



IN FOCUS

August 2023, Vol. 13, No. 8

Don't touch that dial: Prowl Radio is on the air



Students start a new radio station on campus aimed at sharing music and building community

Pg. 6

CONTENTS

Feature Stories

- Communication alum scores World Cup spot p.2
- Sociology prof questions science legitimacy p.4
- Students take to airwaves with Prowl Radio p.6
- Biology alum-turned-prof discovers new species p.8
- CES student counts snakes for internship p.10

Columns

- Alumni Accomplishments p.12
- In the Media p.13
- Laurels and Accolades p.13
- Planetarium Events p.14

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

CONTACT US AT LET-SCI@UWM.EDU

L&S DEAN: SCOTT GRONERT

IN FOCUS EDITOR: DEANNA ALBA



FIND US AT [UWMLETSCI](https://www.uwmletsci.com)

UWM alum stars as Philippines shock New Zealand in World Cup

What you need to know:

- Two UWM alumnae help represent the Philippines on the country's national team in the Women's World Cup.
- One alumna, Olivia Davies-McDaniel, graduated in 2020 with a communication major. Her sister, Chandler McDaniel, was a criminal justice major. Both played for the UWM women's soccer team.
- Davies-McDaniel is a first-string goalkeeper. This is the first time that a squad from the Philippines has qualified for the World Cup.

UWM alum Olivia McDaniel is not done making history.

First, she and her sister, fellow UWM graduate Chandler McDaniel, helped the Philippines national women's soccer team qualify for the World Cup for the first time ever.

And now, Olivia McDaniel was the star of the team's first-ever World Cup victory, as the Philippines shocked co-host New Zealand with a 1-0 victory on July 25.

McDaniel secured the win in extra time, making a spectacular save on a shot that would have tied it up with less than three minutes remaining. It was, her [coach Alen Stajcic](#) said, "the save of her life."

It was one of several saves in her star-making performance, one that earned McDaniel player of the game honors, the first time that award has been given to a goalkeeper at this World Cup.

"It feels amazing, and hopefully this isn't the last accolade we achieve," McDaniel said after the match, [according to](#)



Click above to see highlights from the July 25 Philippines victory over New Zealand in the Women's World Cup from Fox Sports. Video at https://youtu.be/QQd7MVPq8_Y.



Olivia Davies-McDaniel, who played for UWM from 2016 to 2019, is the starting goalkeeper for the Philippines national team, the first from the country to qualify for a World Cup. (Milwaukee Athletics photo)

[Forbes](#). "This is a team win, this isn't just me. This isn't just what I've done. This is what the team's done, this is what the coaching staff's done, what everyone behind the scenes has done. We've put in our work, and we've come out on top because of it. We can't stop now, we've got much more work to do."

Sadly for the Philippines, the work will have to take place next season; the team fell to Norway in their match up on July 30. They have bowed out of the World Cup, but the Philippine Football Federation has lauded the players' efforts as a "magical" debut that "gave birth to new sport idols," according to the [BBC](#).

Olivia played goal for UWM from 2016 to 2019, part of a very successful four-year stretch in which the team went 62-9-8 overall. Chandler transferred to Milwaukee after two years at Virginia Tech and started all 19 games in 2018, finishing the season with one goal and two assists.

Both graduated from UWM in spring 2020, Olivia with a bachelor's degree in communication and Chandler with

a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a minor in psychology.

They are part of a large contingent of Americans on the Philippines team. They are eligible to represent the Philippines because of their heritage – their mother, Lindy, is Filipino.

Holding the Player of the Match trophy, McDaniel was asked what it means to her to have made such a huge impact on such an important match.

"This is what I've been dreaming about since I was a kid," McDaniel said. "Just being here and being able to play with such elite players and against such amazing talent like New Zealand has. They gave it their all and it's amazing to know that we came out on top. We put in our work to do that."

By John Schumacher, Marketing & Communications

Skepticism's dark side: Sociologist identifies "legitimacy crisis" for science

What you need to know:

- Sociology professor Gordon Gauchat has a new paper out titled, "The Legitimacy of Science."
- Gauchat's research says that Americans are increasingly distrusting of science, evidenced by climate change denial and COVID-19 conspiracy theories.
- There are external reasons, like political polarization, and internal reasons, such as researcher bias, that contribute to this crisis.

Coronavirus is linked to 5G cell phone network towers. The COVID-19 vaccine delivers a microchip into your body to track your movements. Man-made climate change is a hoax.

These conspiracy theories and misinformation have been floating around the Internet for the past several years, perpetuated by a growing breed: Science skeptics. Peddling disinformation that is untrue at best and deadly at worst, people who embrace pseudoscience or who disdain academic or clinical science are contributing to a science legitimacy crisis.

What is a legitimacy crisis? Gordon Gauchat is glad you asked.

Gauchat is an associate professor of sociology at UWM. His latest paper, published in July in the [Annual Review of Sociology](#), explores the legitimacy of science – what it is, why

it's eroding, and the consequences if we let it happen.

Gauchat sat down to talk about his research and why we should all give science its due.

What made you decide to write about the legitimacy of science?

I was invited to write this paper around the time that the pandemic broke out, and it became increasingly important as the pandemic rolled on. What happened with COVID, the misinformation, the death threats to Anthony Fauci – it was disturbing to me. I've had this confidence for most of my life that we could be reasonable and rational human beings, and seeing that unravel was the primary motivation for this work.

I think the biggest question to ask is, what exactly do you mean by a "legitimacy crisis?"

A legitimacy crisis is when a variety of different populations, but in particular, the public, has lost trust in some type of authority. That could be the legal system, a political figure, or, in this case, science.

Now the thing that you're encouraged to ask is, what do you mean by science?

I am encouraged to ask that, yes.

We have heard a lot about a crisis of knowledge and truth, but related are issues around how we evaluate evidence.

I trace this seemingly trivial question of "what science is" back to the origins of social science in the United States. In the early post-World War II period, Robert Merton addressed science as a social system, or a complex organization. Equally important is the question, why is it legitimate? Why should we trust the knowledge produced by this system?

His first answer is that science is an organized, professional activity that takes place in specific spaces, like the research university. Yet, science is sheltered within our world and broader culture.

The culture of science involves a set of ethics and standards, values that are shared among scientists – or at least, are going to pattern people's behavior. Not everyone is going to adhere to these, because we have scientific fraud. But the idea that we can identify fraud, or the quality of scientific work, means that we must have shared understandings about what's good, how we measure quality, and what is credible evidence. This ethos of science provides the basic rules we use to evaluate and accumulate knowledge.

What is the evidence that there is a legitimacy crisis?

We have been able to track, in public opinion polling, a loosening of belief in things that scientists say about major issues of the day, particularly climate change and around public health. There is a proliferation of conspiracy theories that conflict with mainstream scientific knowledge, indicating that people are looking elsewhere for answers.

Thus, we might say that there has been a decline in the belief that scientists promote the best knowledge we have today.

At the same time, you have all of these challenges to scientific authority in the courts and in the government. There are major cases recently decided or currently before the Supreme Court that are trying to limit the power of government agencies and their reliance on scientific expertise.

How do government agencies play into this?

(There is) something called the Administrative Procedures Act of 1946. It establishes what people now call the "administrative state." Think entities like OSHA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, the Center for Disease Control.



Gordon Gauchat

What Congress realized in the 1940s was, in a very complex world, it couldn't possibly regulate all aspects of the world anymore. Industrialization and mass communication had changed the game. What they wanted to do was shift power to agencies, allowing them to make regulatory rulings. That meant that the regulations being written, or executed, are no longer a result of democratic deliberation by elected officials.

So, what "legitimate" authority replaced the "democratic"? The agencies and administrators were to rely on scientific expertise, "the best knowledge of the day." The Administrative Procedures Act basically says to government agencies, you have authority based on the best knowledge available, because elected officials cannot be experts on everything. They need to cede power to administrators who can specialize in water quality, air quality, chemical risks, public health, public infrastructure, etc. This created a complicated and deep connection between scientific research and the modern state, but much of the detail of this relationship was left to agencies with congressional oversight.

This connection between science and the regulatory state is the most

profound aspect of the legitimacy crisis. We had a recent ruling by the Supreme Court limiting the authority of the [EPA](#), and another to limit the CDC's control in the wake of the pandemic. The [mifepristone ruling](#) in Texas challenges the authority of the FDA to define "sufficient scientific evidence for drug safety." What is most disturbing about this moment is not just the level of distrust, but that it is polarized. Political parties and political identities are deeply divided in their trust in science and the regulatory state.

In the paper's abstract, you mentioned that there are "internal" reasons for science's legitimacy crisis. What are those reasons?

The article doesn't get into those, but I can mention a few. In general, scientists are prone to the influence of broader culture and technological change. In an information-saturated, distracted world, you have incentives to sensationalize your research, and search for some finding that grabs attention, regardless of its fidelity to the truth.

Another connected issue is how competitive the field of scientific research is and how much funding goes into it. It is very difficult to be a researcher or scientist or find positions in a research university. Some people are going to start to do things that are unethical to "make it." We've seen that with fraud, people stretching their data, or taking certain positions because it fits with a prevailing ideology.

Why does it matter that there is a science legitimacy crisis? What's the harm in people being skeptical of science and facts?

Humanity's strength (and ironically our weakness) is the capacity for us to define a problem and coordinate about how to solve it. Well, that involves discovering what's true. I don't even mean in just a rigid scientific sense; it often involves reasoning about what's

right and wrong, too. Why value the health of poor people, for example. Those are things that we do have to explain to segments of the population, no matter how abhorrent it might be that they don't understand it or how much we take it for granted. Science, reasoning, civility, and thinking are still the best tools we have, imperfect though they are, for achieving the ends we know are true and right.

The two major crises I mentioned are COVID vaccinations and climate change. Well, in neither of those instances does individual activity make a dent in the problem. If I start walking and sell my car, I'm not going to solve, to anyone's satisfaction, the climate crisis. There are a series of things like that that are public problems. That's also the role of a knowledge system, to tell people what the priorities are by telling them what is true to the "best of our knowledge."

Leave us with some hope: How do we turn things around?

Human knowledge and thinking remain the most important tools in our toolbox for making the world better. We need to improve how we communicate that hopeful aspect of science and the actual practice of what it is. The mythic is not false; it is the hope we find in the manifold possibilities before us.

But, the practice of science is mundane. It can't be something that happens in 5 minutes on Morning Joe. It must be incorporated into the K-12 curriculum starting as early as possible: The habits and ethics of producing unbiased (knowledge), objectivity, reasonability, and how to have disagreements without oppositions and enemies. Going back to basic thinking, not just processing a glut of information, is the best course of action.

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

You're on the air Prowl Radio is UWM's new student-run station

What you need to know:

- Students recently founded Prowl Radio, a new radio station playing for UWM's campus.
- The student-run station plays a variety of music, including from local artists.
- Its founders say that they want Prowl Radio to foster a sense of community among its members and across campus.

Last fall, after UWM's Student Involvement Fair, Alexis Treadway waited nervously in the cold on the Sandburg lawn. She'd been recruiting for [Prowl Radio](#), UWM's student-run radio station that she had just founded, and it was time for the station's first meeting. She and Prowl Radio's other officers were already planning for the worst-case scenario where no one showed up.

Instead, they were flooded with 30 new members. Prowl Radio was taking off.

Today, the radio station plays any and every genre of music, showcases local talent, and has been fostering community on campus and in Milwaukee. It's everything Treadway hoped it would be.

"I feel like Milwaukee is a very commuter-oriented campus. You do your classes and you go home for the day. But I feel like there is a culture with Prowl, now," Treadway said proudly. "I've seen so many friendships grow out of it."

Starting the station

UW-Milwaukee boasts several media outlets run by students. [Media Milwaukee](#) is a student-run news organization. The [UWM Post](#) covers campus news and events. The university once boasted its own television news show called PantherVision.

But there was a distinct lack of a radio station.

"Marquette has one. MSOE has one. Madison has one. We're kind of missing out, here," said Treadway, who is a film major.

And then, in the spring of 2022, Treadway took Journalism 101 with teaching faculty member Rachael Jurek, who told the class about her own experiences with the campus radio station at her alma mater. Treadway was intrigued – and persuasive.

Ivy Hamblen, a JAMS major and Prowl Radio's Talk Director, laughed when she recalled how Treadway cornered her one afternoon and announced she liked college radio stations.

"I said, 'Do we have a college radio station?' She said, 'No, that's the problem. Want to start one with me?'" Hamblen said.

Treadway recruited several others in the same manner. Then they began their research. How did other college radio stations run their organization? What platform would be best to use? How should they advertise? What about licensing fees? ("The amount of information I know about licensing societies is through the roof," Hamblen said.)

Jurek signed on as the group's faculty advisor, and she couldn't be prouder of how Prowl's founders rose to the challenge.

"They should write a book on how to organize an organization," Jurek joked. In fact, Prowl Radio was named Outstanding New Student Organization of the Year by the UWM Student Association in May.

In the end, Prowl Radio ended up as an internet radio station. It's streamed over a platform that includes licensing fees in its model, so the student DJs can play whatever music they'd like.

Unique and local programming

It's hard to classify Prowl Radio in any particular genre because its DJs play every genre.

"No matter what kind of music you like or content you gravitate to, we want there to be something for you on Prowl," said Josh Skarda, the station's Music Director.

Skarda, a JAMS major, is a newer addition to Prowl's management team; he was one of the 30 students who joined after the 2022 Fall Involvement Fair. He encourages the eclectic tastes of Prowl's student DJs. While some DJs might stick with easy listening or rock, others take delight in mixing it up. You might hear folk one minute and heavy metal the next.



As the music director, Skarda often fields requests from emerging artists and bands who are requesting airtime on Prowl. He's especially proud of the relationships that Prowl is building with local musicians.

"Over the past semester, we've really gravitated toward local music, and specifically people who make music in Milwaukee. That ties into the interviews that we do," he said. Treadway added that the station has close ties with bands whose members are students on campus, including [Scam Likely](#).

This year, Hamblen is hoping that the station can expand beyond music. They're still debating what format it might take, but Hamblen wants to expand the station's talk radio offerings in a way that will bring the UWM community together.

"The coolest idea I've been pitched for talk radio so far is interviewing coordinators and officers from other clubs, to see how other clubs got started and to give listeners more of a look into other clubs as well," she said.

A good experience, a great community

You can't start a radio station without learning something on the way. Jurek has watched the group master skills like fundraising, marketing, branding, promotion, interviewing, and community outreach.

The biggest thing they learned?

"Being able to look at something and figure out ways to make it succeed," Jurek said. "They're very inclusive and open to new ideas. They get things done."

Treadway likes how recording interviews and creating content for social media has helped her hone her skills in film. Hamblen likes that she's learned to track the station's analytics and use the feedback to help improve their reach. They consistently have around 40 listeners per day, and reached 200 listeners when Prowl first debuted. Hamblen is confident that Prowl can expand its reach so that 200 listeners per day is commonplace.

Skarda has learned to look at music with an analytical, business-oriented eye: What songs will the audience want to hear? Which bands are gaining popularity and should receive more airtime? What sort of music will drive traffic?

But beyond the skills he's learning, Skarda says he's found something just as important: A place to belong.

"Coming to UWM, I really did not know anybody. I found Prowl Radio at what I feel like was just the right time," he said. "I've made so many amazing connections and so many awesome friends."

Now, with the station's emphasis on local music and its devotion to the UWM campus, the Prowl Radio staff is hoping that every student can find a sense of that community by tuning in.

"Music is such a universal language and brings people together so easily, no matter what walk of life you're from," Treadway said.

So don't touch that dial – Prowl Radio is on the air.

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science



In a sea of fish diversity, UWM scientist finds even more species

What you need to know:

- UWM biology alum-turned-professor Michael Pauers is the discoverer of several new species of cichlid.
- Cichlids are a common aquarium fish. They represent the most diverse adaptations of vertebrates in the world.
- Pauers and his colleagues are trying to map the full spectrum of cichlid species.

In 2018 and 2020, Michael Pauers traveled 8,500 miles to go fishing in Lake Malawi, but not with a pole and lure. He and his research colleague, Titus Phiri, were collecting and describing cichlids – best-known as a popular aquarium fish – with the aim of finding new species in the wild.

As Pauers, an associate professor in the UWM College of General Studies, sifted and winnowed in the lake waters, a blue specimen with a red dorsal fin caught his eye. Other



The new species *L. rubidorsalis* is named for the brilliant red fin on the middle of its back. Photo courtesy of Michael Pauers.

cichlids sport that color combination, he said, but this one stood out.

“It was gorgeous. I could not believe just how bright and saturated the colors were,” Pauers said. It was one of six new cichlid species in the genus *Labeotropheus* that he and Phiri found, with the help of professional divers, on the trips. They named it *rubidorsalis*.

Cichlids represent the most diverse adaptations of vertebrates in the world, and most of them – some 2,000 species and probably more – live in the freshwater African Great Lakes. There are so many species that categorizing them, a field called taxonomy, is ever-changing.

Pauers and Phiri, a research scientist with the Malawi Department of Fisheries, are interested in why there are so many species and why new ones are popping up all the time. But they’re also interested in cataloguing the full spectrum of them, which are spread across 73 genera. The cichlid genus that Pauers studies, *Labeotropheus*, is found only in Lake Malawi, along with 600 other species exclusive to the lake.

Filling out a genus

When Pauers was working towards his PhD in biological sciences at UWM, there were only two known species of *Labeotropheus*. By the time he described three new ones in 2016-17, he was on the UWM faculty.

His discoveries then marked the first time in 60 years that species had been added to the genus.



Michael Pauers shows some of the cichlid specimens from the genus *Labeotropheus* that he has contributed to the Milwaukee Public Museum’s collection. (UWM Photo/Elora Hennessey)

Then, he and Phiri described six more species they collected during the 2020 expedition. They published their findings in the journal *Ichthyology & Herpetology* in May. Pauers now has been involved in identifying nine of the 11 known species in this genus.

And the scientists who find a new species get to name them – within the scientific guidelines, of course.

After examining one of his first specimens of a new species, he had trouble naming it, finally deciding on *Labeotropheus simoneae* in honor of his daughter, Simone. “Someone at my daughter’s school mentioned that she had very rosy cheeks,” he said. “And that is one of the distinguishing features of that fish.”

Labeotropheus is unique because the fish feeds on algae that it scrapes off the rocks with its bottom jaw. To do this, it rests its bulbous

nose on the rock while feeding. The mouth is very straight in this genus, forming the shape of “a half of a rectangle,” said Pauers.

The huge lake’s habitat variety is responsible for the cichlid’s unparalleled diversity, Phiri said. Cichlids live in both shallow and deep water and have a wide array of diets, made possible by a second set of jaws set farther back in its throat, he said.

“My theory is that the lake is very old, and its formation had been gradual, creating different habitats over time,” Phiri said. “The cichlid adapted to the various niches, forming different species that are very closely related to each other.”

What makes a species new?

Many of the differences in the new species Pauers and Phiri found are in coloration, but they also found variation in body shape, and in the numbers of teeth and scales. The pair also put cichlids under the microscope and measured their

physical features, an arduous task that few other scientists are doing.

In many cases, the distinctions are so slim, it could be a single feature separating one species from another. Complicating matters is the fact that females and males of the same species look different.

But taxonomy is complex, and adaptations don’t necessarily give rise to a new species, Pauers said.

Scientists investigate whether the physical adaptations are linked to behavior, when determining a new species. And the variations in color patterns among the newly discovered species are associated with mating, Pauers said.

When females prefer to mate only with members of their own species, the color pattern of the males is a sign to females that a potential mate is suitable. Also, males are more likely to be aggressive to males of their own species because they recognize them as rivals, he said.

“So, they’ve already specialized anatomically,” he said. “And that’s leading to its behavior also diversifying.”

With a new species, those differences also show up in their genes. “We just got a look at the ‘whole genome’ of our finds – not looking at the genes of any particular trait – and we have evidence for very distinct genetic separation among the new species,” Pauers said.

No substitute for the real thing

To keep up with categorizing cichlids, scientists have moved some of the species from one genus to another or from the formerly huge genus *Haplochromis* to an entirely new genus over the decades. After studying the *Labeotropheus* with existing specimens for nearly 20 years, Pauers was convinced there were more species, and determined to see them in their environment.

[Continued on Page 10](#)

New species of *Labeotropheus* cichlids

UWM scientist Michael Pauers has been involved in identifying nine of the 11 known species of cichlids.

L. chlorosiglos Pauers 2016

L. simoneae Pauers 2016

L. artatorostris Pauers 2017

L. alticodia Phiri and Pauers 2023

L. obscurus Phiri and Pauers 2023

L. rubidorsalis Phiri and Pauers 2023

L. aurantinfra Phiri and Pauers 2023

L. candipygia Pauers and Phiri 2023

L. chirangali Pauers and Phiri 2023



Michael Pavers (right) sorts recently-caught cichlids with Joseph Chombo, research assistant with the Malawi Department of Fisheries. Photo courtesy of Michael Pavers.

Cichlid species

[Continued from Page 9](#)

Support for his expeditions to Lake Malawi came from the Milwaukee Public Museum, where he is the [Orth Family Ichthyology research fellow](#) and an adjunct curator of fishes, and from the UWM Office of Research.

One aspect of the research that comes alive when experienced in person, he said, is how the cichlid's ecology informs their adaptability. For example, the team found three new species of *Labeotropheus* within a short distance from each other. "I thought, 'what could be keeping these species separate when there are no physical barriers?'" Turns out, habitat depth played a role.

Pavers has contributed around 500 cichlid specimens to the Milwaukee Public Museum following his trips. He and Phiri also have deposited specimens in the Field Museum in Chicago and the South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity in Makhanda, South Africa.

Specimens are essential to logging the changing taxonomy of the cichlids, he said.

"These are measuring sticks by which other scientists are comparing their specimens, if they think they found something that hasn't been discovered before."

By Laura Otto, Marketing & Communications

CES major counts snakes, promotes environmental justice with Nearby Nature

What you need to know:

- Hassan Richardson is a conservation and environmental science major who has a summer internship with Nearby Nature.
- Nearby Nature is a nonprofit focusing on environmental justice, stewardship, and equity.
- Richardson helps with trash pick-up, invasive plant removal, and snake surveys.

You never know what you might find under the snake boards at Hopkins Hollow.

There might be mice or shrews. There might be pill bugs or ants. But if you're lucky, there will be snakes.

"Basically, we're checking for common garter snakes, Butler's garter snakes, and DeKay's brownsnakes. We've mainly found female Butler garter snakes. We haven't found any common garter snakes, and we've found two DeKay's brownsnakes," Hassan Richardson reported.

Richardson is in the middle of his summer internship with [Nearby Nature](#), a nonprofit that focuses on environmental justice, stewardship, and outreach in Milwaukee. Richardson, a conservation and environmental science major at UW-Milwaukee, had just finished an urban planning course when he found the internship.

"This (job) was probably one of the few that incorporated environmental justice and ecology and aligned with my most recent career goals," he said, adding that he'd like to find a career that combines his interests in urban planning, environmental justice, and wildlife biology. He's a CES major because "it came to me naturally – no pun intended."

The job is hard – Richardson is outside in the sun for 4-5 hours at a time, doing trash pick-up, volunteering at outreach events, assisting with hikes for community members, and removing invasive plant species from natural areas. The buckthorn is bad, he said, but invasive wild parsley is worse: "If you cut the leaf and the oil gets on your skin and it's exposed to the sun, it'll give you burns or a rash in a couple of hours," Richardson explained.

But for all of the work, there's plenty of fun. Richardson and his fellow interns have enjoyed field trips to the local Department of Natural Resources office, and they've learned a lot about urban natural areas, environmental advocacy, and outreach. They've also been able to see some interesting wildlife; Richardson said one of the coolest experiences he had was catching a glimpse of a scissortailed flycatcher, a bird that is rarely seen in Wisconsin.

But the best part is definitely the snakes.

Nearby Nature has been conducting a snake survey this summer, counting the number of several different types of snakes they find and recording the data. They're working in Hopkins Hollow, a green space near 35th and Hopkins, to find the reptiles. When Richardson finds one under one of the area's 24 snake boards – large pieces of wood covering the ground that provide excellent cover for snakes and other wildlife – he records its species, length, gender, and whether or not the snake is pregnant.

He's become good at identifying who is who: Common garter snakes have three scale rows of colors and broader heads while Butler's garter snakes have four scale rows and narrower heads. Female snakes generally have more tapered tails while male snakes have blunter tails, and he can tell if a female is pregnant by gently pressing above her "vent" – the opening where snakes void their waste and lay eggs – to feel for the presence of eggs.

It's an important job because Milwaukee needs environmental stewards, especially in communities of color. Many times, environmental justice efforts have ignored the needs of neighborhoods that are primarily non-white. Nearby Nature strives to correct that in Milwaukee by advocating for antiracism and equity among its leadership and constituents, and by stewarding the land so that Hopkins Hollow and nearby Havenwoods – the largest urban state forest in Wisconsin – are available as green spaces for all



Conservation and Environmental Science major Hassan Richardson examines two Butler's garter snakes that he found during his survey of snakes in the Hopkins Hollow area. Richardson is an intern with Nearby Nature, a nonprofit that promotes environmental justice and stewardship. Photo courtesy of Hassan Richardson.

communities, but especially those that are Black and brown.

"(The DNR) said 60 percent of Wisconsin's African American population lives within a 5-miles radius of Havenwoods. Not Milwaukee, Wisconsin," Richardson added.

It wasn't always like this. Richardson recalls stories from Nearby Nature's Arts & Youth Leader, Martina Patterson, about the former state of Hopkins Hollow.

"Two years ago, the area that we're working in was a huge illegal dumping spot. The trash was 12 feet tall, or something like that. People in the community called for help and nobody helped. It took a couple of years for them to get all of the trash picked up," Richardson said.

Things are changing, thanks to interns like Richardson, the Nearby Nature staff, and the community members who engage with organization. With this summer's experience, Richardson is more dedicated than ever to environmental justice.

And also to counting snakes.

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science



Alumni Accomplishments

Mark Huesmann ('91, BA History) was appointed by Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers to the [La Crosse County Circuit Court – Branch 3](#). Huesmann will fill a vacancy left by a previous judge's retirement, and his term will run through July 31, 2024. Huesmann previously served as the court commissioner for the retiring judge, and since 2020, he has served as the Coulee Region Joint Municipal Court judge. He also teaches at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and was a practicing attorney for many years.

Jillian Pfeifer ('11, BA Political Science) was appointed by Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers as the district attorney of [Oneida County](#), filling a vacancy after the previous district attorney was elected as a judge. Pfeifer will serve the remainder of the term to 2025. Pfeifer is currently an assistant DA in Oneida County.

Mike Bubolz ('04, BA Political Science), who was previously the interim chief information officer at UW-Green Bay, has officially become the university's CIO. Bubolz has already logged nine years of service at UW-Green Bay and 14 years with the UW System.

Ken Cammilleri ('13, MA Nonprofit Administration) has become the new borough manager of [Narberth, Pennsylvania](#). He brings 10 years of experience in local government. Cammilleri was previously a city manager in Scandia, Minnesota.

Aaron Roerdink ('04, PhD Chemistry) was appointed the inaugural associate dean of learning enrichment and associate professor-in-residence of chemistry at [Central College](#). He will oversee the development and implementation of a strategy for summer academic programs, including undergraduate research, internships, workshops and courses. Roerdink is also an alum of Central College, which is located in Iowa. He was previously a professor of chemistry at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio.

Jenna Hamilton-Rolle ('12, BS Biology; '14, MS Geosciences) was named the director of education and community engagement for the University of California Santa Barbara [Arts & Lectures](#). She was previously the director of education at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Sea Center.

Abbey Quistorf ('08, BA Political Science) is the new executive director of the [Chamber of Manitowoc County](#). She has served the Chamber for 15 years, most recently as its finance and program manager. She says she hopes to strengthen community collaboration and foster sustainable growth in the county.

Jen Keller ('18, Masters of Public Administration), the village administrator in Jackson, Wisconsin, won the [Emerging Leader award](#) at the Wisconsin City/Counties Management Association (WCMA) Conference in Green Bay in June. The award committee chose Keller based on her professional and volunteer work. Keller has been in her current role since 2021.



Jen Keller

Antonio Paniagua Guzman ('22, PhD Sociology) awarded with the Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship to Promote Diversity (AARF-D) by the Alzheimer's Association. The AARF-D grant program consists of \$183,000.00 to develop and implement the first therapeutic poetry program focused on Indigenous communities in the United States. This program will be developed and implemented by me (PI) and my colleagues at Memory Keepers-Medical Discovery Team in collaboration with an Ojibwe (Chippewa) Band, member of the Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe in Northern Minnesota. It will serve Indigenous people living with dementia and their caregivers.



Laurels and Accolades

Karyn Frick (Psychology) was awarded a new R01 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke entitled, "Estrogenic regulation of the hippocampal ubiquitin-proteasome system and its role in memory and structural plasticity" for \$2.45 million over 5 years. **Tim Jarome ('13, PhD Psychology)**, now faculty at Virginia Tech, is the Co-Investigator.



Karyn Frick



In the Media and Around the Community

The [Daily Reporter](#) wrote about the role of UWM's [Cultural Resource Management](#) program in uncovering human remains at the site of a proposed Kohler golf course. The article also quoted [Jennifer Haas \(Anthropology\)](#) describing the find.

Animation is quintessential part of filmmaking. [Jocelyn Szczepaniak-Gillece \(Film Studies\)](#) spoke on [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) about the history of animation.

PhD student [Ken Bartelt \(History\)](#) is the co-principal investigator on a project to gather an oral history of Milwaukee's Beckum-Stapleton Little League. [WUWM Radio](#) featured the project in July.

When former President Trump begins his trial in a federal case alleging his mishandling of classified documents, presiding Judge Aileen Cannon will face criticism from both sides of the aisle, [Thomas Holbrook \(Political Science\)](#) predicted in a [Yahoo! Finance](#) article.

Alumna [Julie Stich \('85, BA English and History\)](#) appeared on the [HRchat podcast](#) to talk about trends in employee benefits. Stich is the Vice President, Content at the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

[WUWM Radio](#) featured undergraduate [Jaeden Carrasquillo \(Conservation and Environmental Science\)](#) in a piece focusing on diversity in environmental equity movements.

As Milwaukee raises its sales tax, the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) spoke to [Rebecca Neumann \(Economics\)](#) about its impact.

NPR's [Academic Minute](#) program spoke with [Carolyn Eichner \(History and Women's & Gender Studies\)](#) about the historical lessons to be learned from the 1871 Paris Commune.



After Twitter announced that it would limit the number of Tweets users could see, [CBS 58 News](#) turned to [Michael Mirer \(Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies\)](#) to see how that might impact users. Mirer also spoke to [Fox 6 News](#) about Threads, a new social media network by Meta meant to serve as an alternative to Twitter.

[Spectrum 1 News](#) spoke with PhD student [Jamee Pritchard \(African and African Diaspora Studies\)](#) about her involvement with the [Center for 21st Century Studies'](#) Story Cart project, which gathers stories from people in the Milwaukee Community about their experiences with food.

Urban heat islands are an effect of concrete and asphalt in cities absorbing heat during the day and releasing it at night, keeping cities artificially warmer. [Woonsup Choi \(Geography\)](#) discussed the phenomenon on [Wisconsin Public Radio](#).

Two UWM faculty members selected as Teaching Fellows & Scholars

The University of Wisconsin System has selected Hilary Snow and [Megan Orcholski](#) of UWM as 2023-2024 [Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars](#).

Snow teaches art history and Asian studies in the Honors College. [Orcholski](#) teaches in the Department of Communication.

Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars, who are nominated by their institution's provosts, must demonstrate excellent teaching skills and have a curiosity about student learning. The year-long program begins in mid-June and culminates with a research presentation at the annual Spring Conference on Teaching and Learning in Madison.

The program provides UW System faculty and teaching academic staff a unique opportunity to collaborate with other exceptional teachers from across the UW System and from various disciplines. In addition to discussing influential literature, participants are guided through systematic research focused on improving student learning through a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning project.



Megan Orcholski

By Kathy Quirk, Marketing & Communications

Join the Planetarium for two upcoming shows!

What: Full Moon Popsicle Party

When: August 1 at 8:30-10 p.m.

Where: Manfred Olson Planetarium

More info: <https://uwm.edu/planetarium/event/full-moon-popsicle-party/>

Join us for a summer evening under the full moon! Gaze at the stars and moon through our telescopes and cool off with tasty popsicles for purchase from Pete's Pops. Telescopes and binoculars will be set up outside of the planetarium; planetarium shows will run indoors every 15-20 minutes. This event is open to the public.

No advance registration is required. Check in any time between 8:30 – 10:00pm at the ticket table to reserve your free spot for a planetarium show.

What: Stars N' S'mores

When: August 30 at 8-10 p.m.

Where: Manfred Olson Planetarium

More Info: <https://uwm.edu/planetarium/event/stars-n-smores-3/>

Join the UWM Planetarium for our popular annual event, Stars & S'mores! Enjoy eating delicious s'mores and relax outside while gazing at summer constellations and the moon through our telescopes. S'mores kits are free (one per person while supplies last). We will also offer free planetarium shows every 15-20 minutes. This event is open to the public.

No advance registration is required. Check in any time between 8:00 – 10:00pm at the ticket table to reserve your free spot for a planetarium show.

Mark your calendar!

Prowl Radio is hosting a Battle of the Bands competition after the Welcome Back Block Party at Fall Welcome on Sept. 8. Four local bands will compete for a cash prize. Bands will be announced in the next few weeks.



Prowl Radio Station Manager Alexis Treadway (center, back row) smiles with some of her officers after Prowl Radio won the "Outstanding New Student Organization of the Year" award from the UWM Student Association in May. Photo courtesy of Alexis Treadway.