Africology professor finds black coaches likelier to be punted
By Sarah Mann, College of Letters & Science

Draft day is looming, when hundreds of college football players around the country will vie for coveted spots on the nation’s 32 professional football teams. Around 50 percent of all college athletes are African American, but take a good look at the head coaches of their teams. Less than 15 percent of Division I coaches are black.

And, says UWM Africology professor Nolan Kopkin, those few coaches are facing discrimination from athletic directors and college presidents when it comes to keeping their jobs.

Kopkin recently published a study in the Review of Black Political Economy detailing his research into the firings of black college football coaches versus their white counterparts. On average, he said, black coaches are fired one to two years sooner than white coaches given similar job performances.

“If we look at the fraction of involuntary releases among blacks and whites, you can see … by around year four (of their tenure), more than 60 percent of black head coaches have been fired, whereas by year four, less than 40 percent of all white coaches have been fired. By year five, over 80 percent of all black head coaches have been fired, but even as late as year eight, less than 80 percent of white coaches have been fired,” Kopkin said. “It seems as though white head coaches are allowed a number of years extra to show how good they actually are, whereas black head coaches aren’t really given the same opportunity.”

Black coaches also tend to start at more of a disadvantage, he added, because they are likelier to be hired at schools that have already struggling football programs.

“The historical performance of these universities has tended to be a lot worse. For this reason, it’s difficult to compare the performance of black and white head coaches because the colleges that black head coaches are taking over in the first place already tend to be those that will win less and perform worse,” Kopkin said. “But even holding this constant, we can show that black head coaches tend to be fired much more often and not given the same length of time to produce results.”

To conduct his research, Kopkin compiled stats about Division I college football performances, going back nearly 20 years. He determined the race of each head coach and looked at their job performance. One of the toughest parts of researching was determining whether or not a coach had actually been fired. Often, media reports couched the coaches’ departures in flattering terms, so Nolan had to determine whether the coach left of his own accord or was forced out.

And, Kopkin added, it usually takes around three to four years for head coaches to rebuild an ailing team by recruiting new players or working to change an athletic program’s culture. White coaches are usually given more time to do so compared to black coaches, Kopkin said.
From Laos to UWM to honors

By Carolyn Washburne, University Relations

Chia Youyee Vang, Associate Professor of History, is among the first 50 women chosen for the new Wisconsin Women Making History website (womeninwisconsin.org). The site will eventually feature more than 200 profiles – largely untold histories of women whose leadership and public participation have contributed to Wisconsin.


She talks about her academic interests, advocacy for Hmong cultural preservation and education, and her experiences in a diaspora community.

How did your experience as a refugee lead to your academic interests?

My family lived in Laos where there were no schools for kids like me. I attended school briefly in a Thai refugee camp, but my formal education didn’t begin until age 9 in the U.S. Technically I was in third grade, but I had a lot of catching up to do. I love reading and learning, so by middle school I started to feel that I was at my peers’ level.

I grew up in St. Paul where there were many Hmong people so I was fairly familiar with Hmong history and culture. When you’re young, you want to understand things different from you. In college, I was more interested in European history and international relations. But in graduate school I became more interested in the experiences of displaced communities. Most of my research has focused on refugee resettlement, primarily in Western countries following the Vietnam War (or, in Vietnam and Laos, the “American War”). There is still so much to be written about, especially from the perspective of Hmong people. I want to contribute to a better understanding of Hmong history and contemporary life.

How difficult is it to research about diaspora communities?

Today, Hmong people are dispersed around the world. The Internet and our ability to travel internationally allow us to interact with people in other locations and in the homelands. In the Hmong case, ethnic identity is very important regardless of where we end up. Ethnic ties facilitate my research. People do not treat me as an outsider even if I’m meeting them for the first time.

Why is your work as an advocate for women of color at UWM important?

We all need to have people we identify with. I grew up with other Hmong people, so I didn’t have an identity crisis or crisis about my place in America. However, there were not a lot of people who looked like me in different professions. Fortunately, I had a lot of mentors – teachers, counselors, coaches – who believed in me. Especially for women students of color, I want to inspire them to achieve their dreams.

Who enrolls in your courses, and what do they learn?

Since I came to UWM in 2006, I have taught courses on Hmong history, the
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder has become a hot topic ever since many veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars reported having PTSD symptoms after they returned from deployment. UWM Psychology Professor Shawn Cahill says that there is another population at risk for PTSD, however: current and former prison inmates.

Cahill and his graduate students, Tim Geier and RaeAnn Anderson, recently published their research into the relationship between PTSD and incarceration in the journal, *Criminal Behavior and Mental Health*. They found that people who had been incarcerated were nearly twice as likely to report PTSD at some point in their life than those who had never been to prison.

“Even after taking into consideration the types of trauma experienced, that relationship still stands. If they’ve experienced car accidents, a sexual assault, a physical assault, having that experience of incarceration despite all of those other ones makes it more likely that you’ll have PTSD in your lifetime,” Geier said. “It’s not a causal relationship. We’re adjusting for some really important variables, like the number of traumas you’ve experienced in your life. That relationship still holds.”

Cahill, Geier and Anderson arrived at that conclusion after studying a series of surveys collectively called the National Survey of American Life. Participants around the country answered formal questions about various mental health issues, including PTSD.

“For the African American sample, they specifically added questions about incarceration. We didn’t have access to incarceration questions for other groups, unfortunately. Then they asked them about lifetime prevalence of various mental illnesses, and then past-year (occurrences),” Cahill explained. “Of those who had a history of incarceration, about 13 percent had PTSD compared to just under 8 percent of those without a history of incarceration.”

PTSD can develop after a person is exposed to a traumatic event involving a threat to their life. Sometimes people can develop the disorder after witnessing such an event or learning about it – like learning of a close friend or family member’s suicide. Symptoms fall into three main categories, including intrusive thoughts like nightmares or flashbacks to the traumatic event; avoidance and numbing symptoms like avoiding reminders that would trigger thoughts about the event or experiencing emotional numbness in inappropriate settings; and feelings of hyper-awareness, increased vigilance, and excess anger or irritability. Despite its prevalence among incarcerated individuals, Cahill warns that the data is incomplete: The surveys don’t tell when an incarcerated individual developed PTSD.

“None of these people are currently incarcerated. Everything that we have is looking back, and we don’t have information about where the symptoms were relative to the incarceration. Did they start before the incarceration, during or after?” Cahill said. “It could be that PTSD pre-existed in incarcerated (individuals) and that might be a risk-factor for incarceration. It could be that they were assaulted while incarcerated and developed PTSD because of it, or it could be after release.”

Over the last 30 years, there has been a lot of progress in developing treatments for PTSD, including drugs and psychotherapy. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) in particular has shown to be a successful method for treating the disorder, and the VA system and U.S. Department of Defense have increased efforts to provide veterans with access to therapists trained in CBT. Unfortunately, said Cahill, it’s harder for civilians to find therapists with that training.

All of this has implications for Milwaukee.

“The main one that we pulled out from this is that most people who are going to be incarcerated are going to be leaving, and many of them will be going into prison with PTSD. We know that having PTSD is associated with all kinds of problems – increased risk for violence, increased risk for suicide, underemployment, unemployment, health problems, substance abuse,” Cahill said. “It does hit home, given that Milwaukee in particular has extremely high rates of incarceration amongst African American young men. … If we could actually do this kind of study in Milwaukee, we’d probably find very elevated rates of PTSD.”
Fresh at 40: *cream city review* celebrates

*By Sarah Mann, College of Letters & Science*

UWM’s literary journal, *cream city review*, is as fresh as ever on its 40th birthday and is gearing up for another 40 years.

*cream city review* publishes works of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, visual art, reviews and interviews. The journal is affiliated with the UWM English Department and is run by a staff of graduate students, faculty advisors and undergraduate interns. As the 2014-2015 school year winds down, the editors of the *cream city review* are preparing to celebrate the journal’s 40th birthday in the 2015-16 school year. Plans are already in the works for two events scheduled for the fall in honor of the milestone.

“One is a professionalization event. We’re going to bring in former staffers, such as former Editor-in-Chief Phong Nguyen, and talk to them about how they transitioned from an academic setting to either a professional academic setting or a different professional setting,” said Michael Larson, a graduate student who serves as the development manager for the publication.

“Then we’re having another event where we bring in well-known authors and previous contributors … to do a reading. It’s an event we usually do once every semester called ‘cream city LIVE!’”

“We got a community and university partnership grant to partner with Project Return to run creative writing workshops with incarcerated folks or formerly incarcerated folks, and that’s going to be the theme of our folio in the fall. Incarceration is a huge issue in Milwaukee,” added Editor-in-Chief Ching-In Chen. “One of the readers that we’re bringing to campus, Randall Horton, was formerly incarcerated and is now a published writer, editor, and professor of creative writing.”

The journal has a colorful history of theme issues and distinguished readers. It was founded in 1975 by Mary Zane Allen, who worked with the UWM student union to found both the magazine and a reading series. Later, the magazine became part of the English Department. Over the next 40 years, *cream city review* featured works by authors who have since become household names. Ursula Le Guin and Audre Lorde were both published in its pages, as were Charles Bukowski and Aimee Bender.

The *cream city review* staff have also organized conferences and workshops over the years, making Milwaukee a destination for writers honing their craft. The group works closely with organizations in the local community, like the Milwaukee Native American Literary Cooperative and the Milwaukee Artist Resource Network. Most recently, the staff organized a panel at the Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference in Minneapolis, which celebrated the publication of a folio focusing on indigenous writers, presenting to a national audience alongside authors from the latest issue, including UWM professor and current Wisconsin Poet Laureate Kimberly Blaeser; b: william bearhart; Laura Tohe; and UWM professor Margaret Noodin.

The face of the journal has changed since its founding, too. “It used to be all print,” said Larson. “People would send in their submissions in print and we would send them rejection letters or acceptance letters in print. Recently, one of our big projects has been moving all of those processes online. We have a nice-looking website now. Like many of our fellow Letters & Science programs, we also accept donations online.”

Despite moving much of the journal’s operations to the Internet, the editors have maintained a strong print presence and will continue to do so as *cream city review* looks ahead to its next 40 years. “It’s hard to say what the future holds, since the student staff sees a lot of turnover when people graduate,” said Larson.

“We just hope that they’ll be able to keep finding young people who mature into really wonderful writers, and also keep in contact with established writers,” he said.

*Continued on page 10*
The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded the North American Nanohertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves (NANOGrav) $14.5 million over 5 years to create and operate a Physics Frontiers Center (PFC) co-directed by UWM Associate Physics Professor Xavier Siemens.

The NANOGrav PFC will address a transformational challenge in astrophysics: the detection of low-frequency gravitational waves.

Gravitational waves are ripples in the fabric of space-time, which theories predict should arise from energetic and large-scale cosmic events, like orbiting pairs of massive black holes at the centers of merging galaxies, phase transitions in the early universe, or as relics from cosmic inflation, the period just after the Big Bang when all of the observable universe that expanded rapidly from a minuscule volume in a tiny fraction of a second.

In Einstein’s theory of gravity, these events produce waves that distort the fabric of the cosmos as they emanate throughout space. The waves are significantly larger than our solar system, so we cannot build a detector large enough to observe them.

Fortunately, the universe has created its own detection tool: millisecond pulsars, the rapidly spinning, super-dense remains of stars that have exploded as supernovas. These ultra-stable stars are nature’s most precise celestial clocks, appearing to “tick” every time their beamed emissions sweep past the Earth.

Siemens is the Principal Investigator for the project and will serve as center director. Maura McLaughlin, an astronomer at West Virginia University, will serve as co-director. NSF currently supports nine other PFCs, which range in research areas from theoretical biological physics and the physics of living cells to quantum information and nuclear astrophysics.

“NANOGrav is now poised to detect low-frequency gravitational waves,” said Siemens. “This Center will ensure that researchers have the resources necessary to explore one of the most exciting frontiers in all of physics and astronomy.”

“This is a really exciting time to work on the search for gravitational waves,” said David Kaplan, UWM associate professor of Physics and a grant participant. “We are optimistic that gravitational waves will be detected by 2020, which would be the culmination of decades of work by astronomers.”
Birds’ plumage related to survival, not just sex
By Laura Otto, University Relations

In the world of bird fashion, the guys seem to have all the fun: brighter feathers, sharper accessories, more pizzazz. Researchers going back to Charles Darwin have focused on the contrast between the sexes, attributing the males’ brighter colors to their need to attract mates. A group of researchers at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee took a different approach, testing a hypothesis that evolution has actually resulted in similarities among the sexes as much as differences.

Looking at nearly 1,000 species of birds, they found that while males often have brighter feathers than females, the two sexes have come closer together in color over time to blend into their surroundings and hide from predators. Natural selection – during migration, breeding in subtropical locales and care of young – is as powerful as sexual selection.

“Although most studies of bird plumage focus on dichromatism, evolutionary change has most often led to similar, rather than different, plumage in males and females,” the authors write.

Peter Dunn and Linda Whittingham, professors of biology, wrote the paper with Jessica Armenta, a former biology graduate student who now teaches at Austin Community College in Texas.

“Our study shows that ecology and behavior are driving the color of both sexes, and it is not due to sexual selection,” they write.

The paper, “Natural and sexual selection act on different axes of variation in avian plumage color,” is being published in Science Advances. Armenta spent four years collecting data from 977 species of birds from six museums in the U.S. and Australia. She looked at six birds of each species, three males and three females. Dunn and Whittingham analyzed the data, assigning each bird a score based on brightness and hue. They examined plumage color in relation to 10 measures of natural and sexual selection.

“Researchers have called for separate analyses of each sex for over a decade, but this is the first large-scale study to examine the color of each sex in relation to indices of both natural and sexual selection,” they write.

When the sexes became more similar in color, they did so for reasons of natural selection. When the color gap increased, it had more to do with sexual selection, they found. Dunn hopes the findings will send future research in new directions.

“A lot of research has focused on how plumage color is related to mating success, especially in males,” he says, “so this should hopefully get researchers to think more about how color affects survival, especially predation and foraging success, in both sexes.”

Within the larger findings is another surprise: male birds with multiple mates actually tend to be duller in color than females. Male red-winged blackbirds, for example, can have up to a dozen mates but are less colorful than their consorts.

“The reason for this is that males in these species often have a lot of black plumage,” Dunn says.
Upcoming Events

Through May 7
Art History Exhibition: Global Matters - Rauschenberg Prints of the 1970s. Mitchell 154. The UWM Art Gallery is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

April 30 - May 2

April 30

May 1
Neuroscience Seminar: Dual cortical processing streams in audition - work from monkeys and humans. 2 p.m. Lubar S185. Josef Rauschecker, Georgetown University. http://bit.ly/1aPKMa5

Communication Colloquium: State of the Marital Union. 3 p.m. Merrill 131. Leslie Harris, UWM. http://bit.ly/1EGDZHE

Anthropology Colloquium - Ribbons of Memory: From Diversity to Resilience. 3 p.m. Sabin G90. Virginia Nazarea, University of Georgia. http://bit.ly/1bqKs2M

Planetarium show: Spring Stars and their Myths. 7 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Learn about spring constellations and their accompanying myths. Tickets are $3. http://bit.ly/1FHhGqM

May 3-5
Grammars of Coherence and Difference: Jewish Studies through the Lens of Gender Studies. Zilber School of Public Health. The conference considers how Gender Studies can help conceive of Jewish difference. Keynote address by Sander Gilman of Emory University is at 4:30 p.m. May 3. Attend for one day for $50 or the whole conference for $100. http://bit.ly/1aPMA2N

May 8
Geography Capstone - Undergraduate Symposium. 9 a.m. AGS Library. Geography majors will present their capstone research.

May 12

May 18
Jewish Studies Yidish kave sho. 11 a.m. Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies. Join Shay Pilnik (Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center) and Joel Berkowitz (UWM) for shmoozing in Yiddish over coffee. http://bit.ly/1t2ym0H

Alumni Accomplishments

Matt Cook (MA, English) was named Milwaukee’s next Poet Laureate. He will serve a two-year term ending in 2017. http://bit.ly/1DK5qmm
On April 10 and 11, UWM hosted the Wisconsin Science Olympiad state competition, welcoming nearly 1,000 high schoolers who competed and won at regional tournaments.

In addition to competition, students enjoyed a presentation by Lee Marek (pictured right), most famous for his appearances on The Late Show with David Letterman. The Olympiad Opening Ceremony included a live performance by Unclear on the Concept, a local band made up of alumni and faculty from the Atmospheric Sciences program and Physics Department.

In between presenting their science projects, students toured the UWM greenhouses, watched demonstrations and guest lectures, enjoyed planetarium shows and many other events and tours. UWM supplied more than 100 volunteers to make the event possible.

The 2015 Wisconsin Science Olympiad was presented by Northwestern Mutual. In addition to UWM as the host, sponsors included the Army ROTC, SC Johnson and Graef.

On April 3rd, the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry hosted its annual Research Symposium and Awards Day, organized by the Department’s Graduate Student Council.

The event featured three poster sessions, including sections for graduate students, undergraduates, and high school students. This year’s high school participants came from Brookfield Central, Brown Deer, and Brookfield Academy High Schools. The keynote address was given by Tracy Hamilton from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He fascinated the audience with his presentation on the “Chemistry of Coffee.”
Laurels and Accolades

Amanda Seligman (History) was named as an editor to the University of Chicago’s prestigious Historical Studies of Urban America (HSUA) series following the retirement of the series’ executive director Jim Grossman. The HSUA is among the best publications in the field of history.

Students in the Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies department cleaned up at the Society of Professional Journalists’ Mark of Excellence Region 6 awards. Madeline Power-Luetscher, Sean Cornell, and Ryan Artmann placed first for best online college news reporting and their entry will advance to the national-level competition. In addition, Media Milwaukee, a student-run publication under JAMS, was named as a regional finalist for best college news site overall. Additionally, two audio stories from the JAMS 204 class and two video stories from the JAMS 320 class were named regional finalists.

Through a competitive selection process, Caleb Grunzke (Atmospheric Sciences) was selected to lead an observation collection team during the upcoming National Science Foundation-funded Plains Elevated Convection at Night (PECAN; http://bit.ly/1HhakuY) field program. He will spend six weeks in the field between late May and mid July with primary responsibility for launching radiosondes in support of program objectives.

Bryan Burlingame and Caleb Grunzke (Atmospheric Sciences) were awarded full financial support to attend the Frontiers in Ensemble Data Assimilation for Geoscience Applications (http://bit.ly/1OcgnoQ) tutorial and workshop hosted by the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo. in early August.

Anna Mansson McGinty, Kristin Sziarto (both Geography), and Caroline Seymour-Jorn (French, Italian, and Comparative Literature) have received the 2015 Morris Fromkin Memorial Award for their Muslim Milwaukee Project, a collaboration with Muslim community leaders in Milwaukee. As part of the award they will deliver the Morris Fromkin Memorial Lecture in the fall of 2015.

PhD student Lauren Simmons (Biological Sciences) has received the Hannah T. Croasdale Fellowship from the Phycological Society of America to attend an algal culturing workshop at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences later this spring.

Master’s student Alexandra Frankel (Anthropology) has been awarded an Arit Summer Fellowship for Intensive Advanced Turkish Language Study at Boğaziçi University located in Istanbul. Awarded by the American Research Institute in Turkey (hosted at University of Pennsylvania), this fellowship will enable Ali not only to continue improving her Turkish, but also to spend some of her time on her ethnographic research project studying gendered political subjectivities and women’s bridal rituals. She was chosen from an international applicants pool as one of only seventeen winners.

Coach discrimination

continued from page 1

Not only is this practice discriminatory, but it could have an impact on young football players’ outlooks, especially since many of them are black.

“Most college players do not end up becoming professional athletes. The vast majority do not make it to the NFL. A lot of them could potentially go into coaching because they know a lot about football,” Kopkin said. “The fact that most teams don’t have black head coaches might make them feel as though coaching isn’t necessarily a profession they can be successful in.”

Is there a fix? Possibly, says Kopkin. He points to the NFL’s “Rooney Rule” as a source of hope. The Rooney Rule, instituted in 2002 after the NFL confronted its own racial biases in hiring and firings of head coaches, mandates that every football team, when interviewing candidates for high-level coaching positions, interview at least one minority candidate. Since the rule has been instituted, the overall percentage of black coaches in the NFL jumped from 6 to 22 percent.

Kopkin’s not sure if something similar could work at the college level, but “it seems a step in the right direction, at least,” he said. It might not take care of the biased firings, but it could increase the percentage of black head football coaches to better represent the demographics of the players.
Vietnam War, and Asian-American history. I have also led short-term study abroad programs to Southeast Asia where American students learn about the history and cultures in the region. In 2009, I established a certificate program in Hmong diaspora studies (about 600 Hmong-American students are on campus). My course on the Vietnam War had enrolled up to 200 per semester from all majors. Because of my life experiences, some students assume that I will have an anti-war bias, but the course simply presents different perspectives on the political, social and cultural history of the war and its lasting impact on people in the U.S. and in Southeast Asia. In my Hmong history course, two-thirds of the students are Hmong, which means that the other one-third is in the minority, probably for the first time in a classroom. It challenges them to rethink their position in society.

How does it feel to be one of the first chosen for the new website?
Honored and humbled, but also conflicted. I know so many distinguished women who deserve to be on that list.

What else should readers know about you?
I’m the first person in my sub-clan, the Vang clan, from my village to earn a PhD. When I graduated in 2006 from the University of Minnesota, my family held a special celebration that was attended by more than 300 people, including 40 from as far as California. They were so proud. For my community, this was very important. I’m one of only a handful of tenured Hmong-American professors in the country.

The editors also hope to increase alumni engagement with the newsletter and to strengthen the newly-made development team, which is responsible for raising money to print issues, since the journal’s budget, like many projects supported by grants, has slimmed over the years.

"Supporting cream city review whatever the future holds is vital," said Managing Editor Loretta McCormick.

“This is a working lab,” she said. “I think it’s really necessary and important that a university that offers a PhD in Creative Writing has a successful, vibrant lit journal. It’s necessary for the work we do and for networking and professionalization."

"Former editors have gone on to edit other well-known journals, and we train undergraduates as well through the production and selection processes. We also network with other regional literary journals and Midwestern creative writing programs. For example, the Midwestern Friendlies met this semester, bringing writers from Northern Michigan University, The Ohio State University, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Columbia College Chicago to Milwaukee. In these ways, we’re contributing to bringing diverse voices to Milwaukee,” added Chen.

"Listen & Other Stories"

Liam Callanan, Associate Professor of creative writing in the Department of English, has published his third book. “Listen & Other Stories” is a short story collection that crosses decades, oceans and continents in pursuit of stories that, like its title suggests, are more than worthy of a listen. He is currently appearing at bookstores around the country reading from his work.

http://www.liamcallanan.com/listen/listen-main.htm


Members of the Center for 21st Century Studies just published a new volume of essays entitled *The Nonhuman Turn*, the first book in a new series with the University of Minnesota Press. The book is the first to name and consolidate a wide array of current critical, theoretical, and philosophical approaches to the humanities and social sciences under the concept of the nonhuman turn. Each of these approaches is engaged in decentering the human in favor of a concern for the nonhuman, understood by contributors in terms of animals, affectivity, bodies, materiality, technologies, and organic and geophysical systems. The book is edited by Richard Grusin (Ctr. for 21st Century Studies).


In the Media and Around the Community


Jeffrey Sommers (Africology & Global Studies) presented “Reindustrialization: There Is No Alternative” at the plenary of the St. Petersburg International Economic Congress at St. Petersburg State Economic University on March 23 and at the Moscow Economic Forum at Moscow State University on March 25. He also recently wrote “Comparing Apples to Oranges: The Baltic States and Greece” for Naked Capitalism, an online blog on finance, economics, and politics. http://bit.ly/1G4hZHy

Matthew McGinty (Economics) was a keynote speaker at The Second Environmental Protection and Sustainability Forum: Towards Global Agreements on Environmental Protection and Sustainability. The conference took place in early April at the University of Bath in the United Kingdom. McGinty spoke on “International environmental agreements: Asymmetric stable coalitions with and without transfers.”

Michael Newman (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) found he had a lot to learn about Twitter from his 5-year-old son, Noah. Newman chronicled his lessons in Medium. http://bit.ly/1HgUUqH

Michael Mikos (Foreign Languages and Literature) gave an invited talk titled “Polish Language and Literature at Columbia. Early History” at Columbia University in New York on April 10.

Rachel Baum (Foreign Languages and Literature and Jewish Studies) gave a workshop on digital storytelling at the Forschungsinstitut für Philosophie Hannover in Germany.

In April, Joel Berkowitz (Jewish Studies) presented papers on Yiddish drama and the Holocaust at two conferences: “Global Yiddish Culture, 1938-1948” at the University of Toronto, and “Translation,” the annual conference of UWM’s Center for International Education.

Kathryn L. Fonner, Michael Blight, Michelle Fetherston, and Megan Lambertz (Communication) presented their paper, “It’s like you need a family to have a reason to leave on time: Family status and the perceived inclusiveness of work-life practices,” at the Central States Communication Association Convention held in Madison.

Debbie Hannula (Psychology) was interviewed on WUWM’s Lake Effect about her research into how visual cues can trigger distracting memories. http://bit.ly/1DKddQW

Elena Gorfinkel (Art History and Film Studies) gave a keynote at the conference “Performing Bodies: Gesture Affect and Embodiment on Screen” at University of Chicago in April.

Kamran Diba (Psychology) presented “Dynamic coordination of neuronal spiking in memory circuits” at Indiana University, Bloomington; “State-dependent coordination of neurons in memory circuits” at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. and at a joint bioengineering seminar sponsored by the Medical College of Wisconsin, Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin; and “Regulation of hippocampal firing across extended sleep” at the Center for Sleep and Consciousness, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Tiffany Kodak and graduate student Brittany LeBlanc (both Psychology) presented at the Heartland Association of Behavior Analysis conference held in Omaha, Neb., on “Comparing the Efficiency of Error Correction Procedures and Children’s Preference for a Particular Procedure” and “An Experimental Analysis of Verbal Behavior: Effects of Auditory Stimuli on Accuracy and Latency to Respond in a Mental Math Task.” Brittany LeBlanc received an award for her co-authorship on the latter.

Devin Mueller (Psychology) gave an invited talk at the Winter Conference on Brain Research, in Big Sky, Mont., entitled “Prefrontal regulation of fear and drug seeking after extinction.”