Science* “Pick of the Week” for the week of Oct. 23. *Chemical Science* is the Royal Society of Chemistry's peer-reviewed flagship journal, which publishes findings of exceptional significance from across the chemical sciences.





# In the Media and Around the Community

**Elana Levine (English)** was an invited speaker at a discussion following a virtual screening of “The House and the Brain” horror television series hosted by the [UCLA Library Film and Television Archive](#) in October.

Graduate student **Quintin Coby (English)** spoke about his efforts to create a voter mobilization campaign as part of the “I Am a Voter” scholarship competition in an article for [Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service](#).



**Pamela Harris (Mathematical Sciences)** delivered the 78th semi-annual Harry S. Kieval lecture at [California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt](#) in Arcata, California, in October. Her talk was titled, “How to Choose Your Own Mathematical Adventures.”

She reiterated the similar branching nature of mathematics and choose-your-own-adventure stories on [NPR](#).

After two weeks of digging at a site in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, **Robert Jeske (emeritus Anthropology)** told the [Door County Daily News](#) that he and a partner uncovered artifacts dating back to a indigenous community that lived over a millenia ago.

Why are people so fascinated by serial killers? **Stacy Nye (Psychology)** explained the reason on [CBS 58 News](#). She also spoke to Newsy about the popularity of Netflix’s new series “Dahmer.”

A walking and biking trail expansion in Neenah, Wisconsin, may continue after **Jennifer Haas (Anthropology)** and UWM archaeologists finished cataloguing cultural features, like past houses or cooking pits, along the proposed route, [NBC 56 News](#) reported.

The results of the Wisconsin Senate race will depend entirely on voter turnout, **Kathleen Dolan (Political Science)** told [Newsweek](#). She discussed the chief concerns of voters in an article by [Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service](#).

**John Koethe (emeritus Philosophy)** was profiled in a Q&A article by [McSweeney’s](#).

In November, Milwaukee is set to vote on designating a new landmark: the former site of the Black Nite Bar, the site of a brawl that sparked an uprising of Milwaukee’s LGBTQ community in 1961 that is now considered an important moment in the early history of gay rights. The nomination was authored by **Brice Smith (‘10, PhD History)** and supported by **Andrew Larsen (History)**, [Urban Milwaukee](#) reported.

Associate Dean for the Humanities **Margaret Noodin (English)** was a speaker at the Indigenous Knowledges Symposium at [Michigan Technological University](#) in October.

An article in the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) highlighted research by **Marc Levine (emeritus History)** as it discussed the Redress Movement.

Adapting “Sesame Street” for Russian television was a challenge, given the former Soviet Union’s rich culture of children’s TV, **Christine Evans (History)** said in an article in the [Smithsonian Magazine](#).

**Caroline Seymore-Jorn’s (Comparative Literature)** research is referenced in a review of “The Tent” by Miral Al-Tahawy, published on [News Africa Now](#).

**Bettina Arnold (Anthropology)** was an invited speaker at the Musée d’Archéologie Nationale, Saint Germain-en-Laye, France, where she presented her talk, “The wandering warrior? New approaches to understanding early La Tène migration.”

**Jean Creighton (Physics)** and Robin Mello (Theatre) conducted a workshop on “How to use feedback for refining your interactive program” and presented a research paper titled, “How can we incorporate more design thinking in our work and beyond,” at the Great Lakes Planetarium Association in Buffalo, New York, in October. **Creighton** also discussed the current Planetarium show on [WUWM Radio](#).

**Jeffrey Sommers (Global Studies and African and African Diaspora Studies)** appeared on Paul Jay’s program “The Analysis” following former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev’s passing and spoke about the implosion of the USSR. [Part 1](#) was published on Oct. 4.

Inflation has increased rapidly, but its causes are largely out of the hands of politicians, **Kundan Kishor (Economics)** opined in the [Wisconsin Examiner](#).

**Paru Shah (Political Science)** spoke on the importance of the Latino voting demographic in Milwaukee on [Fox 6 News](#) and about the difficulties of voting in Wisconsin on [CBS 58 News](#).



# Upcoming Events

## November 3, 9, 17, and 30

**The French Table.** 1-2 p.m. Curtin 766. Join the UWM community to practice your language skills with Informal conversations in French. All levels welcome.

## November 4 and 11

**Exploring Exoplanets with the James Webb Space Telescope.** 7-8 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium.

The James Webb Space Telescope will serve as the premier deep space observatory for the next decade. Masks recommended. Ages 4 and up. [Tickets](#) are \$6 general/\$5 for students.

## November 4

**Math Colloquium: Gelfand-Zeitlin Integrable Systems: Where linear algebra, geometry, and representation theory meet.** 2-3:30 p.m. EMS E495. Mark Colarusso, University of South Alabama.

## November 7

**Clube Lusófono: AQUARELA DO BRASIL with Brazilian singer and composer Octavio Arcaño.** 5-6 p.m. [Online](#).

## November 9

**Trauma-Informed Teaching Workshop.** 12-1:30 p.m. Lubar Entrepreneurship Center. Facilitators include Adam Jussel, Sarah MacDonald, and Dmitri Topitzes. Register [here](#) to attend in person or [here](#) to attend online.

## November 15

**Clube Lusófono: Macau – A Bridge Between East and West.** 4:30-5:45 p.m. [Online](#). Portuguese writer Dora Gago will share her experiences living in Macau.

## November 16

**Hidden Treasure: Finding Women Dealers and Collectors of Far Eastern Art in Paris, 1858-1914.** 4:30-6 p.m. Mitchell 191. Elizabeth Emery, Montclair State University, presents on her book, “Reframing Japonisme: Women and the Asian Art Market in Nineteenth-Century France, 1853-1914” and her digital humanities project “Connoisseurs, Collectors, and Dealers of Asian Art in France, 1700-1939.”

## November 17

**From an Inkwell around the World: Global Varieties of “The Little Prince”** 10 a.m. [Online via Zoom](#). Multilingual publisher Walter Sauer discusses “The Little Prince.”

# NOVEMBER 2022

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

**Women’s & Gender Studies Lunch & Learn with Morgan Foster.** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Curtin 181. Morgan Foster, UWM, presents “American Girls: Girlhood Fiction and Fandoms in America.” Attend in person or via [Microsoft Teams](#).

**From Roe to Dobbs: the End of Legal Abortion.** 5-6:30 p.m. Via [Zoom](#). Johanna Schoen, Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

**Urban Studies Programs’ State of Milwaukee Summit: Covid-19 & Racial Equity-What Have We Learned and Where Do We Go from Here?** 7-8:30 p.m. Golda Meir Library, 4th Floor Conference Room. Community leaders including Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson; Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley; Joel Brennan, President of the Greater Milwaukee Committee; and Ellen Gilligan, President and CEO of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation discuss the impact of COVID-19. [Free and open to the public](#).

## November 18

**Asia in Conversation: Media, Technology, and Society in Late Imperial China.** 2-3:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Registration required. Xin Yu, UWM; Suyoung Son, Cornell University; and Tobie Meyer-Fong, Johns Hopkins University.

**Creative Writing Program Graduate Student-Faculty Reading Series: United We Read.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee. Readers include Cassandra Bruner, Sass Denny, Camilla Lee, and Professor Rebecca Dunham.

## November 18 and 19

**Constellations of the Zodiac: Sagittarius.** 7-8 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Explore the astronomy and mythology of the constellation Sagittarius. Masks recommended. Ages 4 and up. [Tickets](#) are \$6 general/\$5 for students.



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