Honored alumni welcomed back to campus
by Deanna Ding, Letters & Science

On November 8, 2013, UWM bestowed its annual Alumni Awards at a sold-out gala held at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Five graduates from the College of Letters & Science were recognized including Jill Pelisek, who received a Distinguished Alumni Award, and Katherine Nelson, recipient of a Graduate of the Last Decade Award. Jill is the former vice president of the First Wisconsin National Bank of Milwaukee and currently is an executive-in-residence and adjunct professor at UWM’s Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business while Kate is the Chief Sustainability Officer at UWM. Three recipients traveled quite a distance to accept their awards – Derrick Jackson, op-ed columnist for the Boston Globe, and Frank Schneiger, owner of Human Services Management Institute, flew in from the east coast, and U.S. Ambassador Luis Arreaga came all the way from Reykjavik, Iceland.

During their trip to Milwaukee, Derrick, Frank and Luis spent time on campus catching up on the many changes since their days as students. Derrick visited with a standing-room only group of journalism students, encouraging them to be passionate about their interest in journalism. He said newspaper print journalism is changing and may even be eliminated in the coming years. However, journalism in electronic media will be an important source of news and information. Reporting on community news and local governing groups are just two areas where professional journalists add value as the eyes and ears for citizens who want to be informed.

Derrick received a Community Service Award for his passionate advocacy particularly in the area of education. He has been a vocal critic of college graduation rates for athletes. Meanwhile, Frank met with faculty and students and shared his recollections of being a college history student during the turbulent 1960s. One particular story stood out as he recounted being on an honors seminar trip to Washington, D.C., on November 22, 1963. He remembered that momentous day in history and how their White House visit went on pretty much as planned, despite the announcement of an “incident in Texas.” However, their plans were abruptly changed at the Pentagon when they were told that President Kennedy was dead. The rest of the trip was “surreal,” in Frank’s words, as they milled about the Capitol and Pennsylvania Avenue with a front-row seat to history.

Being a historian at heart, Frank even brought along an old UWM newsletter from the 1960s that he passed among the audience for everyone to get a glimpse back in time. Frank received a Community Service Award for his professional career in government and human service and his volunteer and board service throughout the New York City area. The Ambassador attracted attention both on- and off-campus during his brief time in Milwaukee. He sat for interviews with The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and with WUWM’s Lake Effect show.

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Ira Driscoll has always been fascinated by memories – how they’re formed, where they’re stored, and how people access them. That interest led her to look into the causes and tragic consequences of having memories stolen away by disorders like Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.

Driscoll, an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, researches the genetic risks for diseases like Alzheimer’s and dementia, and seeks out early predictors of these disorders.

She’s now recruiting healthy volunteers, ages 40-60, for a study that will involve behavioral testing, brain imaging and, eventually, blood work to detect age-related changes. The study will also look at how such factors as hormone therapy and obesity might possibly modify an individual’s genetic risk – positively or negatively – for memory disorders.

“What we’re doing is testing for performance that is outside the normal range, and relating that to an individual’s genetic background, and seeing if we can use that information to predict early decline or impairment,” explains Driscoll.

Volunteers are being recruited from a clinic at the Medical College of Wisconsin to undergo psychological testing to establish baseline information. This step will be followed by brain scans and blood work. Currently 40 volunteers are involved. Driscoll hopes to eventually have 200 people in the study.

While knowing early on if they’re at risk for Alzheimer’s disease or dementia may be alarming to some middle-aged adults: “Knowing what may happen could help them improve the quality of their lives. Ultimately, the research is aimed at delaying the onset or slowing down the progression of these diseases.” The behavioral testing, adds Driscoll, is not intended to be diagnostic, and those with concerns will need to talk to their family physician about next steps.

In particular, Driscoll and her team are studying the function of the hippocampus, a region of the brain that tends to be affected by Alzheimer’s in its early stages. By studying volunteers early on, before real signs of illness or impairment appear, researchers hope to begin to gather clues about the biological mechanisms that trigger the disease, and then they will probe further.

“Alzheimer’s specifically is a very complex disease with many symptoms occurring at the same time. This is a fruitful area of research because by the time someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer’s so many things have gone wrong that it’s hard to tell what’s a consequence of the disease and what might have been a cause of it.”

At the same time, some people remain mentally functional into very old age, and researchers need to figure out what factors tend to protect them from the memory loss that affects others. Having Alzheimer’s in the family may increase the risk, says Driscoll.

“But it doesn’t guarantee you will get it,” she adds. “Some people live well into their 90s without any kind of impairment.”

While researchers haven’t identified the exact mechanisms that trigger the disorders, they do have some information on possible lifestyle changes that may help. “There is no single, guaranteed protective factor,” says Driscoll, “but we do know exercise, a good diet and managing your weight are helpful and are also are protective against many other diseases.”

Adults who are obese in middle age have been shown to have a higher risk of dementia, she adds, though researchers are still researching exactly how the consequences and causes of obesity – metabolic syndrome, blood pressure, glucose irregularities – are intertwined.

“Obesity, however, is certainly a risk factor that is modifiable.

Those interested in taking part in the study can go to the project’s recruitment site. The study’s researchers will call those who meet requirements. Potential participants can also contact Elizabeth Awe, the study coordinator, at (414) 229-4608.
UWM is part of $25 million grant for protein imaging

by Laura Hunt, University Relations

UWM and partners at seven leading U.S. research institutions have landed a highly competitive $25 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to conduct work that could transform the way scientists study diseases and find new treatments.

The funding establishes an NSF Science and Technology Center (STC) that will use powerful X-ray lasers to reveal the structure of proteins and viruses, and the way they work. STCs are considered one of the most prestigious NSF awards, and only three were awarded in the current four-year cycle.

The University at Buffalo is the lead institution, with UWM and Arizona State University playing key roles. Other partner institutions are Cornell University; Rice University; Stanford University; the University of California, Davis; and the University of California, San Francisco.

Proteins are behind nearly everything that happens in our bodies, and malfunctioning proteins are often the cause of disease, making them a prime target for therapeutic drugs. But drug discovery is often a process of trial and error.

That’s because for many proteins, one important piece of information is missing: their structure – how their atoms are arranged. And structure reveals function.

The award will allow UWM and partners to build on their pioneering work in determining the structure and function of proteins not amenable to existing techniques.

More important than finding the structure of proteins individually, the team wants to determine how they operate within the organism.

The most widely used method of imaging biological molecules currently involves forming a pure crystal and bombarding it with X-rays. The pattern of rays as they diffract off the sample reveals a kind of fingerprint of the atoms in the molecule. A mathematical computation uses this to deduce the locations of the atoms.

Fewer than 20 percent of proteins currently form crystals large enough for this crystallography technique, including the majority of proteins in the outer wall of cells.

“Cell membrane proteins control the flow of information and material into and out of cells,” says Abbas Ourmazd, Distinguished Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering, who leads the UWM team. “But they are notoriously difficult to crystallize – if it can be done at all, it takes a very long time.”

What small crystals can do

The first is an X-ray free-electron laser (XFEL), which produces X-ray light more than a billion times brighter than any made by existing equipment. Of the three that exist, the closest is at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) in California. In their quest to image single proteins and viruses, researchers in the STC will rely on two secret weapons – one of which was developed at UWM.

It means crystallography can now be done with protein crystals a thousand times smaller than before – even those at the nanoscale. Since smaller crystals are much easier to form, it opens the door for seeing a vast array of proteins not amenable to standard approaches.

Beyond crystals

Imaging with the XFEL can take advantage of the intensity and unimaginably short flashes of light to produce snapshots of even a single tumbling protein molecule.

The process is then repeated over and over with other single proteins of the same kind, producing terabytes of data related to the millions of X-ray diffraction snapshots, each from a different unknown angle.

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The team’s second trump card is a tool to analyze the mountains of data. Developed by Ourmazd, Schwander, UWM Distinguished Professor of Physics Dilano Saldin, Senior Scientist Russell Fung, and UWM engineers Roshan D’Souza and Ali Dashti, such algorithms mine huge amounts of data to piece together a 3D image of the molecule.

“Imaging with this new kind of X-ray scattering can speed the process of determining protein structures from years to only days,” says Ourmazd. “Part of the reason can be attributed to the mathematical procedure we have developed.”

Proteins in action

The brightness of an XFEL flash may also allow scientists to “see” protein molecules in action for the first time. The idea is to capture a series of images over time, displaying the structural rearrangement taking place as a protein carries out a task.

“We hope to see, and perhaps even make movies of, ribosomes tapping out proteins in a cell, and photosynthesis in a plant,” says Ourmazd. “More important than finding the structure of proteins individually, we want to determine how they operate within the organism.”

Performing a “pump-and-probe” experiment, Associate Professor Marius Schmidt, the UWM team’s only experimentalist, will use a synchronized laser that emits visible light to stimulate a photo-reactive protein, followed by the X-ray pulse of the XFEL, which probes the progress of the protein during the reaction.

“When we shoot larger crystals with the laser there are not enough photons to get the excitation [structural change] going,” says Schmidt. “That’s the nanocrystal advantage.”

Very small crystals contain fewer molecules, requiring fewer photons to prompt the changes.

“The next part of the story is even cooler,” he says. “It’s possible that with this improved imaging method, we won’t need crystals at all.”

Beyond pictures

While Ourmazd’s work deals primarily with single proteins, Saldin’s research focuses on determining the structure of proteins from multiple copies randomly oriented in solution, which is closer to their state in a living organism.

“The theoretical team is developing techniques that may ultimately allow us to break the shackles of crystallography, using the XFEL,” he says.

Not only that, but his work with Schmidt aims to follow fast structural changes of proteins in solution, such as in the ubiquitous phenomenon of photosynthesis.

For this work, the XFEL can do the job, he believes, because the flashes of light it produces are so short, they can capture the equally lightning-quick molecular changes happening in a group of proteins.

Creating molecular movies and imaging proteins without crystals is still a long way off, says Ourmazd. “But the STC award demonstrates the tremendous potential of the proposed approaches for solving key problems in the life and energy sciences.”

First-year writing program receives Certificate of Excellence

The Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) has awarded a Certificate of Excellence to our First-Year Writing Program.

In announcing the award, CCCC cited the clear discussion of the theories that underwrite this program, the student assessment component of the program, the role of graduate students, and the integration of new media as particularly laudatory features.

Only a small handful of colleges and universities are recognized each year with this honor.
Urban Studies hosts summit on school vouchers

The Urban Studies Programs hosted the seventh annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit on November 14, 2013. A distinguished panel discussed “Life After Vouchers: Expansion, Accountability & Outcomes,” covering the latest research on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, the recent expansion of school vouchers statewide, and legislative efforts to create accountability measures for all schools that receive public funding.

The event attracted a large crowd, including members of the State Legislature and the Milwaukee Public Schools Board, and was covered by the WisconsinEye Network, a public affairs broadcasting network that focuses on providing public access to state government and issues of community and public life in Wisconsin without editing or commentary.

The panel discussion can be viewed at [http://bit.ly/17TikSm](http://bit.ly/17TikSm) and features Dr. Deven Carlson, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Oklahoma; Dr. Lora Warner, Assistant Professor and Director of the Center for Public Affairs, UW-Green Bay; and Dr. Mike Ford, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, UW-Oshkosh. The moderator was Alan Borsuk, Senior Fellow in Law and Public Policy at Marquette University Law School, and columnist at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Passings

Helen Kittsley passed away October 28, 2013, at the age of 91. Helen was a professor in what was then the Department of Zoology, now the Department of Biological Sciences. She was actively involved in the Target MD program, a scholarship program for high-achieving pre-medical students, and is survived by nephews, cousins and many friends.

Video Stories

Vania Trejo is an economics and psychology major and will be a first generation college graduate. [http://youtu.be/PIYUqZaP5k](http://youtu.be/PIYUqZaP5k)

Pre-Med and biochemistry major Bruce Lee talks about his experiences being a first generation college student at UWM. [http://youtu.be/KDXKtDimQSI](http://youtu.be/KDXKtDimQSI)

This is communication major Angela Rodriguez’s fourth year playing for the women’s basketball team. [http://youtu.be/FaM-UnrmDv8](http://youtu.be/FaM-UnrmDv8)

Rachel Johnson combines her interest in both Africology and psychology in her undergraduate research project. [http://youtu.be/AUOWUZj_54c](http://youtu.be/AUOWUZj_54c)
Physics technology reads biological blueprints
by Troy Rummler, Letters and Science

In August, 2013, Professor of Physics Carol Hirschmugl and her collaborators published an article in Nature Methods describing a new technology that could do for microbiology and physics what the CAT scan did for medical imaging. A process called Spectro-microtomography (SmT) – which can be translated roughly as “imaging microscopic objects with light,” – allows her to create 3-D computer models that show how different chemical groups are distributed throughout objects.

Although complications have given her little time to use it, Hirschmugl is busy collecting data, refining her work, and attracting attention from the scientific community.

SmT uses the same basic process of a CAT scan; it collects 2-D images of an object from multiple angles and uses high-end math to combine the images into cross sections and 3-D models.

Instead of using X-rays, though, Hirschmugl is taking her snapshots using infrared light. “X-rays sense the density of the material … while infrared couples to vibrations of small parts (functional groups) of molecules,” said Hirschmugl.

Because of that coupling, all molecules absorb infrared light in unique, characteristic patterns. By measuring the patterns at every pixel of each image – a process she delegates to her computer – she can identify compounds throughout a sample.

What makes the technology especially impressive is the design of the computer output. After identifying the type of molecule at each point, software color-codes that information into the final display, resulting in color-by-number models that distinguish, for example, protein from fat from carbohydrates within her samples.

Hirschmugl said an additional breakthrough of this method is its ability to “distinguish the distributions of different chemical constituents from one another … without major sample preparation.”

Sample preparation in other imaging methods can mean cutting samples into thin slices and staining them so certain parts show up clearly. This process not only requires hours of labor but also destroys the sample in the process. Hirschmugl’s samples remain unaltered, and preparation can be as simple as setting them on the sample holder.

“I am looking forward to being able to answer questions that are not accessible by other approaches, especially for intact samples,” she commented.

After a successful trial run that prompted August’s publication, Hirschmugl has been studying the capabilities of the technology with a battery of tests on a variety of subjects. Her first wave included plastics, stem cells, an alga, and a strand of her own hair.

Interest in SmT has spread through the scientific community, and Hirschmugl has said she has received requests from companies and government agencies to come to her facility and determine if they can apply the new technology to forensic and industrial processes.

She admitted, however, that her interest was especially piqued by a project in which she assisted a fellow researcher analyze spider silk. The natural fiber is stronger by weight than any synthetic material, and their hope is that SmT may help them learn how to mimic its sturdiness.

The research, though, has a time limit. Hirschmugl’s facility, the Synchrotron Radiation Center housed in Stoughton, Wis., by UW-Madison, is scheduled to close its doors on January 6, 2014. Hirschmugl had built special modifications to the synchrotron – a 292-foot long, circular electron accelerator – to make it the only facility in the world capable of producing a light source that can support SmT.

Hirschmugl is taking the opportunity to design a leaner, laser-based version of SmT that she could potentially house at UWM. If successful, the move could bring excellent research opportunities to her students and help bring this technology closer to the local industries that could benefit from it. Although the plan is only in preliminary stages, she is actively seeking funding sources for that project.

Whether or not a leaner version of SmT comes to fruition, Hirschmugl hopes to collect enough data now that she could spend the next few years analyzing the new information. She is currently making frequent, extended trips to Madison to make that happen.
Digital Humanities Lab opens its doors

by Troy Rummler, Letters and Science

In 2010, the Library of Congress began constructing a digital archive of all Twitter tweets dating from the social media company’s inception in 2006 to the present. Why?

“Archiving and preserving outlets such as Twitter will enable future researchers access to a fuller picture of today’s cultural norms, dialogue, trends and events,” said the Library in January, 2013.

The archive is now operational, but researchers are still scratching their heads figuring out exactly how to study such an overwhelming amount of information – approximately 170 billion tweets at the time of the statement and growing at about half a billion tweets per day.

This situation is representative of a problem that research institutions are facing around the globe: researching and preserving our cultural heritage increasingly means studying digital media, but digital media don’t always lend themselves to traditional research methods.

Now, members of the UWM community who encounter this issue have a valuable new resource in the Golda Meir Library’s Digital Humanities Lab.

A cooperative venture between the College of Letters and Science, the UWM Libraries, and the Center for Instructional and Professional Development, the Lab officially launched in fall 2013. Not to be confused with a computer lab, the Digital Humanities Lab is a gathering space for workshops, talks, and discussions. It is located in the northeast corner of the 2nd floor, east wing of the Library, where the regular events are free and open to the public. The Lab’s co-directors Ann Hanlon and Matt Russell invite anyone interested in digital humanities to attend.

“There is a social component to the work of digital humanities, and that’s why a space is so critical to nurturing that,” said Hanlon.

“Digital humanities” has no universally accepted definition, but it generally implies any research that involves studying, preserving, or archiving digital materials – whether those materials have been converted from a physical format or whether they were originally created in a digital format.

And though some people would dismiss these materials as less significant than physical works of art or tangible historical records, others find great value in them. “DH studies seeks to act as an intervention into the way in which our increasingly digital world may see people, places and things as mere data,” said Russell.

The need to bring people together stems from the interdisciplinary nature of digital humanities. Classically-trained experts in one field and tech-savvy researchers in another frequently rely on each other’s skills to accomplish a mutual goal.

One talk in the Lab specifically highlighted this need. History professor Amanda Seligman led a discussion in September on the Encyclopedia of Milwaukee, a part-physical, part-digital research project slated for publication in 2017. She has said, “When I have questions about what to do next, one of my first stops will be to consult with the more knowledgeable people…in the DH Lab rather than trying to start by researching in books and online with distant strangers.”

Amanda Seligman presents the inaugural talk in the Digital Humanities Lab “Planning the Encyclopedia of Milwaukee” on Sept. 12, 2013. Photo Credit: Steve Burnham.
Other events aim at sharing ideas and generating interest in particular research areas. Both Marc Tasman, a lecturer in Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies and coordinator of the Digital Arts and Culture Program, and Justin Schumaker, a doctoral candidate in English, have hosted such events.

Tasman presented a talk in October describing how digital culture has changed how we hold onto, and lose, memories.

“You know how painful it is when somebody loses their cellphone and all the photos on it as well,” said Tasman. “That is what we are involved in every day, losing more and more digital information, even as we create more of it.”

After all, he said, if video killed the radio star, what did digital do?

In November, Schumaker facilitated a discussion on academic approaches toward video games. “We also just want to open a dialogue with other game scholars at the university” Schumaker said, “or people who like games but don’t really know to treat them as an object of inquiry.” He said the event was also “an opportunity to reach out to the undergraduate population as well.”

Co-directors Hanlon and Russell hope the enhanced visibility of Digital Humanities on campus will spark interdisciplinary research collaborations. In the future, they’d like to support those collaborations with investments in technology, as well.

“As more projects get underway,” said Hanlon, “that might justify additional hardware and software, but that’s the sort of thing we’re working to determine this year.”

Both Hanlon and Russell invite anyone interested in learning more about the Digital Humanities Lab or hosting an event to contact them directly (hanlon@uwm.edu and russelmr@uwm.edu, respectively). An events calendar can be found at dhlab.uwm.edu.

Alumni Awards

He also met with a small group of economics students who had many questions about his professional journey from economist to statesman, and then with a larger group of students and faculty from across the campus.

Audience members from history, business, political science, international studies, foreign languages, and many other areas were regaled with tales of the Ambassador’s various posts around the world, with a young family in tow. From the highs of seeing the glaciers of Iceland to the lows of seeing the worst of humanity when working in Geneva with Rwandan refugees, the Ambassador continuously emphasized to the students the importance of understanding the human connection no matter the location or situation. To that end, he has been learning the Icelandic language as a way to forge stronger connections with his host country, and he encouraged students to study languages and cultures, particularly those that are in high-demand by the U.S. government including Chinese, Farsi, Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic, and Korean.

As a former recruiter for the Foreign Service, the Ambassador also couldn’t resist plugging the benefits, adventures and career development that await students interested in joining government service. He credits his early career years as an economist as a solid preparation for the transition to diplomacy, where he must extensively rely on his communication and problem-solving skills. He notes that “regardless of the administration in office,” he and his colleagues take a vow to provide the best representation for the U.S. and for whomsoever the people have elected to represent them, and it is a vow he takes deeply to heart.

The Ambassador returned to Iceland with UWM’s Lifetime Achievement Award, but only long enough to pack it up with his other belongings. His tour as Ambassador completed, he is now returning to Washington, D.C., to become the Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Bureau for Counterterrorism and Law Enforcement at the State Department.
Upcoming Events

Now through Dec. 13
**Planetarium Show: Fall Stars and Their Myths.** 7:00 pm Fridays. UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium. Gaze up at the fall sky and learn about fall constellations such as Pegasus, Andromeda and Cassiopeia. $2 admission. [http://bit.ly/WJ7tUO](http://bit.ly/WJ7tUO)

Now through Dec. 12
**Art History Exhibit: The Morals of Marc Chagall.** Mitchell 154. Opening night reception with gallery talk on November 21 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. [http://bit.ly/189I5rt](http://bit.ly/189I5rt)

Dec. 4
**Stories That Are Hard To Tell: Ambiguous Borders, Disappearing Women, and Narratives of Murder on the U.S./Mexico Border.** 3:30 pm. Lapham 260. The Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies Program continues its Fall 2013 LACUSL Speaker Series with this presentation by Kristin Pitt from the UWM Comparative Literature Department.

Dec. 6
**Greenhouse Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony.** 4:00 pm. NWQ 4600. Please join Chancellor Michael Lovell and Dean Rodney Swain as we cut the ribbon on the new UWM greenhouse.

Dec. 6
**Neuroscience Seminar: A cross-species comparison of intrinsic cellular mechanisms underlying spatial processing in medial entorhinal cortex.** 2:00 pm. Lapham N101. James G. Heys, PhD, Northwestern University.

Dec. 6
**Physics Colloquium: Tides in Coalescing Neutron Star Binaries.** 3:00 pm. Physics 135. Nevin Weinberg from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dec. 6
**Biological Sciences Colloquium: Interactions Among Animals, Microbes and Algae.** 4:00 pm. Lapham N101. Catherine Pfister from the University of Chicago.

Dec. 8
**Recent Excavations at Sardis, City of Croesus.** 3:00 pm. Sabin G90. Nicholas Cahill from UW-Madison describes his excavations at Sardis and discoveries of some of the world’s earliest coins, invented by the Lydians in the 7th Century BC. Sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America-Milwaukee Society and the UWM Departments of Anthropology, Art History and Foreign Languages & Literature/Classics.

Dec. 9
**My Perestroika: film and talkback with Director Robin Hessman.** 7:00 pm. Union Theater. Join the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies for this film that follows five ordinary Russians living in extraordinary times - from their sheltered Soviet childhood, to the collapse of the Soviet Union during their teenage years, to the constantly shifting political landscape of post-Soviet Russia. [http://www.aux.uwm.edu/union/union_theatre/calendar/2013/12/09/](http://www.aux.uwm.edu/union/union_theatre/calendar/2013/12/09/)

Dec. 13
**Samuel Beckett Exhibit Opening and Reception.** 6:30 pm. Milwaukee Irish Fest Center. The exhibit, which details Beckett’s life and work, is on loan to Milwaukee Irish Fest from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. Professor Andrew Kincaid, from the English Department and Celtic Studies program at UWM, will hold a short presentation and film about Beckett and his work. Co-sponsored by the Celtic Studies program. [http://m.irishfest.com/Event/Year-Round-Calender/Samuel-Beckett-Exhibit.htm](http://m.irishfest.com/Event/Year-Round-Calender/Samuel-Beckett-Exhibit.htm)
In the media and around the community

Distinguished Professor Emeriti John Koethe (Philosophy) had a full schedule of poetry readings up and down the east coast. He gave poetry readings on Martha’s Vineyard over the summer, at Yale University in October, and at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C. in November.

Distinguished Professor Robert Schwartz (Philosophy) can be heard on WUWM’s Lake Effect radio program, talking about Pragmatism.

Graduate student Danielle Hartke and faculty member S. Scott Graham (both English) presented “Dangerous Democratization: Normative Models of Science-Policy Debate and the Incarceration of The L’Aquila Seven” at the 2013 Association for Rhetoric of Science and Technology preconference.


Renee Hesselbach, Daniel Weber, and Henry Tomasiewicz (Children’s Environmental Health Sciences Core Center) presented “Effectively Using Inquiry-based Modules to Study Environmental Health Science” at the North American Association for Environmental Education Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, in October.

Julia Szinte, Jaekyoon Kim, and Karyn Frick (Psychology) presented “Role of G-protein-coupled estrogen receptor (GPER/GPR30) in hippocampal memory and cell signaling in female mice” at the MidBrains Undergraduate Neuroscience Conference at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

Adam Greenberg (Psychology) gave a psychology colloquium at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, on “The Neural Architecture Subserving Visual Attention.”

Jean Creighton (Planetarium) appeared on WTMJ Channel 4 to discuss Comet ISON, what some are calling the “comet of the century.” http://bit.ly/17G6XuX

Fred Helmstetter (Psychology) gave two invited talks in October, one to the Department of Psychology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City and one to the Texas A&M Institute for Neuroscience at Texas A&M in College Station, Texas.

Christine Larson (Psychology) co-chaired a symposium on “Controlling cognition: Implications of cognition-emotion interactions for internalizing psychopathology” and presented a talk on “Neural measures of the access of threat to working memory in anxiety” at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research held in Florence, Italy.

Devin Mueller (Psychology) presented “Enhancing extinction and inhibiting retrieval of cocaine-associated memories” at Rosalind Franklin University in North Chicago, Illinois, and “Extinction of drug-associated behaviors in animal models of drug use” at the Mid-American Association for Behavior Analysis conference in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Diane Reddy, Ray Fleming, (Psychology) and Larry Rudiger, an adopter of U-Pace instruction from the University of Vermont, gave an invited presentation at the 2013 Best Practices in the Teaching of Psychology Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in October. The title of their featured presentation was “U-Pace: Increasing student success through evidence-based online instruction.”

Diane Reddy, Leah Stoiber, Heidi Pfeiffer, Ray Fleming (all Psychology), Laura Pedrick (Academic Affairs), and Dylan Barth (Learning Technology Center) presented “Understanding the impact of online instruction: Strategies and lessons from the U-Pace instructional approach” in October at the 2013 Annual Meeting of EDUCAUSE in Anaheim, California.

Christopher Martell (Psychology) conducted an invited one-day workshop in Behavioral Activation through the Dean Foundation in Madison, Wisconsin, on October 4.

Sandra Braman (Communication) made several presentations lately: “Cyber security ethics at the boundaries: Systems maintenance and the Tallinn Manual” at the NATO Workshop on Cyber Security Ethics held in Rome, Italy; “Information as agent: Power in a post-hegemonic world” at the University of Toronto; and “Had I known then what I know now” at the Communication & Media Policy in Europe workshop in, Manchester, United Kingdom.
Laurels and Accolades

Graduate student Doug Schultz (Psychology) has been awarded a 2013-2014 American Psychological Association Dissertation Research Award.

Professor Emeritus Patrick Bellegarde-Smith (Africology) was awarded the Jean Price-Mars Medal for his work on issues of cultural, national, ethnic, and personal identities and for his scholarship on Haitian Vodou. The Medal was established and awarded for the first time in 2013 to shed light on a scholar, particularly in the realm of ethnological and cultural studies. It is named for Jean Price-Mars, the seminal philosopher in early 20th century Haiti, a medical doctor, a professor, diplomat, secretary of state of foreign affairs, and a Haitian presidential candidate. Bellegarde-Smith noted that Jean Price-Mars was one of his role models who happened to be a personal friend and an “ideological antagonist” of his grandfather, Dantes Bellegarde, another well-known Haitian historian, philosopher and diplomat.

Patrick Bellegarde-Smith. Photo Credit: Peter Jakubowski.

L&S People in Print


