June 40 years of women: Program marks milestone

By Sarah Mann, College of Letters and Science

Forty years after it became the first of its kind in Wisconsin, the UWM Women's Studies program celebrated a milestone anniversary with a celebration marked by a poster exhibition in March created by Women's Studies students who spent the school year researching activism and the history of Women's Studies at UWM and in Milwaukee, and by a keynote address by alumna Astrid Henry, chair of Women's Studies at Grinnell College, followed by a celebration in Greene Hall.

"We seldom take the time to reflect upon our program's history, local women's history, and the events that have transpired over the years to bring us to this moment," said Kathy Miller-Dillon, Assistant Chair of Women's Studies. "The year-long 'poster' assignment gave our students the opportunity to thoughtfully engage with what it means to be in Women's Studies and what it might have been like 40 years ago to be a feminist in Milwaukee."

Forty years ago

Lenore Harmon was an educational psychology professor at UWM in 1974 and a feminist at a time when women's issues were not only discouraged, but often not even considered.

"It was just not questioned whether a woman's point of view was being taken into account in the way courses were taught," Harmon said. In the early 1970s, she and several colleagues were involved in action groups for women on campus, most notably the Ad Hoc Committee on the Status of Women.

At the time, UWM leadership was looking at how to comply with the nation's affirmative action standards, since a lack of it could have jeopardized UWM's funding. Harmon's group and another, populated mostly by students, each approached the administration and suggested a Women's Studies program. In 1974, the Office of Women's Studies moved into Bolton Hall.

"Many faculty members and administrators on campus were skeptical of the need for a Women's Studies program – remember, it was called a 'fad' by some," Harmon said in a letter to Miller-Dillon and current Women's Studies Chair Andrea Westlund. The program's activities were "not always welcomed and sometimes ridiculed," Harmon said, but "We were able to compile lists of courses (that contained) women's studies content."

"If you can think back to the '70s and the prevalence of sex discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace, the UWM campus was like other places of employment. Discrimination and harassment happened here," Miller-Dillon added. "The women who established Women's Studies were not focused only on creating an Academic Center. Just as importantly, they were seeking to change the campus culture and to provide support and protection for women on campus."

After a year, Harmon stepped down as the program's coordinator and was succeeded by Rachel Skalitzky, who oversaw the program for years afterward and was integral to its survival and expansion.
A Russian who wants to tell someone not to try to pull the wool over his eyes uses the Russian phrase: “Don’t hang noodles on my ears.”

That entry for Jan. 16, 2015, is just one of 365 days’ worth of Russian slang and colloquial expressions that UW-Milwaukee Russian students have collected and now published in a calendar.

The 2015 calendar, “Russian Rulit” or “Russian Rocks,” was created during the 2014 spring semester by students in Russian 311: Advanced Grammar and Conversation, and is available on CreateSpace (http://bit.ly/UnT8Oq) or Amazon.com (http://amzn.to/UVde32). All proceeds from the sale of the calendar go to UWM’s Russian Club.

The class project grew out of instructor Nina Familiant’s interest in getting her students to learn the language through phrases that students in Russia might use.

“If you want to know how Russians say ‘No kidding,’ ‘booze,’ ‘it sucks,’ or ‘bummer,’ this is the calendar for you,” she says. The daily expressions are accompanied by a literal translation, an equivalent saying in English – if there is one – and a short grammar note.

The ten students in the class each brought three or four expressions into class for discussion as part of the collaborative project.

“The students did a tremendous job of consulting their Russian-speaking peers, books and online sources,” says Familiant. “Besides, I had a couple of heritage speakers who speak Russian at home and maintain the language, thanks to their parents. These students were also of great help.”

Student collaboration was vital. “It is still challenging for me to stay afloat with the colloquial language, especially the language younger people of college age use,” adds Familiant, herself a native Russian speaker and teacher of the language.

Lively class discussions assured that the expressions chosen were not too old-fashioned, vulgar or inappropriate, while remaining true to the way college students speak. “Our in-class ‘censorship’ was pretty efficient and, as a result, it was practically impossible to let something vulgar slip into our project,” she says.

Of course, being college students, the class came up with plenty of Russian expressions for drinking, partying, romancing and stressing out before exams – each with a helpful grammar note. “Let’s go get some booze,” for example, includes a mini-lesson on Russian verbs of motion.

“My favorite would definitely have to be ‘Ya v shokoladye’ which translates as ‘I am in chocolate’ or ‘I am in the good/life is good,’” says student Brandon Roberts. “I would most likely end up using ‘Na zdorovie!’ because it is very uniquely Russian as it is used very frequently during toasts. It also has a good literal meaning – ‘to health!’”

Some expressions sound similar to their English equivalents. The translation for “лузер” is “loozer,” meaning “loser.” The Feb. 21 calendar entry helpfully notes that the plural is “лузеры,” or “loozery.”

Other Russian expressions need a bit more explanation and cultural context. “Всё, Бобик сдох (vse, Bobik sdokh),” for example, literally means: “That’s it. Bobik died.” However, the notes explain that Bobik is a common name for a dog in Russia, and “sdokh” is a short informal, derogatory term for “to die.” The closest English equivalent, the class decided, was “dog tired.”

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Alum’s work goes around the world and above

By Sarah Mann, College of Letters and Science

When UWM alumnus Carl Dietrich talks about his life, he does it like it’s no big deal that he’s had a front-row seat to some of the biggest events in United States history.

Dietrich, now 83 years old and happily retired in his Arizona home, graduated from UWM in 1959 with a physics major. He was born in Milwaukee, raised in West Allis and graduated from Nathan Hill High School in 1949. He began attending college at Milwaukee State Teachers College, as UWM was known at the time, that same year. He only attend two years before his life of adventure began, starting with serving in the Korean War.

“I enlisted in the Navy mid-sophomore year at Milwaukee Teachers. Then I was transferred to the East Coast and I spent the rest of my naval career on the West Coast,” Dietrich said. “I traveled to most ports in the world over that period of time. I got out of the Navy in 1955, got married, and then went back to UWM in that timeframe.”

Dietrich’s post in the navy took him around the world to nearly every continent and country. He traveled through most of the major cities on the Mediterranean Sea and through the Suez Canal. He performed survey work in the Persian Gulf “so that our naval tankers could get up into Bahrain and Kuwait to bring oil back home to the United States,” he said. He traveled through India, Thailand and Japan. He surveyed most of the ocean floor on the East Coast of North America, starting at Greenland and going down to the Caribbean. He lived in Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. He traveled more in 10 years than most people do in their lifetimes.

And Dietrich was only getting started.

After he left the Navy, Dietrich worked for General Electric for about three years and helped develop some of the radiology and x-ray technology and equipment that forms the basis of modern radiological imaging.

But, he still didn’t have his degree. In the late 1950s, he came back to UWM to finish his education. Upon graduation, he took a job with General Motors and worked with AC Electronics in Oak Creek, a division of General Motors, for six years.

“That was an interesting company to work for. I worked on the bomb-nav(igation) system for the B-52, the guidance and navigation for the Titan II missile, the Titan I missile, the Ace missile, the Regulus and also parts of the Poseidon,” Dietrich said. “But my favorite program with AC was the Apollo Program.”

The Apollo Program, made especially famous by the classic movie “Apollo 13,” was the name of a series of space-flight missions conducted by NASA with the end goal of sending astronauts to the moon. Though he left AC for a job at Motorola before the famous 1969 Apollo 11 mission where Neil Armstrong was the first man to step foot on the moon, Dietrich was part of the team that worked on the guidance and navigation systems for the command capsule in the Lunar Excursion Module in 1961. Along the way, he rubbed elbows with men who have become household names over the years, including Armstrong, Michael Collins and Werner von Braun. He refers to them like anyone would refer to an old coworker.

“Part of it (was) being spent out at Marshall Space Flight Center with the NASA group there, and working with a German scientist that built the Saturn Rocket – Werner von Braun. A lot of us worked with him. They had classes for us to help us understand his vision and things he believed in,” Dietrich said. “And we spent some time on site, when they developed the large Saturn launch-vehicle engines. These are million-horse power engines. They used five of those to put that Saturn vehicle in orbit around the moon, so they could drop the Apollo Command Capsule and the Lunar Excursion Module there for our astronauts. So we had the opportunity of working with (Michael) Collins and (Neil) Armstrong and some of the other astronauts at that time.”

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On Monday, July 28, University Information Technology Services (UITS) will roll out Microsoft’s Office 365 platform to campus users, providing UWM faculty, staff, and students with a new cloud-based email and calendaring system. At 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 25, the campus will begin an “email holiday” to prepare for the switch, and UWM email accounts will be inaccessible until Office 365 goes live at 6 a.m. Monday, July 28.

Beginning early Friday morning and continuing through the weekend, UITS staff will migrate over 22 terabytes of pantherLINK data. All email sent to uwm.edu addresses over the weekend will be routed to Office 365 accounts and available when the service launches on Monday morning.

The university is switching systems because Office 365 will provide four benefits to campus users:

1. A reprieve from pantherLINK email quotas – all UWM users get 50 gigabytes of email and calendar storage with 365.
2. An alternative to pantherFILE – Office 365’s OneDrive file storage service provides 1 terabyte of space to all accounts.
4. Office 365’s Lync chat client for campus-wide instant messaging, video conferencing, and screen sharing.

As the service matures, UITS plans to roll out additional features, including SharePoint Sites for project- and community-based sites for sharing information and getting things done.

That being said, pantherLINK isn’t going away immediately. On July 28, all users will retain 14 days of old emails and calendar appointments. Older messages will appear slowly as the migration process continues.

Due to Office 365 file size limits, emails with attachments larger than 25 megabytes won’t be migrated from pantherLINK. To search for email attachments larger than 25MB in pantherLINK, type “bigger: 25 mb” into the pantherLINK search bar.

Users will still be able to access these large attachments after July 28 (as long as pantherLINK is available), but the associated emails won’t be moved to Office 365 with the rest of the correspondence.

If users have important meetings on July 25 and/or July 28, they should make sure to print or save a local copy of their calendars for July 25 and the following week before the email holiday to avoid any complications. Any email filters or access to shared email folders or calendars will not make the move to Office 365.

Contact frequent collaborators on time-sensitive projects to provide alternate contact information in case of over-the-weekend emergencies.

After Office 365 launches, the Learning TECHniques team will begin holding Office 365 training sessions. Keep an eye on the Office 365 Implementation Project Website (http://uwm.edu/o365/) for more details as they become available. Until then, visit the site for links to training materials and answers to frequently-asked Office 365 questions.

A streaming Campus Office 365 Demo Session (http://bit.ly/1stA0xF) and Office 365 Tutorial Videos (http://bit.ly/1rgtUwi) are available 24/7. If users would like hands-on help preparing their pantherLINK mailbox for the transition, the Learning TECHniques team is holding Get Ready for Office 365 Classes (http://bit.ly/1lS4yj8) from now until the “email holiday” begins on July 25.

The L&S Information Technology Office officials plan to hold several walk-in training sessions for L&S employees, but the scheduling of these events are still being finalized. When these details are decided, they will send out a College-wide email and post another news story with dates and times on their website.

If users have specific questions about Office 365 or about preparing their pantherLINK account for the migration, they can fill out a Support Request (http://bit.ly/1noLqL3).
A long Trek home
By Alex Wendland, Alumni Relations

Bekaah Schultz (’10 BS Global Studies Management) knew early that her personal borders extended well beyond the United States.

After studying in Spain during high school, Schultz sought schools at which she could follow her passion. UWM’s focus on cultivating cultural relationships sealed the deal. "I actually picked UWM based on their Global Studies program," Schultz says. "A lot of schools have international business programs, but they’re heavy on the business aspect."

After graduating, Schultz worked for a tech start-up in Omaha, Neb., and spent time in India managing the company’s call center. Pairing that experience with an internship in Barcelona while abroad through UWM, Schultz realized the necessity of cultural awareness.

"Relationships are very different across countries," Schultz says. "In India, it’s very business-oriented." In Spain, business relationships tend to be personal and casual.

Today, Schultz is an international logistics specialist for Trek Bikes in Waterloo, Wis., working specifically with imports and exports in Mexico. Schultz finds the way business is conducted in Mexico is similar to the personal, informal style of Spain.

Schultz grew up in Delafield, Wis., and says Trek Bikes provided a perfect way for her to return to her interests. "Not everybody cycles, but most people take an interest in it, at least leisurely," she says. "It’s great to work at a place that’s so fitness oriented."

Schultz was the president of the UWM club tennis team. After graduating and moving to Nebraska, she looked for ways to keep fit. She chose triathlons. "I run and I bike, and I dabble in swimming," she says. "It comes with the sport." She completed her first Half Ironman in 2013.

Although Schultz’s job at Trek involves more duty management than traveling, she would like to get back to her traveling ways. "I think that building those relationships is important, and that face time is really important no matter who you’re working with."

Video Stories


Recent graduate Camille Ridgeway majored in Economics and International Studies, and found new ways to grow when she visited Cairo in 2012. http://youtu.be/OnOSL2cg54k
Women’s Studies
do not show the page number

Women’s Studies today
Thanks to a receptive administration, Harmon, Skalitzky (who passed away earlier this year) and a host of others – women Miller-Dillon half-jokingly calls the program’s “Founding Mothers” – Women’s Studies has grown from a small collection of courses into a full-fledged major with three graduate degree tracks and dedicated, tenure-track faculty. The program’s professors are exploring several areas of research, including feminism in China, women and gender in imperialism, Muslim identity and culture in Milwaukee and feminist ethics and theories of agency. This year’s 40th anniversary celebration brought people together from the program’s past and present and helped several generations of scholars and feminists connect with each other, especially inspired by keynote speaker Astrid Henry.

“Astrid’s research has really focused on the generational connections and differences between … that second wave of feminism and now that third wave of feminism,” Miller-Dillon said. “So it was just delightful to see this come together and to see the different perspectives.”

Differing perspectives are what inspired Jane Crisler to suggest that the program begin compiling an oral history of the experiences of the women who were instrumental in founding the program. Crisler worked as an academic staff member at UWM in the 1970s and was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee.

“When I attended the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Women’s Studies program, it was obvious that the women who founded the program are becoming ‘rare,’” Crisler said in an email. “I was also influenced by Astrid Henry. … She summarized some interpretations of academic feminism in the 1970s and its development. I found aspects of what she described to be quite the opposite of my experience.”

Crisler wanted a record of first-hand accounts so that future students can understand the past and the perspectives of the program’s founders. The project will be spearheaded by Hayley Jackson, a graduate student in teh History Department, in collaboration with members of the Women’s Studies Program. Crisler anticipates the results will be available for future students.

“I would hope to convey the excitement and the authenticity of the work we did. There was also an admirable degree of courage demonstrated by the women who participated,” Crisler said. “We were misunderstood and ridiculed (though not to our faces). But, we were also inspired by our friendship and what we saw and a chance to make a difference, both in the worlds of scholarship and the lives of our colleagues and students – both male and female.”

Forty years from now
Westlund and Miller-Dillon aren’t sure what the Women’s Studies program will look like in another 40 years, but they hope it includes a PhD program in the long-term. In the immediate future, Women’s Studies is getting a name change. The program will be known as Women’s and Gender Studies starting in the fall, and the new name will usher in an area of study Westlund said students are interested in.

“I think there are probably many students out there who are really interested in gender issues, in one way or another, who may not realize or may not think Women’s Studies is for them. But really, the discipline has a lot of breadth,” Westlund said. “We’re highlighting that now as we change our name and emphasize that it’s both Women’s Studies and Gender Studies more broadly. … That’s really where the field has been going nationally as well.”

The change could help grow the program’s numbers, and Westlund wants to ensure that the infrastructure is there to receive them. She also wants to strengthen and even expand Women’s Studies’ three Master’s tracks, possibly by working with other colleges within UWM and by emphasizing how Women’s Studies is a degree that combines nicely with other programs or can be used as a stepping-stone to careers or higher degrees in other fields.

“We want to build the practical side of our program a bit more and provide opportunities, perhaps for internship experiences and for working on projects rather than a thesis – projects that would incorporate students’ professional interests outside of academia, or their experiences in the workplace or the community,” Westlund said.

And, as it always has, the program will have to keep fighting to ensure that it survives. “Thankfully not with our current administration, but if you look nationally, there have been a number of Women’s Studies programs that have simply been cut,” Miller-Dillon said.

“There’s still a need for Women’s and Gender Studies programs,” Westlund added. “There’s still a lot of gender inequality, both in the workplace and in the social and political environment we occupy, and it’s very important for students to think critically about that. I don’t mean (just) women students, but men as well,” Westlund said. “I think that the skills and awareness of diversity and the understanding of difference and appreciation of difference is extremely valuable.”
Russian calendar
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Familiant had learned about self-publishing and print-on-demand options in putting together a family history. In researching ideas for the class project, she came across CreateSpace, which is part of Amazon. Using the service was free, although professional consulting was available for a fee.

“I was looking for an easy, fun and immediate publishing option – no formal submission, no waiting time, no contract – the option that allowed the students to see the result of their semester-long work right away, before the class was even over,” she says.

One of the students, Artyom Grigoryan, designed the cover. Students Eileen Donovan and Kathy Quirk collaborated on the introductory letter. Two more helped with proofreading, and Russian program graduate Nicholas (Kolya) Sielicki did a final editing and proofing.

As a native Russian speaker who spent some time wrestling with the byways of the English language, Familiant knows that idioms and slang expressions are a challenge in learning any language.

“Idioms and colloquialism can be very tricky especially because they are often bound to certain social groups and could sound inappropriate if taken outside of their language environment,” she explains.

“Whatever sounds cool for college kids might sound vulgar for their parents. Idioms are the tip of the cultural iceberg, and require a lot of time to be explored and understood. This is harder and more challenging than just memorizing words and phrases.”

The students enjoyed the challenge.

Even with the grammar notes, they conclude: “Really, we hope you have as much fun reading it as we did making it. From Russian 311, Advanced Grammar and Conversation, with love.”

Artline: Brandon Roberts, one of the student authors, with Nina Familiant and the calendar her Russian conversation class created. The full list of student contributors includes: Eileen Donovan, Brittany Blackburn, Artyom Grigoryan, Aaron Kuczmarcki, Sara Rantanen, Matthew Kalvin, Tigran Grigoryev, Maggie Iken and Kathy Quirk.*

*Truth in journalism. The author was a student auditing this class.

Alumnus Dietrich
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Working on the Apollo Missions and being on-site for a couple of the rocket launches was amazing, he added.

“It’s hard to describe. ... People don’t understand how complicated it is and exciting, from the standpoint that they got there, and they got their job done,” he said. “That was really the best part of it.”

Dietrich also had feet on the ground during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1961, what he politely refers to as “differences with the Russian people.” Dietrich traveled to several of the U.S.‘s missile launch sites to take care of the Titan Missile launch vehicles, in case hostilities escalated.

In 1965, Dietrich took a job with Motorola and moved to Arizona. As before, a lot of his work was with the military. Some of the technologies he worked on are still in use in the U.S. Military today.

Dietrich retired in 1990. He has two children, several grandchildren and is preparing to welcome a great-grandchild in November. He likes hiking in different locations in the American Southwest and has been “enjoying life” since his retirement. And what a full life it’s been.

“The good Lord has blessed me and allowed me to do a lot of things that most people got to talk about and dream about,” he said simply. “I got to do them.”
**In the media and around the community**


Kevin McLeod (Mathematics) and Michael Steele (Education) were quoted in a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article on Common Core math standards. McLeod noted that stronger K-12 math standards are essential because many students arrive at college needing remedial math. [http://bit.ly/1nSN6zA](http://bit.ly/1nSN6zA)

Mordecai Lee (Political Science) was quoted in a *USA Today* article detailing an investigation of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. Lee provided his perspective on some of Walker’s actions. [http://usat.ly/1srf3Ds](http://usat.ly/1srf3Ds)

Fredrik O. Andersson (Public and Nonprofit Management) spoke at a number of events:

- Keynote Session Speaker for BoardStar’s 4th Annual Leadership Forum held on May 13 on developing an engaged and entrepreneurial nonprofit board of directors
- “Determinants of Conflict on Wisconsin School Boards” with Michael Ford (UW-Oshkosh); “Employee Wellness Program: Participation Rates Among Obese Employees and Selection Patterns of Available Alternative Activities” with Jennifer Fink (UWM Urban Studies Doctoral Student); and “Measuring and Understanding Perceptions of Intra-Governmental Cooperation in Local Governments” with Kari Smith (UWM Urban Studies Doctoral Student) at the 2014 Urban Affairs Association Conference in San Antonio (March 19-22, 2014)
- “Connecting Board Governance to Outcomes: Testing the National School Boards Association Key Work of School Boards” with Michael Ford (UW-Oshkosh) at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago (April 3-6)

UWM alumnus and College of Letters & Science videographer Ryan Allsop was featured in a June 11 WISN broadcast regarding Allsop’s job freelancing for a German news agency for coverage of a Waukesha court case in which two 12-year-old girls allegedly stabbed a classmate. [http://bit.ly/1kR6gWt](http://bit.ly/1kR6gWt)

Luca Ferrero (Philosophy) presented “What is So Special about Agency?” at the Practical Philosophy Workshop held at the University of Chicago in May and will travel to the University of Leipzig, Germany, to give the same presentation at the “Conference on ‘Constitutivism’” in July. In June, he was in the United Kingdom at the University of Leeds to attend and present at the Conference on the Moral Significance of Intentions at which he presented “Intending, Acting, and Doing.”

**People in Print**


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Laurels and Accolades

Letters & Science faculty members Carol Hirschmugl (Physics) and Alan Schwabacher (Chemistry and Biochemistry) were honored as winners of the Acessibility Resource Center Excellence Awards for demonstrating awareness of and sensitivity to students with unique needs and integrating the concept of Universal Design into course material. Robert Wood (Physics) and Gina Szablewski (Geosciences) were honored as two-time award recipients.

UWM PantherVision won the Edward R. Murrow Award for Continuing Coverage in the large market television category for its series “School Shooting Safety.” Edward R. Murrow Awards are national accolades traditionally afforded to regional and national media outlets. PantherVision was the only university group represented among the award winners.

International Studies and French major James Peranteau was named one of only 20 undergraduate Pickering Fellowship winners nationwide. Peranteau will receive financial support toward tuition and other expenses for his senior year and first year of graduate study. The fellowships identify and cultivate students to fulfill the skill needs of the U.S. State Department.

On May 28, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its third edition of Climate Change Indicators in the United States. The report compiles data on key measurements such as temperature and precipitation, ocean heat and acidity, sea level, length of growing season, and wildfires, and assesses some of the impact on human health and society. Geography Professor Mark D. Schwartz’ models were used as the basis for the EPA’s data on start of spring as measured by leaf and bloom dates. To view the full report, see http://epa.gov/climatechange/science/indicators/. To read more about leaf and bloom dates, see: http://epa.gov/climatechange/science/indicators/ecosystems/leaf-bloom-dates.html

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How to be an ASTRONAUT

Fridays, June 20 - July 18, 2014
No show July 4th
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$2

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