mixed races, mixed messages

by Kathy Quirk, University Relations

A recent Cheerios commercial featuring a white mother, black father and their daughter attracted a few nasty comments, followed by a huge outpouring of support, with 95 percent of viewers “liking” the commercial. The recent advertisement is just one reflection of America’s long history of strong feelings about interracial relationships.

Greg Carter, an Assistant Professor of History, traces the history of how such relationships have been both demonized and praised in The United States of the United Races: A Utopian History of Racial Mixing. The book looks at the ways Americans have thought about racial mixing from Colonial times to the present.

“There has been a lot of attention, and an increase in visibility of people of mixed racial heritage,” says Carter. President Barack Obama and golf champion Tiger Woods, in particular, have raised the profile of people of mixed race in recent years. In addition, the Census Bureau and other government agencies have broadened the number of choices people have in filling out the “race” box on federal forms.

An Optimistic Focus

Carter’s book focuses on the optimistic tradition of racial mixing in the United States, looking at those who saw a racially mixed America as a better America. It’s a topic he originally became interested in and explored in his dissertation at the University of Texas, where he earned a doctorate in American Studies. He now teaches and writes about the issues around mixed race and racial identity.

His students are often surprised at the idea that racial mixing wasn’t always viewed negatively in the past, says Carter. “They often think of the past as a uniformly racist and awful period, but it was much more complex than that,” says Carter.

“Contemporary fascination with racially mixed figures has its historical roots in how past Americans have imagined what radical abolitionist Wendell Phillips first called, ‘The United States of the United Races,’” Carter writes in explanation of the book’s title.

In the book, Carter looks at various historical figures, like Phillips, who took a positive view of racial mingling and saw it as a means to “create a new people, to bring equality to all, and to fulfill a uniquely American destiny.”

He also traces the impact of key Supreme Court decisions, the various ways the public and governments have attempted to define and categorize individuals by their racial mixture, and the impact of historical events in shaping views of racial mixing.

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The Positive Few

From the very beginning, even when sentiment was strongly against mixed relationships, a few influential individuals took a more positive view, says Carter.

While Founding Father Thomas Jefferson warned against whites mixing with blacks and backed state laws against such relationships, his private secretary William Short proposed recognizing mixed offspring, transitioning slaves toward tenant farming and offering universal citizenship.

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The United States of the United Races

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Before and after the Civil War, Phillips tackled the controversial topic of racial mixing head-on. His fellow abolitionists were content to free slaves, but only the most radical of them argued for emancipation, full citizenship and the right to marry whites.

In the early 1900s, playwright Israel Zangwill tried to open a discussion of intermarriage in his play “The “Melting Pot,” but public pressure forced him to remove the play’s Asian and black characters.

A Matter of Choice

Today, identity among those of mixed race often remains a matter of choice, says Carter. During his 2008 campaign, for example, Barack Obama proudly proclaimed himself the son of a white woman from Kansas and a black man from Kenya. “The campaign was using his mother and father as part of his story, and a progressive view of racial mixing was part of that,” says Carter.

Yet, when Obama filled out his census form in 2010, he identified himself as black. Like many racially mixed people, says Carter, Obama makes different choices in how he wants to identify himself at various times and in different situations. “Identity can change depending on the context.”

While the public now views racial mixing more positively, that alone is not a sign that racism is a thing of the past, Carter says. “We are reaching for a state of more equity and racial progress for minorities,” he says.

However, he argues in the conclusion of his book, attitudes toward racial mixing are just part of America’s shift in the understanding of race.

“We can find figurative power in racial mixing, but as an end itself, it is insufficient. Mixed race can disrupt the status quo, but not on its own.” To achieve that kind of change, Carter says, “We have to do work.”

By the end of World War II, however, immigration, the Civil Rights Movement and America’s increasing global role had brought more white Americans into contact with other races and cultures, resulting in growing acceptance of racial mixing. Revulsion toward Hitler’s policies of white supremacy also impacted Americans, says Carter. “We required ourselves to be better than that.”

In 1967, the Supreme Court in the case of Loving v. Virginia finally deemed remaining state laws forbidding interracial marriage unconstitutional. However, the ’60s and ’70s also gave rise to a number of movements – black and Latino power, for example – that emphasized the benefits of racial stabilization, casting aspersions on mixing.
Passings

Longtime UWM French Professor Martine Meyer passed away on July 28, 2013, at the age of 84. Martine retired in 1994 after a nearly 40 year career at UWM. Even after retirement, Martine’s service to UWM and the Milwaukee community continued as she taught retirees through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and through the Alliance Française de Milwaukee.


While at UWM, she taught everything from first semester French to advanced culture courses. She also served as the chair of the Department of French and Italian, as it was then known, for about ten years.

Martine passed away at home with her daughter, granddaughter and beloved dog at her side. She is also survived by a sister, a niece, and a nephew.
thermal history of the sample. So if it’s buried at the bottom of the flow, it cools very slowly [and] has a very high Curie temperature. But if it’s near the top of the flow [it] cools very quickly [and] will have a low Curie temperature.”

Knowing that the Curie temperature was changing with how fast the rock was allowed to cool, Bowles hopes to develop a method by which measuring the Curie temperatures of rocks will lead to information about the eruptions that they came from – information such as how hot the pyroclastic flow was, how thick it was, and how long it took to cool.

Although Bowles is primarily interested in data gathered on past volcanic activity, she’s excited that her group’s research could be applied to present day volcanic activity, as well.

“If there were an eruption at Montserrat, which is a populated island and you have one of these flows,” proposed Bowles, “how quickly is it going to cool and how quickly can people return to the area?”

In order to pursue this research at UWM, Bowles had to build an entire room within her lab designed solely to block out the Earth’s magnetic field, much like the way a sound booth blocks out noise.

“Most natural materials have very, very weak magnetization,” Bowles explained. Measuring that kind of minute signal when you’re surrounded by the magnetic field of the Earth can lead to distorted and inaccurate readings.

Her magnetically shielded room in Lapham Hall measures roughly 80 square feet – about the size of a Sandburg Hall dorm room – and is completely surrounded by a layer of transformer steel that has been magnetized to produce a field exactly opposite the Earth’s magnetic field. The two fields cancel each other out inside the room, allowing Bowles and her team to make accurate measurements of the weak magnetic fields produced by the rocks they study.

Looking ahead, she has plans to travel to the only two volcanoes where temperature measurements are known to have been made directly on pyroclastic flows at the times of their eruptions – Mount St. Helens and Montserrat – to collect rock samples and compare the results of her methods to the recorded information.

You can see a photo slide show of the construction of the shielded room at http://bit.ly/13MEROF.

Video Stories

On a pre-veterinary track with a biology major, Juan Orjuela fueled his passion for animals by working on frog behavior research this summer. http://youtu.be/XS-x6JexNo

Catch up with UWM tennis player - and chemistry major - Dana Shannon in Milwaukee’s Third Ward. http://youtu.be/y4p-2c7YNt0

Lindsey Hill left small town life in Avon, Indiana for UWM and its Psychology program. Bradford Beach is one of her favorite Milwaukee hangouts. http://youtu.be/_USNqpKeAss

Psychology major Stevie Miller is looking forward to graduation and is currently working in the adult neuropsychology research lab. http://youtu.be/4prpRS2mEAM
Fredrik O. Andersson, assistant professor, Nonprofit and Public Administration, holds an Interdisciplinary PhD in Entrepreneurship and Public Affairs from the H.W. Bloch School of Management, University of Missouri-Kansas City (2012). Before arriving at UWM, he was a post-doctoral fellow at Texas A&M University. Fredrik’s primary research and teaching interests include social entrepreneurship, social enterprise creation and nonprofit strategic management. He also studies nonprofit boards and governance and, as a member of the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership in Kansas City, he has worked directly with numerous nonprofit boards and management teams supporting the governance, evaluation and financial development efforts. “I’m very excited to join the Nonprofit and Public Administration program at UWM, and I look forward to exploring and finding ways to support the very vibrant nonprofit community in Milwaukee and beyond.”

Anja Blecking, Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry, received her PhD in Organic Chemistry from the Gerhard-Mercator University in Duisburg, Germany (1997). She has served as a lecturer in UWM’s Chemistry and Biochemistry Department since 2007, teaching preparatory and general chemistry courses and chemistry courses for pre-service teachers. Throughout her teaching career, she developed a strong interest in gaining more understanding of student learning to improve the quality of chemistry instruction. Her research interests in the field of chemical education include the assessment of student learning progression, measuring the effectiveness of innovative learning technology, and science teacher education. “I love teaching and working with students, and I am very excited to join the amazing group of educators and researchers in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department.”

Gordon Gauchat, Assistant Professor, Sociology, received his PhD from the University of Connecticut (2010). Previously, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His current research examines the influence of public understanding of science on democratic institutions and the politicization of science in economically advanced societies. A portion of this research is funded by the National Science Foundation in hopes of improving measurement of public trust in, understanding of, and everyday use of scientific knowledge. His research interests also include globalization, urban political economy, and sociological theory. “I am eager to enter a young and vibrant Department of Sociology here at UWM. And, I am excited to engage and learn from the local community.”

Adam Greenberg, Assistant Professor, Psychology, received a PhD in Psychological and Brain Sciences from Johns Hopkins University (2010). He also holds BS and MS degrees in Biomedical Engineering. Prior to joining UWM, he was a postdoctoral researcher in the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition at Carnegie Mellon University. Before beginning his doctoral studies, Greenberg transitioned from the engineering world to the neuroscience world working as a research scientist at the National Institute of Mental Health. His research focuses on how humans control their behavior in response to visual and auditory stimuli and which brain mechanisms are involved, using computational neuroscience methods, psychophysics, and neuroimaging of normal adults. His most recent work explores the cognitive neuroscience of object recognition and attention. “I am thrilled to be joining the vibrant and growing neuroscience community at UWM and in Milwaukee, generally. I’m also excited to be in the land of The Fonz and the Milwaukee Brewers.”

Xin Huang, Assistant Professor, Women’s Studies, holds a PhD in Women’s Studies from the University of British Columbia, Canada (2010). Previously, she was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Oregon. Her research interests are gender and sexuality in contemporary and Maoist China, feminist research methodology, and the representation of gender and sexuality in oral narrative and visual forms, such as oral life stories and personal photos. Her most recent peer-reviewed publication is the book chapter “From Hyperfeminine to Androgynous: Li Yuchun and the popularity of androgynous images in contemporary China” in Asian Popular Culture in Transition. “I am very excited to join UWM and I’m looking forward to working with a great group of students and colleagues in the beautiful city of Milwaukee!”

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Nolan Kopkin, Assistant Professor, Africology, received his PhD in Economics from Cornell University (2013). His dissertation titled “Essays in Labor and Education Economics” focuses on the impact of racial discrimination on self-employment opportunities for African Americans, and his article “Tax Avoidance: How Income Tax Rates Affect the Labor Migration Decisions of NBA Free Agents,” published in the *Journal of Sports Economics*, explores the impact that state and municipal taxes have on the labor migration decisions of professional basketball players. Nolan’s research interests broadly include labor and education issues including discrimination in and out of the labor force; demographic differences in wages, education, self-employment, and access to credit markets; labor migration; and program evaluation using econometric techniques. “I look forward to joining a department dedicated to understanding and bringing about social change through research and scholarship.”

Assistant Professor Sarah Kroeger is pleased to join the Economics Department and the Master of Human Resources and Labor Relations program. She received her PhD in Economics from Boston University (2013), with a focus on labor economics. Her dissertation focused on inequality within labor markets, and her job market paper was titled “The Contribution of Offshoring to the Convexification of the U.S. Wage Distribution.” As a graduate student at Boston University, she taught courses in labor economics, money and banking, and environmental economics. Before starting graduate school, she worked for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and then a private asset management firm. Sarah’s current research interests include the intergenerational transmission of education and income, and the impact of assisted reproductive technology on women’s education and occupation choices.

Margaret Noodin received an MFA in Creative Writing and a PhD in English and Linguistics from the University of Minnesota. She will be teaching courses in American Indian Studies and English at UWM. She is also current President of the Association for the Study of American Indian Literature and one of the coordinators the Native American Literature Symposium. Her book *Bwaajimowin: A Dialect of Dreams in Anishinaabe Language and Literature* is forthcoming from MSU Press and her poetry has recently appeared in the *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Sing: Poetry from the Indigenous Americas*, and *Cell Traffic* by Heid Erdrich. With her daughters, Shannon and Fionna, she is a member of Miskwaasining Nagamojig (the Swamp Singers), a women’s hand drum group whose lyrics are all in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe). To see and hear current projects visit [www.ojibwe.net](http://www.ojibwe.net) online or the Facebook page Ojibwe.net where she and other students and speakers of Ojibwe have created a space for language to be shared by academics and the native community. Margaret is an Assistant Professor in the English Department.

Ora John Reuter, Assistant Professor, Political Science, holds a PhD in Political Science from Emory University (2010). Before arriving at UWM, he held post-doctoral positions at the University of Rochester, Miami University, and Columbia University. From 2011-2013, he was Senior Researcher at the Center for the Study of Institutions and Development at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. His research and teaching interests lie in the areas of comparative political institutions, democratization, authoritarian regimes, political parties, electoral fraud, and post-Soviet politics. He is currently working on a book manuscript about the construction of ruling party institutions in non-democracies.

Aki Roberts, Assistant Professor, Sociology, received a PhD in Sociology from the University of New Mexico (2001). Prior to arriving at UWM in January, she was Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of New Mexico. Her main research interests are crime, criminal justice outcomes, and quantitative methods. Recent research topics have included the role of victim’s and offender’s race/ethnicity in crime clearance; lifestyle and routine activities as factors in homicide of the elderly; and distinguishing permanent and temporary thefts when examining American cities’ differing motor vehicle theft rates. “UWM seems to be a good place to engage in research and teaching. The students in my undergraduate course this spring were very capable and eager to learn.”

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**New faculty continued from page 6**

**John Roberts**, Professor, Sociology, received a PhD in Sociology from Cornell University (1992). Before joining UWM this spring, he was Professor of Sociology at the University of New Mexico. His research interests include social networks, quantitative methods, organizations, and criminology. Recently he has collaborated with archaeologists in research on networks of settlements in the American Southwest, AD 1200-1450. “I have enjoyed getting to know the faculty, students, and staff in my department, and have been impressed with UWM and the city of Milwaukee.”

**Erin Ruppel**, Assistant Professor, Communication, earned her PhD in Communication from University of Arizona (2011). Her dissertation was titled, “The Affordance Utilization Model: The Role of Affordances as Relationships Develop.” Before arriving at UWM, she was an Assistant Professor at SUNY Brockport. Her research interests include communication technologies, interpersonal communication, and health communication. Recent publications include “Relational Sacrifices in Romantic Relationships: Satisfaction and the Moderating Role of Attachment” (with Melissa Curran) and “Information Sources and the Health Information-Seeking Process: An Application and Extension of Channel Complementarity Theory” (with Stephen Rains). “I am excited to be part of the vibrant campus community and continue to grow as a scholar at UWM.”

**Nicolas Russell**, Assistant Professor, French, Italian and Comparative Literature, received his PhD in French Literature from the University of Virginia in 2003. Before coming to UWM, he taught at Franklin & Marshall College, Colby College, and Smith College. His areas of research include early modern French literature, cultural history, and intellectual history. Much of his work has focused on the shifting conceptions and roles of memory in early modern culture. His book, *Transformations of Memory and Forgetting in Sixteenth-Century France*, was published by the University of Delaware Press in 2011. He is currently working on a new book project that will explore the differing conceptions of collective memory in early modern France and in its most recent formulations in the social sciences and humanities. “I am excited to be joining such a dynamic department and look forward to helping sustain its commitment to teaching, research, and community outreach. I also look forward to finding hidden remnants of New France as I explore Wisconsin.”

**Erin (Sahlstein) Parcell**, Associate Professor, Communication, earned her PhD in Communication Studies from The University of Iowa (2000) and her MA in Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (1996). Previously, she was Associate Professor and Undergraduate Studies Coordinator in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Parcell specializes in communication in close relationships with an emphasis in long-distance relating. Her current research focuses on military families and their communication before, during and after deployments. A recent journal article (“To be so connected, yet not at all: Relational presence, absence, and maintenance in the context of a wartime deployment,” co-authored with Katheryn Maguire and Daria Heinemann) was awarded the 2014 B. Aubrey Fisher Award, which recognizes the peer-reviewed article in each volume of Western Journal of Communication that makes the most significant contribution to communication scholarship. She is also publishing (with Lynne Webb) an edited collection through Peter Lang titled “A communicative perspective on the military: Messages, strategies, meanings” that brings together recent research within interpersonal/family communication, media studies, and rhetorical studies. Parcell currently serves on the editorial board of *Women Studies in Communication* and served on the boards of *Communication Monographs*, *Communication Studies*, and *Journal of Applied Communication Research*. “I have fond memories of the Communication Department and am honored to return as a faculty member. The program has grown exponentially since 1996, and I look forward to working with my colleagues and our students. Milwaukee is an amazing city, and UWM is a great university.”

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New faculty

Owen Thompson joined UWM after completing a PhD in economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He also holds a master’s degree in public policy from the University of Minnesota. His primary research areas are health economics, labor economics, and the economics of education, and he is particularly interested in racial disparities in health and labor market outcomes, the transmission of socioeconomic outcomes across generations, and how early childhood experiences contribute to these phenomena. His research has appeared in peer-reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Health Economics*, the *Journal of Human Resources*, and *Public Choice*. His teaching portfolio at UWM will include courses on health economics and economic statistics.

Tue Trinh, Assistant Professor, Linguistics, received a PhD in Linguistics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2011). The title of his dissertation is “Edges and Linearization - An Investigation into the Pronunciation of Chains.” Before coming to UWM, he taught and researched at the Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. His interests include syntax and its interaction with phonology, semantics and pragmatics. “I feel happy here.”

Lei Wang, Assistant Professor, Applied Mathematics, earned a PhD in Applied and Interdisciplinary Mathematics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2010). Her thesis was “Radial Basis Functions and Vortex Methods and their Application to Vortex Dynamics on a Rotating Sphere.” Wang also holds a BS and an MS in Computational Mathematics. Previously, she was a postdoctoral appointee at the Mathematics and Computer Science Division, Argonne National Laboratory. Her research area is applied mathematics with an emphasis on cross-disciplinary applications, especially for applications in materials science, geophysical science, fluid dynamics, statistics, and machine learning. The mathematical aspects include nonlinear partial differential equations (PDEs), numerical algorithms, scientific computing, and mathematical modeling. “I am very excited to be joining the faculty at UWM, and I’m looking forward to working with my new colleagues and making my contribution to this community.”

Wei Wei is a new Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. He obtained his PhD in Actuarial Science from the University of Waterloo, Canada, in 2013. The title of his dissertation was “Notions of Dependence with Applications in Insurance and Finance,” reflecting his research focus on applying mathematical techniques to solve practical problems in insurance and finance. Professor Wei also holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and a master’s degree in actuarial science, both from Nankai University, Tianjin, China. He has a number of forthcoming publications including, “Some new notions of dependence with applications in optimal allocation problems,” “Optimal capital allocations with dependent risks,” and “Generalized Gerber-Shiu function in a two-dimensional proportional risk model.” “I look forward to exploring more about actuarial science with colleagues and students at UWM.”

Laurels and Accolades

Congratulations to Kristen Murphy (Chemistry), winner of the American Chemical Society Henry Hill award. This national award recognized distinguished service to the profession.

Valerica Raicu (Physics) has been named guest editor for a special issue of the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*. The focus of this issue will be the frontiers of micro-spectroscopy in biological applications.

Jessica Nastal (English) was awarded a Council of Writing Program Administrators travel grant for the national conference in Savannah, Georgia. She presented on the role of placement into composition in “Traveling On the Feedback Loop: Using Writing Program Assessment to Strengthen Undergraduate Writing Experiences” and her role as English 095 Coordinator in “Graduate Student Perspectives on Early WPA Work.”
More than 250 people attended a July 10 speech by noted Middle East expert, Dennis Ross at UWM. Ross, a counselor at the Washington Institute of Near East Policy, discussed the impact of current events in the Middle East, and answered audience questions on threats and challenges in the area. UWM’s Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies and the Milwaukee Jewish Federation co-sponsored the event.

Ross has served in several presidential administrations from Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama. His topic, “Instability and Transformation of the Middle East: Threats and Challenges 2013” was particularly timely in light of the current upheaval in Egypt.

The U.S. doesn’t want Egypt to become a failed state, but it’s a possibility we can’t really control, he said. Much will depend on whether the military can restore a functioning, inclusive interim government and then hold elections, and on how the Muslim Brotherhood responds, Ross said in an interview before his talk.

“The Arab Spring was a misnomer,” Ross says, because peace and transformation won’t happen that quickly. The Middle East is moving in a positive direction toward peace and stability, he adds, but it’s not a linear process and may take 10 to 20 or more years to accomplish.

A key issue is that Egypt and other countries that underwent government changes in the Arab Spring didn’t have the infrastructure, civil institutions and tradition in place to make democracy work.

In a functioning democracy, he says, “the winner [of an election] doesn’t get to ignore the rights of the minority and do whatever,” but that’s what happened in Egypt. Ousted President Mohammed Morsi focused on setting up an exclusionary government comprised of his Muslim Brotherhood followers, and didn’t focus on broader economic issues, according to Ross.

Ross does see key differences between Egypt and Syria, both involved in current conflicts. In Egypt, the struggle is between those who want to establish a more secular government and those who want to establish an Islamic state. Even devout Muslims there support a more secular government that works, he says, since much of the discontent has grown out of economic disruption under Morsi’s government.

They’ve had a terrible economic collapse,” says Ross, with, for example, electricity blackouts multiple times a day. “People want to sweep out the existing government. The military is becoming a fulcrum of change and stability.”

Violence in Syria, in contrast, is much more sectarian, with the country divided along tribal and religious lines. “I’m dubious Syria can be put back together, because of the sectarian divides,” he says, a situation that’s been made worse by the continuing conflicts and terrible brutality – long-simmering hostilities played out in a world of social media and instant communication.

 “[The United States] can’t really be indifferent, because Syria and Egypt are major influences. Unlike the Las Vegas motto, what takes place in Syria doesn’t stay there.”

With refugees pouring into Jordan, Lebanon and other nearby countries, and extremists also infiltrating, “these countries are being buffeted by the consequences,” says Ross. The U.S. has to try to exert a positive influence where it can and support groups that can effect real change.

On the positive side, many Middle Eastern countries haven’t been affected by “the awakening,” says Ross. “The monarchies, even those that aren’t oil rich, have some semblance of legitimacy with their people. They’re looking at Syria and Egypt and thinking, ‘That’s the last thing we want.’ So it doesn’t look like it will spread immediately.”

Ross was inspired by the Kennedys, particularly Bobby, to go into public service. “I’m a believer that the U.S. has a very positive role to play in conflict resolution and mediation.”

His own negotiation experiences also inspire him – Ross was instrumental in assisting Israelis and Palestinians to reach the 1995 Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and he successfully brokered the 1997 Hebron Accord and facilitated the 1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty. “I’ve looked into the eyes of those who were victims of the violence. That’s what gives me the passion and commitment to deal with the issues.

And, if there’s one thing he’s learned in his years studying, negotiating and working in the Middle East, it is that even the experts are often wrong. “People haven’t been able to predict very well what’s going to happen next – even those who live in the country [affected]. You need to retain your humility, and not become a victim of your own assumptions.”
Upcoming Events

Sept. 5
Welcome new L&S freshmen and transfer students. 11:00 am to 1 pm. Lobbies of Curtin Hall and Lapham Hall.

Sept. 6 to 27
Planetarium Show: Shooting Stars. 7:00 pm. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Learn what causes shooting stars (meteors), their connections to comets and asteroids, and how scientists track potential impacts with Earth. $2 per person. Every Friday in September. [http://bit.ly/WJ7tUO](http://bit.ly/WJ7tUO)

Sept. 9
Nonprofit Management: Graduate Admission Info Session. 6:00 pm. Alumni House. For potential students interested in the master's program or the graduate certificate. RSVP to balord@uwm.edu.

Sept. 12 to Oct. 10
Art History Exhibition: What's Op? Art History Gallery. Optical art, a style popular in the 60's and 70's, is recognized for visually mesmerizing abstract compositions that create an intense perceptual experience for the viewer. The show opens on September 12 from 5 to 7 pm. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm. Free. [http://bit.ly/189I5rt](http://bit.ly/189I5rt)

Sept. 16
Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff. 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Spaights Plaza.

Sept. 20
Neuroscience Seminar: Psychostimulants as Cognitive Enhancers – Catecholamines, the Prefrontal Cortex and ADHD. 2:00 pm. Lapham Hall, Room N101. Presented by Craig Berridge, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Mathematics Seminar: Using Mathematica to Enhance Learning. 3:30 pm. Bolton Hall, Room 293. Mathematica Student Edition software is a tool that helps students master mathematical concepts at all different levels of coursework. Sarah Wingfield from Wolfram software will demonstrate the product which is the same software used by Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, research labs, and universities worldwide. Refreshments will be served. In Bolton Hall, Room 293.

Sept. 23
Hispanic Heritage Month Movie Screening: All She Can. 6:00 pm. Union Fireside Lounge.

Sept. 27
Psychology Colloquium: Prefrontal Regulation of the Stress Response: Insights from a Neurovisceral Integration Perspective. 3:00 pm. Curtin Hall, Room 175. Presented by Julian Thayer, Ohio State University.

Sept. 28
Hispanic Heritage Month: Promoting Academics in Latino Milwaukee. 5:30 to 11:30 pm. Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts. Latino comedy show, live music, dancing, and tantalizing appetizers. $50/per person or $25 for students.

Alumni Updates

Eric Schuettpelz (‘99 BS, ‘01 MS, Biological Sciences) has been appointed curator in the Department of Botany at the Smithsonian institution.

Elizabeth M. Doncheck (‘10 BA Psychology) has been accepted into the Biomedical Sciences PhD program at Marquette University.
In the media and around the community

Jeffrey Sommers (Africology) spent a portion of the summer in the Republic of Georgia and Russia where he gave a presentation for the Post-Globalization Initiative on the political economy of the American century. [http://www.pglobal.org/lectures/332/](http://www.pglobal.org/lectures/332/) While in Moscow, he also spoke with a number of Russian media outlets including participation in a 30-minute feature on RT’s international news program, “Worlds Apart,” a web interview with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ journal *International Affairs*, and an interview with *Science & Facts, Scientific Americans* journal in Russia.


Dylan Barth (Learning Technology Center) and Ray Fleming (Psychology) presented “Using Desire2Learn Solutions to Implement the U-Pace Model of Online Instruction” at Fusion, the Desire2Learn users conference, in Boston in July. Diane Reddy (Psychology) and Ray also presented, “U-Pace Instruction: Advancing the Practice of Distance Education” at the World Conference on Educational Media and Technology in Victoria, British Columbia in June.

Kamran Diba, (Psychology) and his co-collaborators presented their oral paper, “Extracellular field signatures of CA1 spiking cell assemblies during sharp wave-ripple complexes,” at the Computational Neuroscience Meeting held in Paris, France.

Noelle Chesley (Sociology) and Sarah Halpern-Meekin from UW-Madison are partnering with the Racine Family YMCA in their Focus on Fathers Initiative to strengthen families and communities by supporting sustainable father involvement in African American families. This initiative, which is funded through a two-year grant provided by the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health from the Wisconsin Partnership Program, extends and augments programming to that will assist young African American fathers in the development of parenting and healthy relationship skills. The goals are to build and support sustainable and healthy families and reduce infant mortality in Racine County, Wisconsin. Chesley and Halpern-Meekin will help the YMCA evaluate the effectiveness of their father programming so that they can continue to target and improve the services they provide.

Marcus Britton (Sociology) was interviewed for an article on the *The Atlantic Cities* website about his research on how residential mobility patterns during young adulthood perpetuate segregation. His topic also generated interest from New York where he appeared on “The Brian Lehrer Show” which airs on WNYC, one of New York’s flagship public radio stations. [http://bit.ly/1dq1YqA](http://bit.ly/1dq1YqA)


Wandrey, R., Moore, E. (’10 BA), and Mosack, K. (all Psychology) presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting on “The college-aged bisexual female: An analysis of heteronormative presentation.” At the same meeting, Billig, A.B, Brouwer, A. (’09 MS), Wendorf, A.R., Thomas, C., Olinger, R. (’12, BA), Wandrey, R., Becker, K.A., and Mosack, K.E. also presented “Social support, perceived stress, depression, and anxiety among HIV-positive dyads.”

Katie Ports (’10 MS), Diane Reddy, and Anjali Rameshbabu (’10 MS) (all Psychology) presented, “Cervical Cancer Knowledge and Prevention: Perspectives from Women in Malawi” at the Third International Conference on Health, Wellness and Society in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

As featured in last month’s newsletter, Hayeon Song (Communication) has created a video game that shows social smokers what their face will look like after years of smoking. Her research is garnering both local and national attention, having been featured in *The Business Journal* and the research news web site, DugDug. [http://bit.ly/18dGdOp](http://bit.ly/18dGdOp) and [http://bit.ly/18TVu9j](http://bit.ly/18TVu9j)

Effects of smoking seen in new video game.
L&S People in Print

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Cover illustration from *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation*: Investigating the chemical composition and spatial distribution of the major components on the cicada Psaltoda claripennis wing surface. Top: optical profile of part of a cicada wing, including a wing vein. Bottom left: cicada Psaltoda claripennis perched on native flora. Bottom right: SEM image. The blue profile overlay shows a typical FTIR spectrum of a cicada wing membrane.

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Congratulations to Ben Johnson (History) on his successful grant application to the National Endowment for the Humanities. Ben received a grant for $139,443 for ”Bridging National Borders in North America,” a four-week summer seminar on the history of borderlands in North America. The Newberry Library in Illinois will serve as the host site for sixteen college and university faculty members from around the country.