

College of Letters & Science



IN FOCUS

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A photograph of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a white t-shirt and grey pants, standing in front of a building with a large 'Disney University' sign. She is wearing a Mickey Mouse headband and holding a small blue name tag that says 'REGAN'. The building has a large 'Disney' logo in blue and red, and the word 'University' in red. There are green bushes in the foreground and a blue sky in the background.

Disney University

Learning
from the
Mouse

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CONTACT US AT LET-SCI@UWM.EDU

L&S ACTING DEAN: NIGEL ROTHFELS

IN FOCUS EDITOR: DEANNA ALBA



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Teaching the (ESL) teachers: UWM’s TESOL program

English is the most commonly spoken second language in the world.

That means that students across the world – and right here in Wisconsin – need teachers who can help them learn it. And that means that someone needs to train those teachers how to teach it.

At UWM, that someone is Glenn Starr.

Starr is a visiting assistant professor in UWM’s Department of Linguistics. He’s also the interim director of the university’s TESOL program alongside Mark Sullivan, a lecturer in UWM’s English Language Academy. The TESOL program offers a Master’s degree, undergraduate certificate, and graduate certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

“We’re trying to give students a good foundation in pedagogical theory and practice based on the leading experts and researchers in the field, to get them prepared and confident to go out and teach on their own,” Starr said.

Many people think of immigrants to the United States as needing to learn English as a Second Language, but Starr says that the TESOL program is larger than that.

“There are opportunities all over the world to teach English to Speakers of Other Languages,” Starr said.

“In fact, there are two terms: ESL, which is teaching English to speakers of English as a Second Language. And there’s EFL, where English is a Foreign Language.”

A teacher ought to tailor their approach based on if they’re working with ESL or EFL speakers. The UWM TESOL program can show them how to do just that.

Educating educators

The TESOL program asks its students to complete several pedagogical courses to give them a solid grounding in the fundamentals of TESOL, its history, and its best practices. Then, they’ll put those practices to the test with some practical experience: “You have to tutor a learner, which is a really low-stakes way of getting students introduced to teaching,” Starr said.

Another course focuses on curriculum development and creating materials to use in classes. Yet another explores methodologies in English language teaching: “Here, students are getting a deeper exposure to all of the different skill areas and teaching – so listening and speaking, writing, reading and grammar,” Starr said.

Finally, students must take a practicum in the field. Paired with an experienced instructor, they first observe how classes are taught, then co-teach with their mentor, and finally teach the class on their own.



Glenn Starr

“I remember when I first taught, it was very daunting experience to have all of these people depending on you to improve their English,” Starr recalled. “This semester, I’ve been finding organizations and colleges and universities who are willing to take student teachers.”

Starr has worked to maintain relationships with several services in the Milwaukee area that his predecessor, emerita professor linguistics Sandra Pucci, established when the program first started in 2019. These include UWM’s English Language Academy and several community-based organizations. They play a crucial role in helping students in the program get some initial professional experience.

A personal history

Starr is an ideal person to lead the TESOL program because he’s been where his students are now. Starr was bitten by the travel bug at an early age. After he graduated with his Bachelor’s degree, he set out – first to China for six years, and then South Korea for five. He taught English as a foreign language in each country, and even

established his own English language school in South Korea.

“It was really great to have lived in the countryside (in South Korea). That was probably one of the most enjoyable experiences I’ve ever had,” Starr said.

But eventually, he grew homesick and returned to Wisconsin to improve his credentials with a TESOL certificate from UW-Madison.

“And then I just fell in love with something called ‘applied linguistics,’” Starr said. “I thought, this is really interesting stuff. So I decided to pursue a PhD in Linguistics. Now my time is split between running the MA TESOL program and conducting research in language acquisition and psycholinguistics.”

Starr graduated in May and started in UWM’s Linguistics Department this fall, tasked with building on the existing TESOL program. He’s done that by creating learning outcomes for each of his classes, establishing teaching partnerships, and reworking courses in hopes of opening up more opportunities for undergraduates seeking a TESOL certificate.

After he’s through with them, Starr hopes his students will be ready to take on the world - and teach it English.

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

As Glenn Starr revamps UWM’s TESOL program, he’s built connections at UWM and across Milwaukee to help his students achieve the best possible outcomes. He recognizes:

- ELA (English Language Academy) director Brooke Haley • IEP (Intensive English Program) director Lindsey Hill • ELA/IEP teachers Jennifer Mattson, James Levick, Hannah Steiner, and Maggie Schmidt • ELA teacher Mark Sullivan • Nicole Ludmer and Patrice Vnuk at Literacy Services of Wisconsin • Cynthia Zarazua at Neighborhood House with the International Learning Program • Cherise Myers at Journey House • Sheryl Slocum at Alverno College • Linda Gordy at Waukesha County Technical College • L&S external relations team Deanna Alba, Rachel Stern, and Milo Miller • Linguistics faculty members Dr. Sanda Pucci (Professor Emeritus and former MA TESOL director), Anne Pycha (Linguistics chair), Sharon Geibel, Hamid Ouali, Fred Eckman, Garry Davis, Nick Fleischer, Hanyong Park, and Bozena Tieszen.

From Lost Decade to Last Decade: Grad’s long path to Alumni Award

Geraud Blanks is the co-founder of Black Lens and the Chief Innovation Officer at [Milwaukee Film](#). He’s an app developer, a former social worker, a history lover, and a film buff. He was also just announced a winner of UW-Milwaukee’s Alumni Association’s [“Graduate of the Last Decade”](#) award.

“What’s ironic about that is, for a lot of people who know my journey, I have this thing I call ‘The Lost Decade,’” Blanks said. “I’ve been working my (tail) off for the last 10-plus years to make up for that gap.”

The first try

Blanks grew up in Milwaukee and started college at UWM in the late 1990s. He had a track scholarship, a major in mass communication, and a love of film. Outside of class, with the help of his then-girlfriend and another good friend, Blanks co-founded the student organization SCOPE (Student Creative Outreach Providing Education/Entertainment), which provided sociocultural programming for students and even brought Maya Angelou to visit campus.

“For better or worse, SCOPE ended up taking all of my time,” Blanks said. He stopped attending class to focus

on the organization, to the detriment of his grades. UWM sent him a cordial letter – “basically a break-up letter,” Blanks joked – informing him of his precarious academic standing. In 2001, Blanks left UWM without a degree.

So began the Lost Decade.

The hustle

After he left UWM, Blanks landed in Milwaukee’s music scene. He worked as a promoter and manager for local hip-hop bands, and founded the hip-hop group Black Elephant. The band ended up on several Milwaukee “best of” lists and played gigs like Summerfest, in addition to touring on the road.

“It was cool, but it was a constant hustle,” Blanks recalled.

Along the way, he earned his associate’s degree, founded a family business called Kairo Communications, and worked as a freelance journalist for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Tired of the grind, Blanks left the music scene in 2009 and turned to social work instead. He did stints at the nonprofit organizations Public Allies and Safe and Sound before landing at Sojourner Peace Center, a domestic violence shelter.

And though he learned a lot and gained invaluable experience, Blanks always regretted leaving UWM. So, in 2012, he went back.

“I made a pledge to myself: I’m going to do it right this time,” he said. “I have this issue where, when I get locked into a thing, I get *locked into a thing*. I was obsessed. I wanted an A in every course.”

Now he found himself in a different sort of hustle: Many of Blanks’ credits hadn’t transferred and he needed 51 credits to graduate. And so he did, finishing his journalism, advertising, and media studies major, and adding a major in African and African Diaspora Studies as well.

He was so dedicated to his work that he even finished his math homework at the Clark County Public Library in Las Vegas on his honeymoon.

Blanks graduated in 2014 and immediately began work on his Master’s degree in Media Studies at UWM, finishing in a year and a half so that he could apply for his doctoral studies at Northwestern University in time to start the fall semester. Now there’s only a dissertation standing between Blanks and his PhD.

Making up for lost time

Since graduating from UWM, Blanks has been trying to catch up.

“There’s so much I learned from that 10 years grinding, and social services really shaped me. ... But I look at where I think I could have been if I had just come to this maturity sooner,” he said.

Even so, Blanks has already made an indelible mark on Milwaukee. The [Black Lens](#) film program has been a boon to emerging Black directors and filmmakers, and it’s given rise to other programs like the [Cultures & Communities Initiative](#) and [Cine Sin Fronteras](#). In 2021, he won the [Chris Abele Catalyst Award](#) and he was just named the [2022 Chief Marketing Officer of the Year](#) by the *Milwaukee Business Journal*.

When his accomplishments are highlighted, Blanks smiles. He’s worked hard and he’s grateful for his success. But he still feels a sense of urgency.

“I’m making up for lost time,” he said.

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Below, Geraud Blanks discusses accomplishments from his career and the importance of innovation.



Why programs like Black Lens are important:

It’s two-fold. There are people, and I respect their opinion on this, who will tell you that a program like Black Lens segregates Black filmmakers’ work. I’ve heard words such as ‘ghettoizing’ used, and I hate the tenor of that terminology.

In reality, most film festival programmers are white, so programs like Black Lens provide a platform for Black creatives whose work is too often overlooked. And while showcasing Black film is an essential part of our work, our outreach and connection to communities of color is most important. Black Lens acts as an entry point or portal for communities of color in Milwaukee to find their way to the Milwaukee Film Festival and Oriental Theatre.

Developing the [Blackistory app](#) with his mother, Deborah Blanks:

One of my mother’s greatest gifts to me is her love of history-African American history in particular. When I was in middle school, she wrote a book tracing important historical Black cultural moments from the Atlantic Slave Trade through the early 1990s. She decided not to publish but instead broke the text into a vast binder of questions in specific categories.

That binder, which I memorized most of in seventh grade, later became a card game with a workbook and finally an app with help from the App Brewery at Lubar. Now anyone can go into the App Store and download it.

His favorite film and its impact:

One of my favorite films we’ve ever screened is “Imperial Dreams,” starring a young, aspiring John Boyega (“Star Wars,” “The Woman King”). During the Festival’s post-screening conversation, director Mark Vitthal asked me in front of the audience why I had booked his film for the Festival.

My voice cracking slightly from the emotion, I told him that his movie portrayed aspects of Black masculinity and fatherhood rarely depicted with such rich tenderness and vulnerability. The film’s subject was deeply flawed, yet his search for redemption and the care with which he was raising his son represented Black humanity in its fullness. Circulating authentic images of the lived Black experience is central to the mission of Black Lens.

Being promoted to Director of Cultures and Communities, and then to Chief Innovation Officer:

I am transparent about stealing the name “Cultures & Communities” from UWM. The name was a perfect fit for my concept for a new initiative I wanted to implement at Milwaukee Film in 2018. At first, I was going to pitch Cultures & Communities as an employee resource group for staff of color who were passionate about Black Lens and our nascent Cine Sin Fronteras and GenreQueer programs. I wanted to cobble together the shared resources of each group to support one another’s work.

As the idea developed, I started to think bigger, and I ultimately pitched a work team that would focus on programming for and outreach to Black, brown, and queer communities. After leading that initiative for a year, we expanded, creating an Innovation department to oversee Cultures & Communities and other related work teams. My position then changed to Chief Innovation Officer, allowing me to take full advantage of my unique skill set, which encompasses a bit of everything – marketing, programming, community outreach, fundraising, and strategic partnerships. I do it all.

JAMS student interns in the Happiest Place on Earth

When Regan Rayl was growing up, her family's favorite vacation spot was Disney World in Orlando, Florida. With every trip they took, Rayl explored the theme parks and fell more in love with Disney magic.

Now, thanks to the Disney College program, Rayl is able to make that same magic for a new generation of children – and gain internship credit and valuable networking connections that could one day help her get a full-time job with The Mouse.

Rayl is a senior at UWM who spent this past semester living and working at Walt Disney World through the Disney College Program (DCP). The program allows current college students and recent graduates to work at the theme park (Disney refers to these workers as “cast members”) while also giving them opportunities to learn from and connect with professionals across the corporation.

“I’ve always known about the Disney College Program. It’s something that I’ve wanted to do for years,” Rayl said. “The more that I learned about it during my college career from UWM alums who did DCP, the more I wanted to do it. So I began, when I was a freshman, working that into my four-year plan.”

In addition to working full-time in the park, she’s also taking a full load of UWM courses remotely. It can be tough to balance working, school, and a social life, but luckily, she added, Epcot is a surprisingly good place to do her homework.

“They have a giant Starbucks. It was so nice. I was able to get my Starbucks and look at the Epcot ball while doing homework,” she joked.

Making magic

Students in the DCP are assigned tasks all over the theme park, working in its restaurants, merchandise shops, custodial facilities, and ride operations. Rayl is stationed in the Storybook Circus area of Magic Kingdom, where she is a ride operator for the Dumbo ride and Goofy’s Barnstormer roller coaster.

“One of my favorite things about my two rides (is) a lot of little children’s first experience going on a roller coaster is the Barnstormer,” Rayl said. “That’s fun, having little kids be excited for their first roller coaster. I see that every day.”

Being a ride operator may not sound like a job with transferrable skills, but Rayl says her internship has given her experience that she can use in any profession. The pace is quick, so she has to think on her feet and be ready to solve any problems. Sometimes guests are upset and Rayl has to practice her customer service

skills, representing Disney with a smile. Her managers stress that cast members must be in constant contact with each other, and Rayl has learned the value of strong communication.

But perhaps her biggest takeaway has been learning to be a storyteller.

As a double-major in journalism, advertising, and media studies (JAMS) and in digital arts and culture (DAC), Rayl has long understood the importance of being able to tell a story. At Disney World she has an especially tough audience to sell to: skeptical kids. She’s become adept at weaving stories around the Disney characters and explaining the origins of some of the artifacts and models that they can view as they wait in line at the Goofy’s Barnstormer ride.

Being part of the magic of Disney World is one of the best aspects of Rayl’s internship.

“I can create the magic. ... I can see people’s face light up. It’s just little things, but it’s part of the giant story that is Disney World,” she said.

Making connections

Part of the Disney College Program is seeing the magic behind the scenes and learning the business of Disney.

When they weren’t working in the park, students in DCP were invited to attend seminars and panels with different teams under the Disney umbrella. Rayl attended a Zoom meeting with some of the executives from Hulu, for instance, and met Walt Disney World ambassadors and historians.

But her favorite was when she was able to meet Disney’s social media teams, responsible for the company’s YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok accounts. She was able to learn from and ask questions of the social media managers, photographers, and graphic designers – all jobs that align with her academic studies.

“I also got to show my graphic design portfolio to a few people. I made connections,” Rayl said. “It was one of the coolest experiences here outside of doing my job, because I got to see a lot of people who are just like me.

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UWM student Regan Rayl spent the fall semester working at Disney World through the Disney College Program. Photo courtesy of Regan Rayl.



Regan Rayl stands in front of the Lightning Lane for the Dumbo ride at Disney World. Rayl worked as a ride operator for that attraction. Photo courtesy of Regan Rayl.

Alumna carves out a career in business and media, with an emphasis on the positive

When Nyesha Stone graduated from UWM in 2018 with her degree in journalism, advertising and media studies, she wasn't quite sure if she wanted to go into traditional newspaper journalism — and jobs were scarce anyway.

"It's hard to get into traditional news sometimes, even if you have had internships and worked for local newspapers," she said. "I couldn't get the jobs I wanted, so I decided to make my own path."

So, she started a communications and public relations business, [Carvd N Stone](#). The business has been successful enough that Stone is providing scholarships to help other young creatives, and just moved to Georgia to expand her business there.

Stone started the business in 2017, even before she graduated. Two years in, she was accepted into a business accelerator program through YES (Young Enterprising Society) Blueprint.

"They said I needed a business model to be a legit business. That put a fire under me to figure out the business side of being a business owner and becoming sustainable."

'Why do we accept news as just focusing on the negative?'

Initially, her website started as a feature site, more like a blog, she said. The site emphasized positive stories.

"People ask why, and I say why are we OK with the way news is right now? Why do we accept news as just focusing on the negative when news is just getting information out? Maybe we shouldn't."

Stone prides herself on doing original, first-source research rather than repeating and reposting stories written by others.

While her site was drawing a few thousand visitors and her newsletters had a very positive 40% open rate, she realized three years ago that she needed to expand to help pay the bills. "A lot of people need help with the media, they don't know how to connect with the media."

Becoming her own PR person

Her background was in journalism, not public relations, but she realized she was already doing her own public relations to build her company. "News doesn't cover other news media, so I had to become my own PR person without even knowing it."

She started with news releases and newsletters, and has expanded into social media, campaigns and commercials. Clients she's worked with include Safe and Sound, Quad/Graphics and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. She's written for publications such as the *Business Journal* as part of her public relations outreach, and also serves on the board of the Milwaukee Press Club. "What's cool is I'm Black and I'm young. Most PR companies are white-male driven, so they don't have the perspective that I have."

Stone covers all kinds of news and does all kinds of public relations, though her perspective as a young Black woman influences her. Like the focus on positive news, she sees that as a way to offset traditional notions. "We didn't question why most news articles were about white people. It's because for a long time so many reporters were white. We cover everybody, but yes, we mainly cover the Black community, which is somewhat natural because I'm Black."

Her work has paid off: Stone was recently featured in [Essence Magazine](#). *Essence* is a national magazine with a readership of 20 million.



Nyesha Stone ('18, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) is the founder of Carvd N Stone. Photo courtesy of Nyesha Stone.

UWM proves 'the best decision I ever made'

Stone's path to her career wasn't a straight line from high school to college. She was accepted at Tennessee State University, a historically Black university.

"The school was cool. I loved being around all the Black people. It was awesome." She really wanted to leave Milwaukee and Wisconsin, but then she got the tuition bill in the mail. "I decided there is literally no way I'm going to be able to afford this."

She'd been accepted to UWM, "which actually ended up being the best decision I ever made," she said.

In addition to building great relationships in the city, the UWM journalism program gave her the knowledge and the confidence she needed to create her own business, she said.

Stone particularly remembers immersive experiences that helped her master the craft of journalism in real world situations. For example, she traveled with her class to western Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota following the 2016 election to talk to voters about why that area swung from blue to red. "We went to Flint to ask about their water and to Texas after Hurricane Harvey."

Giving back

Four years ago, she decided to give back, setting up a scholarship program for young creatives to help alleviate some of the financial struggles that she herself went through, despite Pell grants and three internships. She was able to fund the scholarships through sponsorships, grants, and her own personal and business investments. She's kept it open to helping young people who want to create, however they decide to do it.

"College isn't for everybody." Stone points out that Wisconsin is 49th in the nation in supporting start-ups, including creative people, so she hopes she can set an example for others.

Stone herself is still figuring out her life and her business. At age 26, though, she doesn't feel that she has to have everything planned out yet.

"Since I started in college, I've been doing something in journalism every single day for six years. I tell people, in order to get better at something you've got to keep doing it....be consistent and don't give up on yourself."

By Kathy Quirk, University Relations

Disney internship

[Continued from Page 7](#)

"A lot of them did the DCP. To see myself doing what they used to do, and seeing where they are now, is very inspiring."

Rayl has long been drawn to media. JAMS was the perfect major, and a big reason why she chose to attend UWM. Adding a digital arts and culture major is helping her round out any gaps in her education.

"JAMS is teaching me why I should be artistic in my career; DAC is teaching me *how* to be artistic. That's where I'm learning photo editing and design skills," Rayl said.

She's used those skills in a previous internship as a social media manager for the DAC program. She'd like to eventually use those same skills in her career.

"My experience with the DCP, and having that on my resume, that will open some doors for me to get an internship with Disney World, whether it be with their advertising team or social media team," she said. "I would like to use my education and my skills that I learned at UWM in a career with Disney."

Rayl will return to Milwaukee in mid-January. Until then, you'll find her in Storybook Circus, making Disney magic.

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science



UWM student Regan Rayl enjoys a flight on the Dumbo ride at Disney World. photo courtesy of Regan Rayl.



In the Media and Around the Community

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) detailed efforts by **Anne Bonds (Geography)** and **Derek Handley (English)** to crowdsource and document historical racial covenants for their “Mapping Racism and Resistance in Milwaukee County” project.

Rooted MKE is a children’s bookstore focusing on bringing diversity to young readers. Owner **Ashley Valentine** (‘14, **Sociology**) was profiled in [Up North News](#).



Gerlinde Höbel (Biological Sciences) remarked on glass frogs’ ability to camouflage themselves as they sleep in an article published by [The Atlantic](#) and republished on [MSN News](#).

Jean Creighton (Planetarium) explained [exoplanets](#) and the constellation [Capricorn](#) on WUWM Radio and spoke about the Planetarium’s upcoming shows.

Scientists at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory recently announced a “net energy gain” using thermonuclear fusion. **Philip Chang (Physics)** reflected on conditions of the breakthrough and the future of clean energy on [CBS 58 News](#) and [Spectrum 1 News](#).

UW-Madison professor Sabine Gross recommended **Nigel Rothfels’ (History)** book, “Elephant Trails,” as one of her top reads of 2022 in an article in [The Cap Times](#).

As [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) discussed the effects of pandemic-era workplace benefits on family, **Noelle Chesley (Sociology)** spoke on the trend of stay-at-home fathers.

[Wisconsin Public Radio](#) reporters reflected on their favorite stories of 2022, including an interview with **Jocelyn Szczepaniak-Gillece (Film Studies)** about foreign film.

Wisconsin’s population did grow last year, according to the U.S. Census, albeit slowly - about what you’d expect, **Margo Anderson (emerita History)** told [Wisconsin Public Radio](#).

Time for a moment of poetry: **Mauricio Kilwein Guevara (emeritus English)** was a featured poet on [WPSU Pittsburgh Radio’s](#) Poetry Moment in December.

Christmas movies are time-honored traditions, and **Elana Levine (English)** explained why on [WUWM Radio](#).

[TMJ4 News](#) cited research by **Marc Levine (emeritus History)** in a story on road safety in Black communities in Milwaukee.

Edgar Mendez (‘09, **BA Sociology and Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies**) penned an op-ed reflecting on his career at the [Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service](#).

Curious about the state’s amphibians and reptiles? The [LaCrosse Tribune](#) recommends reading **Joshua Kapfer’s** (‘07, **PhD Biological Sciences**) new book on the subject.

Anne Basting (English) speculated on how to transform care for dementia patients on the podcast [GeriPal](#), aimed at healthcare professionals who work with elderly patients.



Alumni Accomplishments

Michael Bugalski (‘13, **BA Economics and Political Science**) joined [County Bank](#) in Moberly, Missouri, as its assistant vice president. He was previously the president of the Moberly Area Economic Development Corporation.

John Gurda (‘78, **MA Geography**) penned a farewell in the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) as he retires from his 29 years of writing a column exploring Milwaukee history. Gurda has long been considered the city’s unofficial historian and regularly appears on “Around the Corner with John McGivern.”



John Gurda

Samantha Danen (‘13, **BA Art History**) was profiled in a [WisBusiness](#) article featuring women working in Wisconsin’s craft brewing industry. Danen is a brewer at Third Space Brewing in Milwaukee and is the head of Wisconsin’s chapter of the Pink Boots Society, which supports women in fermentation industries.

Jackie Pozza Reisner (‘16, **MS Anthropology**) was chosen by the Wisconsin Historical Society as the group’s new curator of American Indian collections. She will also serve as a liaison for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Pozza Reisner previously worked at the Field Museum in Chicago.

Timothy Gauger (‘86, **BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies**) was profiled in the [Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) for his work in supporting the Arkansas Repertory Theatre through the COVID-19 pandemic as the chairman of the theater’s board of directors.

Michael Knitter (‘87, **BA Psychology**) was named the Vice President of Total Rewards at [SAFE Credit Union](#) in California. He previously worked at Mechanics Bank and has experience as an HR professional in the insurance industry.

Ron Tusler (‘07, **BA History** and Urban Education) was named a 2022 Legal All Star in the small business/solo practice firm category by the [Wisconsin Legal Journal](#). Tusler is a personal injury attorney who also specializes in estate planning, real estate, and divorce. Tusler also represents Wisconsin’s 3rd Assembly District.



Laurels and Accolades

Sarah Riforgiate (Communication) was given the Outstanding Teaching Award (Tenured Instructor) by the National Communication Association’s Organizational Communication Division as a part of its 2022 Mentoring, Teaching, Service, and Research Awards. Riforgiate was recognized for the ways in which she demonstrates how to address a variety of student needs, her leadership in pedagogy, and how she has conducted workshops and published scholarship around her pedagogy. It was noted that her assignments are thoughtful, and she even reminds students to balance out their comments on discussion board posts to make sure all students receive quality feedback.



Sarah Riforgiate

Undergraduate **Glendalys Valdés (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** won an Emmy at the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Chicago/Midwest Chapter College Production Awards for her TV news story, “Environmental Crimes Rattle Puerto Rico.” Glendalys won this award through JAMS’ immersion class, which is funded by the Milwaukee Press Club’s Endowment Board.



Glendalys Valdés

Peter Blewett (emeritus staff, English) won the [2022 Wisconsin Fellowship of Poetry Muse Poetry Prize](#) for his poem, “You should always keep it ready.”

Nancy Bird-Soto (Spanish and Portuguese) and **Amy Olen (Translation & Interpreting Studies)** saw the publication of [Luisa Capetillo: Escalando La Tribuna](#), a bilingual edition of essays by Puerto Rican anarcho-feminist and labor activist Luisa Capetillo (1879-1922).

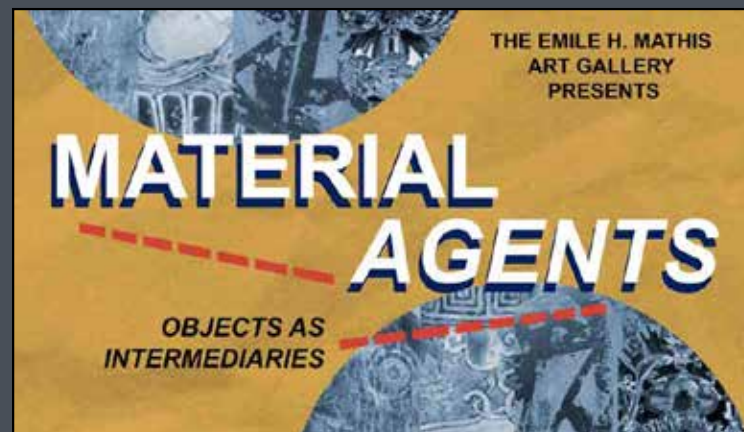
Exhibition at Emile H. Mathis Art Gallery

The “Material Agents-Objects as Intermediaries” exhibition explores the social action of artworks, artifacts, and material and visual culture from the UWM Art Collection and is co-curated by students and faculty from the “Intro to Art Museum Studies II” class. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Where: Emile H. Mathis Art Gallery, UWM Mitchell Hall Room 154

When: Now - March 31; Mon-Thurs 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

More Information: Visit the Art Gallery’s [website](#).





People in Print

Celeste Campos-Castillo, Noelle Chesley (both Sociology) and Onur Asan. 2022. Professionals as Change Agents or Instruments of Reproduction? Medical Residents' Reasoning for Not Sharing the Electronic Health Record Screen with Patients. *Future Internet*, 14, 327.

Alice Beck Kehoe and **Andrew Petto (Biological Sciences)**. 2022. *Humans: An Introduction to Four-Field Anthropology* (2nd ed.). Oxfordshire: [Routledge](#).

Jeffrey Sommers (Global Studies and African and African Diaspora Studies). 2022. Economic development in the United States and impacts on the same for Latvia. *Latvia and the United States* (K. Bukovkis and M. Vagulis, eds.). Riga: [Latvia Institute for International Affairs](#), pp. 131-43.

Ed. **Joshua M. Kapfer ('07, PhD Biological Sciences)** and Donald J. Brown. 2022. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Wisconsin*. Madison: [University of Wisconsin Press](#).

Jay Beder (emeritus Mathematical Sciences). 2022. *Linear Models and Design*. New York City: [Springer International Publishing](#).

Viktorija Bilic (Translation and Interpreting Studies). 2022. Deutschamerikanische Zeitungskorpora (1845–1860): Eine Kollokationsstudie. [Lebende Sprachen](#), 67(2), 311-341.

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Congratulations, graduates!

The College of Letters & Science congratulates the new graduates of Fall 2022! Commencement exercises were held on Sunday, Dec. 18 at the UWM Panther Arena in Milwaukee. Hundreds of students turned their tassels as they walked across the stage, heading for new and exciting journeys beyond UWM's campus.

We wish all of our graduates the best of luck as they venture into the world beyond college. We know their dedication, perseverance, and resilience will serve them well.

View a full video of UWM's Commencement [here](#).



More than 1,800 UWM students graduated on Sunday, celebrating with family and friends at the ceremony at the UWM Panther Arena.

Beforehand, some members of the UW-Milwaukee Class of 2022 shared their favorite memories, standout moments and advice for future Panthers in [this video](#). Jesus Velarde-Moctezuma (BA, Communication), spoke about his experiences working with the Ordick Law Group assisting immigrants with their legal issues.



(Above) Carolyn Suneja is hooded by Nigel Rothfels, Acting Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Suneja earned her doctorate in literature and cultural theory.



(Right) College of Letters & Science students cheer as their college is called to walk the stage. (UWM Photos/Elora Hennessey)



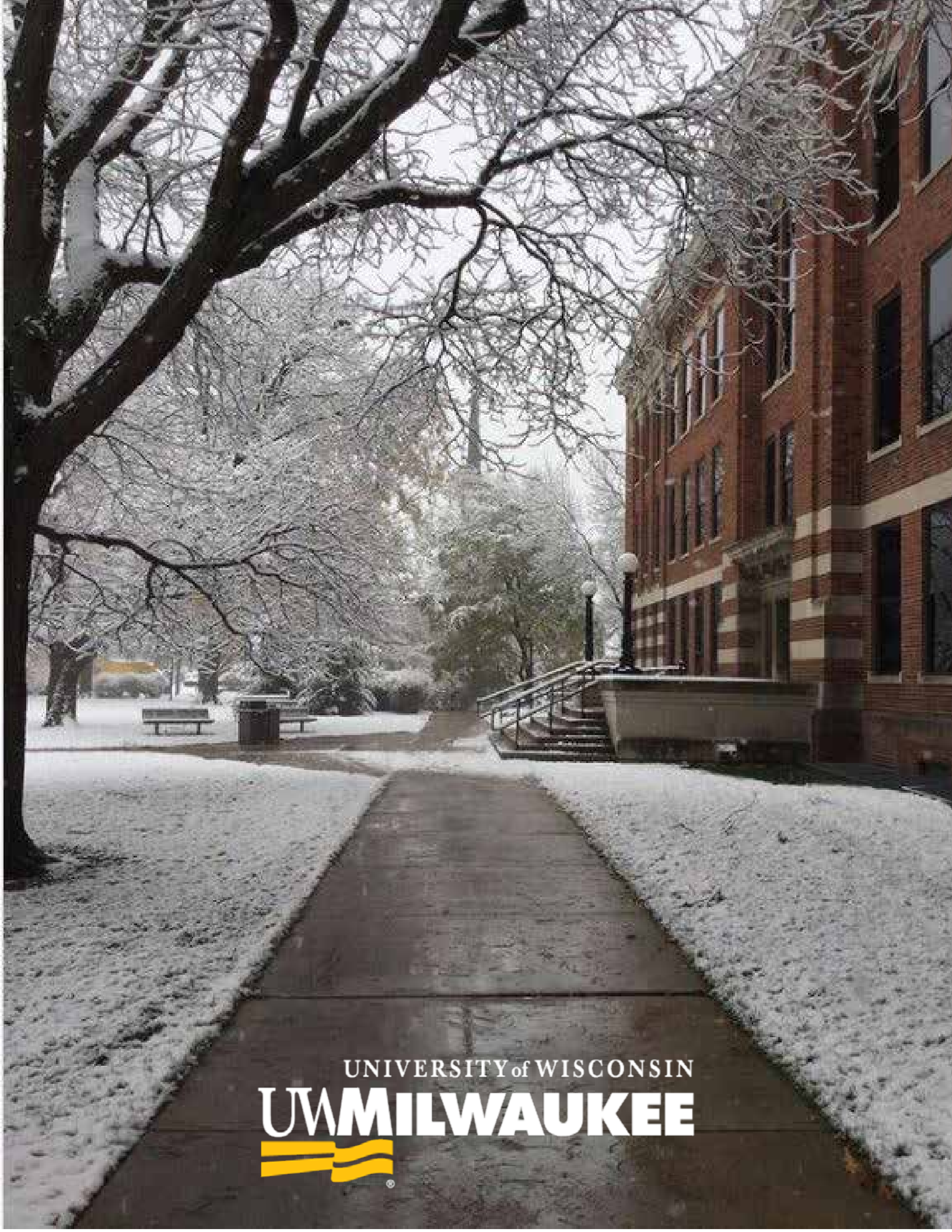
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OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 14, 2023
1:00pm - 3:00pm

Celebrate 57 years of the UWM Planetarium with our annual open house!

UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium



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