



# **IN FOCUS**



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## *A city of spires*

**UWM architectural historian leads the way in surveying Milwaukee's religious buildings - Pg. 6**





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# Citizen scientists can now also use their brains to help find new pulsars

## What you need to know:

- Einstein @ Home is a program that allows citizen-scientists to lend their computing power needed for data-intensive tasks.
- Einstein @ Home volunteers can now assist in identifying pulsar candidates through the “Pulsar Seekers” team.
- The “Pulsar Seekers” are led by Rahul Sengar, a UWM postdoctoral researcher in the Physics Department.

Citizen scientists have provided important help to astronomers exploring the heavens, and now they are invited to take a more hands-on role.

In their efforts to scour the universe for evidence of gravitational waves, scientists have enlisted the help of 15,000 volunteers who donated their private computers' downtime in a citizen-science project called [Einstein@Home](#).

Begun by the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics (Albert Einstein Institute) in Hannover, Germany, and at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Einstein@Home offers the collective computing power needed for the enormous and data-intensive task of searching for neutron stars and pulsars, which create gravitational waves.

Neutron stars are compact remnants of exploded massive stars. Pulsars are a special kind of rotating neutron star that emits beacons of radiation at regular intervals.

Donated computer time from Einstein@Home participants also is helping analyze observations from some of the largest radio telescopes on Earth, including the now-decommissioned Arecibo Radio Telescope, to identify pulsars. Most pulsars are detected by the radio waves they emit, but they are difficult to extract from the telescope data.

Now, Einstein@Home volunteers can take a more active role by classifying pulsar candidates from radio telescope data using graphical representations and other characteristics of the data. Volunteers can sign up to join “[Pulsar Seekers](#),” on the citizen science platform [Zooniverse](#).

Pulsars are excellent astrophysical tools that enable research in several areas of astronomy, such as testing Einstein's theory of general relativity, understanding the behavior of extremely dense matter, and searching for low-frequency gravitational waves – the kind that are beyond the frequency range of Earth-based detectors like [LIGO](#), [but which were likely discovered by international teams last summer](#).

The project's science team has taken the first step to narrow the huge field of potential pulsar candidates using sophisticated algorithms, said Rahul Sengar, a UWM postdoctoral researcher who is leading Pulsar Seekers.

But the remaining number is formidable, Sengar said. “The number of candidates is so large that it is impractical for one person to do the job. This makes the collective human effort of Zooniverse participants invaluable in identifying true pulsar candidates,” he said.

With the help of Pulsar Seekers, scientists hope to have the manpower to find pulsars in very tight orbits with one another.

This kind of pulsar is more difficult to identify but are important because they could contain information on questions such as the origin of heavy elements in the universe, said David Kaplan, UWM professor of physics.

“The first evidence for gravitational waves came from two neutron stars orbiting around each other every eight hours, with the orbit gradually shrinking,” Kaplan said. “We now know of about 15 such systems in the Milky Way galaxy.”

Scientists want to be able to compare binary neutrons in our galaxy with those that can be detected in distant galaxies with the LIGO and Virgo observatories, he said.

The pulsar census work is already underway, Sengar said. To date, Einstein@Home has discovered 31 radio pulsars in data from the Arecibo telescope, 24 radio pulsars in data from Parkes Observatory in Australia, and 39 gamma-ray emitting pulsars in data from NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Observatory.

“We can't wait to see what Zooniverse citizen scientists discover in our data,” Sengar said.

Anyone interested in participating can get more information and [sign up on the Zooniverse website](#).

**By Laura Otto, Marketing & Communication**



Professor David Kaplan (left) and Rahul Sengar, a UWM postdoctoral researcher, are inviting members of the public to help with the search for pulsars. (UWM Photo/Laura Otto)



# First-year anthropology student curates morbid exhibit for Neville Museum

## What you need to know:

- Rose Lemerande is a first-year anthropology student at UW-Milwaukee.
- In summer, Lemerande interned with the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin, before she even started classes at UWM.
- As part of her internship, Lemerande curated an exhibit called “Morbid Curiosities” that displays items from the museum’s collection that are fascinating, arcane, or even disgusting.

The Neville Public Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin, just wrapped up an exhibit entitled, “[Morbid Curiosities](#).” As the name might suggest, the displays featured fascinating, arcane, and at times, even disgusting, oddities from years past. Among the items available for viewing were historical medical equipment like a bloodletting kit, mourning clothes worn by the deceased, and hair jewelry.

How does hair jewelry fit the “morbid curiosity” theme? one may ask. Isn’t it just hair pins and clips?

Well, no.

“(It’s jewelry) made out of hair,” Rose Lemerande explained.

Lemerande is the curator of the Morbid Curiosities exhibit, which she created during a summer internship at the [Neville Public Museum](#). Curating an entire exhibit is impressive enough, but what makes Lemerande’s work stand out is that her internship wasn’t even a college internship: She volunteered at the museum before she even started classes at UW-Milwaukee.

“I was in National Honors Society in high school, and I needed more volunteer hours,” Lemerande said. “I knew I wanted to be a museum curator. I contacted the Neville and asked if they had any volunteer opportunities.”

The museum staff made her wait until she turned 18, but this summer, Lemerande got her opportunity.

Lemerande, who is now a first-year student at UW-Milwaukee majoring in anthropology, has always been fascinated by history and science. She also likes teaching people new things, but isn’t interested in teaching as a profession. Museum curation seems to be the perfect marriage of all of her interests.

Interning at the Neville Public Museum fed that love. Lemerande grew up in Green Bay and visited the Neville frequently as a child. Curating an exhibit there felt like coming full-circle, especially one like Morbid Curiosities.

“The Neville does the ‘Morbid Curiosities’ exhibit every year,” Lemerande said. “It’s items from the collection that normally you never get to see, that are creepy or weird or would just really freak somebody out. And they let me put a whole bunch of it together.”

To do that, Lemerande did research on how to curate an exhibit and took advice from her supervisors. She got lessons in how to carefully handle artifacts. Then she scoured the backrooms and basements of the museum to look for objects that fit the theme – “They basically let me take a little cart through their giant shelves of collections,” she joked.

When she finished, she had three sections of artifacts: Medicines and medical procedures no longer in use, mourning clothing worn by mourners and the deceased, and the previously mentioned hair jewelry, “which was gross,” Lemerande laughed.

Then she had to explain to the public what they were looking at. Lemerande wrote display cards and artifact labels to give each item’s specific history and description, and then bigger boards describing the overarching history of each section.



One of the most striking artifacts she displayed is a bloodletting kit, which looks like a doctor’s case lined in red velvet.

“It’s got this little block in it called a [‘scarificator.’](#) You would twist the end of it and a whole bunch of little blades came up at the top. It was seen as a more humane way of bloodletting,” Lemerande said.

The exhibit began Sept. 30 and ran through Nov. 5. Lemerande had the chance to visit her work in October.

All of her work has given Lemerande new insight into curation.

“There is a lot more prior research involved than I thought there would be,” she admitted. “You have to know the history behind why these items are important, why they were made in the first place, and what was done with them. That’s a lot of time and effort before you even start putting the exhibit together.”

She carries that knowledge into her UWM classes, where Lemerande hopes to explore other avenues of history. She loves curation, but she’s also interested in archaeology and biological anthropology.

Wherever she ends up, she already has an impressive entry on her resume.

“I had real work experience before I started college,” she said. “I got to look through a whole bunch of historical artifacts in the back room of a museum, which most people don’t get to do. I got to play around with a job I was thinking about for quite a while. And, I had a lot of fun doing it.”

The internship definitely helped satisfy her curation curiosity, morbidity aside.

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

Top: First-year student Rose Lemerande, an anthropology major, smiles next to a sign announcing the “Morbid Curiosities” exhibit at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay. Lemerande curated the exhibit as part of an internship before she had even started classes at UWM.

Bottom: Two of the artifacts Lemerande selected for display were a scarificator and a bloodletting kit. Photos courtesy of Rose Lemerande.



# Steeple and synagogues: CRM survey recommends Milwaukee religious buildings for Historic Register

### What you need to know:

- UWM’s Cultural Resource Management program recently partnered with the City of Milwaukee’s Historic Preservation Commission and the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office to survey Milwaukee’s religious buildings.
- The survey found more than 250 religious buildings constructed from 1920-1980 and recommended 38 for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The survey also found that Milwaukee (unofficially) has the fourth-highest ratio of churches to people in the nation, with one church for every 700 people.

Justin Miller’s favorite church wasn’t even on his list of buildings to visit.

But as he was wrapping up a long day of surveying religious buildings in Milwaukee last January, he looked across the road from the church he’d just photographed and spied a stone peak bearing a cross that he had never seen before. Curious, Miller walked a few blocks to find the building it belonged to.

It was the Living Waters Church of God in Christ, and it looked like a dollhouse-sized gothic cathedral.

“It had these incredible vertical buttresses on the side, and it has this soaring quality to it, but it’s tiny. It’s built on two bungalow-sized city lots. The whole thing less than 60 feet wide,” Miller recalled, smiling. Inside was just as breathtaking: “It has the most incredible stained-glass windows, I would say, of any church in the city.”

That’s just one of the more than 250 places of worship that Miller found during his survey of Milwaukee’s religious buildings as part of an effort to identify candidates for the National Register of Historic Places.

This past year, the UWM Cultural Resources Management (CRM) program, the City of Milwaukee’s Historic Preservation Commission, and the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office teamed up to conduct a survey of the city’s religious buildings – its churches, synagogues, mosques, and more – built between 1920 and 1980.

That project is important because it’s identified buildings that are significant enough – either architecturally or historically – to be considered for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, or to receive local historical designation. That comes with tax benefits for some of the buildings, according to a recent [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article](#).

But perhaps more importantly, the project gives city leaders a deeper understanding of the religious communities that call Milwaukee home.

“The religious buildings, historically, are built so well. They are such icons in their neighborhoods,”



Justin Miller found Living Waters Church of God in Christ in Milwaukee during a survey of the city’s religious buildings. Photo courtesy of Living Waters Church of God in Christ.

said Miller. “(Now) the City will have them on its radar to be able to start connecting with them in terms of funding opportunities to help keep the building up, which affects property values, which affects community and neighborhood identity.”

### Laying the groundwork

The parameters of the project were simple: Count, research, and photograph every religious building in Milwaukee constructed between 1920 and 1980.

The Cultural Resource Management program at UWM is ideal to take on such a task. The program provides consulting services to help its clients comply with historic preservation regulations, both on archaeological sites and for architectural-historical resources. Miller is an architectural historian with the CRM program.

To begin, Miller and his colleagues had to dig through city archives to begin pinpointing locations of each building. They wanted buildings that were constructed with a religious purpose in mind, which meant they had to discount buildings that were built for another purpose previously and were later converted to houses of worship.



Justin Miller

Similarly, they also had to count buildings that had been constructed as churches or synagogues that were later converted to a different use. For example, UWM’s Helene Zelazo Center began life as the synagogue of the Congregation Emanu-El B’ne Jeshurun.

Then Miller had to visit those buildings. He and his colleagues, Kelly Blaubach and Megan Daniels, spent several days in their cars, driving around the city in search of the buildings. Miller went out on further excursions with Daina Penkiunas, the Wisconsin Historical Society’s Historic Preservation Officer. They took photographs, talked with the buildings’ occupants, and learned more about their histories.

Using that information, he and his colleagues at the CRM program began to winnow down their enormous list (Miller describes the process as a sort of March Madness bracket-style process of elimination) until they had a short list of 75 buildings that they thought might be good candidates for historic registers.

“For the National Historic Register, a building can be significant because of historical events that were associated with it. It can be important because of archaeological potential, or it can be significant because of architectural or engineering qualities,” Miller explained. “For most of these, we were looking at architectural qualities.”

Then came the hard part: Getting the other organizations to agree about their choices. UWM’s team worked with Tim Askin, a senior planner at Milwaukee’s Historic Preservation Commission, to settle on a final list for Penkiunas to approve.

“It sometimes felt a little bit like legal negotiations,” Miller joked. “There might be a property that her office didn’t feel quite made it, and either me or one of my colleagues was like, no! We’re going to fight for this building to get on the list.”

Eventually, all three groups agreed on 38 buildings that they felt were “slam dunks” to be added to the National Register. That’s just the first step, however; it’s up to the building’s owners to pursue obtaining a listing on the Register or a local designation. Miller said that there have been several congregations that have reached out to the City about National Register listing, and there may be others as congegations read the survey’s report and consider whether the historical designation is something that interests them.

[Continued on Page 8](#)



# Religious buildings survey

[Continued from Page 7](#)

## A very pious city

Miller uncovered some fun and interesting facts as he worked on the project, starting with the sheer number of religious buildings in Milwaukee. By Miller’s calculations, the city has about the fourth-highest ratio in the nation of churches to people in the country.

“It turns out that Milwaukee has one house of worship for about every 700 people,” he said.

Miller suspects that’s largely thanks to Milwaukee’s history as a city of immigrants.

“You have all of these different congregations coming from Poland and Germany and Italy and Ireland, and each little community has to build their own church,” he said. “Because it’s a symbol of a community, of a neighborhood. And so you end up with literally hundreds of churches all over the city.”

And over half of those churches were Lutheran, he noted, thanks to an influx of German and Scandinavian immigrants.

Today, those churches are indelible marks on the neighborhoods around them.

“There are neighborhoods where if you can hear the bells of a certain church, you’re part of that neighborhood,” Miller mused. “They’re a sense of pride for neighborhoods. I think religious buildings are evocative in a way that some other buildings aren’t, because they represent the aspirations of the congregations that built them.”

Even if someone isn’t religious, he said, you can still feel the love that worshippers poured into their houses of worship.

That’s part of what CRM at UWM is about, he added.

“We’re able to do things we hope benefit the community or that will lead to real world good. We’re able to share our knowledge and expertise to help communities ... recognize and celebrate their historic resources,” Miller said.

There is more work ahead; during the course of the survey, Miller was introduced to the work of Alonzo Robinson, Jr., the first Black licensed architect in the state of Wisconsin. UWM-CRM was recently [awarded a grant](#) from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund to study and document Robinson’s work.

*By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science*

# Dr. Jennifer Carlson delivers Social Impact lecture

On October 25, the social sciences welcomed Dr. Jennifer Carlson for the 2023 Social Impact lecture. Dr. Carlson is a 2022 MacArthur “genius grant” recipient known for her work studying gun culture in America. Her most recent book was published in May 2023 – “Merchants of the Right: Gun Sellers and the Crisis of American Democracy.” She is a professor of sociology at Arizona State University.

Dr. Carlson met with graduate students across the social sciences, visited a sociology qualitative research methods class, and gave a public talk about the findings from her most recent book.

The College of Letters & Science is exploring the possibility of creating an annual Social Impact lecture series to bring in a prominent speaker for a public lecture on a current topic impacting our society.



Dr. Jennifer Carlson

# Phi Beta Kappa hosts Dr. Trevon Logan

UWM was pleased to welcome Dr. Trevon Logan from the Ohio State University as part of the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars program which brings distinguished speakers to college campuses that have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

Dr. Logan is the ENGIE-Axium Endowed Professor of Economics and Associate Dean for Administration of the college of Arts and Sciences at the Ohio State University. Some examples of his research include the economic history of racial inequality; the phenomena of dowries in South Asia and how the purpose of dowry has changed over time; and bias in the sports betting market and behavioral biases in college football poll rankings.



Dr. Trevon Logan from the Ohio State University (bottom row, far right) sits with UWM faculty at a workshop for members of the Center for Economic Development, the departments of African & African Diaspora Studies and Economics, the Phi Beta Kappa Eta Chapter officers, and the Center for 21st Century Studies.

During his two days at UWM, Dr. Logan toured the American Geographical Society Library and the UWM Archives; participated in a discussion with students in an African and African Diaspora Studies class, Economics class, and English class; gave a public lecture on assumptions in traditionally used economic statistics and methodologies related to equality; led a workshop with faculty from the Center for Economic Development, the departments of African & African Diaspora Studies and Economics, the Phi Beta Kappa Eta Chapter officers, and the Center for 21st Century Studies; and toured the community Victory Garden.



UWM’s Eta chapter of Phi Beta Kappa will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2024. Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest national honors society and recognizes the brightest students who have taken a broad liberal arts curriculum. Only UWM and Madison have PBK chapters among the UW campuses.

Dr. Trevon Logan (right corner) gestures as he speaks to a gathering of faculty and staff at a workshop during his visit to UW-Milwaukee.



# Journalism grad keeps the world informed on cancer at her WebMD job

## What you need to know:

- Patricia McKnight is a UWM graduate who now works for WebMD.
- WebMD and Medscape, WebMD's site aimed at medical professionals, publish articles that keep the public and the health care industry informed on the latest health news.
- McKnight has several years of journalism experience and enjoys informing others about new discoveries in the field of cancer research.

Most people think of [WebMD](#) as the place to research their medical symptoms – and to possibly psych themselves out when their vague symptoms match up with various cancers.

But WebMD, a company that provides the public with information about health conditions, medications, and general well-being, is more than a website where people can research what might ail them. The corporation also operates [Medscape](#), which provides articles, education, and medical information for physicians and medical researchers.

Patricia McKnight, a recent UW-Milwaukee graduate with double majors in English and Journalism, Advertising, & Media Studies, is Medscape's associate editor of oncology. After a few years of working in traditional media, McKnight pivoted to medical journalism where she now helps keep doctors and scientists around the world informed about the latest trends and treatments in medicine.

She sat down to talk about her job, her articles, and how UWM helped pave her way.

## As an associate editor at Medscape, what kind of work do you do?

We search medical journals for the latest studies that have come out. I work in the oncology department, so it's a lot of cancer-related things that I write and edit.

I assign stories to some of the writers. When I first started ... I mostly was writing, but now I do mostly editing. I'll look at the different journals and I'll see what's interesting and what I might need a staff writer to cover. I'm also in charge of the newsletters that go out to subscribers. There are different newsletters, like one about breast cancer or cervical cancer. So I'm going through the journals to see what I can assign that will coincide with what I need in a newsletter.

## Is there a story you covered that you're particularly proud of?

There is! Most women, when they undergo radiation treatment for breast cancer, have a lot of side effects, especially on the affected area. So (the treatment area) might be swollen, or it might chafe. Even though it's not life-threatening, it does hinder a lot of everyday movements. Like, you might want to go do aerobics – doctors recommend that cancer patients move and get exercise. So if you have radiation dermatitis, this skin condition from radiation on your breast, you can't do a lot of things and it's just a pain to have on top of breast cancer.

I did [a story](#) on a new type of film. It looks kind of like a Band-Aid, but it's transparent



Patricia McKnight (Photo by Shun Powell, Jr.)

and it minimizes the effects of radiation dermatitis for a lot of breast cancer survivors.

It was a nice story about something that makes the lives of these women easier. When I was writing this, my grandmother had breast cancer. I did a lot of breast cancer news because I wanted to find out as much as I possibly could.

## What do you find rewarding about your job?

It's a slower pace, which I really appreciate. I feel like my job is important because there are so many people that are affected by cancer. We are informing your medical staff about the latest treatments, or which drugs are getting approved that they should recommend for their patients. I think this kind of news is really important and a lot of people don't see it in their daily news scroll.

## You're a Black woman writing about health care, an industry which has historically ignored or neglected

## people of color. Do you think you offer any perspectives that may have been missing?

I think it's important to have diversity in your newsroom and diversity in the stories that you cover. There are a lot of disparities, especially in cancer research, in cancer treatments, in clinical study populations. And it's not just Black people; a lot of minorities aren't really considered in clinical trials, which is very, very important. We have people who try to make it seem like, oh, we're all the same. We're not, biologically, and so we need diversity in the clinical trials to see how this drug affects this population. It's been an uphill battle, to say the least.

## Before you started working at Medscape, you were a more traditional journalist. Tell me about your career and how you made the switch to medical journalism.

During my senior year at UWM, I was doing my internship at the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. My time there was great. That's where I took my [\(era-defining\) photo](#). After my internship ended, I wanted to stay in Milwaukee for a little bit, and so I was a producer at TMJ4, the NBC affiliate news station. After that, I got tired of the snow and moved to Florida (to work at) the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*, which was great. I got to write on the [Gabby Petito and Brian Laundrie story](#). I was the lead reporter for that.

Florida started to get expensive, so I looked for a different position at *Newsweek*. It was covering global affairs. That's when the Ukraine and Russia conflict started, so I did a lot of stories there. Then *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, so I got to write a lot on that. But the culture just wasn't for me at *Newsweek*, so I ended up here at WebMD.

I learned (about medical journalism) by doing a lot of research on my own after work. I didn't go to school for biology or anything like that. Being a self-starter, I was talking to my manager and he gave me some resources. It wasn't a requirement that I do this in my free time. But in order for me to get the style of medical journalism, I had to do things in my own time and be proactive with my learning curve.

## How did UWM prepare you for your career in journalism?

My professors were amazing – Jessica McBride, Jane Hampden-Daley. I was literally just messaging Marc Tasman yesterday. The valuable feedback and guidance I got from them really helped me early in my career because I could call them up if I was working on a story, even though I wasn't a student anymore. It was so refreshing to have professors like that.

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



# Fall Awards recognize faculty and staff's outstanding service to UWM

More than two dozen people were honored for their many years of service to UW-Milwaukee at the annual Fall Awards ceremony on Oct. 25 at the Zelazo Center, including faculty and staff from the College of Letters & Science.

## Ernest Spaight Plaza Award

- David Harold Petering, distinguished professor emeritus of chemistry and biochemistry

Dates of service: 1971-2021

Colleagues describe David Petering as a critical leader in helping the university reach the highest national ranking of Research 1 in 2015.



David Petering

His own research made a major contribution to this status. Petering's studies focused on the biochemical effects of toxic heavy metals in the environment, metal-containing drugs and essential trace metals on biological systems. With his students and collaborators, Petering published 196 papers in journals and 48 papers in books and monographs, including 38 invited reviews. A 2020 Stanford University study ranked him among the top 2% of researchers in his field.

A tireless supporter of broader UWM research efforts, Petering served for 29 years as director and principal investigator of two major interinstitutional centers of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Working with Jeanne Hewitt (UWM School of Nursing), Jerry Resler of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, and Mayor Tom Barrett, Dr. Petering led the successful effort to establish the school of public health at UWM. He collaborated with Professors James Cook and Guilherme Indig in the formation of the Milwaukee Institute for Drug Discovery, an interdepartmental center focused on discovering new chemical therapies for major diseases.

In 1996, Petering established an environmental health science program for middle and high school students, funded by a series of National Institutes of Health grants. This program, involving a number of UWM faculty and staff, has provided tens of thousands of students in the Milwaukee area, many of them low income and underrepresented, with the opportunity to do scientific inquiry in the classroom.

## Joanne Lazirko Award for the Innovative Use of Learning Technology

- Ann Raddant, senior teaching faculty, Biological Sciences

Raddant leverages technology to improve her students' learning experiences. She boldly uses a flipped format in a large enrollment course, which involves providing video lectures for students to view before class. This allows classroom and lab time to be spent doing active learning activities that facilitate deeper understanding of course content and help her students develop critical thinking skills in the discipline.

She's also built more effective quizzes in Canvas that generate analytics to get a better sense of how well her students are understanding materials. "Ann demonstrates a willingness to try new approaches, fail, and revise until her goals are achieved," wrote Connie Schroeder of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

## Academic Staff Outstanding Performance & Service Awards

- Paul Engevoid, supervisor, Biological Sciences Greenhouse

For more than a decade, Paul Engevoid has dedicated himself to making UWM's Biological Sciences Greenhouse facility an invaluable resource for instruction, research and community engagement.

Engevoid serves on several UWM committees and has hosted workshops for UWM's College for Kids, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and other organizations, and he recently became the acting director of UWM's Saukville Field Station.

- Frank Holger Foersterling, supervisor, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Laboratory

UWM's nuclear magnetic resonance facility is a state-of-the-art laboratory that's home to spectroscopic instrumentation, which is crucial to chemistry and biochemistry instruction and research. Frank Holger Foersterling has managed and operated the lab as skilled and trusted mentor for over 25 years. His duties include adjusting and maintaining instruments worth several hundred thousand dollars.

Industry partners rely on his expertise to support analytical programs and contracted work. He also teaches, does committee service and regularly publishes work with colleagues. "Researchers highly respect his expertise, and his affable, patient and professional manner is greatly appreciated," wrote Nicholas Silvaggi, professor of chemistry and biochemistry.

## Faculty Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Awards

- Peter W. Lenz, teaching associate professor, psychology

Peter Lenz touches the lives of hundreds of students taking psychology classes every semester. As a research methods instructor, Lenz helps students develop the scientific writing and critical thinking skills vital for more advanced coursework and in professional settings.

One student credited Lenz for helping him get involved in on-campus research and other opportunities. "He has taken my snowball of interest in psychology, and with a gentle shove in the right direction turned it into a boulder of fascination and determination."

- Rebecca Neumann, professor of economics



Rebecca Neumann

In addition to other courses, Rebecca Neumann teaches two of the Economics Department's largest sections of introductory economics. She strives in these gateway classes to encourage those who may be "afraid" of economics to succeed, said Kundan Kishor, department chair, in his nomination letter.

Neumann approaches economics by encouraging students to connect the subject with their everyday lives and current events. For example, a cookie auction helps students understand the demand curve. Music is sometimes part of the mix – Playing "You Can't Always Get What You Want" by the Rolling Stones at the start of class kicks off a discussion on opportunity cost, scarcity and needs versus wants.

## Faculty Distinguished University Service Award

- Kristene Surerus, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry

After distinguishing herself as a researcher, teacher and department chair in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Kristene Surerus added another level of service to the university helping campus planners make the best use of the university's classrooms and buildings. In 2015, she became special assistant to the provost for space planning.



Kristene Surerus

In this role, she works with campus planners to update classrooms and develop new active learning spaces. She helped with the new nursing simulation center and the redesign of spaces in the Northwest Quadrant. Her work informs long-range planning for space usage on campus.

## UWM Research in the Humanities Awards

- Blain Neufeld, professor of philosophy

Through his powerful and innovative work, Blain Neufeld has achieved an international reputation in political philosophy. Neufeld modifies, extends and defends John Rawls' theory of political justice, the most important such theory for modern liberal democracies to have appeared in at least a century.

In his 2022 book, "Public Reason and Political Autonomy," Neufeld offers an innovative interpretation and defense of public reason, an important and controversial notion in the context of Rawls' political liberalism. The idea of public reason is that the rules by which we govern our collective lives in a modern democratic liberal society be justifiable to all who are bound by those rules.

- Nigel Rothfels, professor of history

Nigel Rothfels is a historian and leading authority on animal studies and zoo history. His research has been broadly acclaimed, garnering him international attention and grant funding.

Rothfels wrote about animals in captivity in his first book, "Savages and Beasts: The Birth of the Modern Zoo." His most recent monograph, "Elephant Trails: A History of Animals and Cultures," traces the history of elephant-human interactions. Rothfels has written 25 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, co-authored a book about elephants and zoos, and edited a book series in animal studies. He has been the recipient of major national humanities awards in the United States and Australia.



Blain Neufeld



Nigel Rothfels

[Continued on Page 15](#)





# Upcoming Events

## Recurring November events

**Art Works: Recent Donations to the UWM Art Collection.** Emile H. Mathis Art Gallery. Art Works places the spotlight on curation and research practices at the UWM Art Collection and [Emile H. Mathis Art Gallery](#). Exhibits run Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Feb. 8, 2024.

**French Table – Practice your French in a conversational setting.** 1-2 p.m. Curtin 766. All learning levels welcome. Held Nov. 9, 15, 30.

**Weekly Irish Language Table.** 1-2 p.m. Merrill G16. All learning levels welcome. Held Fridays throughout the semester. Refreshments provided.

**Planetarium Show: Searching for Life.** 7-8 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Learn how the James Webb Space Telescope is helping in the search for distant worlds and their potential to host life. Show not recommended for children under 4. [Tickets](#) are \$5-\$6. Held Nov. 10 and 17.

### Nov. 8

**Milwaukee Shapes the Universe: Discovering the Cosmic Hum.** 7-8 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Sarah Vigeland, UWM, describes the recent discovery of low-frequency gravitational waves using pulsar timing arrays. [Advanced registration](#) recommended. Part of the Milwaukee Shapes the Universe series, focused on innovative space research and technologies being developed at UW-Milwaukee.

### Nov. 9

**Righting Remembrance: Black American Women’s Memory Book.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Curtin 535B. Part of the Women’s & Gender Studies lunch and learn series. Sara VanderHaagen, UWM, presents.

### Nov. 10

**Ocumtun: A Recently Discovered City in the Maya Lowlands.** 3:30-5 p.m. Sabin G90. Sponsored by the Anthropology Department. Ivan Sprajc, Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, presents.

**United We Read – Creative Writing Faculty/Student reading series** 7-8:30 p.m. Sugar Maple, 441 E. Lincoln Ave., Milwaukee. Featuring graduate students Timothy Knapp, Gabriel Mundo, and Angela Voras-Hills with associate professor of English Katharine Beutner.

### Nov. 13

**Nonprofit Management Graduate Programs – Info Session.** 5-6 p.m. Online. [Register](#) for a link to the session.

NOVEMBER 2023						
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		

### Nov. 15

**Indigenous Voices – Planetarium Show.** 7-8 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Learn about the languages, star connections, and music of six Wisconsin Nations: Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Ojibwe, Oneida, Potawatomi, and Stockbridge-Munsee. [Register](#) to reserve your spot.

### Nov. 15

**Planetarium Event: Rooftop Stargazing.** 8-9 p.m. Physics Building Skydeck. Free, public stargazing with provided telescopes. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be cancelled.

### Dec. 1

**Colorful Nebulas – Planetarium Show.** 7-8 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Show recommended for ages 4 and up. [Tickets](#) are \$5-6.

## Letters & Science Preview Days

The College of Letters & Science will be hosting Preview Days for some of our majors. At these events you can learn about the requirements for the major, hear about internships and research opportunities, meet professors and current students, and get ready to take the next steps towards admission. These events are open to incoming freshmen and transfer students for Fall 2024 and their parents or family members.

**Nov. 21: [Psychology](#)**

**Nov. 28: [Conservation & Environmental Science and Geosciences](#) and [Political Science and Pre-Law](#)**

**Dec. 1: [English; Communication; and Journalism, Advertising, & Media Studies](#)**

**Dec. 5: [Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Pre-Healthcare \(Pre-med, Pre-dentistry, etc.\)](#)**

**Dec. 6: [Actuarial Science](#)**

**Dec. 8: [History](#)**

# Service awards

[Continued from Page 13](#)

## Office of Research Senior Research Awards

- John Berges, professor of biological sciences

John Berges’ research tackles questions in aquatic ecology and cell biology of aquatic organisms, using a broad range of biophysical, biochemical and molecular tools. Focusing primarily on phytoplankton, Berges’ work characterizes responses of algae to environmental stresses. This work has implications for understanding climate change and harmful algal blooms. Berges’ lab was involved in the first genome sequencing of two marine phytoplankton.



John Berges

He has studied topics ranging from algal nitrate metabolism to the “programmed cell death” in phytoplankton, a complex process that scientists are only beginning to understand. He has investigated other challenges facing the Great Lakes, including invasive zooplankton. Berges has been funded throughout his career from U.S. state and federal agencies and the U.K.’s Natural Environment Research Council. In 2018, he was elected a fellow of the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, the major professional organization in his field. He is a fellow of the U.K. Higher Education Academy and in 2015 received a UWM Faculty Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award.

- W. Hobart Davies, professor of psychology

For more than three decades, W. Hobart Davies has conducted research designed to help children experiencing both acute and chronic health conditions, and the providers who care for these youth and their families. Davies has made impactful research contributions to many areas of pediatric psychology, including pain and pain dismissal by providers, feeding concerns, gastroenterology, pediatric intensive care, emergency medicine and traumas such as experiencing child abuse or community violence.



W. Hobart Davies

Within each of these domains, Davies’ work has informed providers and families about best practices. He has been the recipient of numerous grants, has served on the editorial board of five different journals in pediatric psychology, and is a past recipient of the National Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services from the U.S. Department of Justice.

## Foundation Research Recognition Awards

- Filipe Alberto, associate professor of biological sciences



Filipe Alberto

Filipe Alberto is widely recognized as a leading scholar in the field of seascape genetics. His innovative research addresses fundamental questions about evolutionary processes in marine ecosystems and critical applications necessary to tackle the global need for increased renewable energy and food production.

As the principal investigator for multiple federal grants totaling more than \$4 million, Alberto has engaged in an ambitious program to characterize the genomes of giant kelp and bull kelp. He is using his findings to breed fast-growing kelp lineages for biofuel production.

Through his remarkable efforts he is continually propagating the largest collection of kelp biodiversity in North America, which he grows in his research laboratory at UWM. Alberto’s work has fundamentally changed our understanding of the ecology and genetics of these ecosystem-building species, and how they adapt to environmental change.



## People in Print

**Elana Levine (English).** 2023. As the Cyber World Turns’: Web Soaps and the History of TV Storytelling Online. [Journal for Cinema and Media Studies](#), 62.5.





## In the Media and Around the Community

**Stacey Nye (Psychology)** and **Camila Guarda Velasco (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** were two of the speakers on a panel held after a showing of the [Milwaukee Repertory Theater's](#) production of *Run Bambi Run* in October. They spoke on the nature of true crime reporting and storytelling.

Racially restrictive housing covenants in Wisconsin's past are still shaping its present. **Anne Bonds (Geography)** and **Derek Handley (English)** spoke to [PBS Wisconsin](#) about the practice and its legacy.



[Wisconsin Public Radio](#) and [WORT Radio](#) spoke with **Maria Novotny (English)** ahead of the opening of The ART of Infertility exhibit opening in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. Novotny is the co-director of the ART of Infertility. She also spoke to [WUWM Radio](#) about her new co-

author book, *Infertilities: A Curation*.

Nearly one in five stay-at-home parents are dads. **Noelle Chesley (Sociology)** spoke on [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) about the recent HomeDadCon hosted in Milwaukee in September by the National At-Home Dads Network, where she was a speaker.

**Robin Pickering-lazzi (Italian)** was interviewed for the Netflix show [How to Become a Mob Boss](#), narrated by Peter Dinklage, that will be released on Nov. 14.

**Karyn Frick (Psychology)** appeared on the [Steve Cochran Show](#) to discuss why women are more likely to get Alzheimer's.

In time for Halloween, **Jocelyn Szczepaniak-Gillece (Film Studies)** appeared on [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) to discuss scary movies.

[Fox 6 News](#) highlighted a new partnership between UWM and the Medical College of Wisconsin that will allow **pre-pharmacy** students to complete an accelerated course of study to earn both their Bachelor's degree and PharmD degree in six years.

Student **Ireland Hinze (Journalism, Advertising, & Media Studies and Digital Arts & Culture)** is competing for the title of Miss Racine, the [Racine County Eye](#) said.

**Michael Mirer (Communication)** warned everyone to double check their sources when it comes to information about the war in Gaza on [TMJ4 News](#).

**Lisa Silverman (History and Jewish Studies)** was a panelist discussing the 1924 film *Die Stadt ohne Juden* (*The City Without Jews*) at a screening at the Milwaukee Art Museum's [Present Music series](#) in October.

For the 100th anniversary of the invention of the Planetarium, [WUWM Radio](#) spoke with director **Jean Creighton (Planetarium)** about the role these facilities still play in people's lives. She also spoke with [Fox 6 News](#), [TMJ4 News](#), and [WTMJ Radio](#) about a solar eclipse that happened in October,

During the chaos as Congress tried to elect a new Speaker of the House, **Kathy Dolan (Political Science)** spoke with [The Badger Project](#) about what that might mean politically for Wisconsin's representatives.

What makes leaves change color in the autumn? **Erica Young (Biological Sciences)** explained the process in a [Milwaukee Magazine](#) article.

[NPR's Shortwave](#) program featured **Pamela Harris' (Mathematical Sciences)** research into how math is like a Choose Your Own Adventure book.



After the remains of an ancient Native American village were discovered during road construction in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, **Jennifer Haas (Anthropology)** spoke with [WBAY News](#), [WTAQ Radio](#), and [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) about the findings. [WAOW News](#) and [Oshkosh Northwestern](#) highlighted

the role of UWM's Cultural Resource Management program in excavating the remains.

College campuses have always allowed free speech, but public perception of that freedom has been skewed by extreme reactions on some campuses, **Nicholas Fleischer (Linguistics)** told the [Associated Press](#).

Halloween means it's time for ghosts, goblins, and zombies to come out to play. **Drago Momcilovic (Comparative Literature)** spoke with [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) about the history and culture surrounding zombies.



## Laurels and Accolades

The Mellon Foundation has approved an "Affirming Multivocal Humanities Grant" of \$100,000 to Women's & Gender Studies at UWM. The project focuses on enhancing undergraduate education in the field of Women's & Gender Studies. The proposed initiatives include new course development, undergraduate experiential learning and community research, and guest speaker series and workshops over the next two years.

**Rachel Bloom-Pojar (English)** received the Outstanding Article Award at the 2023 Conference on Community Writing with her co-authors, Dr. Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyaq (Virginia Tech), Dr. Caroline Gottschalk Druschke (UW-Madison), and Dr. Lauren Cagle (University of Kentucky) for their article, "[To Community with Care: Enacting Positive Barriers to Access as Good Relations](#)." This article describes the authors' experiences working with and being in community as part of their academic practice.

**Ching-Hong Yang's (Biological Sciences)** funded projects promise to transform the battle against crop diseases, benefiting organic farming. He received a \$1.4 million grant from the USDA NIFA EDCRE to address Citrus Huanglongbing (HLB), which infects up to 100% of Florida citrus trees within a year of planting. Concurrently, with a \$1 million USDA Organic Transit program grant, Yang's team is exploring *Pseudomonas soli* strain T307 to counter apple fire blight.

**Michael Mirer (Communication)** was awarded a 2023 Initiative Grant (\$29,000) from the [Council of Christian Colleges and Universities \(CCCU\)](#) through their Networking for Christian Scholars program for the study, "The Interplay Between Christianity, News and Sports." Dr. Mirer is collaborating with communication and political science scholars at Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor as well as involving student researchers in the project.

**UWM Cultural Resource Management** was recently [awarded a grant](#) from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This funding will allow investigators to study and document the work of Alonzo Robinson, Jr., Wisconsin's first Black registered architect. UWM is one of 40 organizations to receive a total of \$3.8 million in grant funding to advance ongoing preservation activities for historic places such as sites, museums, and landscapes that represent African American cultural heritage. With more than \$91 million in funding, the Action Fund is the largest U.S. resource dedicated to the preservation of African American historic places.



## Alumni Accomplishments

**William Erickson ('22, PhD Mathematical Sciences)** has been awarded a 2023 George Pólya Award by the [Mathematical Association of America](#).

**Charles Kelly ('23, BA Journalism, Advertising, & Media Studies)** joined [KTTC News](#) in Rochester, Minnesota, as a news anchor for its KTTC News Today Weekends and FOX47 News (at 9 a.m.) programs.

**RS Deeren ('22, PhD English)** published his first collection of short stories, [Enough to Lose](#), by Wayne State University Press. Deeren is an assistant professor of English at Austin Peay University in Clarksville, Tennessee.

**Michael Murphy ('86, BS Geosciences)** announced his decision not to seek reelection to the Milwaukee Common Council. Murphy is the longest-serving alderman currently in office, with 35 years in his seat. Murphy also said that he is considering a run for Comptroller.

**Allison Jornlin ('94, BA English)** appeared on the show [Shark Tank](#) in October to pitch her business, American Ghost Walks, which she founded and runs with her brother, Scott Huberty. Jornlin was featured in the October 2023 edition of [In Focus](#).

**Carissa Barnes ('20, Certificate in Nonprofit Management)** was named the new [communications director](#) for the city of West Bend, Wisconsin. Barnes was previously the executive director of the Ozaukee Nonprofit Center.





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