KIRC reaches milestone
by Laura Hunt, University Relations

The last beam was placed in the six-story Kenwood Interdisciplinary Research Complex (KIRC) at a public event February 13, 2014.

Dignitaries present on the snowy day included Leonard Parker, emeritus professor of physics, for whom the complex’s Center for Gravitation, Cosmology and Astrophysics will be named; Daniel J. Bader, president and CEO of the Helen Bader Foundation, whose father, Alfred Bader, was a major donor to the project; Milwaukee Alderman Nik Kovac; Jon Jenson from the State Department of Administration; and Richard Schmidt, president of CG Schmidt, the contractor.

When it opens in May of 2015, the 144,000-square-foot KIRC will provide academic and research space for disciplines in science, engineering and mathematics. It will be the new home for the Department of Physics and also house new labs for the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health.

Special construction methods are being implemented to accommodate the building’s unique vibration control which will allow occupants to use hyper-sensitive instrumentation and obtain the most accurate data. The structure also is being built to manage storm water runoff. Nearly all of the runoff from the site will be detained and treated through several underground detention fields and seven bioretention cells.

*Video highlights from the ceremony can be viewed at http://youtu.be/JOk_2-D_YxQ*
The Center for 21st Century Studies (C21) has been selected to participate in a major new grant awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), of which C21 is a member. The $1.35 million grant is awarded for the second phase of Integrating the Humanities across National Boundaries, an initiative designed to foster new forms of collaborative research and partnerships among the organization’s international members via two pilot projects.

C21 is one of four CHCI member centers and institutes that will lead the research through 2017 on one of the pilot projects, Integrative Graduate Humanities Research Education and Training (IGHERT). The project brings together faculty, doctoral students, and post-doctoral scholars in a series of structured collaborations to undertake jointly mentored, international research. The four partners are the Institute for Humanities Research, University of California, Santa Cruz; Center for 21st Century Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture, Justus Liebig University in Giessen; and Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra. Focusing on the interdisciplinary theme of indigeneity, together they will engage graduate students in a series of collaborative training and research activities and will test, refine, and assess a scalable model of skill training and digital archiving that can be applied in multiple contexts and to multiple themes.

IGHERT further aims to attune the participants to the larger public contexts in which expert knowledge in the humanities is meaningful and to equip them with the written and oral skills necessary to communicate with these public constituencies more effectively. C21 will support two doctoral researchers and two faculty mentors to participate in the three-year project. Doctoral students will receive two years of 12-month dissertation fellowship support plus three years of travel expenses to participate in the IGHERT sessions to be held at each of the participating centers. In August 2016, C21 will host a summer workshop for all of the project’s international participants, which will focus on the question of human and nonhuman belonging. The workshop will feature several public presentations which will be open to the UWM and local community.

The second pilot project funded under the grant is the CHCI Medical Humanities Network Program. This project aims to further the development of medical humanities as a subject of study and will focus on the topic of aging. The six partnering humanities centers are the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University; Institute for the Arts and Humanities, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC); Centre for the Humanities and Health, King’s College London (KCL); Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the Witwatersrand (WiSER); Leslie Center for the Humanities, Dartmouth College; and Research Institute for the Humanities, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Two three-year projects (2013–2015) were funded in the first phase of the Integrating the Humanities across National Boundaries program. Humanities for the Environment involves five CHCI-member partners forming collaborative “Observatories”—one each in North America, the Australia-Pacific region, and Europe—to research the role of the humanities in a period of planetary crisis and change. Five CHCI-member partners are also working on Religion, Secularism, and Political Belonging, which focuses on discovering new approaches to religious and cultural criticism and understanding.

Established in 1988, the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes is an international organization headquartered at the John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke University. It is a network for the circulation of information, ideas, and best practices related to the programmatic and organizational
dimensions of humanities centers and institutes. CHCI is currently comprised of more than 180 member and affiliate organizations in 23 countries and 46 US states. CHCI members are engaged in a wide range of programs, including research support, public humanities programs, fellowship programs, and advocacy on issues of educational and cultural policy, digital humanities programs, partnerships with arts organizations, and the development and maintenance of research collections. Many CHCI members are powerful agents of growth, change, and transformative interdisciplinary research on their campuses and within their communities. More information on CHCI can be found at http://chcinetwork.org.

The Center for 21st Century Studies, one of the oldest humanities institutes in the US, leads the way in imagining, defining, and creating the multidisciplinary field of 21st century studies. A UW System Center of Excellence at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, C21 focuses on the intersection of the humanities, arts, and sciences (social and natural) with issues of compelling concern, organizing its research and public programs around themes that change periodically. Each year the Center constitutes a group of six to eight UWM fellows, as well as two or three external fellows, whose research interests relate to the year’s theme. The Center brings nationally and internationally known scholars to campus who address the topic of the year’s research in seminars, lectures, and conferences and contribute to C21’s mission to imagine, define, and create the emergent field of 21st century studies.

Video Stories

Speedskater Nathan Miller is training for the 2018 winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, while attending UWM to earn a degree in Biology. http://youtu.be/ak5WMRunYpQ

When Journalism major Mike Porcaro isn’t playing second base for your Milwaukee Panthers, you can find him on the basketball court riling up the UWM crowd. http://youtu.be/riftN_YOT1A

Psychology major Alexa Wild considers her job at the UWM Bookstore a convenient and fun break between classes. http://youtu.be/Gy-ieDQY1gA
Robert C. Ross, long-time member of the faculty of the College of Letters and Science, died on September 19, 2013, at the age of 75. Bob joined UWM in 1967 and served in the Department of Classics and its successor departments, the Department of Classics and Hebrew Studies and the Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics. Bob retired in 1997 and lived most of his remaining years in Chicago with his wife Nancy. He was in robust health until he was diagnosed with ALS. Bob will long be remembered by his colleagues and students for his sharp intelligence and his devotion to scholarship and the highest academic standards.

Passings

L&S people in print


Katherine S. Salamon (’12, PhD Psychology), W. Hobart Davies (Psychology), Melissa R. Fuentes (’08, BA Psychology), Steven J. Weisman, and Keri R. Hainsworth (’91 and ’94, MS and PhD Psychology), “The Pain Frequency-Severity-Duration (PFSD) scale as a measure of pain: Preliminary validation in a pediatric chronic pain sample,” *Pain Research & Treatment*, Article ID 653592, January 2014. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2014/653592](http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2014/653592)


James M. Otis (graduate student, Psychology), Michael K. Fitzgerald (graduate student, Psychology), and Devin Mueller (Psychology), “Inhibition of hippocampal β-adrenergic receptors impairs retrieval but not reconsolidation of cocaine-associated memory and prevents subsequent reinstatement,” *Neuropsychopharmacology*, Vol. 39, pp. 303-310, January 2014. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/npp.2013.187](http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/npp.2013.187)


Upcoming events

January 17 through March 7

**Planetarium Show: Colorful Nebula.** 7:00 pm Fridays. UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium. Marvel at the beauty of space through celestial clouds such as the Eagle, Horsehead and Cat's Eye, and learn how nebulae are connected to the age of stars. $2 admission. [http://bit.ly/WJ7tUO](http://bit.ly/WJ7tUO)

February 26


February 27


February 28


**Psychology Colloquium: Behavioral Economics in the Clinic: Demand Elasticity, Substitutable Commodities, and the Treatment of Behavior Problem.** 3:00 pm. Lubar S185. Presented by Iser DeLeon, Kennedy Krieger Institute.

**Biological Sciences Colloquium: Maternal Effects Contribute to Adaptive Evolution.** 4:00 pm. Lapham N101. Presented by Laura Gallaway, Department of Biology, University of Virginia. [http://bit.ly/1iWq5ZN](http://bit.ly/1iWq5ZN)

**Science Bag: Scientists Who Turned the World Upside Down.** 8:00 pm. Physics 137. See how the work of five scientists impacts today's world. [http://bit.ly/1h7IZej](http://bit.ly/1h7IZej)

March 4


March 5


March 6

**Women's Studies 40th Anniversary event: Undergraduate Poster Exhibition.** 2:30 pm. NWQ 7585. Students enrolled in “Introduction to Women's Studies” have documented the past 40 years of feminist activism and scholarship at UWM and in the greater Milwaukee area. [http://bit.ly/1kHxAxX](http://bit.ly/1kHxAxX)

March 7

Mathematical Sciences Colloquium: Variance reduction for assessing solution quality in stochastic programming. 2:00 pm. EMS E495. Dr. Rebecca Stockbridge, Wayne State University, will present a computational study of variance reduction methods applied to optimality gap estimators in stochastic programming. http://bit.ly/1jWt1oV

AGS Library Academic Adventurers Lecture Series: Life After Earth’s Largest Mass Extinction. 3:00 pm. AGS Library. Presented by Margaret Fraiser, Geosciences, UWM. http://www4.uwm.edu/libraries/AGSL/even.cfm#AASeries


Women's Studies 40th Anniversary Feminist Lecture. 4:00 pm. Greene Hall. Distinguished UWM alumna and author of “Not My Mother’s Sister: Generational Conflict and Third-Wave Feminism,” Astrid Henry, is the keynote speaker. http://bit.ly/1kHxAXr

Biological Sciences Colloquium: Microbial Biodiversity and Biogeography of the Great Lakes. 4:00 pm. Lapham N101. Presented by Maureen Coleman, University of Chicago. http://bit.ly/1iWq5ZN

March 7 through 28
Science Bag: The Path of Least Time and Other Optimal Paths. 8:00 pm Fridays. (Also, 2:00 pm on Sunday, March 16) Physics Building, Room 137. Dilano Saldin, Department of Physics, explores optimal paths in nature. For example, a ray of light passing through dissimilar media follows the path of least time. http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/sciencebag/

March 13
United We Read: A reading series. 7:00 pm. Woodland Pattern Book Shop. Readers include creative writing graduate students and faculty Kara van de Graaf, David Bowen, Soham Patel, and Lane Hall.

March 14
Geography Colloquium: Beyond the Chicago School-Urban Geography’s Revisionist Past. 2:30 pm. AGS Library. Audrey Kobayaski, Queen's University, will present the 2014 Harold and Florence Mayer Lecture. http://bit.ly/1iWkjr4


March 28


Biological Sciences Colloquium: Regulatory Effect of Plant Phenolic Compounds on the T3SS of a Plant Pathogen. 4:00 pm. Lapham N101. Presented by Devanshi Khokhani, UWM. http://bit.ly/1iWq5ZN

March 30
Short Lives and Forgotten Deaths: Infant Skeletons from the ‘Baby Well’ in the Athenian Agora. 3:00 pm. Sabin G90. Maria Liston, University of Waterloo, provides insight into the high infant mortality rates that plagued this ancient city. Co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America-Milwaukee Society and the Departments of Foreign Languages and Literature-Classics, Anthropology, and Art History. http://bit.ly/1jFrUgv
Alumni accomplishments

Congratulations are in order for these Letters & Science alumni who are making news in their professions:

Beth J. Kushner (Political Science), a partner at the law firm von Briesen & Roper, s.c., has been nominated to fill an open federal judge’s seat in the Eastern District of Wisconsin. U.S. Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin made their recommendations to the White House as part of their role on the bipartisan Federal Nominating Commission. Kushner has 30 years of experience in complex business and commercial litigation, including product liability, fraud, racketeering, antitrust and class action suits. Prior to joining von Briesen & Roper, she was assistant general counsel for the Rexnord Corporation.

Dennis Kois (Committee Interdisciplinary Major in museum design) has been named the new president and CEO of the Milwaukee Public Museum effective May 1, 2014. Kois brings a wealth of museum experience back to Milwaukee. He is currently the executive director at the prestigious deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum in Boston and has also worked at the Grace Museum in Abilene, Texas; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and the Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, which together represent the United States’ national museums of Asian art.

City of Milwaukee Alderman Michael Murphy (Geosciences) was elected the president of the Milwaukee Common Council on February 11, 2014. He represents the City’s 10th aldermanic district and is the longest-serving member of the Common Council. He is chairman of the Finance and Personnel Commission and has extensive experience working on matters related to the City’s budget, human resources systems, and pension system.

Devin Mueller (Psychology) presented “Enhancing extinction and inhibiting retrieval of cocaine-associated memories” at the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology/Department of Biological Sciences Seminar Series held at Indiana University School of Medicine and the University of Notre Dame.

Katie Mosack (Psychology) and Psychology graduate students Morgan Hodge and Ashley Billig presented “Using Facebook to illustrate observational research methods in an on-line Research Methods course: Lessons from cyberspace” at the annual meeting of the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology.

Patrice Petro (English, Film Studies and Global Studies) was invited to present “Film Theory After 1989” at the University of Pennsylvania, English Department and Cinema Studies, and “Austerity and Excess in Contemporary Media” at the Centre Parisien d’Etudes Critiques Council International Study Programs, France.

Elena Gorfinkel (Art History and Film Studies) delivered a keynote lecture, “Watching ‘An Audience of Voyeurs,'” at the Sex Media Reception: New Approaches Conference at the University of Michigan and also will speak at UWM’s INOVA on February 27th in conjunction with the current Enacting Acting exhibition, “Unacting: Notes on the Performing Body in Moving Image History.”

Kim Omachinski (Communication) presented “Breaking down cultural barriers: Engaging international students on your college campus” at the Student Personnel Young Professionals Learning Network Conference held in Milwaukee.

In the media and around the community

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