UWM proclaims ‘Year of the Humanities’

By Kathy Quirk, University Relations

The Year of the Humanities is an opportunity for scholars and students to have a productive discussion about the role of the humanities in college education, says Nigel Rothfels, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and chair of the organizing committee for the Year of the Humanities.

“There was a certain amount of serendipity in the choice of this year,” says Rothfels. “It’s timely because our campus discussion is part of a larger national discussion of the roles traditionally played by the humanities. There has been a great deal of focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) areas in recent years and people are thinking now about what other fields are doing, looking at the status of the humanities and clarifying their role.”

UWM’s core humanities departments include art history, English, communication, languages, comparative literature, women’s studies and philosophy. In addition, faculty in related areas such as history, political science, geography, linguistics and journalism, advertising and media studies also consider their fields related to the humanities.

“Humanities are strong on our campus,” says Rothfels, noting several nationally ranked departments. “We haven’t seen a drop in the number of students taking humanities courses.”

UWM has seen a drop – as have other universities across the country – in the number of humanities majors, however. As Rothfels says ruefully: “It’s potentially worrisome for parents” if a student comes home and announces he wants to be an English major rather than an engineering major.

However, research shows that while graduates in the STEM fields and profession-oriented majors often make more money right after college, the pay gap narrows over time. And several studies in Britain and the United States have shown that leadership in organizations often falls to people with core training in the humanities. Nearly two-thirds of members of the British Parliament and CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, for example, have degrees in humanities, arts and letters.

“We’ll have much to show during the Year of the Humanities about what these fields have to offer to students and to our society at large,” says Rothfels. Critical thinking about issues, the ability to work effectively with others and communication skills are among the valuable results of humanities studies. “There are jobs out there…and good jobs.”

And, just as important in today’s increasingly interconnected world, is the knowledge that humanities fields offer.

“We are very much part of a global society, and our students are recognizing that it’s important to know more about other countries if we expect to have positive bilateral relations with them,” says Rothfels. “We cannot expect to understand other countries without a sense of their language, history and culture.”

Languages, in particular, are growing in popularity among humanities students, with much of the growth in Spanish, Middle Eastern and Asian languages. In these areas and other humanities disciplines, the university works closely with employers and surveys parents and students to make certain the courses being offered are responsive to their needs, according to Rothfels.

The Year of the Humanities at UWM will highlight the value of the humanities, with 20 to 30 such events each semester. Some will be

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*Look for the Year of the Humanities badge designating humanities feature stories!*

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**Short-term vs. Long-term Earnings (2010-11)**

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Making it rain: CES students take sustainable service to Kenya  
By Sarah Mann, College of Letters and Science

It’s hard to see a ripple effect when there’s no water, so UWM students are helping to bring it back.

Four Conservation and Environmental Science majors under the direction of Dr. Mai Phillips, the coordinator the CES program, returned last month from a two-month service-learning project in Kenya that had them up to their elbows in dirt. Jen Blando, Angelica Sanchez, Jenna Williams, and Andrew Mielcarek were taking soil samples, planting trees and educating members of the Kamba tribe and its neighbors on how to create sustainable food sources. The project was sponsored by the UWM Center for International Education Travel Gran and the UWM Office of Undergraduate Research.

The project had its roots in another trip to Kenya 10 years ago. At the time, Phillips was working with USAID to combat the spread of HIV. Though Kenyans infected with the virus had access to the necessary medications, the drugs were ineffective without a diet that provided proper nutrition. Phillips hired a young Kenyan man named Nicholas Syano, and together, the pair developed a garden system that mixed easy-to-grow and nutritious vegetables like corn, beans, and squash in the same plot.

After that problem was tackled, Syano brought another to Phillip's attention. Syano is a member of the Kamba tribe. The group relied heavily on timber, both for firewood and to sell to make money to buy food. Deforestation near their homes grew rapidly. Without trees, it became harder for the ground to hold moisture and to prevent erosion during Kenya's rainy season. The area was prone to flash floods when it did rain.

"In these places, water is a problem. So if you have water, that would solve a lot of problems – clean water for drinking. That means less diseases, and when you have less diseases, you can do a lot more," Phillips said. "(Syano) said that his mom and sisters had to walk further and further away – sometimes 5 miles – to go collect water at a river. It's not really a river, by the way. It's a dried-up riverbed."

By this time, Syano had completed a Master's program at UW-Stevens Point. He had an idea about how to further his studies and help his community: He wanted to grow trees.

"Trees definitely are a way to recover that land and also, once trees are growing, the leaves fall and organic matter and decomposition (occur). Once you have an organic layer built up, there will be more moisture trapped in the soil," Phillips explained. "You have to choose trees that are native or would be able to apply nutrients, like leguminous trees. They capture nitrogen from the air and then they have root nodules that house bacteria that turn that into nitrite and nitrate."

Those are released back into the soil, which provides other plants with the nutrients they need. If the trees are planted in conjunction with the small gardens that Syano and Phillips developed to help the HIV patients, you have what Blando calls "edible forests."

"(Syano's) idea was that you would plant your food crops in with your forest crops and they would work together. When your forest matured … that's when you would harvest and then start the process all over again," Blando said.

Syano started the process in 2006 by planting trees and gardens around his, his mother's and his brother's houses. Today, more than 400 farmers in the region have edible forests. Syano started a nonprofit organization called the Dryland Natural Resource Center to further educate farmers and start tree seedlings that can be bought for three schillings – less than a cent in U.S. dollars. It seems to be working, but there's no scientific data to back it up. That's where Blando and her friends came in.

"We got to go out there and do this baseline data, assisting him with his research and showing that hopefully there's a correlation between soil productivity and the edible food forest, versus the traditional row crop method," Blando said. "We were taking samples and measuring soil moisture and organic matter. We built a mud oven. We had our analytical scale. We weigh our samples beforehand and we would use the mud oven for moisture and the organic matter."

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Drug Money: English professor finds FDA faults

By Sarah Mann, College of Letters and Science

It was 2011. Avastin was a tremendously popular cancer drug prescribed to treat colon, lung, kidney, breast and brain cancers – and studies had just showed that it could be killing patients.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, charged with ensuring that the country’s medications are safe and effective, convened a hearing to decide if Avastin should be pulled from the market. UWM English Assistant Professor Scott Graham was invited by Ohio State University English Professor Christa Testin to investigate and study it with her. As Graham watched the hearing online, he began to have doubts about the people running it.

“Half the people who are evaluating this are paid by the company, so maybe we can figure out if something’s amiss here,” Graham said of his inspiration to start looking into the FDA’s panelists.

Something is definitely amiss, according to his research.

In order for a drug to be approved, it must be tested in clinical trials to gather data about its safety and efficacy. That data is presented to an FDA panel in a hearing, almost like a courtroom trial – “Law and Order: FDA, if you will,” Graham said. The evaluators look at the drug’s side effects and effectiveness and decide whether to allow its release. Patients in clinical trials also give testimony about their experiences with the medication, though the panelists must make their decisions based on the safety and efficacy data alone.

The problem, Graham said, is that most of the FDA’s panelists are, in some way, on the payroll of the same pharmaceutical companies whose drugs they are reviewing.

“The FDA does have these really elaborate conflict of interest policies. For about a year after the Affordable Care Act was passed, they banned all financial conflicts of interests,” Graham said. “But there weren't enough experts in America that didn't have financial conflicts of interest, as Pharma funds most pharmaceutical research. They couldn't staff the panels.”

In order to have enough experts, the FDA relaxed its rules about conflicts of interest. It was already documented that drugs going before panels where the experts had conflicts of interest tended to be more easily approved, but the agency claimed that wasn’t a problem.

“They did a big study and proved that even though you are slightly more likely to have a drug approved if there are more financial conflicts of interest on the committee, in general, people without financial conflicts of interest voted the same way as the people with,” Graham said. “My concern, as a communications scholar and expert in argument, is maybe those people who have conflicts of interests said something in the meeting that persuaded their fellow un-conflicted people to vote a certain way.”

For the past two years, Graham and his research assistants have been poring through transcripts of the hearings conducted by the FDA’s committee to examine cancer drugs and making lists of all of the types of arguments used by presenters in the hearings. Graham worked with UWM Communication Assistant Professor Sang-Yeon Kim to quantify how frequently each type of argument was used and how that compared to how many people on the panel had conflicts of interest.

“The big finding from the pilot study was that an increase in the number of people on the committee with financial conflicts of interest means that they spend less time talking about the side effects of the drug, which is very concerning,” Graham said.

The FDA monitors drugs after they’re released to the market to study the medications’ effects in the general public. Based on feedback from pharmacists and physicians, the FDA can update the prescription drug’s label to include other side effects or even pull the drug from the market entirely. In the Avastin case in 2011, the FDA revised what types of cancers Avastin could be used to treat and what medications it could be used in conjunction with.

Graham found that, on average, among drugs that were issued a new label, a drug approved by a panel where there were little to no financial conflicts of interest for the panelists had an average of one new side effect warning added. In contrast, a drug approved by a panel where the panelists had more conflicts of interest had an average of 1.6 side effect warnings added.

“It’s not a whole lot more, but it is enough to suggest that maybe they weren’t telling the whole side effects story in the original meetings where there were more conflicts of interest,” Graham said.

These results are the work of a pilot study focused only on the FDA’s panels concerning cancer drugs. Graham wants to conduct more in-depth research on the FDA’s cancer committee this year, and he’s applied for funding that will allow him to study the rest of the FDA’s 17 committees on other categories of drugs as well. If his results back his initial findings, Graham hopes that he can instigate some changes in the way the agency is run.
Politics a woman’s game, too
By Sarah Mann, College of Letters & Science

Sit a group of people in a room. Give them a copy of a political stump speech. Tell them the speaker is a man and they’ll likely rank the candidate a strong leader. Tell them the speaker is a woman and they’ll probably say that she cares about her constituents. By a small margin, people will pick the male candidate over the female candidate. Researchers have used these results to question where there’s a gender bias in politics. It does suggest that people expect and value different traits and abilities in men and women.

Except that’s not even remotely how elections work, says Professor Kathy Dolan, chair of UWM’s Political Science Department.

For years, Dolan has been studying how voters and the public evaluate women candidates, and whether or not public attitudes have an impact on women’s ability to get elected. Her book, “When Does Gender Matter? Women Candidates and Gender Stereotypes in American Elections,” was released Aug. 1 and suggests that gender matters less than you’d think.

“There’s a branch of research in political science that shows that when women run for election, they win about as often as do men candidates, and sometimes at higher levels than men, depending on the situation,” Dolan said. “There’s no evidence voters are biased against women.”

That flies in the face of previous experiments like the one above, where researchers assume the difference in reactions to each candidate is due to the candidate’s sex. Dolan did away with the experimentation entirely and instead conducted surveys during the 2010 mid-term Congressional elections. She surveyed about 3,200 people from around the country. Half of the people she interviewed voted in elections where two men were running against each other and the other half were voting in elections that pitted a man against a woman. The elections varied between U.S. Senate, U.S. House and governors’ races.

Dolan initially asked her respondents about their attitudes toward women and politics in general to determine whether or not they held any gender stereotypes. Two months later, she asked them questions about the actual candidates running and whom they would vote for in the election to see if those stereotypes had any bearing on their choice of candidate. It turns out, X and Y chromosomes aren’t nearly as important as political party identity.

“People tend to vote based on political party and on incumbency, experience, and things like that,” Dolan explained. "If I’m a Democrat, I’m going to vote for the Democrat 95 percent of the time. … Attitudes that people can have about women candidates, whether they’re gender-stereotyped or not, are so small a part of the calculation people make about a candidate when they’re choosing for whom they’re going to vote, that even when stereotypes might be present in a voter’s mind, they’re not important enough to really shape someone’s thinking."

This doesn’t mean America has gotten over sexism, Dolan is quick to point out, and it’s more apparent in the media than anywhere else – think about the in-depth analysis of Nancy Pelosi’s pantsuits or the speculation on how being a grandmother might affect Hilary Clinton’s decision to run for President, for example.

“We still actually use the phrase ‘woman candidate.’ We feel like we have to modify the noun, because just calling her a candidate, somehow, that’s not enough,” Dolan said.

That moniker has actually been something of a detriment to Republican women candidates as it concerns primary elections. Many people tend to assign gendered traits to political parties – the thinking goes that Democrats and women stand for education, social safety nets, etc., while Republicans and men bring to mind tough stances on crime and aggressive foreign policy.

“It’s harder for (people) in some ways to evaluate Republican women because they don’t know if they should be using the Republican image or the woman image,” Dolan said. “In the United States, about 65 percent of women who run for office do so as Democrats and so Republican women are kind of the rare species among the rare species of women candidates.”

Those Republican women who are successful these days are the ones who are extremely conservative – Michelle Bachman and Sarah Palin, for instance.

Overall, though, gender doesn’t seem to be a barrier to higher office. The implications are pretty important, especially when considering the makeup of Congress. Women account for only about 20 percent of elected officials at that level of government. The reason, says Dolan, isn’t because of sexism.

“At the end of the day, the biggest explanation for why there are so few women in office is because so few women run,” Dolan said. "Colleagues of mine at another university, Jennifer Lawless and Richard Fox, find that people internalize this conventional wisdom that voters can be biased against women, that gender stereotypes matter and that can affect women’s decisions about becoming candidates.”

Dolan hopes that her research might help women decide to throw their hats in the political arena.
The stereotype is that interns only fetch the coffee, but Psychology major Ciera Lewis was counseling people with mental illness and suicidal thoughts rather than making the Starbucks run.

Lewis, a senior Psychology student, is fresh off a nine-month internship with the COPE Crisis Hotline in Ozaukee County in southeast Wisconsin. Volunteers and interns with COPE Crisis Services provide emotional support, crisis intervention and information and referral services to both Ozaukee County and the greater Milwaukee area. Lewis answered phones and talked with callers about their hopes, fears and problems during her junior year at UWM.

“I was looking for more field experience in Psychology, so I figured that would be a way to get my foot in the door,” Lewis said. “The experience in general was helpful because I don't have any clinical experience, so getting to talk to people who have problems and listening to them, getting a sense of what it would be like to be a therapist or clinician, working with the mentally ill population – that was probably the best part of the internship.”

She was alerted to the internship opportunity by Associate Professor of Psychology Christine Larson. Lewis is a McNair Scholar and has conducted research, served as a student mentor for freshman at UWM and tutored elementary school students, but the COPE internship was the first time that she worked with populations that were mentally ill. She usually manned the phones with other volunteers on weekday nights. After her training in October, she was prepared to talk to people in crisis and call the police for emergency interventions, but the calls were far less dramatic than she anticipated.

“A lot of the people who call are calling because they don't have anyone to talk to, because their mental illness has taken over their life and the people that take care of them … are sick of listening to their story over and over again,” Lewis said. “(Repeat callers) get really upset if you don't know them because they've been calling for so long.”

There was the one woman who called every day just to talk to the volunteers about how her day had gone. There was another woman who liked to call to complain about how hard her life was and rejected each solution volunteers asked about. One man who regularly suffered psychotic episodes called to have a friendly voice in his ear while he waited for his medication to take effect. Another man called after a suicide attempt and volunteers were able to talk with his wife and checked in with him again on the way to the hospital.

Listening to the calls could be a bit draining, Lewis said.

“You have to drop everything at the door and just say, okay, well, I had a tough day but it's my turn to just listen and help other people,” she explained.

There were some bright points too. Lewis recalls talking with one man who was anxious about returning to school as an adult student. She asked him about his plans and how he was feeling about the whole endeavor.

“He was so thankful that I was listening, because all of his family members didn’t want to hear about it. They didn’t want to see him doing good things. He just was very appreciative of it,” Lewis said with a smile.

Though she enjoyed her experience with the COPE Hotline, Lewis will probably not be returning during her senior year – she’s poised to become the first member of her family to earn a Bachelor’s degree and she’s in the process of applying to graduate schools and debating whether she wants to become a clinical psychologist or conduct research in academia.

Even so, she encourages others to try volunteering themselves. All it takes is some patience, compassion and a friendly ear.
Nathan Wallin has the best job in the military. “I don’t say that as a sales pitch or a recruiting slogan. I mean it. I love my job,” he said. “I’ve basically been able to do everyone else’s job, bring my camera along, take pictures, go back to my air-conditioned office, write a story about it, and then go do something different the next day.”

Wallin is a 2010 UWM graduate who majored in Journalism, Advertising and Media Studies. He now serves as an Air Force 1st Lieutenant in the Air National Guard, and he’s a Public Affairs officer – basically doing journalism, advertising and media all in one.

“Public Affairs I like to describe as a multi-headed monster where you have internal information, external information, and community relations. It’s not straight journalism – it’s also public relations,” Wallin said. “I’ve seen presidents. I’ve been on Lambeau Field (to be) honored. I’ve been on Miller Park and at center court of the Bradley Center. The highs are so high...serving overseas, seeing Air Force One pull up to your unit on a sunny summer day.”

For Wallin, it all started with a camera. He always enjoyed photography. He started college at UW-Stevens Point and settled for a print journalism major since there was no photojournalism major available. He kept the major after he transferred to complete his degree at UWM.

“I had such great instructors,” Wallin recalled. “UWM was a great experience, it really was. You meet such great people in Milwaukee. The level of instruction was great.”

“Without sounding too cliché, or to channel Norman Rockwell, I just thought it was something that a guy did at one point in his life: he served his country, he wore the uniform,” Wallin said. “I had a sharp recruiter who saw my journalism experience and knew that I’d be a perfect fit in … Public Affairs.”

The job is fun, of course – Wallin has had the opportunities to visit Bob Uecker in his booth at Miller Park, to travel extensively overseas and to help oversee the Thunderbirds at the Milwaukee Air Show – but it’s not Wallin’s only job. He’ll finish an active duty stint next month and his commitment to the military will drop back to one drill weekend a month. Like many men, he’ll be filling his weekends this fall with football, but Wallin will be actually be working on the field. He was recently hired as a game day photographer for the Cleveland Browns.

“We’re jumping through some pretty significant hoops right now to make it happen,” he admitted. “I’ve been a fan of the Browns. I love their history; I love their uniform. I love the simplicity of it. It still hasn't fully set in that I'm now a member of the team.”

None of it would have been possible without a passion for journalism, he added.

“It’s cheap and easy to take shots at the media, but they work hard,” Wallin said. “There are journalists who have as much passion for their job as people in the military or the clergy or any other noble profession.”
New faces, new faculty

Celeste Campos-Castillo, Assistant Professor of Sociology

**Degree:** PhD from the University of Iowa  
**Previous Position:** Post-doctoral researcher at Dartmouth College  
**Focus:** Primarily I’m interested in understanding patient-doctor interaction. Those few minutes now that you have with your doctor, they have a profound influence on your overall health. I’m interested in understanding, what are some potential inequalities in that interaction, which type of patients are getting better interactions with their doctors over other types of patients, but primarily I’m interested in how we can improve that interaction.  
**Something interesting from your research:** In (a recently published) paper, what my co-author and I found from this national survey of adults in the U.S., is that those individuals who have a provider that uses electronic health records, they’re much more leery in sharing information with their doctors due to privacy and security concerns.  
**Interests outside of academia:** I’m a big sports fan. I’m a baseball fan… I’m an L.A. Dodger fan. Football, I love football. I actually play Fantasy Football. I don’t have a team though, because growing up in L.A., we had no team. But I’ve been looking into the Packers, of course, because you can’t live here without being at least familiar with what’s going on with the Packers. I’m a really good video-game player – Mario Kart. My all-time favorite would be the original Mortal Kombat, the arcade version. I still remember playing that as a teenager and beating all the boys.  
**Favorite thing about Milwaukee:** There’s these hip neighborhoods where you can just sort of walk around, and walk the dog. But overall, what we knew about Milwaukee before coming here was great cheese, great beer, great sausage – I mean, we loved all of that. But we weren’t aware how culturally diverse and aware the city was, so we’ve been going to a lot of the festivals.

Tiffany Kodak, Assistant Professor of Psychology

**Degree:** PhD in School Psychology from Louisiana State University  
**Previous Position:** Professorship at the University of Oregon  
**Focus:** My area of interest, more generally, is behavior analysis, but in terms of my research and expertise, it’s in early intervention. I primarily work with children who have an autism spectrum disorder and who have language deficits or deficits in the area of social interaction, and maybe some repetitive behavior or restricted interests. The goal is to try to teach those children language skills and other social skills, daily living skills, that will help them be successful in life and school.  
**Goals for the Year:** My primary interest is to familiarize myself with the university, develop a clinic and research program here, get to know my colleagues better and hopefully develop some collaborations with other colleagues. I think what’s really nice about the clinical practice being combined with research is that a lot of what we’re trying to learn is how best to teach children, and we are collecting data while we provide clinical services. Then those data become publishable because other people want to know how to provide instruction to those individuals as well.  
**Fun Fact:** I like to foster animals. In every place where we’ve lived, we’ve worked with foster groups – primarily cats. I like participating in trap and release programs. They trap the feral animals, they spay or neuter...
New faces, new faculty
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them and release them to the environment. If they have babies, they’re taken in and – hopefully not feral anymore – they’re placed in homes.

What drew you to UWM: I was interested in the program primarily because a colleague of mine already worked here, and I was familiar with the work he was doing. I thought that clearly he had a lot of support from the university and so I was interested in learning more about the program. They had an opening, and I applied. I thought the faculty were really nice and had a lot of interesting work going on, and I felt this would be a good, collaborative working environment.

Hong Ming Park, Assistant Professor of Political Science
Degree: PhD from Washington University in St. Louis
Previous Position: Professorship at the University of Alabama
Focus: Even though I do not look like an American, I do American politics. Within American Politics, I’m doing Congressional politics. In particular, I’m interested in how political parties and party leaders in Congress pursue their collective partisan interests by using various methods, including rules and procedures or committee assignments. Another research agenda that I have is how the public actually sees those kinds of maneuvers and manipulations, rules and procedures.
Classes: This coming fall, I will be teaching an Introduction to American politics, which is offered to freshmen usually. Another course that I’m teaching in the fall is Congressional Politics. In the spring semester, I will teach a graduate seminar on American Political Institutions.

What insight do you have on American politics? People usually care about substantive policy and those kinds of things. They do not care much about rules and procedures. But what our representatives in Congress are doing to make a rule that actually guarantees a certain policy outcome – people do not recognize that. They always blame the outcome instead of rules and procedures that happened prior to the (outcome).

Fun fact about you: Whenever I start my class, I always say that I do not look like an American and my English does not sound like native English, but I do teach American politics. If you have an objection, then leave the room first, right now, instead of in the middle of the semester. Last year, it actually happened! One student stood up! He was actually making a joke. He came back, so everybody laughed. For me, it’s kind of ironic that non-Americans can actually teach American politics in a more interesting way. It’s always fun to see how non-Americans think about American politics and the American political system. So I find that a lot of students of mine have learned a lot from that kind of perspective.

Peter Schwander, Associate Professor of Physics
Degree: PhD in Physics from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland
Previous Position: Senior Research Scientist and Adjunct Physics Professor at UWM
Focus: My main interest is macromolecular assemblies which have some kind of a biological function. For example, there’s a ribosome, which is a very important molecular machine which generates proteins. I’m interested in finding out how these molecular machines work by finding out what the structure and the viability of the structure is.

What drew you to your field: After my PhD in Zurich, I went to Bell Laboratories in New Jersey. After my post-doc, I went back to Switzerland for about two years, and then I went to Germany to a research institute near Berlin. At that time, I was mainly interested in electron microscopy of materials. So for example, semi conductors, metals, alloys. Then the x-ray free electron laser was realized in the U.S. I got really interested in that project, and I thought that would be a really interesting topic to do. I had the opportunity to come here as a senior scientist. It was a good decision because five years later, we got this Science and Technology Center.

Goals for the Year: For the job, I really hope that we get some grants! That’s kind of important. It’s a real challenge.

Fun Fact: I enjoy Zumba as something fun. I do it here sometimes. It’s a good exercise to keep me in shape. There are a lots of things I do at Klotsche Center. I go there several times a week, if time permits.

Favorite thing about Milwaukee: I like the summer here a lot. I don’t like the winter so much. I don’t come from a warm country, but the winters here are exceptionally hard. I also enjoy the cultural things – especially the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

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New faces, new faculty

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Jocelyn Szczepaniak-Gillece, Asst. Professor of English & Film Studies
Degree: PhD from Northwestern University

Previous Position: Adjunct professor at UWM and the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design

Focus: Most of my research up until now has focused on movie theater architecture, so I primarily study film exhibition, which is the space where the film is shown. I focus on American mid-century modern movie theaters and how they have an impact on how we understand film.

Something interesting from your research: The main argument in this kind of research is that the modern movie theater really started in the late ’20s, and all of these architects who were designing these kind of stripped-down movie theaters were really interested in the experience of film – not just in providing a product, but in how audiences experienced film based on the theater that they’re sitting in. My favorite theater is actually Colonial Williamsburg. It was built in 1957 as a special theater to show one film. But it’s this amazing movie theater that still stands today that is just this paragon of modern, mid-century design. It’s all beautiful perforated aluminum.

Favorite thing about Milwaukee: Is it okay to say that it has the best bars of any city I’ve ever lived in? Just amazing. Like, old-school cocktail bars in Milwaukee are just incredible. Also, in the Alice Radosh Park by Riverwest, there are these steps that are the most amazing bit of architectural design in Milwaukee, and that’s my favorite part of Milwaukee.

Fun Fact: I played classical guitar for 10 years. I wish (I still played). I still have my guitar.

Katie Vater, Assistant Professor of Spanish
Degree: PhD from Penn State

Focus: I work with contemporary narrative from Spain. I wrote my dissertation about novels from 1945 to 2010. That was my chronological span. And I looked at novels that had characters who are visual artists. So I was looking at the role of the visual artist in these contemporary novels.

Classes: I’m going to be teaching the Modern Spanish Survey Course, so literature in Spain from the mid-1900s to the present, and then I’m also teaching a combined Masters-level and undergraduate seminar on Novels of Historical Memory in Contemporary Spain – novels written in the contemporary period that deal with the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939, and the Franco dictatorship, ’39-’75.

Interests outside of Academia: One of my favorite things to do is bake. I really like to make cakes, especially. I like to cook too, but baking is what I like to do most. I also play the piano. I don’t get to do that as much now because right now I don’t have a piano in my house, but eventually I’d like to get an electric one that I can have in the apartment, because that’s something that I really miss.

Your favorite thing about Milwaukee: The thing I like a lot about Milwaukee is that it feels urban. It feels like a city, but it’s a manageable city. It’s close to Chicago. For me, I like it because it’s close to my family. I really love walking around the Third Ward. I’ve always loved that. … Now it’s within walking distance from my house.

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New faces, new faculty  
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Kay Wells, Assistant Professor of Art History  
Degree: PhD from the University of Southern California  
Previous Position: Post-doctoral fellow at Virginia Commonwealth University  
Focus: I’ve worked mostly on decorative art and design and architecture and craft. My work has also been pretty transnational. I’ve looked at, for example, the relationship between Japan and Britain in the late nineteenth century, the relationship between British aesthetic theory and American furniture makers in the eighteenth century. Most recently, my dissertation was about French tapestry and American modernism after World War II.  
What drew you to your field: I was always interested in art, but I would not describe myself as very artistic, personally. I thought about majoring in American Studies, but I really wanted to go abroad, to travel, and I figured out Art History was a better major for that. So that’s more or less why I picked Art History. When I was much younger, I wanted to be a fashion designer, so the first research I did in Art History was on the history of fashion in the 19th century. That was as creative as I ever got.  
Interests outside of academia: Sailing – I like to sail. I do yoga. I like to cook. I’ve heard there are a lot of great markets here.  
Fun fact: I speak German, but only the dialect from my grandmother’s town. It’s very hard to speak German in German-speaking places because their English is so good. I lived in Vienna for a semester and Zurich for a semester, and was only ever able to speak German to the woman at the grocery store. Anyone you have a conversation with will switch to English. The only people I can really speak German with, who will let me speak German to them, are my grandmother’s relatives who still live in this little town in southern Germany, and they speak this local dialect.

Jonathan Wipplinger, Assistant Professor of German  
Degree: PhD from the University of Michigan  
Previous Position: Professorship at North Carolina State University  
Focus: I work on 20th Century German cultural and literary history. I look at cross-cultural encounters between Germany and the United States and focus on the area of music and musicians, in particular, African American musicians touring Germany during the first quarter of the 20th Century.  
What drew you to German: I have a little bit of German heritage. My last name is a German name, and my grandfather actually immigrated from Germany to the United States. When I was in high school, (we) took a couple of weeks to visit Germany. I took it throughout high school and even into college. But really, what motivated me to take my studies of German further was the decision to go live in Germany for three months on my own. I worked at a hotel and did some bartending. I really fell in love with, and learned, I think, for the first time, the language and the people. It was a small village, so no one spoke English. It was very much a trial by fire. That was really the turning point.  
Fun Fact: I collect 78 (speed) shellac records – so this is pre-vinyl, records from the 1920s. I have to do my research. I look at popular music and have American music and jazz in Germany in the 1920s. Unfortunately, a lot of this isn’t available as a CD or an Mp3 or even on vinyl, and the only way to get it is to listen to records produced in the period. So I have a 1920s wind-up gramophone player that I will play some of these records on.  
Favorite thing about Milwaukee: Obviously Summerfest was something I missed this year that I look forward to going to next year. Although I grew up in Milwaukee, I really didn’t get down to the UWM campus all that much, so I’m very much looking forward to exploring the area and East side of Milwaukee.

Alumna Video Profile  
Recent graduate Sarah Morgan majored in Psychology, all while juggling a job and family in addition to school. She took UWM’s online classes to earn her diploma! http://bit.ly/1uXoCuh
Upcoming events

August 27
Planetarium Special Event: Stars & S'mores. 7:30 pm. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Free stargazing with the opportunity to purchase ingredients for two s'mores for just $3.

September 4

September 10


September 12
Ctr. for 21st Century Studies Fellows Presentation and Open House. 3:30 pm and 5:00 pm. Curtin 118 and Curtin 939. [http://bit.ly/1p7h8mf](http://bit.ly/1p7h8mf)

September 12 through October 24
Planetarium Show: The Red Planet. 7:00 pm. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Featuring endeavors of the Mars Exploration Rover program, from the early “Opportunity” rover to the current “Curiosity” and the future “Mars 2020” rovers. $3 admission. Every Friday through October 24. [http://bit.ly/1m8skge](http://bit.ly/1m8skge)

September 18


September 20

September 26


September 26 to 29
Welcome Activities for Students

Whether you are new to UWM or just interested in exploring a new major, join us for one of these fall welcome activities!

**September 3**
**Geographic Information Systems Program.** 3:00 pm. AGS Library. Join us for pizza and learn about our graduate-level certificate - an excellent complement to Urban Planning, Geography and many other programs.

**September 4**
**Department of English.** 2:00 pm. Curtin 368. Mingle and learn about the many different tracks in the English Department from our distinguished professors. Refreshments will be served.

**Department of Foreign Languages and Literature.** 1:00 pm. Curtin Hall, 8th Floor. Mingle with faculty and staff to learn about the many languages offered through FLL including Arabic, Chinese, German, Ancient Greek, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Modern Hebrew, Polish, Russian, Swedish, and Vietnamese. Refreshments will be served.

**Celtic Studies Program.** 3:00 pm. Merrill G42. Mingle and learn about the Certificate in Celtic Studies, our Irish language and Celtic Studies classes, our summer programs, and our academic and community events from our Center’s directors and instructors. Refreshments will be served.

**September 5**
**Chinese Language Program.** 12:00 pm. Curtin Hall (signs will be posted in the lobby for the exact room number). Meet and greet with faculty and students in the Chinese program to learn about the major, minor, and study abroad. Refreshments are provided.

**Translation and Interpreting Studies Department.** 1:00 pm. Curtin 766. Thinking about a career in translation? It’s one of the fastest growing professions in the U.S. Come and learn about our graduate programs in translation so that you can prepare while still an undergraduate. Refreshments will be served.

**Department of Spanish & Portuguese.** 12:00 pm. Curtin 739. Please join us for refreshments and an opportunity to meet faculty and other students in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Learn about our courses, major, minor, and study abroad programs.

**September 9**
**Department of Africology.** 11:30 pm. Mitchell 206. Mingle with Africology faculty and students; explore Africology course offerings and learn about our major and minor. Refreshments will be served.

**Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature.** 3:30 pm. Curtin 766. Learn about UWM’s majors and minors in French, Italian, and Comparative Literature while mingling with faculty, staff, and other students. Refreshments will be served.

**September 10**
**Jewish Studies Program.** 3:30 pm. Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies. Interested in Jewish Studies? Come to the Stahl Center for Jewish Studies to hear more about our major, minor, and classes, and to learn about opportunities and fellowships offered by the Stahl Center. Talk to faculty and students over bagels, cream cheese, and coffee.

**Department of Communication.** 1:00 pm. Student Union, Wisconsin Room. Meet and mingle with the professors and learn about classes, career opportunities, scholarships, and internships. Refreshments will be served.

**September 11**
**Women’s Studies Department.** 2:00 pm. Northwest Quadrant, Building B, Room 7585. Please join us for light refreshments and an opportunity to meet UWM’s wonderful Women’s Studies faculty, staff, and students! Learn about our courses, degree programs, and special events. A showcase of student work will be on display.

**September 17**
**Department of Physics.** 4:00 pm. Physics Building lobby (near the Planetarium). Please join us for a Physics Department tradition – our weekly afternoon tea, cookies and coffee. Meet faculty, graduate students, undergraduates and post-docs to learn about our research opportunities and department activities.
Alumni Accomplishments

Kathy Nusslock (’81, BA Economics) was named Chief Operating Officer of Milwaukee law firm Davis & Kuelthau. Kathy has been a practicing litigation attorney for more than 30 years representing clients in state, federal, and appellate court, as well as alternative dispute resolution proceedings. Her practice includes matters ranging from employment discrimination, employee benefits, breach of contract, noncompete agreements, and trust and estate disputes.

Kimberly Wilmot Voss (’93, BA Mass Communications) won the Carol DeMasters Service to Food Journalism Award in August, presented by the Association of Food Journalists. The award recognizes an individual who has made significant and lasting contributions to the field of food journalism. Wilmot Voss chronicles the lives of prominent food journalists throughout history.

Dominic Brewer (’89, MA Economics) was named Dean of the Steinhardt School at New York University. He will begin his duties Sept. 1. Brewer was previously a Professor in Urban Leadership at the University of Southern California. [http://bit.ly/1q2V0bD](http://bit.ly/1q2V0bD)

Kelly Womer (’89, BA Mass Communication/Print Journalism), was inducted into the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) College of Fellows. The College of Fellows, founded in 1989, is a community of more than 300 senior PRSA members who have advanced the public relations profession and distinguished themselves through their experience and leadership in the industry. Admission is open to public relations practitioners or educators with 20 years’ experience or more, hold the Accredited in Public Relations (APR) credential and have demonstrated exceptional capability and accomplishment in the practice or teaching of public relations. Womer is currently a vice president and partner at Linhart Public Relations, where she specializes in corporate and employee communications. She was a 1995 UWM GOLD Award recipient.

Laurels and Accolades

At the 57th Conference on Great Lakes Research awards banquet held on July 21, 2014, a group of three students and alumni won the Elsevier Student Award for their paper, “Mathematical modeling of bacteria-virus interactions in Lake Michigan incorporating phosphorus content,” published in Volume 39 of the Journal of Great Lakes Research. Audrey Bechette will graduate in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences; Tom Stojsavljevic and Maxx Tessmer both graduated in 2012 with bachelor degrees in Mathematical Sciences. Tom is currently enrolled at UWM in a graduate mathematics program while Maxx is in a PhD program at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The award is given to “emerging scientists with a JGLR article ranked in the top 10, as determined by the IAGLR Chandler-Misener Review Committee” based on evaluation of originality, contribution to the field, and presentation. The students receives a complimentary one-year membership to the International Association for Great Lakes Research and a $750 cash prize. Associate professors Gabriella Pinter (Mathematical Sciences) and Erica Young and John Berges (Biological Sciences) mentored the students and were co-authors on the paper.

Marc Tasman (Journalism, Advertising & Media Studies) was awarded the Mary L. Nohl Suitcase Export Fund for Visual Art Award to support his participation in Intérieur Trouvé, a solo exhibition at Galerie Remise in Saint-Hippolyte, Quebec. This work, from the Laurentian Internationale collection, is a series of documentary photographs that explores a family’s connection, over five generations, to the land.

Dana Schowalter’s (Journalism, Advertising & Media Studies) paper “A Deal With The Devil’: International Governance Organizations, Transnational Corporations, and Investments in Women” is on the Top Paper Panel in the Feminist and Women’s Studies Division at the National Communication Association annual convention in Chicago. She also successfully defended her dissertation, “Philanthropy as Gendered Global Governance: Philanthrocapitalism, Branded Citizenship, and the Selling of Corporate Social Responsibility” for her PhD from the University of Minnesota.

Patricia Cobb (Advising, pre-professional programs) was awarded the 2014 Fr. Joseph Walter Outstanding Health Professions Advisor of the Year award. The award is given by the Central Association of Advisors for the Health Professions, which is the regional chapter of the National Association of Advisors for Health Professionals.
In the media and around the community

Associate Professor and Chair of Africology Erin Winkler gave her expertise in an article for "the Stir" website. She laid out some helpful tips for parents to talk to their children about race and racism. [http://bit.ly/1qJ4Gua](http://bit.ly/1qJ4Gua)

Biological Sciences Professor Reinhold Hutz was invited to present “Environmental Endocrine Disruptors” at the Endocrine Grand Rounds at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The conference “(Re)Mapping Galician Studies in North America” held at UW-Milwaukee in May, 2014, was discussed in the Galacian publications, La Voz de Galicia and Galicia Confidencia. Associate Professor of Spanish Gabriel Rei-Doval chaired the organizing committee for the conference. [http://bit.ly/1vZ3ANr](http://bit.ly/1vZ3ANr) and [http://bit.ly/1m9P4IS](http://bit.ly/1m9P4IS)

In July, Marc Tasman (Journalism, Advertising & Media Studies) installed and showed excerpts from his Dear Family, I Love You photo series at the Back House Gallery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Also in July, he was one of 40 artists exhibiting in Culturejam MKE, a themed show fostering a critique of dominant cultural, economic, and ecological practices, at the Hide House in Milwaukee on Gallery Night and Day.

Associate English Professor Peter Sands leant his expertise to an article on dystopian television shows on the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel’s "Tap" webpage. [http://bit.ly/1v6xlTo](http://bit.ly/1v6xlTo)


Innovative Weather was featured in an OnMilwaukee article about their weather app tailored to the UWM campus and surrounding community. [http://bit.ly/1oia00c](http://bit.ly/1oia00c)

Matt Prigge (PhD candidate in History) was featured in a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article for his unique job - telling tourists the history of Milwaukee on boat tours. [http://bit.ly/1vsYGEq](http://bit.ly/1vsYGEq)


UWM was named one of the Top 50 LGBT-Friendly Universities according to Campus Pride, a nonprofit organization that works to develop resources and support for LGBT+ students around the country. UWM was the only university in Wisconsin to earn the rank. The College of Letters & Science is home to the academic program in LGBT+ studies. [http://bit.ly/1qy1wU1](http://bit.ly/1qy1wU1)

People in Print


Blando and the group were hosted by Syano’s brother and stayed in his home for two months. In addition to recording data from the soil samples, she and the group helped the Kamba install cisterns donated by American charitable organizations so that the Kenyans could collect rainwater from their roofs. They measured growing trees to determine their diameter and how the trees were faring. They held classes to educate children about the water cycle and how soil nutrients work. They set up a weather station to gather data about the region’s climate. Now that she’s back in the United States, Blando is trying to get historical data for that region in Kenya so she can examine any changes to its weather patterns over the years. It’s too soon to tell with hard data if the soil’s nutrient levels are being built up the way that Blando hopes they will be, but there are other signs that the program is succeeding.

“I think it’s working because they’re no longer having to go further and further away for firewood, and they also have clean water now. And there’s more water now because it’s starting to get more moist,” Phillips said. “They said it never rains in June, but it started to rain in June. That means that maybe the rain pattern, the microclimate will change because more and more people are doing this. The valley is greener.”

That had a ripple effect. With water more readily available, people are healthier and have time for other pursuits, like making baskets to sell for additional income. People must pay to send their children to secondary school in Kenya, so the additional money may mean that more families can afford for their children to receive a better education.

“The thing that I really want for students, as much as possible, is to go out and actually do it and work on it and be involved and see how it’s working. A lot of times, there is no one right answer,” Phillips said. “I’m so lucky to have been able to, in my lifetime, have seen this worked. It’s why I’m so optimistic. A lot of times, we think, this global warming, climate change, I’m only one person. … But here, because there’s nobody to help them, they did it on their own with no money. And it worked! We don’t have any excuse here. If they can do it, we can.”

“IT’s really hard, obviously, to make any sort of structural change at federal levels. … If I’m able to get the funding needed to do a really thorough analysis of the whole thing, and it confirms the pilot study data, then I absolutely plan on trying to get that information to the people who can make those decisions: the relevant House and Senate subcommittees that oversee the FDA, file the information in popular press, op-eds, something,” Graham said. “This isn’t going to be changed unless the public’s outraged about it, and I think the public should be outraged about it.”

“This kind of work … that combines the expertise of traditional humanistic inquiry, into language, into argument and things like that, is an important thing for the future of the university and the future of the humanities in particular.” – Scott Graham