Studying molecular processes is studying the essence of life. The information is complex, detailed, and dynamic, and many simultaneous events are dependent upon one another to complete a process. But this knowledge is critical to our world’s future scientists, physicists, biologists, chemists, mathematicians, doctors, nurses, veterinarians, engineers, and computer scientists. They not only will discover and develop therapies for a wide variety of diseases, they also will strive to sustain our environment, develop processes for new energy production, write computer software for research and cataloging, create and preserve fibers and food, as well as write and teach the next generation.

Now, in addition to traditional textbooks, students use physical models and moving images to enhance their learning, thanks, in part, to a collaboration between Steven Forst’s Molecular Microbiology lab and the Center for BioMolecular Modeling at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE).

Under a National Science Foundation-Course Curriculum Improvement grant, MSOE initiated the CREST (Connecting Researchers, Educators and Students) project in which researchers, educators and undergraduate students work together to explore research projects and create new educational tools for undergraduate classrooms, including molecular animations and physical models that students can hold and manually manipulate.

MSOE invited Professor Forst and his students to collaborate and represent UW in this initiative. Three students – Catherine Dornfeld, Christopher Hanna and Jason Slaasted – chose “Bacterial RNA Polymerase: New Insights on a Fundamental Molecular Machine” as their project. Their goal was to better understand how DNA information is copied into a molecule of RNA. RNA is responsible for the assembly of proteins that control cellular processes in every cell in nature. Understanding how this “machine” works could eventually lead to development of new therapies to treat diseases.

As their research developed, so did the creation of new teaching tools. Using a prototyping machine at the Center for BioMolecular Modeling at MSOE, the information provided by the students was translated by a computer program to produce a 3-dimensional model, color-coded to differentiate parts of the molecule. Armed with their research findings, Catherine Dornfeld created an animation of the simultaneous movements in the molecule which was then posted on Proteopedia, a wiki 3-D encyclopedia of proteins and other molecules used by students and educators around the world.

Dr. Forst notes the importance of embracing the latest technology to create learning aids, because students have different ways of learning. Some comprehend best by reading, while others need visual representations to fully understand the material. “With these tools, we are able to teach all of them at a more complex level. They can visualize the process and understand the relationships of the molecules so that they are more deeply engaged and actually want to learn more.”

Ms. Dornfeld, an undergraduate at the time of the project, was able to easily look at the process from a student’s viewpoint and understand what would be helpful as a learning tool. Further, she says that not only was she helping future students, but she was helping herself along the way because her own understanding of the molecular process was enhanced through her participation. The project also gave her an appreciation for how collaborative efforts can bolster research results. By combining resources and skills, she believes a group like this can be more comprehensive in their quest.

In addition to Forst’s project, the CREST initiative includes all of the largest Milwaukee-area colleges and universities, as well as UW-Madison.


List of CREST Projects: [http://cbm.msoe.edu/stupro/crest/projects.html](http://cbm.msoe.edu/stupro/crest/projects.html)
AcBoWriMo Creates Writing Frenzy

C21’s Provost Fellow Charlotte Frost Challenges Writers

Developed from within UWM’s Center for 21st Century Studies, AcBoWriMo stands for Academic Book Writing Month, and it has engaged academics across the globe in a super-productive writing frenzy.

AcBoWriMo is a dedicated month of academic writing productivity based on NaNoWriMo, National Novel Writing Month, an established annual event for aspiring novelists. Both models rely on the premise that successful writing requires time, creativity and support. Sometimes, that little extra push is exactly what is needed to overcome real or perceived obstacles. Each event challenges participants to create a document within the month. In the case of NaNoWriMo, the finished 50,000-word piece could very well be the first draft of an entire novel. AcBoWriMo focuses on academic books and papers and, since November 2011 marks the first event, time will tell whether 50,000-words is achievable.

Charlotte Frost, the founder of the event, states, “Admittedly, 50,000 words is a bit of a nutty goal for academic writing in one month. But, we can at least try, right?”

AcBoWriMo was started at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where Charlotte is a post-doctoral fellow in the Center for 21st Century Studies for the 2011-12 academic year. She and Rebekah Sheldon, also a fellow in the Center, had begun the process of settling into Milwaukee and recognized they wanted to push themselves in their own work and build a writing-oriented culture with their new colleagues. The infrastructure needed to support AcBoWriMo as a global event was already in place. PhD2Published.com was started two years ago by Charlotte to provide tips and tricks for writing a publishable academic piece, moral support and encouragement, and professional networking. A video blog complements the site’s material and provides some entertainment value as well.

Charlotte announced the creation of AcBoWriMo on this website, and it serves as one place where participants can sign up and post blogs about their experience. Additionally, PhD2Published has a Facebook page and Twitter feed (hashtag #AcBoWriMo) for participants, and anyone else who is interested, to follow the conversation and find each other. Twitter has been the most popular platform, with more than 100 active participants in the challenge regularly offering up their moments of both frustration and success. Social media has played a key role in spreading the word about the project and is an invaluable tool for the project itself. The simple act of publicly announcing their involvement seems to have encouraged people to self-regulate and openly share their progress.

At the halfway point, those who have accepted the challenge have applied different techniques to break the 50,000-word goal into manageable chunks. Outside of writing a thesis or dissertation when word count matters, most academic writers generally don’t think in these terms. Many are using the Pomodoro Technique, where you use a kitchen timer to work for 25 minutes, break for 5 minutes and work for another 25 minutes. The Twitter conversation would certainly amuse someone unfamiliar with the concept, as many tweet, “I completed 4 pomodoros today!” Participants are finding this to be a simple but effective technique to find intense, focused blocks of time.

The fact that participants are measuring their progress in chunks of time rather than in words is just fine with Charlotte. “I suggested 50,000 words simply to get people into the spirit of pushing themselves really hard for one month. But, I also said that people were free to choose their own targets and work within their own schedules. It’s about accomplishing something that you didn’t think was possible in a small window of time. Heaps of people have said this is the most productive they’ve been in ages, and they’re really enjoying the process.” Other suggested apps and techniques from the blogs and social media feeds include Focus Booster, 750 Words, and Scrivener.

Criticism is mainly related to the name. “A couple of people took it a little too literally and thought I was suggesting you could write an entire, quality academic book in one month, which of course I’m not,” notes Charlotte. This criticism has been constructive, though, as Charlotte considers ways to improve next year’s event and continue the movement. One possibility is the inclusion of a broader discussion on the nature of academic work. Different subject areas have different demands, and some tasks can be completed quickly while others require a slower and more considered process. While Charlotte has been quick to embrace social media as a communication and team-building tool for the challenge, she also acknowledges that the juxtaposition of instant communication with a discipline that may not move at that speed is a challenge and worthy of a dialogue.

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Alumni Profile

Tony Rodriguez (‘09, History and Jewish Studies)

The interdisciplinary approach that prevails in Jewish Studies courses sparked and sustained my interest in the program. With a passion for understanding the sensitive issues of anti-Semitism and genocide, I availed myself of the opportunities provided by the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies, UWM and Milwaukee’s Jewish community.

Dr. Rachel Baum’s “Jewish and Christian Responses to the Holocaust” and “Jewish American Literature from the Holocaust to the 21st Century” introduced me to authors and texts that challenged conventional wisdom and encouraged me to think analytically about the Holocaust, Jewish identity and Jewish popular culture. Dr. Baum’s use of technology in the classroom and her innovative approach to teaching provided a forum for Jewish narratives as they relate to current social contexts.

One summer during college, I enrolled in an intensive program at the Catholic University of Lublin. While in Poland, I had conversations about the representation of Poles in Holocaust-related American cinema, and about responses to Jan Gross’ 2001 highly controversial book Neighbors, an expose on the destruction of the Jewish community of the Polish village of Jedwabne. I left Poland rejuvenated and wanting to know more. Dr. Lisa Silverman’s “Introduction to Jewish History” and “The Jews of Modern Europe: History and Culture” helped me better understand the issues of contemporary genocides from a historical perspective. Her cutting-edge research inspired me to delve deeper, ask provocative questions, and seek not one, but several answers.

The guidance provided by Dr. Baum and Dr. Silverman has been instrumental in helping me reach my academic and career goals. If it had not been for their support, I would not have had the opportunities I have been given, including my current profession. I graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies and History. In 2009, I received the Chava Frankfort-Nachmias Award for Excellence in Scholarship in Jewish Studies. I now work for the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc. (Claims Conference), an international organization that provides assistance to Nazi victims and funding for research and educational initiatives, and seeks the return of property lost during the Holocaust. As a Program Officer, I administer education and research grants in 14 U.S. states and 16 countries, allowing me to play a role in Holocaust education as well as in the rescue of several hundred archives in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and South America. In June 2010, I was sent as a representative of the Claims Conference to the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research in Jerusalem. Over the past two years, I have traveled on behalf of the Claims Conference throughout the United States and Europe.
The Education Award is given to an organization that educates and teaches the principles and values of sustainability and environmental stewardship. Tonight we honor the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee with the 2011 Education Award.

UW-Milwaukee is a vibrant, diverse and relevant university, connecting students to the cultural and economic heart of the state – preparing their minds and resumes for the global economy.

One of their many programs is offered through the Institute for Service Learning. Since its debut in 1999, the Institute for Service Learning and its faculty partners have offered thousands of students service experiences that enrich academics, build critical thinking skills and foster a sense of civic responsibility. Service learning connects students with the real world side of their coursework, bringing social and cultural issues into focus and providing significant benefits to the more than 200 local nonprofit organizations which host our students.

Each semester, UW-Milwaukee faculty offer students a service learning option in courses ranging from the humanities to the health sciences. Depending on the course, students commit to 10-15 hours of service at an area nonprofit or complete a service learning project (Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful has participated in this program for over 10 years). By melding academics with service, course work comes alive and students learn civic responsibility as they deepen their understanding of the community in which they live.

UW-Milwaukee has made great strides in their efforts to transform into a sustainable campus. Their Environmental Sustainability Committee has led the way in educating and engaging students and staff through various initiatives on recycling, carpooling and water conservation. They have also had great success through their creative competitions among buildings to conserve energy. In a few short days, the Golda Meir Library will be unveiling a much anticipated 50,000 sq. ft. green roof and 30kw solar PV system.

For their many outstanding commitments to environmental education, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful salutes the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee as the winner of the 2011 Education Award. Accepting the Education Award is Glen Fredlund.
Jim Reinartz Receives Statewide Wetlands Award

Date: November 1, 2011
Contact: Katie Beilfuss, Interim Director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association
608-250-9971 / Katie.Beilfuss@wisconsinwetlands.org

Local Wetland Hero Honored with Statewide Wetlands Award

Madison, WI – On October 27, wetland enthusiasts from around Wisconsin gathered to recognize individuals and groups whose work advances the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of Wisconsin’s wetlands at Wisconsin Wetlands Association’s 2011 Annual Membership Meeting and Wetlands Awards Ceremony.

Jim Reinartz, director of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station at Cedarburg Bog, received the Wetland Enjoyment Award for his work educating and inspiring countless children and adults to marvel at the intricacies of wetland ecosystems. “Jim has a unique ability to foster a love of the outdoors in people and acts to educate others as a means to achieve broad-scale wetlands advocacy and policy work,” noted Katie Beilfuss, Interim Director of Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA). Reinartz has also authored a wide variety of articles and research papers, including A Guide to the Natural History of the Cedarburg Bog.

“We know there are many wetland crusaders whose good deeds have not been adequately recognized,” said Beilfuss. “Our Wetlands Awards are intended to help us thank a few of them and bring recognition to the wetland issues they promote as well.”

Also recognized for their achievements were Alison Peña of Madison, who received the Wetland Protection Award for the tremendous role she played in helping Wisconsin’s Wetland Reserve Program become a model for other states, and the Wisconsin Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, who received the Wetland Restoration Award for their extensive work on wetland restoration and enhancement projects throughout the state.

Wetlands play an important role in both the ecology and economy of Wisconsin. These hardworking ecosystems provide valuable wildlife habitat, serve as natural flood control, and filter runoff, which helps keep our rivers, lakes and drinking water clean. Despite these wetland benefits, more than half of Wisconsin’s original 10 million wetlands acres have been drained or filled for land uses like agriculture and development. “We hope that our Awards will help Wisconsinites appreciate and understand the value of our state’s wetland heritage, an important step toward ensuring protection for all of our wetlands,” Beilfuss added.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, restoration and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education and advocacy. Our more than 1400 members include wetland experts, natural resource professionals, conservationists, hunters and anglers, educators, concerned citizens, and local and regional organizations. Visit WWA online at www.wisconsinwetlands.org
The common perception of a public speaker is someone standing at a lectern, in a large room, in front of an audience. However, if you’ve ever tried to convince an interviewer that you’re the right person for a job, a store clerk that you are owed a refund, or a group of friends that they should attend a Maroon 5 show rather than a Lady Gaga concert, you’re using public speaking skills. Not all of us speak on stage, but we all speak in public.

For the last three semesters, UWM students in Communication 103: Public Speaking have had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in a formal Public Speaking Showcase. On November 5th, before an audience of 150 peers, educators, judges, UWM officials, family and friends, five students represented each of the course’s sections in a demonstration of their public speaking talents.

The showcase is the third in a series, created and organized by teaching assistants and PhD students Lindsey Harness and Ruth Beerman. Both had organized successful events at other schools and felt something similar not only would benefit students and display their skills, but also would illustrate the value of the course outside of the classroom and the impact the course has on students from many different programs.

As in previous semesters, the class was asked to choose a subject – famous or not – who is admirable as a public hero. Each of the five Public Speaking sections voted to choose a speaker to represent them at the Showcase. The elected speaker was asked to prepare an argument about the values their subject embodies, based on outside research and argumentative claims.

In their speeches, the students were expected to incorporate the three tenets of public speaking: ethos, establishing the credibility of the speaker; pathos, appealing to the emotions of the audience; and logos, using logical argument.

The students were judged by a diverse panel who brought various perspectives to the table. This year’s judges were Provost Johannes Britz, Communication Chair William Keith, State Senator Lena Taylor and Randy Parlee, an attorney and Communication alumnus.

This semester’s participants and their topics were:

Winner Austin Shimko is a junior from Eau Claire majoring in American sign language training. Austin spoke on entertainer Ellen DeGeneres.

Eric Ash, a freshman from New Berlin, chose children’s entertainer, Fred Rogers, as his subject. Eric is a music education major.

Alexandria Nehrkorn is a sophomore from New Berlin majoring in Film. Her subject was Michelle Rhee, an education activist and former head of the Washington D.C. public school system.

Luke Falk hails from Fort Atkinson and is a sophomore majoring in criminal justice. He spoke about Bill Dandoy, a police officer.

Youa Xiong is a junior social work major from Milwaukee. Her public hero was Will Allen, founder of Growing Power.

“There is not a lot of actual verbal dialogue and discussion in society today,” Ms. Harness explained, “but there are a lot of people expressing their opinions. We want to facilitate learning the skills of analyzing and communicating arguments that are necessary to become more civically-engaged citizens.”

Public speaking students come from all levels, freshmen through senior, and all types of backgrounds. In addition to Communication and other L&S majors, they are studying health sciences, social welfare, education and architecture.
**Update from the Development Team**

Through October 31 we have raised a total of $819,863:

- $480,546 in cash gifts and pledges
- $339,317 in external grants and in-kind gifts

Incoming major donations that closed during November and that will be added to our next total include:

- Baye Foundation to the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies – $50,000 gift in support of programs that enhance cross-cultural understanding to name the garden level office suite in memory of Phyllis Stahl-Berkowitz
- Robert and Judy Scott to the Honors College – $10,600 gift in support of Honors College Study Abroad Scholarships
- Michael and Elizabeth Klump to Psychology – $10,000 gift in support of the Behavioral Therapy and Research Lab, seeking non-pharmaceutical therapies to assist individuals with Tourette Syndrome and related disorders

**Center for Jewish Studies Dedicates New Building**

The Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies celebrated a milestone in November with the dedication of its new home in the renovated Greene Museum. In 2008, the Center received a $2 million gift from the family of Nathan and Pearl Berkowitz and the Baye Foundation, which subsequently led to the Center’s relocation in Summer 2011 from a two-office suite on campus to the historic building off Downer Avenue this summer. The center is named the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies to honor the parents of the late Pearl Berkowitz, who was a trustee of the Baye Foundation and the wife of the late Nathan Berkowitz, the former president of the foundation. The two-story building has meeting and office space currently used by four faculty members and two support staff, with additional offices for future hires.

During the dedication on November 13th, Chancellor Michael Lovell, Stahl Center Director Joel Berkowitz and members of the Stahl/Berkowitz family dedicated the former geological museum as the new home of the center. While describing the history of the building, Chancellor Lovell showed the audience a trilobite – Wisconsin’s official State Fossil – belonging to the Greene geological collection. Also at the dedication, Jon Schnur, recalled the personalities and values of his grandparents, Nathan and Pearl Berkowitz. And, Joel Berkowitz – no relation to Nathan and Pearl – announced the additional gift of $50,000 to the center in the memory of another family member, Phyllis Stahl-Berkowitz, who was an active member of the Milwaukee Jewish community before her death in the 1978.

After the ceremony, Joel gave his inaugural lecture on “The Many Languages of Yiddish Drama” at the Zelazo Center. In a multimedia presentation, he showed how Yiddish playwrights used the multilingual roots of the Yiddish language as the raw material compelling theatre. More than 100 people attended the dedication and the lecture.
In the Media and Around the Community

Jeffrey Sommers (Africology) was a member of an expert panel on the RT news program CrossTalk. The program, taped on October 27th, focused on the Eurozone bailout. RT is a global, multilingual television news network based in the Russian Federation and broadcast worldwide; CrossTalk is its flagship program. Using a TV debate format, the show presents hot-topic discussions on politics, business, newsmakers, global trends, conflicts and challenges featuring panelists considered experts and influencers in their fields.

Noelle Chesley (Sociology) was interviewed on WUWM’s Lake Effect on October 25th to discuss her new article on gender roles. She addressed the question of what happens to men and women when they swap traditional roles in the home. (See publications section of this newsletter for full citation.) http://bit.ly/vwxTqi. Noelle also presented “ICT Use and 21st Century Employment: Implications for Job Conditions, Work Strains, and Worker Distress” at Oxford University in September as part of a conference on “A Decade in Internet Times.”

The bluff collapse at the WE Energy facility in Oak Creek generated a number of questions for our geoscientists. Doug Cherkour and Tom Hooyer were quoted in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and Tom was interviewed on WTMJ radio and television.

“Bluff collapse at power plant sends dirt, coal ash into lake”

“Water saturating ash linked to Oak Creek bluff’s collapse”

“Two factors could have played role in bluff collapse”

Five undergraduates from the Physics program and the Engineering program – David Day, Joe Flanigan, Robin Karr, Matthew Rohr, and Arielle Walker – along with Kenosha high school science teacher Beth Spear traveled to the Arecibo Radio Telescope in Puerto Rico to perform follow up observations and confirmed two new millisecond pulsar discoveries,

John Heywood (Economics) discussed the October jobs report with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.
http://www.jsonline.com/business/133242138.html

Jennifer Jordan (Sociology) has been invited by the American Academy in Berlin to speak at a symposium in Berlin on “Memorial Mania – Negotiating Social and Political Strategies of Memory.” She will present on December 10th.

Luca Ferrero (Philosophy) was a panelist for the workshop “Shared Agency” at Yale Law School, October 14th-15th, and presented a paper on “Intentions and the First Person” at the New Orleans Workshop on Agency and Responsibility, Tulane University and Murphy Institute on November 4th.

This November, the Manfred Olson Planetarium explored apocalypse hype in “2012: Fact or Fiction,” the latest installment in its Friday Night Show series. The show has received overwhelming attendance and will continue on Fridays at 7:00 pm until December 16. Curious visitors learn the astronomical facts in the various ideas surrounding the year 2012. Also at the Planetarium, the two-part AstroBreak program continues to be held on select Wednesdays at 12:15 pm. The stellar evolution series has just wrapped up with Black Holes, and a new AstroBreak series about Fall constellations has began with Cassiopeia and Pegasus. AstroBreaks continue in December.

http://www4.uwm.edu/planetarium/abschedule.cfm

Peter Paik (French, Italian and Comparative Literature) presented a paper at the first-ever Film Studies colloquium held in conjunction with the Busan International Film Festival, October 6th-14th. Now in its 16th year, the Busan festival is the largest film festival in Asia, screening 307 films from 70 countries. While there he met the South Korean film director Lee Chang-dong, whose film, Poetry, was shown last semester at UWM, and Apichatpong Weerasethaskul, whose Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives won the Palme d’Or at Cannes last year. Peter spoke on the controversial South Korean thriller Oldboy, reading the film through the lens of Nietzsche’s concept of self-overcoming and Freud’s myth of the primal father. Read about his experience on his blog:
http://pypaik.wordpress.com/

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Click to play

L&S November Newsletter 2011
Publications


Awards & Honors

Dan Vyleta (Foreign Languages and Literature) was one of five finalists for the Rogers Writers’ Fiction Prize for his book, *The Quiet Twin*. Each year, the Prize recognizes Canadian writers with the best novel or short-story collection selected by an independent judging panel. Dan received $2,500. 

Dave Edwards (WUWM) was elected to serve another year as Chairman of the Board of NPR. This marks his sixth year on the board and second as Chair.

Renee Meyers (Communication) received the Distinguished Award for a Special Issue Journal, National Communication Association Applied Communication Division, and she was named Co-Chair of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference held in Milwaukee.

1 Dec.


3:30 PM – L&S Faculty Meeting. Curtin 175.

2 Dec.

2:00 PM – NEUROSCIENCE COLLOQUIUM: Direct Human Brain Recordings and the Neural Basis of Conceptual Representations. Presented by Professor Joshua Jacobs from Drexel University. Lapham 160.

2:00 PM – ECONOMICS SEMINAR: Compensating Differentials for Paid Leaves. Sponsored by the Center for Research on International Economics. Benjamin Van Kammen (UWM) is the speaker. Lubar N110.

2-16 Dec.

7:00 PM – PLANETARIUM SHOW: 2012: Fact or Fiction. This show reveals how the Mayans used astronomical events to invent their calendars and investigates some theories that anticipate earth's fate. $2 admission. Every Friday through the 16th.

4 Dec.


5 Dec.

Last date for departments to enter changes in PAWS for Summer 2012. (estimated)

6 Dec.

12:00 PM – BROWN BAG: Gender & World's Fairs. Discussion led by Abigail Markwyn, Carroll University. Sponsored by the Women's Studies Programs. Bolton 735.

12:15 PM – PLANETARIUM SHOW: Pegasus.

7:00 PM – Franklin Roosevelt and the Jews. Tim Crain (UWM) assesses FDR's relationship with Jewish Americans, his support for German Jews in the 1930s, and his response to the Holocaust. Greene Hall.

9 Dec.

12:00 PM – L&S Chairs and Directors Meeting. Curtin 175.

2:00 PM – ECONOMICS SEMINAR: Investment Returns in Nonprofit Organizations. Sponsored by the Center for Research in International Economics. Garth Heutel from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro presents. Lubar N110.


14 Dec.

12:15 PM – PLANETARIUM SHOW: Space Poetry.

Today is also the preferred deadline for departments to submit their spring scholarship recipients to the College for payment processing.

21 Dec.

7:00 PM – PLANETARIUM SHOW: Winter Solstice. $2 admission fee.
In the Media and Around the Community

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Joseph Rodriguez (History) was a guest on 4th Street Forum, a nonpartisan program that promotes public discussion of political and social issues. The show airs on Milwaukee Public Television on Fridays and Sundays and is taped before a live audience. Joe was a panelist on the November episode titled “Enemies Everywhere: Politics as Warfare.”

Jeffrey Sommers (Africology) was the conference chair and a featured speaker for the 2011 Asian Business & Management Conference of the International Academic Forum held in Osaka, Japan, on November 12th and 13th. His presentation title was “Origins of our Global Economic Crisis: Causes and Perspectives from the past 500, 50, & 5 Years.”

Chia Youyee Vang (History) was named a delegate by the American Studies Association-Japanese Association for American Studies Project Advisory Committee to the 46th Annual Meeting of the Japan Association of American Studies to be held June 1st-3rd, 2012 at Nagoya University in Nagoya, Japan. The award includes the opportunity to present on “Interpreting Empire from Below: Memory and Legacy of War from the Margin.”

Writing Center Director Margaret Mika and graduate student tutors Jenna Green Azab, Paige Conley, Dani Hartke, Ingrid Nordstrom and Louise Zamparutti presented papers at the ten-state Midwest Writing Center Association biannual conference held at UW-Madison, October 20th-22nd.

Karyn Frick (Psychology) presented “Building a better hormone therapy? How understanding rapid effects of estrogens could lead to new therapies for age-related memory decline” at Dartmouth Medical School, Department of Physiology & Neuroscience Colloquium on October 25th. She also visited Oberlin College on October 12th to speak on “The pathways less traveled: A biochemical approach to understanding how estrogens affect memory” at their Department of Neuroscience Colloquium.

Nancy Mathiowetz (Sociology) won a competitive contract to provide a report to the National Academy of Sciences on a redesign of the Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. She also continues to support efforts at redesign of the Marine Recreational Information Program which estimates recreational saltwater fishing effort and catch for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Jennifer Jordan (Sociology) was interviewed on WUWM’s Lake Effect where she discussed kitchen gardens and biodiversity. http://bit.ly/uVPMHn

A number of Psychology faculty members and students attended the Society for Neuroscience conference in Washington DC, held November 11th through the 16th. Presentations included:

- Boulware, M.I., Heisler, J.D., and Frick, K.M., “Classical estrogen receptors are localized to caveolar fractions in the mouse hippocampus.”
- Kwapis, J.L., Jarome, T.J., Gilmartin, M.R. and Helmstetter, F.J., “The basolateral amygdala may be required for delay but not trace fear extinction.”
- Jarome, T.J., Ruenzel, W.L. and Helmstetter, F.J., “Fear conditioning increases the amount of proteasome subunit Rpt6 and lysine-48 linked polyubiquitinated proteins in the amygdala.”
- Schultz, D.H., Balderston, N.L. and Helmstetter, F.J., “The amygdala shows increased functional connectivity with the dorsal mPFC following fear conditioning.”
- Gilmartin, M.R., Kwapis, J.L. and Helmstetter, F.J., “Differential expression patterns of learning-related protein in the trace fear network following targeted inactivation of prelimbic medial prefrontal cortex, amygdala, or ventral hippocampus.”
- Song, C. and Moyer, J. R., Jr. “Characteristics of medial prefrontal cortex—basal lateral amygdala projection neurons.”
- Peterson, T.C., Villatoro, L.O., Ahuja, B., Voss, S., and Swain, R.A., “Behavioral deficits induced by cerebellar dentate nuclei inactivation are reversed by modification of reinforcement characteristics.”

Abstracts of the posters and presentations can be viewed at: http://bit.ly/tqtZhT

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AcBoWriMo Creates Writing Frenzy

continued from Page 4

After the month-long challenge ends, Charlotte will reflect on the experience and host public discussions to examine exactly these types of questions. How can the model be applied to the natural sciences to achieve the same goal of working through procrastination? One scientist currently participating is alternating a lab day with a writing day. Does a person’s subject area or comfort level with social media impact their attitude about sharing work so publicly? Charlotte notes, “I think I might also have inadvertently created a case study for the book I’m writing on about the impact of email, mailing lists and social media on the form and content of online art history and criticism. I’ve been involved in online art discursive spaces for over 10 years, but this process is clarifying a few issues in my mind. It is also my first taste of being responsible for something that has become public property so thoroughly. It’s helping me reflect even more on the nature of online discussion communities and how to host a mutually-beneficial debate.”

In just its debut year, AcBoWriMo has received accolades from over 20 well-respected blogs in education, including the leading industry publication, The Chronicle of Higher Education’s ProfHacker blog. Charlotte thinks this bodes well for AcBoWriMo to serve for years to come as a mechanism for bursts of writing productivity, improved writing skills, increased camaraderie among academic writers and substantive sharing through social media. Looking ahead to 2012, Charlotte notes, “I’ll take on everybody’s feedback and work out how AcBoWriMo can come back bigger and better next year!”

Grants

Bruce Allen, Maria Alessandra Papa and Xavier Siemens (Center for Gravitation and Cosmology/Physics) were awarded a National Science Foundation grant for $1,500,000 over 5 years to support Einstein@Home. Einstein@Home is a program that allows individuals from around the world to use their computer’s idle time to search for gravitational waves from spinning neutron stars (also called pulsars) using data from the LIGO gravitational wave detector. Einstein@Home also searches for radio pulsars in binary systems, using data from the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. The project is hosted by UWM and the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics (Albert Einstein Institute, Hannover, Germany).

Luis Anchordoqui (Center for Gravitation and Cosmology/Physics) received a National Science Foundation Career Grant for $400,000 over 5 years. A Career Grant is NSF’s most prestigious award to junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars. Recipients’ funded activities are expected to build a firm foundation for a lifetime of achievement.

The Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies received a prestigious Legacy Heritage grant to host a series of public programs designed to explore the roots of the Milwaukee-area Jewish community in both the United States and Europe. The first two events were well attended and included Henry Sapoznik, director of the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, speaking on Yiddish music and radio, and UWM Professor Lisa Silverman sharing the history and revelations surrounding famed photographer Philipp Halsmann and the Austrian “Dreyfus Affair” in interwar Austria. To preview the December event and Spring 2012 events, see http://bit.ly/u1WH8n.

Videos

Check out Letters & Science new YouTube Channel at: http://youtube.com/user/UWMilwLetSci

Over the next year, we will continue to build a library of short, engaging videos on topics that are interesting to our target audiences of prospective students, current students and their parents and family. Our goal is to showcase Letters & Science as a fascinating and relevant place to be.

Program Change

Note that the Department of Linguistics is now in the Social Sciences division of Letters & Science, and the Women’s Studies major is now in the Humanities division.
Fred Helmstetter (Psychology) gave an invited talk titled “Creating and maintaining fear memory in the brain” at the Department of Neuroscience, Rosalind Franklin School of Medicine and Science in North Chicago, Ill., in November.


Jeffrey Tiger (Psychology) was invited to present a paper entitled, “On the value of providing choices” at the meeting of the Minnesota Association for Behavior Analysis in St. Cloud, Minn. The event was held in September.

Numerous Communication faculty members and students spoke at the National Communication Association Convention held in New Orleans in November. Three papers were named “Tops” in their division and are denoted below.

- Mike Allen, “Scholars’ hours conversation,” panel discussion.
- Ruth J. Beerman, “Which bodies get to play? Using community values to resolve community/individual tensions in international sport.”
- J.A. Bonito and Renee A. Meyers, “Majority/minority status, functional communication, and preference change: A multi-level analysis of group decision-making interaction.”
- Emily M. Cramer, “Giving voice to spiritual needs: Addressing patient spirituality when breaking bad news.”

- Lindsay Harness, “Preserving voice through protest signs: A rhetorical Analysis of the Wisconsin debate’s visual rhetoric.” Leslie J. Harris, “Free love and radical maternalism.”
- Anna R. Herrman, “Patriotism and ethnocentrism: When is the line crossed?”
- Malynnda Johnson, “Voices of reason or confusion?: An ethnographic analysis of HIV counselors’ communication to heterosexual adults.”
- Falon Kartch, “An ethnographic examination of gossip in a small organization: Coalitions and conflict escalation,” and “Turning points in the development of ‘family’ in stepfamilies.”
- Aimee Lau and Ali Gattoni, “It takes an online community: Rethinking motherhood, technology and community in the 21st century.”
- Renee A. Meyers et al., “Revitalizing the study of small group communication: Fifteen years later,” panel discussion.
- Rebecca Mullane, “Improving communication between students and academic advisors to increase student success.”
- Rebecca Mullane and Rachel Gonnering, “Training student employees to effectively apply customer service principles to their positions of employment in higher education.” A Top Student Paper for the Training and Development Division.

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In the Media and Around the Community

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- **Kim Omachinski**, “American values in the global workplace.”
- **Katie L. Turkiewicz**, M. Venetis, J. Robinson, and **Mike Allen**, “Observed communication between oncologists and patients: A causal model of communication competence.”
- **Elaine M. Wong**, **Michael P. Haselhuhn** (from Business), and J.L. Kray, “Looking toward the future by considering the past: The impact of counterfactual narratives and implicit beliefs on negotiation performance.” A Top Four Paper in the Peace and Conflict Communication Division.
- **Debby Pincon**, “Social support across boundaries: A qualitative analysis of supportive communication behaviors in a virtual global community of practice.”
- **Kimberly Smith**, “Teachers and students left behind: The effects of educational downsizing on survivors.” A Top Four Student Paper in the Applied Communication Division.
- **Hayeon Song**, Jihyun Kim, and Amy May, “Smoker identity: Theory based suggestions for anti-smoking interventions targeting college students.”
- **Melissa Maier**, Katie L. Turkiewicz, Falon F. Kartch, Kathryn Dindia, and Mike Allen, “Sex differences in intimacy in same-sex friendships: A meta-analysis.”
- **Mridula Mascarenhas**, “He could have fought back: an analysis of national discourse on two bullycides.”
- **Kelly E. Tenzek and Emily M. Cramer**, “Legitimizing spirituality: Chaplain perspectives on education, training, and roles.”

Sandra Braman (Communication) made a number of presentations in October and November: “Designing a research agenda,” “Frames, fractures, and skins: Internet design as social policy” and “Surveillance and privacy” at MIT, Cambridge, MA; “How should libraries relate to the government?” at the Wisconsin Library Association; and “The framing years: Policy fundamentals in Internet design, 1969-1979” to both the UWM Center for Information Policy Research and the University of Maryland, College Park. She also participated in an invitation-only workshop on the governance of social media at Georgetown University.

Two presentations were given by Communication faculty and students at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Milwaukee: N. Chick, **Renee A. Meyers**, K. Kazarides and L. Cornell-Swanson spoke about Wisconsin’s Writer Cooperative and J. MacKenzie, **Renee A. Meyers**, **Kimberly K. Smith**, and K. Lazarides spoke on “Exploring the extent and nature of international collaboration in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.”


**Kim Omachinski** (Communication), Thomas Danner (Ctr. for Latin American and Caribbean Studies), and Andrea Joseph (Ctr. for International Education) presented “Careers across the map: Working in international education” during International Education Week at UWM.

**Lindsay Timmerman** (Communication) talked to the group Women by Women at Foundations Bank in Pewaukee on the topic of interpersonal communication skills.

More than three months after first hitting the airwaves, **Elaine Wong’s** (Communication) (see Sept. In Focus) research continues to generate media buzz. Major newspapers in Canada, New Zealand, and the UK have covered “A face only an investor could love: CEO facial structure predicts firm financial performance.”

Sociology Professor Emerita Ann Lennarson Greer will personally deliver almost complete sets of both American Sociological Review and the American Journal of Sociology to Dillard University in New Orleans by year end. The journals needed a new home due to the pending department move to the Northwest Quadrant, and Dillard’s library was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. Kudos to Professor Greer for her initiative to identify a need and match it with a solution.

Halloween 2011

Geosciences Instructor (and alumnus) Michael DeVasto and English Master’s student Dani Hartke as “Letters” and “Science.”