Welcome to Cuba, politics aside
By Sarah Mann, College of Letters & Science

On Dec. 17, President Obama announced that the U.S. would, after more than 50 years, reestablish diplomatic relations with Cuba. On Jan. 15, he announced that many travel restrictions to the country would be eased and that American visitors would even be able to use their credit cards.

That was too late to benefit the group of UWM students who returned from Cuba the day before Obama’s second announcement, but it was still welcome news, especially for Spanish and Comparative Literature major Olivia Davison, who wants to go back someday with easy access to her spending money.

“Credit cards would be awesome,” she said with a laugh.

Davison was one of 14 students traveling to Cuba with adjunct professor Michael Martin of UWM’s School of Architecture and Urban Planning to learn about the city’s sustainability efforts as well as its culture and history. Many of the students were from the College of Letters & Science with majors varying from Urban Studies to Spanish to Sociology. The trip also received a grant from the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies to help students afford the travel, and received organizational help from the UWM Center for International Education.

This is Martin’s third such trip to Cuba, and it’s usually “a pain in the butt” to organize given the United States’ embargo and strained relationship with the country. That could change in the coming years given Obama’s announcement, and it seems to be a welcome change in Havana.

“What was amazing was the lack of knowledge of what it all really meant … but you could feel in the atmosphere that there was a great, great warmth and (hope) that this would all be over someday,” Martin said.

The Cuban Revolution ended in 1959 with Fidel Castro’s overthrow of President Fulgencio Batista. Castro instituted a communist dictatorship backed by the Soviet Union and the U.S. imposed a trade embargo that is in effect to this day. When the Iron Curtain fell in 1989, so did Cuba’s support, which meant that the import of gasoline from Russia dried up during what was known as the Cuban Special Period. With limited fuel, it became harder to transport crops from rural farms, and so Cuba embraced sustainability by using organic urban farms and bicycles. That was in a large part what students were there to study.

“I’ve tried to integrate the idea of looking for what are known as organoponicos and the distribution of urban farm food networks. We’ve got a map of them, and I go out and try to have students find them and take pictures, interview people about them, and come up with observations,” Martin said. “It really strikes a chord with students because urban farming is so huge in Milwaukee.”

Continued on page 6
English’s Blaeser named Wisconsin Poet Laureate
By Kathy Quirk, University Relations

English professor Kimberly Blaeser has been chosen as Wisconsin’s new poet laureate by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters and will serve a two-year term promoting poetry throughout the state.

Blaeser, who has written three poetry collections and had her worked translated into multiple languages, succeeds Max Garland, a professor at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

How old were you when you got interested in poetry and what sparked your interest?

In my family, poetry, storytelling and a lot of the oral arts were just a part of everyday life. My father could recite poetry at the drop of a hat. If you said the word “alone,” he’d say “alone, alone on the wide, wide sea. And never a saint took pity on my soul.” So, he was quite a poet-recitation person. When I was in grade school, we learned to recite poetry; I wrote very bad poetry my whole life from the time I could write. Our family would use great, long narrative poems as something to pass time on road trips. Poetry has just been part of my life since I was a child.

What inspires you to write?

I have a wide range. What interests me is what I’m encountering. A lot of my work does arise out of nature, the natural world, animals and the idea of the importance of our relationship with the natural world to a spiritual balance in our life. That’s one whole aspect. And then family poems, poems about women, poems about Native people. A lot of my early work especially focused on giving voice to the experience of Native people for those who did not have the opportunity or the leisure to tell their own story.

How has your Native American background influenced how and what you write?

I think in some ways, especially in my early work, I felt compelled to tell stories that I felt had been overlooked in the history of this country. Particularly, I found great inspiration in my own family, in my community, in the Anishinaabe people of Minnesota and the White Earth Reservation. I wrote out of my own experience, and told family stories and wrote about place, the cycle of the seasons, Native history. Some of those poems were meant to become a kind of corrective to the representations — or misrepresentations in history.

Could you tell us a little about the picto-poems you are working on?

The idea of a picto-poem comes from the Native American pictograph, which is the kind of artwork that you’ll see on rocks or in canyons. You’ll find them in the Great Lakes of Minnesota. I’m working in that tradition because those were images that were tied to story, to myth. I can talk about one so you can get an idea what I mean.

Continued on page 7
It was a game day for the Milwaukee Brewers. Miller Park, with its iconic retractable roof, was filling up with fans. Across town, the Innovative Weather staff at UW-Milwaukee was keeping an eye on the small rain showers that were popping up across southeastern Wisconsin. Normally the spatterings wouldn’t have bothered anybody, but one shower started picking up steam over Waukesha County and made a beeline for the stadium.

“We’re about a half-hour out and we’re saying, ‘It looks like sprinkles at this point, guys,’” said Mike Westendorf, Director of Operations at Innovative Weather. “We called back 15 minutes later and said, ‘You should close the roof.’”

Innovative Weather at UWM gives internships to students and recent graduates of the Atmospheric Science program who aid in providing customized forecasts to regional clients like We Energies. In March, the Milwaukee Brewers signed on as a client and Innovative Weather spent the baseball season providing hyper-local forecasts for the team’s stadium.

“We were exploring weather services that could help us out in the forecasting and monitoring of weather situations as it pertains to our roof here and the overall safety and operations of our department,” explained Miller Park Director of Grounds Michael Boettcher. “Being that (Innovative Weather) were local here and they do a lot of forecasting for other companies as well within the Wisconsin area, we thought that they would be a good resource for us to utilize.”

Contracting with a Major League Baseball team presented some challenges, said Westendorf. Innovative Weather is unique in that it not only provides weather data for its clients but also interprets what those forecasts mean for the clients’ interests. When it comes to the Brewers, there’s a lot that can affect operations. The forecasts that Innovative Weather provides help Boettcher and his team decide whether or not to close the roof of Miller Park to prevent players and fans from being rained on.

“There’s always a lot of critics out there about how we handle the roof sometimes,” Boettcher said. “Timing is huge and the accuracy and the probability that a rain event is going to hit us plays a major factor.”

The forecasts help Boettcher and his team with far more than the roof, however. Innovative Weather’s predictions also play a role in determining the safety of the grounds crew during severe weather like thunderstorms and the safety of any teams and spectators using the Little League field that sits outside of Miller Park.

Beyond that, there’s the field to contend with. Miller Park is a grass field and requires as much of the natural elements as possible to make it a strong, quality playing surface. Boettcher and his crew rely on Innovative Weather forecasts to determine the best care for the field. In a sense, said Westendorf, it’s agricultural forecasting on a micro-scale.

“(They want to know) things like the amount of sunshine,” Westendorf said. “If you can’t get direct sunlight, you can’t grow a plant and strengthen it to where it needs to be. So for the groundskeeper, every minute of sunshine is valuable.”

So far, the partnership has paid off, and Boettcher has been impressed with the teamwork and dedication shown by Innovative Weather staffers, though the unpredictability of Mother Nature can throw a kink or two in the forecast.

Continued on page 12
Alum bumps, sets, spikes for Rwanda
By Sarah Mann, College of Letters & Science

Rwanda doesn't have a hopeful legacy on the world stage. Right now, the country's name conjures up images of civil war and genocide. Abby Padlock wants to change that: In the future when you hear "Rwanda," you might be thinking about volleyball.

Padlock is a 2013 UWM graduate with a major in Political Science. In 2014, she spent six months working in Rwanda to not only establish sustainable community gardens and youth centers, but also to support what will hopefully grow into Rwanda's Olympic volleyball program. A former collegiate volleyball player herself, Padlock leant her knowledge of the sport to Vince Ruhumuliza, a Rwandan-American who is working to establish beach volleyball leagues in his country so that Rwanda can hopefully, in time, send a team to the Summer Olympic games.

Her involvement grew out of a simple desire to travel internationally, since she was considering entering the field of international law after graduation. Padlock was hired by Health Development Initiative-Rwanda, a health and human rights organization, as its advocacy and policy monitoring officer.

“All of the projects HDI does are very focused on self-sustainability,” Padlock said. In one community, “we helped them plant sweet potato and other vegetable gardens, and helped teach them how to maintain gardens so they can continue to grow food on their own.” HDI is also working on a pig cooperative so that villagers can raise and breed pigs to sell for food, and a basket-weaving co-op so that women can grow their own businesses and sell the baskets to provide for their families.

One project in particular stands out for Padlock.

“When I was there, we got approached by the Swedish government and they wanted to give us a big grant because they liked our organization,” she said. The HDI director approached her and her coworkers and asked them to do some research and figure out how to best use the grant money.

“We ended up coming up with and writing a proposal for a stigma-free, youth-friendly center. A place where people can come – youth and any other people – for different types of HIV-testing, counseling, and other STI testing, without being judged or stereotyped,” Padlock said.

At its core, HDI is about helping those who are in the most desperate need of help. In Rwanda, that often translates to people with HIV or AIDS, who are shunned by their families and society. They also help other traditionally marginalized peoples like the Community of Potters, a stigmatized group living in extreme poverty. They were known as the “Batwa” before the genocide in 1994.

Echoes of the genocide still haunt the country, Padlock said. The Hotel des Mille Collines of “Hotel Rwanda” fame still stands, and some buildings remain damaged from the turmoil of 20 years ago. And, Padlock added, the Rwandese are slow to trust and are generally unwelcoming of visitors compared to citizens of neighboring Tanzania or Ethiopia.

Still, HDI and other groups are helping the country and many of its impoverished citizens heal and improve. Because of her volleyball background, Padlock found another avenue to help by connecting with Ruhumuliza. Together with other volunteers, they began training people interested in the sport and scouting for locations to build venues for volleyball camps and practices.

Continued on page 9
Geosciences delivers student structures a shakedown
By Sarah Mann, College of Letters & Science

It was a cold day. Buildings stood tall and proud against the skyline. But then, the ground beneath one began to rumble and pitch. The building stood strong for a few seconds but soon began to crumble at its foundations. The Lego walls came tumbling down to the tune of amused and agonized shrieks.

“I warned them,” said eighth-grader Blair of the creators of the Lego tower. “It’s possible to be too sturdy. … One of the biggest things to make (buildings) earthquake-safe is that they have to sway.”

That lesson was illustrated repeatedly as Blair and her classmates of the Milwaukee Jewish Day School tested the engineering of their model buildings in UWM’s geosciences labs. The school reached out to UWM, said Geosciences Instructional Laboratory Manager Rob Graziano, to help the eighth-grade class understand the engineering and architecture that goes into designing earthquake-safe structures.

UWM is home to sophisticated seismology equipment, including the seismology vault which measures vibrations in the ground caused by earthquakes. Students were invited to UWM in early January to tour the vault, learn more about earthquakes, and put their knowledge to the test.

“We studied earthquakes and I thought, I’m going to challenge students to build these structures. I gave them very few directions and let them go with it,” said teacher Dacy Jirovetz, herself a UWM graduate.

Jirovetz gave her students a minimum height requirement and stipulated that the building had to be able to support a brick placed on top of it. Other than that, building materials, design, and all else was up to the students’ discretion. To test their creations, they placed their buildings on top of a vibration table in Graziano’s lab. It’s meant to simulate an actual earthquake.

“It goes from 0 to 100, so we’ll slowly crank it up and we’ll watch how their building reacts to the earthquake,” he said. “Earthquake intensity has to do with how powerful it is and how long it is. We’re going to test both of those.”

To up the ante, if a structure survived the vibration table, it moved on to the manual shaker, a wooden surface resting atop springs that the students could shake to simulate a really big earthquake – think a six to a nine on the Richter scale.

There were two declared winners, as determined by four judges from the Geosciences Department. Talia, who had built her tower out of Popsicle sticks and cushioned the base with sponges, constructed the tallest building out of all of her classmates. Megan and Nesia had the most architecturally unique building, with a hexagonal base made of Popsicle sticks and a taller upper structure cushioned with pipe insulation and braced by dowel rods.

The buildings were judged on their stability during the earthquake, the efficient use of materials, and the use and effectiveness of two particular pieces of architecture – a base isolation system and diagonal braces.

Time and again, students found that those two features were key in designing safe buildings, said Zach, who had designed his structure with a pendulum counterweight in its middle.

Continued on page 7


UWM in Cuba

“IT’S not like in America where the organic movement is political or for the environment,” Davison added. “They literally don’t have the resources to bring in fertilizer or bring in pesticides. … That was very inspiring to see, just how resilient the Cuban people are, no matter what you think of the politics.”

The organiponicos can be tucked away anywhere in the city. They are typically raised beds planted with vegetables and herbs, though Urban Studies student Michael Anderson noticed that there were very limited food varieties.

“Theyir diet is super-restricted and their tastes haven’t changed since the Special Period. Pork and chicken are big meat staples, but in terms of lettuce, they grow only one type of lettuce,” Anderson said.

He also enjoyed exploring Cuba’s bicycle culture, since Anderson is a biker himself.

“Similar to urban agriculture, it stems from the Special Period when the Soviet Union pulled out. They didn’t have oil to run cars, so Castro ordered almost a million bicycles and distributed them,” he explained. “We stayed in this city called Pinar del Rio, which is in the heart of tobacco country, and (there were) more bicycles than cars.”

As an architecture historian, Martin is interested in the restoration of Old Havana, sections of the city that date back to the 1500s. The historical rehabilitation is paid for in a large part by the proceeds of the tourist industry, and Obama’s announcement could give that a big boost.

“I think that the policy of using proceeds from the tourist industry to pay for the historic preservation is a very sustainable approach. Much of Havana’s appeal is in the timeless character of the city and its buildings. If the embargo is lifted and mass tourism happens, the historic preservation efforts will increase with it,” Martin said.

It was interesting to see parts of the old city and hear the Cubans’ excitement for the change in policy in the United States, Davison said. It helped students see the country as more than a Cold War holdover.

“I think, as Americans, we have this image of Cuba post-1959. To see the history of Havana going all the way back to the 1400s was interesting,” she said. “It was beautiful. The people are wonderful.”
Poet Laureate

continued from page 2

One that was recently published in the *Cream City Review* issue and will be featured in the book due out in the spring, is called “Ephemeral Habitation at Cavate.” That poem came out of an experience. My daughter and I were hiking in New Mexico in the Bandelier National Park. I wanted her to see the cliff dwellings. We were looking inside a cliff dwelling and on the walls you could see the marks of old fire, you could see a place where the hook had been, where the loom had hung. I had my camera, of course, as we were hiking. Then the light switched for a moment, and it cast my daughter’s shadow onto the cliff dwelling wall. It was long and angular onto that wall. I still get goose bumps because it was such a moment of the present and the past merging.

I took a couple photos. That was the image that inspired the poem that I wrote. When I created the picto-poem, the complete background was the canyon wall which actually has petroglyphs, as they call them there. Then, this is my moment of irony, has a “Do Not Copy” across it. Not everybody gets that. On the page, about a third of the top is that image where my daughter’s shadow is cast onto the cliff dwelling wall, but I’ve angled it so it appears as if she’s looking into this canyon wall.

It’s framed, cropped and angled. And then the text of the poem is laid across the rest of that page. It is a physical poem in the sense that the language is spaced in certain ways so that it also is a visual, meant to convey part of that message. Those are the layers of that poem.

What does it mean to you to become Wisconsin’s poet laureate?

We just have this rich resource of poets in Wisconsin, so to be selected, first of all, is just humbling and an honor. But I’m very excited because I have ideas about what I’d like to do to celebrate the poets we have, and also to engage the public more in poetry.

What do you hope to accomplish in the role? Do you have some specific projects in mind?

I have a couple very specific projects, and then I have some other quirky ideas. I’d like to have a monthly feature on a radio show of an interview with a Wisconsin poet so that over this two-year period of time we would get to know more Wisconsin poets. There might be a handful that people are familiar with, but there are so many that are quite dynamite in our state.

The other bigger project I’d like to undertake … I would like to just highlight all of the poets of Wisconsin by putting together an anthology.

Then, along the way, I have crazy ideas about bringing poetry into public spaces in new ways. … I was with a group of friends at a conference, and we went to a sushi place where they had little sushi boats that went around. What we did just for fun was write one line of haiku and put it on the boat. Someone else would pull that off and write another line and put it back on until we had the three lines of haiku. What happened was the other people in the restaurant started taking these off and participating. I just think there’s a hunger in our public for poetry, poetry that is playful and fun and doesn’t seem inaccessible to them. Somehow part of what I would like to do is bring poetry into unlikely places.

Earthquake engineering

continued from page 5

“We spent a ton of days researching different base isolation systems, bracing methods and different shapes for the building and materials,” he said. “We’ve never done anything like this before. It was fun to see our building progress. We kept a journal and everything.”

This is the first time the Milwaukee Jewish Day School and the UWM Geosciences Department have done any sort of collaboration, and Graziano was excited for the opportunity.

“It’s a really nice connection,” he said, looking over constructs of Legos, Plexiglas and dowel rods. “I think this a great opportunity for students at a middle-school level to experience science in action and show them – in this case, earthquake engineering.”
Upcoming Events

January 29

January 30


Planetarium Show: Terrific Telescopes. Fridays at 7 p.m. through Feb. 27. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Explore famous observatories and the questions scientists attempt to answer with them. The show concludes with stargazing to identify well-known constellations. $3 admission. http://bit.ly/1t2L3PH

February 4
Beyond Immortality: The Cemetery in Contemporary Cuban Film and Fiction. 3:30 p.m. AGS Library. Vicky Unruh, University of Kansas. Cosponsored by The Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latin@ Studies Program, the Center for International Education, the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, and the Film Studies Program. http://bit.ly/1Exf37s

February 5

Celtic Studies Exhibition: Labor and Dignity, James Connolly in America. 5:30 p.m. Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. Talk by guest speaker from the Chicago office of the Consulate General of Ireland regarding Irish national icon James Connolly and his involvement with the U.S. labor movement. http://on.fb.me/1JdPGdn

February 6

18th Annual Festival of Films in French. UWM Union Theater. The festival runs from Feb. 6-15. All films are free and open to the public and are shown in their original language with English subtitles. For a schedule of films, visit http://bit.ly/1GjjUt9.

February 10
Art Exposé. 1 p.m. Art History Gallery, Mitchell 154. Gallery talk presented by Gallery staff or professors of the Art History Department on a rarely-seen selection from the UWM Art Collection. http://bit.ly/1L3AFMY

February 13


United We Read: Student/Faculty Reading Series. 7 p.m. Woodland Pattern. Creative Writing Professor Brenda Cardenas, graduate students Tom Vollman, Lindsay Daigle, and Michael Larson.

Continued on page 9
Alum helps Rwanda

Stateside, before she left for Rwanda, Padlock organized a fundraiser to aid both HDI and Rhuhmuliza’s organization, Volleyball for Rwanda, by holding a volleyball tournament at Rivals bar in Kenosha where she works. The money Padlock raised went toward helping players afford equipment, transportation to and from practice and transportation around Africa to participate in tournaments, and toward the pig cooperative for a Batwa village.

It’s important to get volleyball off the ground, Padlock said, because “any organization that starts up over there and gives people an opportunity to succeed … is going to drive someone out of poverty and drive someone to a better life than they ever would have had.”

Padlock returned to the United States in November where she still finds ways to help out by conducting fundraisers and acting as a contact for donors in the United States. She says that while she plans to travel elsewhere – perhaps to other parts of Africa or South America – Rwanda will always hold a place in her heart.

“I definitely know I will go back,” Padlock said. “When you do something like that, you will forever have a life-time attachment to it.”

Two Batwa boys ask to see the photos Abby Padlock took of them during her visit to the Community of Potters village outside of the Rwandan capital, Kigali.
In the Media and Around the Community

Rafael Rodriguez’s (Biological Science) research about golden orb-web spiders and their ability to count the number of prey in their larders was featured in January in Wired Magazine. http://wrd.cm/1JcLdFZ

Marc Tasman (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) reviewed Kevin Miyazaki’s photo book, Perimeter, which documents through portraiture and landscape photos all 1,800 miles of Lake Michigan’s perimeter, for the November 2014 issue of Milwaukee Magazine.

Rachel Baum (Jewish Studies) was interviewed on WUWM’s Lake Effect for her role in helping to create the “Stitching History from the Holocaust” exhibit at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee, based on fashion illustrations by Hedy Strnad, a Czech Jew who died with her husband during the Holocaust. UWM’s Digital Humanities Lab also helped bring Hedy’s sketches and story to life. http://bit.ly/1yOmGEd

Following the shooting at the Charlie Hebdo offices in Paris, Parisians took the streets to demonstrate in solidarity. One gesture featured a series of lit signs spelling out “Not Afraid”, made by the Paris Chapter of the Light Brigade Network. The informal collective was originally founded in Milwaukee by Lane Hall (English). http://bit.ly/1uzn2IT

Members from Karyn Frick’s (Psychology) lab presented the following posters at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.:
• Jaekyoon Kim, Julia Szinte, Karyn Frick - Distinct effects of estrogen receptor inhibition on novel object recognition and spatial memory consolidation in ovariectomized mice
• Jennifer Tuscher, and Karyn Frick - Dorsal hippocampal infusion of 17β-estradiol increases dendritic spine density in the CA1 subfield of the hippocampus in ovariectomized female mice.
• Ashley Fortress and Karyn Frick - Two cell-signaling mechanisms for one mnemonic outcome: How progesterone facilitates memory consolidation in the dorsal hippocampus.

Students and faculty, along with their external collaborators, attended the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Long Beach, Ca., to present posters. The UWM Psychology participants were:
• Lauren Hopkins, Fred Helmstetter, and Deborah Hannula - Oculomotor capture by aversive stimuli in the absence of contingency knowledge
• Allison Nickel and Deborah Hannula - Relational Memories are Evident in Eye Movement Behavior Following Subliminal Memory Cues.

Adam Greenberg (Psychology) gave an invited colloquium in the psychology department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on November 7 titled “The Neural Architecture Subserving Visual Attention”.

Continued on page 11
In the Media  

continued from page 10

Dimitriy Kazakov, David Osmon, and Deborah Hannula (all Psychology) and their outside collaborator presented, “Tell the truth: eye movements index object recognition despite efforts to simulate memory impairment” at the annual meeting of the National Academy of Neuropsychology.

Adam Greenberg (Psychology) attended the Society for Neuroscience 44th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., where he presented “Separate Networks for Music Processing and Auditory Scene Analysis” (with R. Randall) and “Sensory Processing with Varying Degrees of Attention - Lessons from Parietal Lobe Damage” (with multiple external collaborators).

Alumna Kristen Roche (PhD, Economics ’11) was featured for her research into the pay of women entrepreneurs in a December article in Fortune Magazine.  http://for.tn/1qDOOJT


Erin Sahlstein Parcell (Communication) presented “Extending the legacy: Panel honoring Leslie Baxter, winner of the 2014 NCA-Forum Centennial Award.” The panel was presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in Chicago.

Leslie Harris (Communication) presented “Views from the porch: State of the marital union” as a public book talk at the Frances Willard Historical Association in Evanston, Ill.

Alumni Accomplishments

Nick Hoffman (MA, History ’07) was awarded the Jane LaChapelle McCarty-MLK Community Leader Award at January’s annual Appleton community celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The award honors individuals who have brought the community together in the spirit of Dr. King. Hoffman, who is the Chief Curator at the History Museum at the Castle in Appleton, was chosen for curating several exhibits about forgotten voices in history, including immigrants and local African Americans.  http://bit.ly/15CSZwx

Kristen Roche (PhD, Economics ’11) was named as one of Milwaukee’s “40 Under 40” by the Milwaukee Business Journal. Roche is the director of the MBA program at Mount Mary University.  http://bit.ly/15w1jNT

Laurels and Accolades

Marc Tasman (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) and Christopher Willey (Peck School of the Arts) were awarded the Leslie Whitaker Memorial Fund Award ($3,000) by UWM’s Department of English for the proposal, “Negotiating Digital Culture.” Their project will include a series of workshops for teachers and students that explores best practices of teaching, writing, and creativity with new digital tools with the plan of embedding these practices in the curriculum through a Digital Arts and Culture capstone experience.

Neal Pease (History) recently received the Mieczyslaw Haiman Award, which is offered annually to an American scholar for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans. The award was established in 1969 in honor of the late Mieczyslaw Haiman (1888-1949), a co-founder and charter member of the Polish American Historical Association.
The Electa Quinney Institute for American Indian Education (EQI) was recently awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts to support the Woodland Indian Arts Initiative. This award will support a partnership between Margaret Noodin (English) and Kimberly Blaeser (English) highlighting folk/oral traditions in the American Indian community. Performances will be announced in late spring and early summer of 2015.

Adam Greenberg (Psychology) received a Daniel M. Soref Research Award from the Medical College of Wisconsin. His $7,500, one-year grant will fund “Tonotopic Mapping & Cortical Magnification Estimation at 7 Tesla.”

People in print


Brewers weather

“That constant line of communication has definitely helped us out in some situations in our decision-making process – whether the roof is closed overnight, whether it’s open, tarp goes down, tarp doesn’t go down, how much water we apply to the surface at night based on humidity levels,” Boettcher said. “We receive emails. We receive calls. We receive text messages (from Innovative Weather) at all hours of the day.”

Westendorf hopes that his staff’s experience with a major league baseball team can act as a springboard to help expand Innovative Weather’s operations by taking on bigger clients, and to expand the program’s reputation. Innovative Weather gives invaluable opportunities and internships to students, he said, and is one of the best programs of its size in the country.

“That is a program that creates exceptional value for our students who in turn create value for the local community and program partners, a program that the university has and continues to support,” Westendorf said. “This is a great example of the university mission creating value for partners in our community while serving our students’ needs.”

That community partner aspect has been especially true at Miller Park over the past year.

“They’ve become part of the team here at the Brewers,” said Boettcher.