Newly-elected Murphy looks to city’s future

By Sarah Mann, College of Letters & Science

Grocery shopping is a dicey proposition for Michael Murphy these days.

“My wife will not go to a grocery store with me anymore. ... Whenever I go, it’s like an hour because I’m stopped by everybody,” he said.

“You know, pothole problems. Garbage not picked up. Taxes are too high. So my wife just says, ‘Nope! I just don’t go shopping with you at the grocery store anymore.’”

Murphy, a 1986 Letters & Science alumnus with a major in geoscience, was elected unanimously by his fellow aldermen as Milwaukee’s Common Council president in February. Elected in 1989 by Milwaukee’s 10th District, he is the city’s longest-serving alderman. In his new role, Murphy presides over Council meetings and determines the makeup of its committees.

Helping to lead one of the country’s largest cities wasn’t exactly the direction Murphy thought he’d take in life. Before he jumped into politics, he was working at the Milwaukee Public Museum in its geology department and at the Great Lakes Research Facility, both jobs that aligned nicely with his Geosciences major. That changed when he became friends with Patricia Coorough, who was working on her Master’s in Geosciences at UWM. She introduced Murphy to her husband, Brian Burke, the District Attorney of Milwaukee at the time, who was running for the Common Council.

“I ended up helping him in his campaign, and he was successful. Then I was going on to my Master’s degree, and he said, ‘Well, you can come work for me.’ So I did,” Murphy said.

In Burke’s office, Murphy got a taste of public service and politics. When Burke was elected to the Wisconsin Senate in 1988, Murphy ran for his friend’s old seat and won. He’s been on the Common Council ever since.

“I ended up finding that as much as I love the sciences, I also love working with people,” Murphy said. “(That’s) something my parents have always instilled into their five children, is a sense of public service, especially coming from immigrant parents.”

Murphy’s parents emigrated from Ireland before he was born. All three of Murphy’s brothers and his sister are graduates of the College of Letters and Science as well – his sister earned an International Relations major and his three brothers have two Mass Communications and a Philosophy major between them. Murphy’s wife, Terry, also has a Master’s degree from the College of Letters and Science in Communication.

“UWM has been a very big part of not just my life, but really my family’s life,” Murphy said.

He has a deep love for the city it resides in. He’s most proud of creating and chairing Milwaukee’s Housing Trust, which has built about 800 housing units over the last few years to house people who would otherwise be homeless. He’s already got some ideas about how to handle his new challenges, starting with a problem that spreads beyond Milwaukee. Murphy said he plans to convene a summit in June with surrounding communities’ leaders to address the growing use of opiates and heroin, a problem that transcends income, race and status and is affecting neighboring counties as well.

Beyond that, Murphy said he wants to remind everyone of just how important Milwaukee is.

“I want to have a better relationship with elected officials outside of Milwaukee,” he said.

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Professor Jon Kahl is an unashamed Alice Cooper fan.

“I go to Summerfest typically, I’d say, between one and three times every summer because I like seeing the bands and it’s just a great, fantastic thing that we have right here where we live,” he said. “I went (last year) to hear Alice Cooper. I’m not embarrassed to say it.”

This year, Kahl’s hoping to attend Summerfest again, but this time as a performer.

Kahl, a faculty member in UWM’s Atmospheric Sciences program, is the lead guitarist of Unclear on the Concept, a UWM-centric alternative rock band that has a chance to play on a Summerfest stage this year. Dubbed the country’s largest music festival, Summerfest will feature more than 1,000 performances played on 11 stages over 11 days in Milwaukee.

Unclear on the Concept is gearing up for the final round of a battle of the bands competition that has drawn contenders from across the metro-Milwaukee area. The winner will play at Summerfest. The final round is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, though that date could change.

“We are confident. We think our songs are good. We play them really well,” Kahl said.

His bandmates include UWM alumni Josh Hart and Jonny Flamboe, both graduates of the School of Education, and UWM Physics professor Xavier Siemens. The group came together about two years ago, though Flamboe was a later addition after Unclear on the Concept’s previous drummer, Rolando Olivas, Kahl’s PhD student, graduated. All have day jobs and none of the four are what you’d call musical professionals.

“We really do this just 100 percent for fun,” Siemens said. “It’s an activity which is completely different from anything else we do here. It’s like a little vacation we take once a week at rehearsal.”

The group regularly plays at Milwaukee venues like Vintage, an eastside bar, and Conway’s Smokin’ Bar and Grill, a bar near Marquette University. This is the first time they’ve had a chance at a gig like Summerfest, though. Unclear on the Concept entered the contest at the behest of Hart, who found the opportunity buried in the piles of emails the band receives on a daily basis. The other band members agreed, not least because Hart would have to be the one to handle coordination and communication with the contest’s organizers.

The first of three rounds of competition in March wasn’t quite what Siemens thought it would be; the competing band was a group of 14-year-olds.

“It’s kind of funny because it seemed like a lose-lose. If we win, then we beat some 14-year-olds. If we lose, then we lose to some 14-year-olds. It’s really terrible,” Siemens said with a laugh.

Fortunately, the band didn’t have to find out how either scenario would play out; the other group forfeited. The semi-finals on April 13 were a different story. Unclear on the Concept beat out local heavy metal band H1N1 to advance to the final round.

Unclear on the Concept plays a mix of covers and original songs, the majority of which are written by either Hart or Kahl. Songwriting is a mix of individual hard work and organic

http://youtu.be/DqFTTeVwhxg

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A startling 39 percent of recent refugees from Burma and Bhutan to the U.S. are high school dropouts, and 30 percent live below the poverty line.

Those are among the findings that Chia Youyee Vang details in a landmark report she co-authored and released earlier this year.

“The Burmese and Bhutanese have become the largest refugee groups coming to the U.S. in recent years,” says Vang, a UWM associate professor of history and comparative ethnic studies.

Vang and her co-author, Monica Mong Trieu of Purdue, researched and wrote “Invisible Newcomers: Refugees from Burma/Myanmar and Bhutan in the United States.” The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund issued the report in collaboration with the Association for Asian American Studies. The focus of much of Vang’s work is on refugees, and the association approached her because of that background. Officials wanted to learn more about these large groups of refugees coming to the U.S. and how they were faring.

“They are coming in great numbers, but yet they were invisible in some ways,” says Vang. “Information on these two groups has been so limited, but we wanted to provide some basic background in this preliminary report so people can understand and have some general knowledge about them.” The research – “a preliminary snapshot” – was based on both published data and interviews with community members.

**Different cultures, shared stress**

The Burmese and Bhutanese refugees have different cultures and traditions, but those who are in the U.S. share a history of flight in search of refuge due to tensions in their homelands. Since 2004, more than 80,000 Burmese have arrived in the United States after fleeing political, religious and economic persecution, according to the report. Refugees from the Kingdom of Bhutan, a landlocked country in South Asia located at the eastern end of the Himalayas, began coming in 2011 to escape discriminatory social and political rule.

“The primary reason is political instability in their home country,” says Vang of the Burmese. A new regime renamed Burma as Myanmar, but many of the refugees prefer the name Burma. “As responsible scholars, we didn’t want take sides. We let people refer to the country by the name they chose.”

While the Burmese and Bhutanese have settled all over the U.S., there is a larger concentration in the South than in the Northeast and significant numbers in the Midwest, particularly Ohio and Indiana.

While warmer climates in these areas play a role, support from existing refugee resettlement groups and others in their ethnic community are also factors, says Vang.

**Language barriers, dropout rates are obstacles**

The high school dropout rate of the Burmese and Bhutanese – which is twice that of non-Asian teens – is alarming because education is so directly linked to job opportunity and the ability to escape poverty, says Vang.

Many of the teens in both groups have spent years in refugee camps where they received little education. Language challenges and bullying can add to their difficulties and contribute to the high dropout rate, Vang explains.

Many of the adults in these communities are illiterate in their native languages because they grew up in rural areas of their homelands where formal education was scarce so they are not equipped to help their children, the authors note.
International dessert competition spans the globe
By Kathy Quirk, University Relations

UWM students shared a taste of many cultures in an international dessert competition on April 23. Entries ranged from Russia’s apple baba to Saudi Arabia’s tamreya.

Judges were local food and dessert experts, including Nancy Stohs, food editor of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel; Julie Waterman, owner and chocolatier at Indulgence Chocolatiers; Paolo Iazzi of Coldwell Banker North Shore; and Matt Post of Colectivo Baking Company.

Students in the competition welcomed the chance to share treats from different cultures.

“What easier way to get a college student’s attention than through food?” asked Sarah Shelnutt, a senior Japanese Language and Culture major and president of the UWM Japanese Culture Association. Shelnutt entered the competition with her green tea cake with sesame seeds. She said she chose the recipe because green tea is an integral part of Japanese culture, and she wanted to demonstrate that it’s used beyond a drink.

Brittany Jane (Slava) Blackburn, a junior who double majors in German and Russian, worked with Aaron (Vlad) Kuczmarski, a junior, to prepare apple baba for the competition.

“It’s become a Russian Club favorite,” said Blackburn, who found the recipe in a Russian cookbook provided by Russian instructor Meghan Murphy-Lee. “It seemed simple and I could actually buy all the ingredients in town. The result was a fantastic cake that I tweaked a little to adapt it to my method of cooking.”

Tamreya is a popular dessert in Saudi Arabia, said Lama Alamoodi, an ESL (English as a Second Language) student. The dessert includes dates, nuts, butter, rice crispies, chocolate and coconut, but can also be mixed with different flavors like caramel and marshmallow.

“We eat it with coffee or tea, and it’s frequently made during Ramadan,” Alamoodi said. “I wanted to share our Arabic dessert and let others try a different dessert from another culture.” Alamoodi left with a second place win in the competition.

Kim Anderson, a senior in atmospheric sciences who minors in French, made a croquembouche – literally translated as “crunch in mouth.” A French student since the age of 13, she described the dessert as cream puffs dipped in caramel and stacked up into a cone.

“This is a traditional French wedding dessert,” she said.

This event welcomed all majors to learn about languages and cultures through their taste buds, according to organizers.

“Cuisine is such a universal interest that everyone can taste the beauty of the culture from it,” says Xiaorong Wang, who teaches Chinese 160, A Taste of China: Learning Chinese Culture through Cuisine. Four of her students took part in the dessert competition.

“By respecting and preserving the traditional cuisine, we can pass down the philosophy, thoughts, and traditions from generation to generation,” she said.

“Beyond providing our basic need for growth, food has also a symbolic value offering comfort, stress reduction, security, reward and control,” said Simonetta Milli Konewko, assistant professor of French, Italian and Comparative Literature, who teaches Introduction to Italian Food Studies: A Cultural History.

The departments and programs that organized and supported the International Dessert Competition included Foreign Languages and Literature; Spanish and Portuguese; French, Italian, and Comparative Literature; English as a Second Language; the Center for International Education; and the Language Resource Center.

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“The economic future of our state is so heavily dependent on Milwaukee. ... The reality is that in the outer ring and the areas surrounding Milwaukee, there’s a great disparity of wealth, and it’s not a good thing where you’re keeping the poor in one part of our community, and all of the problems that are associated with poverty.”

He wants to help combat those issues by making sure that low-income and unemployed Milwaukeeans, especially minorities, have a chance to find jobs in a city that is growing - and it is growing, with plenty of job opportunities. Northwestern Mutual Insurance Co. is in the midst of a $455 million construction project to add a tower and commons to the downtown skyline. The building will provide 1,000 construction-related jobs through 2017 and add 1,900 new jobs to the city, according to the company’s website. Developer Rick Barrett also plans to begin work on his Couture project, a 44-story development including apartments, a hotel and retail stores, according to the Milwaukee Business Journal.

Despite the challenges Milwaukee faces, Murphy’s excited to be shaping the future of the city.

“Then everybody kind of makes up their own part based on what they see and what they personally would like to hear. Then you do that over and over again until you just always do, more or less, the same thing,” Siemens explained.

Kahl draws the inspiration for his songs from his life. One of his favorites, “Carmelita,” was written about the natives of Ciudad del Carmen in Mexico, where Kahl leads a study abroad group each January to do field work. Another song, “Julian,” was sparked by another UWM professor.

“It’s a song about the famous British lute player Julian Bream, and it was inspired by a lecture given by John Stropes, who is a faculty (member) in the School of Music,” Kahl said. “I was impressed by some of the things John said. He talked about the quirkiness in this classical lute player’s personality. So ‘Julian’ is a whimsical song about Julian Bream.”

Fans can hear those songs and others on May 18 at Club Charlies at 320 E. Menomonee St. at 7 p.m. when Unclear on the Concept competes in the final round of the Battle of the Bands. The event is free and open to the public.

For more on the band, visit the band’s website or find them on Facebook.
Raicu Research Group helps high schooler’s laser focus on science fair

By Joan Baumgart, Department of Physics

From working with high school teachers in the Research Experience for Teachers program to teaching elementary school students the basics of physics in his Down to Earth Experimental Physics program in Shorewood, UWM Physics Professor Vali Raicu has turned his outreach to students and teachers of all levels into a science.

In November 2012, the Raicu Research Group reached out a bit more. The Group was in the early stages of a joint project with Dr. Chukuka Enwemeka (UWM College of Health Sciences) when Nicolet High School junior Grant Hussey approached Raicu about possible research opportunities that he would be able to develop into a project for a science fair competition. The joint project was a perfect fit for Hussey.

In early 2013, Hussey joined Raicu and Enwemeka’s research team, which included Drs. Gabriel Biener (Physics), Violet Bumah and Daniela Masson-Meyers (College of Health Sciences), to research a method of eradicating bacteria using blue light. Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA as it is more commonly known, is a bacterium that has become resistant to common antibiotics used to treat infections. MRSA may remain confined to the skin but can also cause potentially life-threatening infections. Because of bacteria’s resistance to antibiotics, new therapies to eradicate it are of great interest in the healthcare community.

Hussey’s project proposed that irradiation by blue laser light may lead to bacterial eradication and researched a novel method to study the biological processes of the cells after irradiation. He focused on identifying the correlation between the changes in metabolic activities induced by exposure to blue laser light. Hussey also examined the relative concentration of the molecules nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NADH) and flavin adenine dinucleotide (FAD) within the cell. The ratio, known as the “redox ratio,” of these two molecules could indicate the vitality of the cells, or how well they’re able to function, after the blue laser treatment. In addition, since the NADH and FAD molecules are naturally fluorescent, the team speculated that they could measure fluorescence intensity by using the two-photon, spectrally resolved microscopy system developed in Raicu’s lab to determine their concentrations within the cell, and use that to calculate the redox ratio.

To start, Hussey performed an extensive literature search focusing on the protocols used to prepare the bacteria samples, finding the biological agent responsible for the self-destruction of the bacteria when exposed various types of light sources, understanding methods for monitoring vitality of the bacteria and discovery of the physical and biological processes that are triggered as a result of illumination.

The team irradiated multiple MRSA bacteria samples with the blue laser in several different experiments, each controlling for various parameters like exposure time and illumination power. They then tested the eradication level of the bacteria by counting the number of bacterial colonies in the samples. The post-irradiation samples revealed a calculated 78-91 percent reduction in bacteria colonies compared to control samples that were not irradiated.

To study what changes, if any, arose in the molecular composition of the bacteria as a result of the blue laser irradiation, Hussey capitalized on the fluorescent properties of NADH and FAD and imaged the emission spectrum of the two molecules at several intervals using the OptiMiS imaging system, a laser-scanning microscope system developed by Raicu’s group.

Those images were analyzed using special “spectral unmixing” software to split the emission intensity into the colors corresponding to FAD and NADH. Hussey calculated the ratio of FAD to NADH present at various times on the control samples and the irradiated samples. The results indicated the FAD/NADH redox ratios stayed the same in the control samples, but there was a significant increase in irradiated bacteria’s FAD/NADH redox ratios, which could mean that the cell was fighting off the effects of the blue laser. Hussey presented his work in a science fair competition at Nicolet High School in late February 2014 where he was awarded second place. As a top-three finisher at Nicolet, Hussey will take his project to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair competition in Los Angeles.
Laurels and Accolades

Several students in the Journalism, Advertising and Media Studies (JAMS) department were recognized at the 2013 Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence awards. The Panther Vision news staff was honored in the Television In-Depth Reporting category. Harrison Turner, Benjamin Slane and Miranda Rosenkranz of Media Milwaukee received honors for In-Depth Reporting. Rosenkranz was recognized for Online In-Depth Reporting and Slane received an award for Photo Illustration. Krista Culbertson and Christine Pedretti of Media Milwaukee each received awards in Feature Writing and Online Feature Reporting.

Media Milwaukee staff were also lauded at the Milwaukee Press Club awards. Those honored included: Scott Wise (Best News Story Single or Ongoing - Writing), Maggie Schleicher and Krista Culbertson (Best Single Feature Story over 30 Inches), Dan Peters and Eleanor Peterson (Best Single Feature Story under 30 Inches), Nick Bornheimer and Kimberly Rhyme (Best Sports Story - Writing), Kayla Massey and Johnny Vang (Best Editorial or Commentary), Lawrence Bell and Brainerd Lopez (Best News Story Single or Ongoing - Audio), Justin Jagler and Joshua March (Best Sports Story - Audio), Benjamin Slane, Harrison Turner and Miranda Rosenkranz (Best Multi-Media Feature) and Marley Flueger and Harrison Turner (Best Website Design).

The Milwaukee Press Club awarded the Panther Vision staff as well, including Chris Verhyen, Tyler Berg, Erin Nordloh, Josh Weber, Kali LaCount and Jenna McGlin who were awarded Best News Story Single or Ongoing. Samantha Nash was awarded Best Feature Story and James Ashcroft, Jenna McGlin, Kali LaCount, Tony Atkins, Erin Nordloh and the Panther Vision News Staff were awarded Best Newscast.

The Northwest Broadcast News Association recognized Panther Vision as well by awarding three first-place awards in the Association's annual Eric Sevareid competition in the general news, best series and best investigative categories.

UWM's Virginia Burke Writing Contest honors first-year writers whose essays are judged the best of the year. It is named in honor of the late Virginia Burke, a professor of English Composition devoted to undergraduate writing instruction. Letters & Science students who were honored include Elsy Godinez, third place for English 095, and Collin Oswald, third place for English 102.

Congratulations to Trudy Turner (Anthropology). She is the recipient of the Gabriel Lasker award from the American Association of Physical Anthropology. The award is given for distinguished lifetime service to the profession and the association. The award was presented at the annual meeting of the association in Calgary, Canada.

Erin Sahlstein Parcell (Communication) was added as an editorial board member of the Journal of Family Communication. She was also awarded the B. Aubrey Fisher Award by the Western Journal of Communication for her work “I heard it in his voice: Relational presence, absence, and maintenance in the context of a wartime deployment,” co-written with K.C. Maguire and D.S. Hiememann.

Psychology graduate student Dmitriy Kazakov won first prize in the graduate student poster competition at the Wisconsin Psychological Association meeting for his work entitled “Eye Movements Index Memory Despite Simulated Memory Impairment.”

Several Letters & Science students won awards in the UWM Women's Studies Student Research Paper and Project Contest:

- Women's Studies major Sara Rolfe won the Rachel Skalitzy Award for “Lesbian Feminist Presence in 1970's Milwaukee”
- The team of English major Briana Newkirk, along with Peck School of the Arts student Haley Challoner and College of Health Sciences student Gayana Wanniarachchi, tied for first place in the undergraduate project portion of the competition with their entry, “40th Anniversary Women's Studies Scrapbook”
- Ruth Page Jones, a graduate student in Museum Studies, tied for the Eliana Berg Award for “Pioneer Nurse Jean Todd: A Woman Professional on the Dakota Frontier” along with Women’s Studies graduate student Megan Yahnke for “The Potential of Pleasure & Desire in Sex Education: Examining Three Feminist Approaches”
- Second place in the Eliana Berg Award category went to English dissertator Elizabeth Ching-In Chen for “recombinant”

WUWM Journalists won six awards in a competition sponsored by the Northwest Broadcast News Association against stiff competition from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska:

- Broadcast Writing award: Ann-Elise Henzl compilation – “Exit Wounds,” “Irish Dance,” and “Refugees in Milwaukee”
- Talk/Public Affairs award: Bonnie North – “Layton's Legacy in Milwaukee”
- Audio award: Erin Toner – “Sikhs Mourn Loved Ones, One Year After Mass Shooting”
- Sports Reporting award: Mitch Teich – “Floored by MECCA’s Historic Court”
- Website award: WUWM.com
- Student contest, general reporting award: Faith Lenard – “Students in Debt”
Upcoming events

April 24–May 15
Art History Exhibition: Impression & Projection: The Phantasmagoria in the Art of Goya, Robertson, and Méliès. First floor of the Library, near the Grind. Through the display of prints and projections, this presentation compares the artists’ elaborations of phantasmagorical subject matter to develop new visual experiences.

May 2
Artist Talk with Helene Fischman: Art from the Ashes. 2:00 pm. Library E281. Presented by the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies in partnership with UWM Libraries and Special Collections. 

http://bit.ly/1f2z8VM

Dept. of Geography Harold and Florence Mayer Lecture: PreEuropean Amazonian Populations. 2:30 pm. AGS Library. Bill Woods from the University of Kansas presents.

http://www4.uwm.edu/letscl/ geography/colloquium/

Physics Colloquium: Simulating Cosmic Reionization. 3:00 pm. Physics 135. Nick Gnedin from the University of Chicago presents. 

http://bit.ly/1IPYAQR

Anthropology Colloquium: The Production of Galician Space - Confronting the Area Studies Legacy. 3:30 pm. Sabin Hall, Room B28. Co-sponsored by the Departments of Anthropology and Spanish and Portuguese. 

http://bit.ly/1kIX2x0

Biological Sciences Colloquium: Probing Molecular Pathways Driving Central Nervous System Regeneration in Zebrafish. 4:00 pm. Lapham Hall, Room N101. Ishwariya Venkatesh from UWM’s Department of Biological Sciences presents.


May 2 and May 9
Planetarium Show: A night in Greece. 7:00 pm. UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium. Take in the Athens night sky, identify constellations and imagine the Aegean at your feet. Free Greek finger foods will be provided, courtesy of Gyro Palace. $2 admission.

http://bit.ly/1m8skge

May 5
Info Night for Graduate Programs in Nonprofit Management. 6:00 pm. Alumni House. Learn about the master’s and graduate certificate programs. 

http://www4.uwm.edu/milwaukeeidea/hbi/newsandevents/index.html

May 7
Women’s Studies Brown Bag: Framing the Women’s and Gay Liberation Movements in Milwaukee. 12:00 pm. NWQ B 7578. Cheryl Kader from the UWM Women’s Studies and LGBT Studies Programs presents.

May 9

http://bit.ly/1tclU1r

Anthropology Colloquium: Holism in the Community - Assessing an Appleton K-6 nutrition intervention using diverse anthropological tools. 3:30 pm. Sabin Hall, Room B28. Mark Jenike from Lawrence University presents. 

http://bit.ly/1kIX2x0

Alumni accomplishments

Congratulations to these alumni on their distinguished career accomplishments!

In January, Justin Jacobs (MS ’05) was one of 102 scientists and one of six intelligence community science and technology researchers to be awarded the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering, the U.S. government’s highest award for young scientists and engineers.

Derrick Harriell (BA ’03 and PhD ’12) (pictured at right), Assistant Professor of English and African-American Studies at the University of Mississippi, is the recipient of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters 2014 Poetry Award.
The College of Letters & Science is pleased to partner with UWM’s Peck School of the Arts for the spring main-stage production of Urinetown, a dynamic, funny, and thought-provoking musical that tells the story of a town that is forced to privatize toilet usage as a result of a terrible water shortage.

The musical, of course, has lots of ‘potty humor,’ but it also shines lights on contemporary sustainability, water conservation and environmental health issues - many of the same issues that we research in L&S. In fact, posters demonstrating some of our current student work will be on display in the theater lobby during the shows.

Opening night also features a free pre-show talk with UWM’s Chief Sustainability Officer Kate Nelson as she discusses campus-specific initiatives. Kate is an alumnus of L&S’s conservation science program.

**Special Discount offer for Letters & Science – Get $2 off group ticket purchases of 4 tickets or more by using the code URINETOWN_LS when purchasing in-person at the box office or via telephone**

Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday with a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Ticket prices are:  
$17 – general admission  
$15 – for seniors or UWM Faculty/Staff  
$5 – for UWM students when purchased in advance ($8 day-of)

To purchase tickets, call (414) 229-4308 or visit the box office in the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts located at 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.

The mainstage theater is located in the Theater Building located at 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd.
The duration of life in a refugee camp is also a factor in the particular problems of the Burmese and Bhutanese refugees, says Vang.

“The length of time in the camp impacts how they view themselves and the world. Refugee camps can be demeaning environments. They are not free to move back and forth. If you are resettled in a new country after a short period of time, you struggle, but it’s not the same as living in a camp for 10 or 20 years. It’s a different kind of migration experience.”

The authors make a number of recommendations to school administrators and policymakers based on their findings. Vang and Trieu say that intensive educational and social support should be provided to teens to improve the likelihood that they will complete high school.

“At some camps, lessons consisted of rote memorization rather than critical thinking analysis,” the authors wrote in the study. As a result, some immigrant teens don’t know how to learn and struggle to even grasp the English alphabet.

Vang and Trieu suggest that high schools train academic counselors in cultural competence about these refugee populations and step up after-school tutoring. Teens also need programs to ease their transition. They also suggest extending English Second Language Services for adults.

On the positive side, the authors found the Burmese and Bhutanese-Americans are making some strides in higher education. For example, 23 percent of Burmese Americans hold bachelor’s degrees and another 8 percent have advanced degrees.

Vang also finds it hopeful that a number of members of Congress attended the Washington news conference about the report’s findings.
In the media and around the community

Noelle Chesley (Sociology) authored a blog on “Workplace technology use may increase both employees’ distress and productivity” for the London School of Economics and Political Science. [http://bit.ly/1id5Vvr](http://bit.ly/1id5Vvr)


Hiroyuki Miyawaki and Kamran Diba (Psychology) presented “Reorganization of excitability in the hippocampus during REM and non-REM sleep” at the March, 2014, Gordon Research Conference: Sleep Regulation & Function, held in Galveston, Texas.

Christine Larson (Psychology) and Daniel Stout participated in the Anxiety and Depression Association of America conference held in March 2014 in Chicago. They chaired a symposium on “Neurocognitive vulnerability to anxiety: Emotional distraction and anticipation of threat” and they presented “Neural circuitry underlying the intrusion of threat into working memory in anxiety.”

With his co-author, Robert J. Beck (Political Science) delivered the keynote address on their book, International Law and the Use of Force, at Georgetown University’s “Walsh Exchange” research conference on March 29, 2014.

Ray Fleming, Diane Reddy, Ryan Fleming, Heidi Pfeiffer, and Leah Stoiber (all bolded are UWM Psychology) presented “Lessons learned from implementing U-Pace online instruction with high school and college students” at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference in Jacksonville, Florida, in March, 2014. The same group also presented “U-Pace instruction: Replication of greater academic success and greater learning across disciplines and at adopting universities” at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness in Washington, D.C. in March, 2014.

Diane Reddy, Ray Fleming (both Psychology), Laura Pedrick, and Dylan Barth (both other UWM affiliation) conducted a webinar on U-Pace Instruction with Desire2Learn on March 12, 2014. The webinar entitled “Implementing an award-winning, technology-enabled instructional approach in your online program,” attracted participants from more than 70 colleges and universities. Desire2Learn also published a case study on U-Pace instruction, and added to their community website content about U-Pace instruction and links to the free resources for adoption of U-Pace instruction. Following the webinar, U-Pace instruction was highlighted in the Greenville College “Tech for Teaching” blog. [http://bit.ly/1kTAPrF](http://bit.ly/1kTAPrF)

Erin Winkler (Africology) was quoted in a Slate article on “Teaching Tolerance.” [http://slate.me/1hKdwwK](http://slate.me/1hKdwwK) Erin is a scholar of children’s racial identity.

As part of Urban Studies 50th Anniversary, the program co-sponsored and hosted the April 11 taping of the public television show, The 4th St Forum. Host and moderator, Marcus White, Vice President of Community Partnerships at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, is an Urban Studies alumnus. Panelists included Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett; Urban Studies Programs Director and Professor Jasmine Alinder; Tony Shields, Executive Director of United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee; and Linda Keane, Regenerative Architect, Milwaukee’s Studio 1032 and Professor at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Under the theme, “City As Solution: Building the New Urban Agenda,” the group discussed a wide ranging set of issues related to Milwaukee’s urban revival and remaining challenges such as population and economic growth, greening cities, arts, transit, racial disparities and urban poverty, public education, and regionalism among others. [http://bit.ly/1jyaFZk](http://bit.ly/1jyaFZk)

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Craig Berg, Renee Hesselbach, Dan Weber, Henry Tomaszewicz, Dave Petering, and Michael Carvan (all NIEHS Children’s Environmental Health Sciences Core Center) presented “Inquiry-based Modules to Study Effects of Environmental Agents on Health” at the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers (WSST) Annual Conference held in Wausau, Wisconsin, on March 13, 2014.

Jon Anderson (’13, MA, Mass Communication) authored an article on Wisconsin’s open records and open meetings laws for various media outlets including the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. His article was based on his recently completed master’s thesis, “Resolving Public Records Disputes in Wisconsin: The Role of the Attorney General's Office,” in which he investigated how the attorney general deals with requests for assistance from people who have had trouble gaining access to public records. http://bit.ly/1gonnMT. Jon is a reporter for The Lakeland Times in Minocqua.

Wisconsin Eye broadcast a 30-minute interview this morning about Christian Moran’s (’13, MA, Media Studies) Master’s thesis, “Understanding Wisconsin Legislators’ Use of Social Media.” After extensive surveying and interviewing, he found that the strongest predictor of Facebook use was the amount of money a member of the Assembly spent communicating with constituents via U.S. mail. Facebook, in other words, does not replace traditional means of communication. Christian works as a staff researcher for State Representative Jon Richards, who represents Milwaukee in the Assembly. http://bit.ly/1n3geFy


Urban Studies Distinguished Professor Margo Anderson and Alumnus, Dr. Michael Martin, were interviewed on WUWM radio as part of the Urban Studies 50th anniversary. They discussed and reflected on urban change and the importance of urban-focused research and degree programs. http://bit.ly/1j1VFrE

A number of faculty and graduate students from the Department of Communication attended the 2014 Central States Communication Association Conference held in Minneapolis as presenters:

• Karina Willes and Mike Allen with M.C. Burke – “The importance of sexual orientation disclosure to physicians for women who have sex with women”
• Thomas Salek – “Let’s try to have a debate here: The breakdown of talk in Piers Morgan’s January 7, 2013 interview with Alex Jones”
• Erin Sahlstein Parcell, Mike Allen, and Anne Zmyslinski, with T. Emmers-Sommer and S. Nebel Pederson – “Divided families: How distance impacts communication frequency and relational quality” (Named a Top Four Paper!)
• DeAnne Priddis and Kim Omachinski – “The toxic workplace of the newly promoted supervisor”
• DeAnne Priddis – “The balancing act of working moms and dads in today's popular press” and “Work-life balance and the toxic effects of inconsistent messages” and “Family resilience to an alcoholic family member”
• Rachel Davidson – “Mediating motherhood in popular film: Interrogating intersectionalities of race, class, and gender through a transnational lens” and “Mother blaming as hidden violence: Maternal intuition and symbolic failure in We Need To Talk About Kevin”; Rachel also was part of a panel on “Pushing boundaries beyond the communication classroom: Teaching ideas for elevating new scholars through professional development”
• Deborah DeCloedt Pinçon – “Fukushima and the Japanese Public’s Communicative Response to Chronic Crisis: A Preliminary Framework”
• Kiranjeet Dhillon – “Rise Up!: Asmaa Mahfouz's Verbal and Visual Rhetoric Disturbs the State During the 2011 Egyptian Revolution”
• Kristine Nicolini – “Understanding Constructions of Parenthood in Popular Culture”
• Mike Allen, Nancy Burrell, and Emily Cramer – “Impact of ObamaCare: Good communication is profitable and saves lives”
• Katherine Becker with R. Baus, C. Jones, and K. Ksobiech – “Making connections and collaborations in the health communication curriculum”
• L. Benson, Kristine Nicolini, and Nancy Burrell – “The Impact of Technology on College Students’ Difficult Conversations”

Erin Sahlstein Parcell (Communication) co-authored “Why’d you post that?” Family conflict and Facebook which was presented at the annual meeting of the Western States Communication Association held in Anaheim.
Media and community continued from page 12

Erin Sahlstein Parcell (Communication) co-authored “Why’d you post that? Family conflict and Facebook” which was presented at the annual meeting of the Western States Communication Association held in Anaheim.

Rachel Davidson and Alyssa Raiche (both Communication) presented at the Gender Matters Conference held in University Park, Illinois, on “Constituting “feminist” work: Resisting mainstream “feminist” homogenization in Four Women of Egypt and These Girls” and “Melt in Your Mouth: The Untold Story of the Green M&M,” respectively. Kiranjeet Dhillon also presented on “My Headcovering is Downright Sikh: Digital Comic Book Disrupts Dominant Assumption of Sikhs.”

Hayeon Song and Emily Cramer (Communication) (with S. McRoy and R. Owais) presented “Information behavior and technology use of men at risk for prostate cancer” at the Kentucky Conference on Health Communication 2014 Conference held in Lexington. At the same conference, Katherine Becker, Emily Cramer, and DeAnne Priddis presented “Problematic integration and dying wishes: Examining spousal information-seeking about end-of-life care preferences.”

In April, Evelyn Ang (Communication) spoke on “Peacemaking Circles Practices in College Classrooms” at the spring conference of the UW-System’s Office of Professional and Instructional Development.

Desserts continued from page 4

In addition to Alamoodi’s second place prize, the other winners in the individual category were:
1. Beer cookies with Farmer Cheese Filling (Russia), Rebecca Lehr
2. Persian Halva (Iran), Safoora Javadi
3. Rhubarb Tart with Whiskey Cream (Ireland), Shannon Van Roo
4. Swedish Sticky Cake (Sweden), Sarah Gillis
5. Cream Puffs with Coconut Filling (France), Kao Zong Thao and Mynue Her

In the team category, prizes were awarded to:
1. Macarons (France), Patrick Rosinski and Eloise Camax
2. Bavarian Apfel Streuselkuchen (Germany), Rissa CeCot, Paige Erickson, Lizzy Schneider, and Ellie Lang
3. Thai Tea Crepe Cake (Thailand), Suraswadee Moungwong, Yongseok Kim, Luyao Li, and Kristel Avila – The team also won the audience favorite award
4. Lebkuchen (Germany), Alexandra Behr and Ian Gallman

Passing

Retired faculty member Rachel Skalitzky, from the Department of French, Italian and Comparative Literature, passed away on April 1, 2014. She was 78. Rachel was instrumental in the development of Women’s Studies at UWM, serving as its director for many years. She was very active in faculty governance and served as a Faculty Senator, as a member of the University Committee and on many campus committees prior to her retirement in 2003.

Before taking her position at UWM, Rachel taught for four years at St. Boniface in Milwaukee and for one year at St. Anthony High School in Detroit. She did graduate work at Fordham University in New York. For more than 30 years, Rachel also served and ministered to others as “Sister Mary Gertrude Ann” before she began teaching at UWM.

Rachel is survived by her brother, Ernie Skalitzky, nieces and nephews Debbie Kelly and Scott and Marcus Skalitzky and great-nieces and nephews Skyler, Ashley, Jacob and Antonia. Services for Rachel were held April 8, 2014 at St. Monica’s Catholic Church in Whitefish Bay and at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Waterloo.