Secretary of Workforce Development Pays the Rent
by Deanna Ding, College of Letters & Science

From the day Reggie Newson heard his elementary school teacher recite Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm’s famous political rhetoric - “Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth”- he has lived, breathed and worked for the purpose of public service. Currently the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, this UWM alumnus has channeled his source of inspiration into action.

His professional and personal journey began at Jackson State University in Mississippi, a school that exposed him to the rich traditions and culture of a historically black university while still allowing him to remain close to family members who lived in the area. Ultimately, the pull of family back home in Milwaukee led him to transfer to UWM. After earning his Bachelor’s Degree in political science, one of his first service-oriented jobs was at a small Wisconsin nonprofit organization and a short stint at American Family Insurance.

Reggie knew his path to leadership, whether in the public sector or in the nonprofit world, required an advanced degree. Was his passion for political science or a more practical avenue like, public administration, the field to pursue? Enter another influential figure in Reggie’s life - Professor Doug Ihrke, a UWM faculty member in both Political Science and Public Administration, and a former municipal worker in the State of Michigan. Ultimately, he helped Reggie decide on a Master of Arts in Political Science.

Degree in hand, Reggie’s meteoric rise in state government began at the state Disadvantaged Enterprise Program (DEP) followed soon after by a management job at the Department of Transportation (DoT). In both roles, his passion for workforce development was evident – at DEP he developed and implemented strategies for minority business development and at the DoT he created an apprenticeship and job training program for entry level construction workers on the Marquette Interchange project. “One of my proudest accomplishments is putting unemployed and underemployed people to work in family-sustaining jobs on the Marquette Interchange and helping bring that project in under budget and on time,” Reggie notes.

Six short years later, and Reggie was the number three official at the DoT, a position he only held for six months before being appointed the Deputy Secretary for the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). And, three months after becoming Deputy Secretary, in October, 2011, Governor Scott Walker appointed Reggie the Secretary of DWD.

He now leads the state agency that is charged with building and expanding Wisconsin’s workforce, a notable challenge following one of the worst economic downturns in decades. He is responsible for an annual budget of $450 million and more than 1,600 employees who work on issues of unemployment, job training, vocational rehabilitation, worker’s compensation, and workplace discrimination. A typical day might find him meeting with leaders of Wisconsin businesses and prospective companies from out-of-state whom he hopes will relocate to Wisconsin. Other equally important responsibilities include focusing his attention on unemployed individuals, and leaders in education, all with the goal of, “hearing what they need to tell me, understanding their problems and strategizing solutions to address those issues.” Fixing the mismatch between what employers need and the preparation that students receive is a high priority and one in which Reggie believes UWM and all vocational and four-year colleges can be part of the solution.

Reggie notes that he also spends a significant amount of time with his staff, acknowledging that they are a key constituent for whom he is responsible for, “providing the resources and tools they need to succeed in their jobs and thereby help the citizens of Wisconsin.”
Politeness Impacts Second Language Acquisition

A new book by Sooho Song explores how politeness factors into the acquisition of a second language:

We are living in the era of globalization. A lot of goods produced in the world cross national borders. Without foreign products or services, our everyday life seems not possible. Moreover, thanks to technological progress in transportation, people travel more and immigration has skyrocketed. As a result, today’s interpersonal communication is not limited to conversation between two persons with the same cultural background using the same language. It goes beyond that, making second language acquisition extremely desirable.

Communication with someone with different cultural background or correspondence in a foreign language has become an important part of our lives today. Misunderstanding in intercultural communication is often caused by insufficient knowledge of sociocultural norms rather than language proficiency, and cultural understanding is critical for effective intercultural communication.

In intercultural communication, just like any other interpersonal communication, politeness plays an important role because cultural differences can lead to misunderstanding. Regardless of the culture, we use politeness everyday when interacting with other people to save face, to avoid conflict, to ensure cooperative interaction, and to show respect. Yet, politeness expectation and behavior in communication may vary according to the culture. For instance, East Asian cultures are indirect, collective, and deferential, but American culture is quite different.

In this new book, Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Literature Sooho Song studies how politeness expectations differ across countries and how cultural differences affect politeness behavior. She shows that politeness is a complex linguistic process, which requires the knowledge of the social and cultural values of certain groups or a society.

Reggie Newson
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Reggie credits much of his success to his educational background which blends traditional liberal arts disciplines with technical knowledge. “Studying political science taught me how to be a critical thinker through research and analysis. It was through these degrees that I gained an understanding of systems and organizations and developed my interpersonal skills in written and verbal communication. These soft skills – the ability to work with all types of people - are critical to success in today’s global economy. But, I also recognized that I needed to learn even more about project management, business management and communication. I am a believer that efficient practices from the private sector can be applied in the public sector.” Reggie over the years has added an MBA and an associate’s degree in commercial real estate to his list of credentials, and he returned to UWM for certifications in project management, business management and six-sigma, a quality management methodology used in manufacturing and other business sectors to improve quality control and efficiency.

Tired yet? Reggie isn’t. His work as a public servant extends beyond his duties at DWD. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Milwaukee Urban League and the 30th Street Industrial Corridor Board of Directors (ex officio).

While today his volunteer work is at the board level, he has a long history of volunteerism in the Milwaukee-area and considers it all just part of the “rent” he is paying back to his community. It’s a philosophy that has permeated almost every aspect of his life, and one that he hopes to pass on to his son.

His parting words only reinforced the sincerity of his belief in Shirley Chisholm’s words from so long ago: “It’s a great honor to serve the taxpayers and achieve results that ensure they have enjoyable lives.”
Biological Sciences Professor Ching-Hong Yang and visiting research scholar Yan Li form a mutual admiration society. Together, and with other researchers around the world, they are working to find disease-resistant treatments for plants and, potentially, people.

By working backwards from the physical process of infection, they have identified the genetic pathway responsible for both virulence and the actual assault; the compound these researchers have developed shuts that down. The bacteria aren’t killed, they are disarmed, resulting in an antibiotic effect without using antibiotics and risking the development of antibiotic resistance.

Their collaboration on this important work began almost four years ago, when Yan Li arrived from Beijing to complete her Ph.D. in Professor Yang’s lab. A highly-regarded graduate student, she studied the use of antimicrobials targeting bacterial virulence and was supported by the State Scholarship Fund of the China Scholarship Fund to travel to UWM and work with Ching-Hong. As an exchange student in Dr. Yang’s lab, she worked to complete her doctoral thesis in Plant Pathology from the China Agricultural University (CAU) in Beijing.

“This is a rare occurrence for us, as China usually sends its PhD students to universities such as Harvard,” Dr. Yang explained.

Professor Li notes that Dr. Yang is well-known in China due to his groundbreaking work to discover how pathogens infect hosts and to develop solutions to treat infections in both humans and plants. He collaborates with China researchers to study the regulation of bacterial virulence and its application for disease control. Because of his discoveries, his laboratory and his research associates have a stellar reputation at China’s universities. “Prof. Yang gave me the opportunity to come to UWM and be well-trained how to be a good scientist, which is very helpful for my research career as a professor of plant pathology in China.”

After completing her initial 2-1/2 years here, Yan Li returned to China to defend her thesis and was offered a job as a faculty member in the CAU Department of Plant Pathology. Obtaining a faculty position at CAU is highly competitive, says Ching-Hong, but Professor Li’s outstanding research and potential earned her this position.

Last October, she returned to UWM as a visiting faculty member. As a visiting professor, she works on the research being commercialized in Ching-Hong’s lab. Her presence here is not only beneficial to the research and UWM, but to

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Rising Star Chinese Plant Pathologist Returns to UWM
By Paula Orth, College of Letters & Science

The Research: An Antibiotic alternative
By Laura Hunt, University Relations

Yan Li worked with Ching-Hong Yang during the development phase and, currently, on the testing phase of this research project.

Today, curing an infection means using antibiotics that kill the offending pathogen. But Ching-Hong Yang has a better idea. A chemical compound he and a partner developed disarms pathogens so that they can’t invade healthy cells in the first place. Rather than killing the bacteria, the compound they developed disables the bacteria’s genetic ability to cause infection, eliminating the threat of antibiotic resistance in the process.

With backing from an investor, he and his collaborator, Xin Chen from Changzhou University in China, are closer to bringing their discovery to market. They have formed T3 Bioscience LLC, licensing the commercial use of their idea from the UWM Research Foundation. The investor is associated with a large company in Hong Kong and now owns a share of the new company. The support will allow Yang and Chen to further hone their product and create derivatives as they move toward human trials.

Results have shown the compounds to be effective against two different kinds of pathogens, including Pseudomonas aeruginosa, the cause of many aggressive and sometimes fatal hospital infections. The product was found equally effective against two pathogens that attack crops. The scientists currently are adjusting the level of potency without increasing toxicity, and conducting further tests for side effects. In the compound for plants, they are developing a time-release action.

“The university can take the lead in identifying biotech ideas with commercial value because in the lab researchers can work out the details,” says Yang. “For a lot of innovative ideas, companies prefer to take them at a later stage of development. They will not invest in anything that they feel is risky.”
Dr. John Isbell and Postdoctoral Research Associate, Dr. Erik Gulbranson, recently traveled to Antarctica to conduct geological research on an ancient volcanic landscape. This trip marks the 16th time that John has made the trek to Antarctica and the second time that Erik has been on the ice. They are usually accompanied by UWM students, research assistants, and colleagues, including collaborators from the University of Kansas.

Erik and John headed a team of seven researchers who traveled by plane and helicopter across different parts of Antarctica looking at Permian to-Jurassic age rocks. Analyses of these rocks reveal environmental, climatic, tectonic, and biologic (plant fossils) conditions of the distant past. This study allows researchers to see what Antarctica was like 299 to 180 million years ago. During this time, the Earth transitioned from icehouse to greenhouse conditions. Such studies help researchers understand questions associated with current climate change and the development of Earth’s flora through time.

John and Erik arrived in Antarctica in early October, during the end of the southern hemisphere winter. This was the earliest that either had traveled to Antarctica, which meant that it was colder and windier than usual despite having 24 hours of daylight. Typically, Antarctic fieldwork begins in late November.

The UWM and Kansas team made their tent camp in the Allan Hills on the Polar Plateau side of the Transantarctic Mountains, one of the most extreme desert environments on Earth. It is about 150 miles away from the United States-operated McMurdo Station, the largest research station in Antarctica.

The team faced grueling temperatures of -40°F, 30-40 mph wind and wind chills reaching -70°F to -80°F. In order to endure these conditions, special training and medical tests were conducted as part of their six-month preparation period. Along with safety and equipment training, they received training in mountaineering, snow craft training, helicopters, and environmental awareness.

John brings his experiences from Antarctica into the classroom to give a firsthand account of his field work, providing materials and samples from Antarctica for students to study in their labs, and the occasional piece of advice about dealing with pesky Antarctic penguins. Both Erik and John visit K-12 classrooms in southeastern Wisconsin to share their experiences and their science.

With funding from the National Science Foundation, Erik and John will return to Antarctica again next fall to conduct groundbreaking scholarly scientific research. In the past, both graduate and undergraduate students have participated in the Department of Geosciences Antarctic Research and both John and Erik hope to bring more UWM students with them on future trips to Antarctica, a field work experience that can’t be replicated anywhere else.
other students as well, Dr. Yang says. For UWM students, it’s the opportunity to meet and get to know someone from another culture, gathering at parties, camping at Harrington Beach State Park, and everyday work and discussions. Some UWM students were also given the opportunity to visit China.

“These exchanges stimulate an international view,” Dr. Yang points out. “It is the opportunity for both U.S. and Chinese students to experience diversity. It helps develop a kind of community of the whole world.”

Yan Li will return to CAU in spring, but will continue her research collaboration and friendship with Ching-Hong and his family. “I am made to feel like a family member; Dr. Yang and his wife let me know that they want to see me grow and succeed. In the lab and on campus, everyone is very helpful. It is a good faculty, and they treat me well.”

**Passings**

**Donna Decker**, instructor of media writing and advertising/public relations campaigns in the Department of Journalism, Advertising and Media Studies, died on January 7, 2013 after an 8-year battle with cancer. Known for her energetic and engaging style, Donna was a favorite of students. Prior to joining UWM, where she also taught courses on media literacy and gender in the media, she taught at Marquette University and briefly at Mount Mary College. Donna earned a doctoral degree in British literature from Marquette University in 2004. She is survived by her partner C.J. Hribal, a professor of English at Marquette, two children, her children’s father, her parents, grandmother, sisters, many friends, and a legacy of students whose lives she touched.

**Tomás Garrett-Rosas**, a recent graduate of the Ph.D. program in Urban Studies, passed away on January 6, 2013 at the age of 38. A former gang member and high school dropout, Tomás path in life changed after working in community organizing in California. His return to Milwaukee led to a GED and work in the nonprofit sector. Enrolling in college at UWM, Tomás earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology. While an undergraduate, he helped conduct research on high-achieving Latino students and the conditions for their success, a subject that would later influence the topic of his dissertation. He attended the University of Illinois-Chicago for his master’s degree in sociology but returned to UWM for his doctorate. In his thesis, “Making the Invisible Visible,” rather than focus on the often-discussed barriers to success, he researched keys to academic and professional success for students of color. Tomás had recently started his teaching career at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He is survived by many family members and friends including his parents, wife, children, siblings, nieces and nephews.

**Grants**

**Anjali Rameshbabu (Psychology)** has been selected as a recipient of a 2012 American Psychological Association Dissertation Research Award ($1,000) and a 2012 SPSSI Grant ($1,000) for her work on a self-regulation intervention to reduce saturated fat intake in blue-collar employees. Her masters thesis research, also on health promotion in work settings, is ‘in press’ in the Journal of Applied Ergonomics.

**Bonnie Klein-Tasman (Psychology)** received a grant from the B. Simons Foundation for Autism Research Initiative for “Children with 7q11.23 Duplication Syndrome: Shared Characteristics with ASD.”

**James Cook (Chemistry)** received a $1.82 million National Institutes of Health grant to study “Synthesis of Alpha2/Alpha3 GABA Agonists to Treat Neuropathic Pain. The study will continue through 2016. Professor Cook also received a UWM Catalyst Grant for his 2012-13 project, ” New Agents to Treat Fibromyalgia Diabetic Neuropathy, Ghost Limb Pain and other Pain Disorders.”
Upcoming Events

Jan. 24 through Feb. 21
Art Exhibition: Warhol, et al. Mondays through Thursdays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Art History Gallery presents a selection of art by Pop Artists who appropriated common imagery from American consumer culture and transformed it into a commodified art object using mass production techniques. The exhibition includes Andy Warhol, Jim Dine, Larry Rivers, Claes Oldenburg and Robert Rauschenberg. http://bit.ly/OgxZ0H

Feb. 1 through March 1
Planetarium Show: Birth of the Universe. Fridays at 7 pm. The show describes what we know about the beginning of the cosmos, including the evidence we have for the Big Bang theory, such as the cosmic microwave background radiation and the motion of galaxies. $2 admission. http://planetarium.uwm.edu

Feb. 1 through 22

Feb. 1
Urban Homeownership and Neighborhood Vitality during the Foreclosure Crisis. 6:00 pm. The Urban Studies Programs hosts a reception and panel discussion to accompany an exhibition of student work from the 2012 Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures summer field school at Thurston Woods, Milwaukee. http://bit.ly/Wu93Fh

Feb. 4
Taste of Africa. 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Kick off Black History Month with a celebration of African history and culture. Sample traditional African cuisine and enjoy drum and dance performances by Oma Anya. In the Union Concourse.

African American Film Series: Pariah. 7:00 pm. Premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, “Pariah” is the feature debut from writer/director Dee Rees and the story of a Brooklyn teenager who is forced to juggle conflicting identities, putting friendship and family in jeopardy. At the Union Theater.

Feb. 5
Fireside Forum on Foreign Policy. 7:00 pm. Presented by the Institute of World Affairs and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Salah Brahimi, President and CEO, of GMI Ltd. discusses “Making Sense of the Modern Middle East.” In the Union Fireside Lounge. Registration appreciated at http://www4.uwm.edu/cie/iwa/.

Feb. 6
Planetarium Astrobreak: February Skies. 12:15 pm. Take a guided tour of the night sky projected on the dome to look at interesting, particularly bright stars and constellations in the February night sky, including the Big Dipper and Orion and less familiar objects such as Cancer and Gemini. http://www4.uwm.edu/planetarium/shows/astrobreak.cfm

Feb. 7
African American Alumni and Students: Stories of Education and Success. 7:00 pm. A panel of African American alumni and current students reflect upon their experiences at UWM and its role in their person and professions development.

Feb. 8
Neuroscience Seminar: Photobiomodulation for the treatment of retinal degenerative disease. 2:00 pm. Presented by Janis Eells from UWM in Lapham Hall, Room N101. www4.uwm.edu/neuroscience/seminars.cfm


United We Read Student/Faculty Reading Series. 6:00 pm. A reading at Riverwest Public House featuring the work of creative writing professor and poet, James Chapson, and English graduate students, Peter Brooks, Katie Visser, and Kara van de Graaf.
Feb. 8 through 17
16th Annual UWM Festival of Films in French. Fourteen films over ten days. All are free and shown at the Union Theater. Full schedule at: http://www4.uwm.edu/cie/frenchfilm/index.cfm

Feb. 10
Non-residential Architecture and the Sacred Landscape of Pisanay, Peru. 3:00 pm. Dr. Jo Ellen Burkholder from UW-Whitewater discusses how the features of Pisanay point to ceremonial activities at the site. Sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America-Milwaukee Society and the Departments of Foreign Languages and Literature/Classics, Art History, and Anthropology. In Sabin Hall, Room G90. http://www4.uwm.edu/archlab/AIA/lectures.cfm#talk4

Feb. 12
Fireside Forum on Foreign Policy. 7:00 pm. Robert Lamb, Senior Fellow and Director of the Program on Crisis, Conflict, and Cooperation, Center for Strategic and International Studies, discusses “Conflict and Cooperation in Fragile States.” In the Union Fireside Lounge. Register at http://www4.uwm.edu/cie/iwa/

Feb. 13
Planetarium Astrobreak: Cupid's Constellations. 12:15 pm. Learn about romantic astronomical objects and constellations such as the planet Venus and the Heart Nebula. http://www4.uwm.edu/planetarium/shows/astrobreak.cfm

Feb. 14

Planetarium Show: Cupid's Constellations. 7:00 pm. Complimentary hot chocolate and hot apple cider will be served for Valentine's Day. $3 admission. http://www4.uwm.edu/planetarium/

Feb. 15
Philosophy Seminar: Knowledge and Error in Action. 3:30 pm. Presented by Matthias Haase from the University of Basel in Curtin Hall, Room 124. http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/philosophy/colloquia/

Feb. 19
Fireside Forum on Foreign Policy. 7:00 pm. Presented by the Institute of World Affairs and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Joseph Cirincione, President, Ploughshares Fund, presents “Nuclear Policy Challenges.” In the Union Fireside Lounge. Registration appreciated at http://www4.uwm.edu/cie/iwa/.

Feb. 20
Sisters Like Me: A Gathering in Support of UWM Women Students of African Descent. 6:00 pm. A celebration and panel talk.

Queen Isabella's Statue: Chicago Reform Jews and the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. 7:30 pm. Tobias Brinkmann presents at Congregation Sinai in Fox Point. Sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies. http://bit.ly/RpHY5I

Feb. 25
African American Film Series - Spirits of Rebellion: Black Cinema at UCLA. 7:00 pm. Filmmaker Zainebu Davis discusses her work-in-progress, Spirits of Rebellion: Black Cinema at UCLA, a documentary about a small group of critically acclaimed, but relatively unknown, black filmmakers and media artists known as the L.A. Rebellion. Ms. Davis will also present Momentum: A Conversation with Black Women on Achieving Graduate Degrees. In the Union Theater.

Feb. 26
Fireside Forum on Foreign Policy. 7:00 pm. Presented by the Institute of World Affairs and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Carla Freeman, Executive Director, Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins University, discusses "Obama's Asia Pivot: The View from Beijing." In the Union Fireside Lounge. Registration appreciated at http://www4.uwm.edu/cie/iwa/.

Feb. 27
In the media and around the community

Paru Shah (Political Science) was elected to fill an open seat on the Shorewood School Board.

David Pritchard (Journalism, Advertising and Media Studies) was interviewed for the documentary “Love, Hate, and Propaganda: The War on Terror” which was broadcast throughout Canada on the CBC network. [http://bit.ly/WvSBEk](http://bit.ly/WvSBEk)


Emily Cramer and Edward Mabry (Communication) were interviewed on WUWM radio on January 10th, discussing how parents and college students communicate with so many technological options. [http://bit.ly/10X5N79](http://bit.ly/10X5N79)

The Delphines, a local band that includes two UWM students, received a glowing OnMilwaukee review. Bassist Lucas Riddle, a masters student in German literature and translation, and singer Jami Eaton, a masters student in linguistic, are part of the group. [http://onmilwaukee.com/music/articles/introducingthedelphines.html](http://onmilwaukee.com/music/articles/introducingthedelphines.html)

Ellen Amster (History) gave the closing remarks for the Conference on Women and Children’s Health in the Middle East. Her invited lecture, “The Politics of Reproduction in the Middle East,” was presented at the University of Chicago on November 10, 2012.

Ellen Amster (History) appeared on “International Focus” on PBS Channel 36 speaking on women’s rights, development, and health in Morocco. The interview also touched on UWM’s global health study-abroad program “Maternal and Infant Health in Morocco: Women’s Rights and Family in Islam” and aired on January 20, 2013.

L&S People in Print


David Mulroy (Foreign Languages and Literature), Antigone [Sophocles], a verse translation with introduction and notes, University of Wisconsin Press, January 2013. [http://uwpress.wisc.edu/books/5131.htm](http://uwpress.wisc.edu/books/5131.htm)

Joe Peschio (Foreign Languages and Literature), The Poetics of Impudence and Intimacy in the Age of Pushkin, University of Wisconsin Press, November 2012. [http://uwpress.wisc.edu/books/4718.htm](http://uwpress.wisc.edu/books/4718.htm)


Joe Peschio (Foreign Languages and Literature), The Poetics of Impudence and Intimacy in the Age of Pushkin, University of Wisconsin Press, February 2013. [http://uwpress.wisc.edu/books/4718.htm](http://uwpress.wisc.edu/books/4718.htm)


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Video Stories

Psychology major Alexis Dean discusses his success at UWM and his growing hip-hop career. http://bit.ly/X5Rc8r

An oldie but goodie... Geosciences Professor John Isbell talks about his research in the Allan Hills area of Antarctica in 2010. Read about his most recent expedition on Page 4. http://youtu.be/WiWkcSkxRhE
Laurels and Accolades

Global Television Formats: Understanding Television Across Borders, a book edited by Tasha Oren (English) and Sharon Shahaf from Georgia State University, tied for first place in the Society for Cinema and Media Studies’ award for the best edited collection of 2013. The award committee said, “It addresses a topic about which we all know or think we know, opening up an important distinction between genre as it is usually understood and the idea of the format. This volume takes television formats as case studies for thinking about transnational media, globalization, hybridity, localization, and other key theoretical perspectives, shifting the discussion away from a consideration of the similarities of various adaptations towards a consideration of the performance of adaptation itself, and how they articulate or embody specific national or regional social issues and tensions. The section on the “Idol” franchise, for example, shows how that format works in four different countries. The section on historical perspectives is particularly impressive, showing that the formats that we think of as relatively contemporary all have historical roots. We believe that this volume is going to prove important to television studies, television history, and transnational media as well as national television histories.”

Congratulations to the L&S recipients of UWM’s Digital Future small grant funding:

- The Encyclopedia of Milwaukee Project for creation of a promotional site for the digital encyclopedia – Margo Anderson (History), Amanda Seligman (History), and Ching-tzu Chien (Web Services)
- The Developing a Digital Humanities Visualization Toolkit – Marc Tasman (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies), Jeremy Magnan (English), Matthew Russell (Learning and Technology Center and Comparative Literature)

Graduate students Vanessa Ehlers and Enrique Gracian-Alejo (Psychology) were awarded Sigma Xi Grants-in-aid of Research in the October, 2012 competition. The program awards grants of up to $1,000 to science students across the country to pay for travel related to research or for equipment related to a research project.

Associate Professor Ellen Amster (History) has been appointed Affiliated Faculty with the Global Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The affiliation strengthens UW-Madison/Milwaukee ties through Dr. Amster’s study-abroad global health course with the Zilber School of Public Health, “Maternal and Infant Health in Morocco: Women’s Rights and Family in Islam.”

Kristoffer Berlin (‘03 and ‘07 Psychology) has been selected to receive the Donald Routh Early Career Award in Pediatric Psychology awarded by the Society of Pediatric Psychology, Div 54. Kris is currently an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Memphis.

The rights for Erica Bornstein’s (Anthropology) book, Disquieting Gifts: Humanitarianism in New Delhi, which was published in the United States in 2012, have been purchased by Cambridge University Press India for circulation in South Asia. Erica also received a fellowship for the academic year 2012-2013 from the Jawaharlal Institute of Advanced Study (JNIAst) at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India, for her project titled, “Global Philanthropy and the Regulation of Social Welfare in India.”
Lunch with the Stars

AstroBreak is a mid-day free UWM Planetarium program offered on select Wednesdays from 12:15-12:45 pm in the Physics building. For the last 5 years since it first started, AstroBreak has had a specific format – for the first 15 minutes, the program covered a short astronomical topic followed by 15 minutes of stargazing on the planetarium dome. Topics varied from the Birth of Modern Astronomy to Southern Stars to Sky Monsters. In 2012, there were 21 AstroBreaks attended by more than 500 people.

Based on a suggestion from Camille Ridgeway, a staff member of the UWM Planetarium staff, AstroBreaks is changing beginning in January 2013. Every month, one whole 30-minute program will be dedicated to stargazing. This month it was called January Jewels and next month it will be February Skies. This longer stargazing time gives audiences the opportunity to revisit familiar constellations such as the Big Dipper but also to explore less familiar ones such as Leo and Bootes.

Stargazing also occurs on select evenings throughout the semester from the Observatory on the roof of the Physics Building, weather permitting. Both the lunchtime programs and the evening stargazing programs are free and open to everyone, although the darkness of the Planetarium can be scary for very young children.

For more information about AstroBreaks or evening stargazing see the planetarium website at: http://www4.uwm.edu/planetarium/