Weather Forecasting Service
Teams Students with Business

The trial run of a new weather forecasting service, offered through UWM Atmospheric Sciences, Department of Mathematics, with support from the College of Letters and Science, is scheduled to begin in May. Staffed by upper level undergraduate and graduate students, and located at Alumni House, the service is the brainchild of Paul Roebber, professor, Atmospheric Sciences.

In more than a decade of research and teaching at UWM, he has seen a great deal of student interest in operational weather forecasting for private industry, the media and the government. However, many students must work part time and aren’t able to take advantage of the relatively few internships in this field, many of which are unpaid. At the same time, Roebber’s research group has developed many tools that can improve weather forecasts. While this research continues to appear in peer-reviewed scientific literature, the time from publication to standard operational implementation is long, typically taking many years.

The solution is the UWM weather forecasting center, offering employment to Atmospheric Sciences students and a pathway for subscribers’ practical application of the latest research. Advanced students who have completed a forecasting class can compete for the available jobs. The process is highly selective, with up to 10 students expected to be employed at the center. Mike Westendorf, an Atmospheric Sciences alumnus who has more than 10 years experience in operational meteorology, is assisting Roebber to implement the service.

WE Energies is the first company to contract with the UWM operation. “We talked to them about customizing weather information for them,” Roebber explains. “We looked at what they needed in terms of information for their staffing levels so that they can provide an uninterrupted flow of energy to their customers, and we told them about the service we can provide.”

The underlying theme of the project, he says, is “the University is at the vanguard of research, and we can translate this knowledge into operations.” The project is a way to both train students and provide needed services to the community.

The weather forecasting will be a 24/7 interactive service. The UWM staff will continuously monitor the evolving weather and provide regular, direct office-to-client communications specific to that subscriber. This represents a substantial change from the industry model of one-size fits all, Roebber says. One example is application of state-of-the-art models to severe weather monitoring and forecasting; his research shows the interactive service provides considerable additional information compared to traditional methods.

“Customizing weather information for an organization’s specific needs is a way to help improve its operations by adding value,” he emphasizes.

“This is very much in line with the University’s missions of research and community service. We have so much valuable information, and this is a way to provide access to the community while serving our students and giving them experience in the field.

“It makes a lot of sense.”
Jonathan Kanter, assistant professor, Psychology, has spent years studying depression. But recently, the director of the UWM Depression Treatment Specialty Clinic and coordinator of the Psychology Clinic began concentrating on depression in Latinos. Along with Azara Rivera-Santiago, associate professor, Educational Psychology, he is co-principal investigator on the Research Growth Initiative (RGI) project, “Behavioral Activation Treatment of Depression in Latino Adults: A Pilot Study.”

“Our goal is to find the right psychotherapy for even severe depression, to learn what causes it, then to help you do something to change your environment,” he comments.

Kanter also collaborates with UWM’s Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research to study the stigma of depression in African-Americans. With everyone, “you must pay attention to what people want and value, and be culturally sensitive in order to help them do something about their depression,” he explains.

“Depression is everywhere, and if you study psychology, you study depression. It cuts across all groups,” Kanter points out. “It has major consequences in failed relationships, lost employment, and drug and alcohol abuse and addiction, as well as suicide – a cost that can’t be calculated.” The World Health Organization calls it a serious health concern and the number one most burdensome disease for middle age adults.

Although depression is seen in all groups, Kanter recognized that Latinos and African-Americans in Milwaukee have high rates of depression and were neglected in studies of depression. He says, “I want what I do to be useful and meaningful to the community, so I decided to do depression research on people who aren’t usually studied and who need help.”

He found that among African-Americans there is a stigma about seeking treatment for depression and particularly in using anti-depressant medication. His research seeks to find why the stigma exists and to develop methods of stigma reduction for depressed African-Americans and Latinos that take into consideration their unique experiences and needs. Kanter recently was awarded funding from the Charles E. Kubly Foundation to support this work.

Kanter believes behavioral activation is a way to conquer the depression without using medication. “This method helps people change their environment, helps them solve their problems,” he explains. “On a basic level, it helps a depressed person get out of bed and find a job” and other changes follow.

Kanter’s book, Distinctive Features of Behavioral Activation, co-authored by graduate students Andrew Busch and Laura Rusch, is scheduled for publication next year.

(Anyone seeking more information about or services from the UWM Depression Treatment Specialty Clinic may call 414-229-5078.)
**Linguistics Research Receives Rare NIH Funding**

How do human beings learn to speak a language? Thanks to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) five-year grant for almost $1.4 million, Fred Eckman and Greg Iverson, professors, Foreign Languages and Linguistics, hope to come closer to discovering just how this happens.

Their research, “Markedness and Learnability in Second Language Phonology,” is one of few funded in the humanities, since most NIH grants are awarded to the sciences. However, Iverson points out, “The discipline of linguistics is often called the most scientific of the humanities, and the most humanistic of the sciences.

“Linguists believe language is part of the natural world, and that people learn language in a very systematic way.”

Eckman adds, “This grant cycle was extremely competitive, and we responded in great detail to the NIH comments on our proposal. It was a rigorous process that included national peer review, but the reviewers were encouraging, liked our ideas and appreciated how, using their comments, we improved our methodology. In the end, we ranked in the top 1.6 percentile.”

The linguists said this research will provide insights into not only how people learn a particular second language, but also how they learn language in general. This study has strong implications for teaching and learning; it will provide a base of knowledge for educators to use in the effective teaching of second language pronunciation, typically the greatest obstacle in adult language learning.

Project assistants are working with the research subjects, whose native languages are Korean, Japanese and Spanish, because these languages have a certain “constellation of sounds which they use to keep words distinct and which differ in critical ways from the sounds of English,” Eckman says.

In the study, the speakers begin by reciting words like “sip” and “ship,” which are traditionally difficult for them to differentiate in pronunciation. Eckman and Iverson have discovered that there are specific stages a person learning English goes through in order to pronounce these words in the way native speakers of English do. “It’s not just the phonetics of sound and getting your tongue around a word,” Iverson says, “It’s the way words are thought about, and the thought process and steps involved in recognizing the correct pronunciation.”

Eckman and Iverson are working in conjunction with The Ohio State University, which has the phonetics laboratory facilities capable of measuring the data collected in the study.

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**Mexico Study Abroad Program Offers Service Learning**

My name is Estrella Sotomayor and I teach in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Several years ago, I developed an Overseas Studies Program to Oaxaca, Mexico, with a service learning component. I have led the program for the past two summers. It is unique because of its service learning component in which students work with transnational communities from Oaxaca and Milwaukee.

We spend the first three weeks of the program in Oaxaca where the students take language courses at the Instituto Cultural de Oaxaca in the morning and, in the afternoon, we do projects at community-based organizations in Oaxaca, such as services for indigenous women and orphanages. The last week of the program we continue with projects at the United Community Center in Milwaukee, working with the city’s Hispanic population.

(Estrella Sotomayer, a native of Puerto Rico, is a senior lecturer in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and says she is “always interested in connecting the intellectual work we do at UWM with real life experiences.” If you know of students interested in this program, or if you would like more information, contact her at mes4@uwm.edu).
If you want to put things into perspective, just look up, advises Jean Creighton, the director of UWM’s Manfred Olson Planetarium. Learning about the solar system and beyond helps you put aside minor daily annoyances and see how your life is part of a bigger picture.

Now, there is a convenient way to take a breath and look at the stars during the day. On Wednesdays, from 12:10 to 12:45 p.m., the Planetarium offers AstroBreaks – programs focused on the nighttime sky and current astronomy topics. The shows are free, different each week, and open to all members of the campus community.

Another popular program is offered Friday nights at 7 p.m. This semester, the shows focus on the lives of stars from birth to death. The cost is $1 for the general public and 75 cents for students. During the summer, Creighton plans to offer family-oriented programs with hands-on activities for children five years and older.

The introduction of daytime programs and family activities is part of a plan to increase use of a valuable campus resource, says Creighton, who stepped into the directorship last year.

Talking about the planetarium and her plans, she explains: “The planetarium seats 75 people and is attached to the UWM Physics Building. Its projector imitates the nighttime sky with its stars, planets, the sun and the moon. For the past 40 years, the planetarium has presented the beauty of the nighttime sky to more than 600,000 people.

“Our visitors are primarily elementary and middle school students. It’s also a resource for teachers, and we’re hoping to expand our programs to provide content, ideas and support for astronomy units that meet the needs of teachers and their students.”


“I am really intrigued that we know so much about the stars, and would like others to be equally intrigued as well as become repeat visitors,” Creighton explains. “I present the shows and, as an astrophysicist, can answer people’s questions. In turn, the questions help me with future presentations.

“I get such a buzz from presenting this information and communicating to a broad audience. The more shows I present, the more I enjoy it.”

For more information, call 414-229-4961, or visit the Web site at: www.uwm.edu/Dept/Planetarium.

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Introducing Jean Creighton

I was born in Toronto, Ontario, and grew up in Athens, Greece. My mother claims I was interested in how stars formed since I was five. Physics was the gateway for me to really get into astronomy. I graduated from the University of Athens in 1991. My Honors thesis was on the planet Neptune, which made me realize that I wanted more astronomy in my life, and that I was willing to cross the Atlantic to get a master’s degree from Saint Mary’s University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. On a roll, I went to the University of Waterloo, Ontario, and earned my PhD in 1998.

Then, I was fortunate to be involved with an infrared satellite called WIRE, while working at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

Since 1999, I have been teaching astronomy at UWM and, in 2006, started running the Manfred Olson Planetarium, which gives me the opportunity to contribute more. I want people to be aware of this great resource – to view and to understand the nighttime sky. I hope to see you soon at one of our programs.
Carol Hirschmugl, associate professor, Physics, has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of just over $1 million for her research on the invisible world of biophysics, tracking what happens to molecules when they move around a living cell.

The project has the potential to impact a wide variety of research areas including soft matter condensed physics, nanoscience, biology, chemistry, engineering, environmental science, geology, and even veterinary science.

During the two-year grant period, which began last fall, Hirschmugl and her team are designing and constructing an instrument known as a beamline, which uses light that is brighter than the sun, although not visible with the human eye. The beamline couples to a commercial infrared microscope to illuminate its detector and to allow for better tracking of the changes in the living cells.

An object’s molecules and electrons are always in motion, vibrating and wiggling. Hirschmugl’s novel imaging methods take advantage of these vibrations to investigate very small particles and map the movement of chemicals within them.

Infrared frequencies reveal the vibrations of molecules within a living cell, which act as “signatures,” allowing Hirschmugl to identify the material she’s working with. She is using the technique to observe how algae digest carbon dioxide and give off oxygen, which has implications for controlling air pollution.

She hopes her work will lead to new ways of addressing environmental pollution. But collecting the data must begin by tracking molecular changes that occur inside a cell when it comes in contact with pollution or when toxic substances touch soil and water.

In her work with algae, she studies the distribution of proteins, lipids and carbohydrates, the molecules that play a major role in photosynthesis, or metabolizing an organism’s food. It’s important to fully understand a process that is so vitally linked to human respiration and environmental health.

“Since the alga uses up a lot of carbon dioxide,” she says, “we’re interested in what happens when you change its environmental conditions. We want to look at how its biological makeup changes when exposed to, say, runoff pollution.

“I’m taking the question one step further and seeing how the distribution of its parts changes because of interactions with contaminants like nitrates or ammonium which come from fertilizer or sewage.”

The beamline will be built at the Synchrotron Research Center in Stoughton, Wis., and be available for researchers in a wide array of disciplines as a new tool for the broader scientific community and as a teaching instrument for many pre-collegiate, undergraduate and graduate courses.

Hirschmugl’s PhD in Applied Physics is from Yale University (1994). She had two prestigious postdoctoral appointments before coming to UWM in fall 1997.

(This story was written in conjunction with Laura Hunt, UWM Communications and Media Relations.)
Realizing Dreams: Gifts for the Future

Many of our retired faculty and staff continue to have a genuine attachment to L&S long after they go off the payroll. Their commitment to our College, teaching, students and alumni, the community, and their own areas of research and discovery are demonstrated on a daily basis. Sometimes that commitment is reinforced through generous gifts.

Both Janet Jesmok, assistant director emerita, Honors College, and Robert Moore, associate professor emeritus, Mathematical Sciences, remind us that such deep and continuing attachment can also be a way to transform our students and the activities of the University. It can be a way to realize one’s own dreams or to make the dreams of others come true. These gifts are an inspiration to all of us.

The Janet Jesmok Scholarship for Non-Traditional Students will provide support for L&S undergraduate students. Jesmok is making this planned gift because of her experience at UWM: “I was particularly drawn to the non-traditional students, those over 25, often with demanding work and family responsibilities. They wanted to graduate from college, but they also wanted to be educated.”

Through substantial, renewable scholarships, Jesmok’s goal is “to ease the burden of future students who are trying to balance school with family, who are trying to put new ideas into ‘old’ heads, who often emerge as stars of their classes because of their commitment to their studies. Many times, the returning, non-traditional students may have thought their chance at college had passed; they return to school determined to achieve a dream that had seemed impossible.”

Moore’s gift is intended to improve discussion of society’s divisive issues and foster a broader public dialogue. His generous current donation will help support a peace-building network across such diverse fields as mediation, social welfare and the environment, and will be housed within the College’s Institute of World Affairs.

Moore, whose discipline is mathematics, values research and technology, but believes, “There are tremendous challenges facing humankind that are broader than the science and technology directions.”

I encourage my colleagues to...consider what role a gift to the College could play in accomplishing their dreams.

New Leader for UWM LIGO Project

Scientists have long puzzled over the origin of the Universe and how it evolved. For Patrick Brady, associate professor, Physics, and new lead researcher of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) project at UWM, gravitational waves may provide a tool to answer these and other questions.

Gravitational waves, ripples in the fabric of the Universe, were postulated by Albert Einstein in 1916, soon after he presented his general theory of relativity. Violent phenomena such as exploding stars, colliding black holes, or the Big Bang may produce significant amounts of gravitational waves.

Although researchers have seen indirect evidence that these waves exist, the waves have not yet been directly measured. LIGO is an ambitious project, first funded by the National Science Foundation in 1989, to detect these waves and use them to make astronomical observations.

UWM is a stakeholder institution in LIGO, a collaboration of more than 500 scientists worldwide. Bruce Allen, who is currently an adjunct professor at UWM, brought the LIGO project here. Brady now oversees the UWM LIGO group, along with assistant professors Jolien Creighton and Alan Wiseman.

Using a supercomputing cluster in the Physics Building, they analyze data from the LIGO instruments in Hanford, Wash., and Livingston, La., looking for evidence of gravitational waves.

Brady joined the group in 1999. He earned a PhD in Physics from the University of Alberta, Canada, 1994, and worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England; the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Pasadena, Calif.; and the University of California-Santa Barbara.

As technology advances, so does the possibility of observing gravitational waves. But Brady explains, “So far the technology isn’t quite good enough.” He expects significant equipment upgrades will take place between 2010 and 2014; that’s when the next level of technology is expected to be available.

“For UWM, this remains a unique opportunity to be in on the ground level,” Brady says, “as LIGO expects to be the first collaboration to measure gravitational waves. This will then turn into an exciting, new field of astronomy.”
Distinguished Professor is the University of Wisconsin System’s most prestigious title; one that recognizes a continuous record of scholarly accomplishment, significant contributions to an academic field, and strengthened research efforts and opportunities.

It is with great pride that the College of Letters and Science announces the recent addition of four faculty members to the list of UWM’s six current honorees: Rudi Strickler, Biological Sciences; James Cook and David Petering, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Jane Gallop, English; John Koethe, Philosophy; and Leonard Parker, Physics. Additional nominations are currently in process, with more promotions anticipated shortly.

The University’s newest Distinguished Professors are David Hoeveler and Merry Wiesner-Hanks, History; John Friedman, Physics; and Wilfred Tysoe, Chemistry and Biochemistry. Their nominations to this prestigious distinction include the following highlights.

David Hoeveler

David Hoeveler began teaching at UWM in 1971, and since the late 1970s has produced a significant monographic study in American intellectual history roughly every five years. His research speaks to several broad themes of thought and culture and is recognized by scholars in American intellectual history, as well as those in the history of religion, education and political ideology. From his work, one learns about the wellsprings of American conservatism over four centuries; about the religious, institutional, and political origins and structure of American higher education; and about how public intellectuals draw from past thought and shape contemporary political discourse.

Hoeveler is a creative developer of resources needed for his research and has changed the way the field is understood. In addition, reviewers of his monographs express surprise at his capacity to open up larger worlds than seemed apparent at first glance and praise him for his civil and respectful approach to the topics.

In the Department of History and the University, Hoeveler has played administrative and instructional leadership roles. Moreover, his current work on the history of science, evolution and intelligent design, and the origins of the Wisconsin Idea, promises more insight into the relationship between intellectual thought and public policy. He clearly continues to enrich the intellectual life and enhance the research profile of the University.

Merry Wiesner-Hanks

Since her arrival at UWM in 1994, Merry Wiesner-Hanks has developed an international reputation for outstanding contributions to three fields of historical research: Renaissance and Reformation, gender and sexuality, and global history.

Wiesner-Hanks’ curriculum vitae includes six pages of publications on a variety of subjects in an array of genres and languages, demonstrating remarkable intellectual, geographic, chronologic and thematic breadth. Currently, she edits two book series which have contributors and readers around the world, and sits on the Board of Editors of the prestigious American Historical Review. Moreover, Wiesner-Hanks has published dozens of articles about early modern women’s economic, religious, sexual, domestic and public lives and an array of other issues. These articles have appeared in leading journals and important scholarly collections published on both sides of the Atlantic.

Widely respected as a scholar and colleague, she has been the recipient of a host of grants and fellowships and has an impressive body of work as an editor, conference organizer, speaker and leader in influential professional organizations. Wiesner-Hanks has given lectures or keynote addresses on four continents and held a number of visiting appointments.

Her outstanding accomplishments are in addition to her work as a gifted teacher who has significantly influenced the curricula of the department and demonstrated her enduring dedication to Comparative Study of Religion and Women’s Studies. Further, she has compiled an impressive record of service to the University and her department.

continued on next page
John Friedman

John Friedman, who came to UWM in 1976, is highly respected for his significant impact on the fields of gravitational physics and relativistic astrophysics.

He is known for superb work on the astrophysics of neutron stars, quantum field theory in curved space-time, quantum gravity, topological issues in gravity and, most recently, on the collision of binary neutron stars—objects that weigh as much as the sun but are only a few miles in diameter.

In the late 1990s, Friedman became famous for his work with two collaborators, including his PhD supervisor, Nobel Prize winning physicist Chandrasekhar. The team proved that neutron stars have fundamental instability and oscillate due to effects of general relativity. Friedman was among the first to compute the frequencies and growth rates of these movements which produce gravitational waves that observatories around the world continue to study.

The longevity and breadth of his contributions to physics are hallmarks of a truly distinguished scientist. In recognition of his work, Friedman was named a Fellow of the American Physical Society and recently completed a term as chair of its gravitational physics section. He has edited prestigious journals and is currently a U.S. representative to the International Society of General Relativity and Gravitation.

On his own and with colleagues, Friedman has attracted more than $4 million in extramural research funding. Whether advising doctoral students, post-doctoral associates or collaborating with members of the Center for Gravitation and Cosmology, his insights are highly sought after and deeply valued.

Wilfred Tysoe

Over the course of his career at UWM, which began in 1984, Wilfred Tysoe established an internationally recognized surface science research program in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. His colleagues throughout the world acknowledge that he is one of the few individuals who has successfully used surface science to study catalysis under "real world" conditions. As part of his research effort, Tysoe has built a world-class laboratory of ultrahigh vacuum equipment with a wide range of unique capabilities for studying surface properties.

His work has taken him into another area in which he has attained significant recognition: tribological chemistry, or tribochemistry, where he is at the forefront of research. Centered on how chemical reactions at surfaces affect friction and wear, his efforts have provided unique insights into the chemistry of lubricant additives.

Recently, Tysoe has ventured into nanoelectronics, with the ultimate goal of constructing molecular electronic circuits by relating structures of molecules adsorbed on surfaces to their electrical properties.

Tysoe has organized symposia and federal agency sponsored meetings; and co-founded Tribology Letters, one of the leading journals in the field. He also has an outstanding record of refereed publications, invited presentations, and success with more than $2 million in extramural funding over the last five years.

In addition to important contributions to his field, he has been a driving force for research on the UWM campus.
Welcome New Faculty and Staff

HUMANITIES AND COMMUNICATION

Cesar Ferreira, associate professor, Spanish and Portuguese, holds a PhD in Latin American literature from the University of Texas at Austin (1991). Previously, he was associate professor, Spanish, in the Department of Modern Languages, University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Kathryn Fonner, assistant professor, Communication, earned a PhD in Communications Studies, from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. (2006). Previously, she worked for Wagger Edstrom Worldwide, a strategic communications company, providing communications and public relations services to Microsoft Corp.

Hamid Ouali, assistant professor, Foreign Languages and Literature, holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2006). Before coming to UWM, he was a lecturer in the Eastern Michigan University English department, Ypsilanti.

Jason Puskar, assistant professor, English, earned a PhD in English and American Language and Literature from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. (2004). Most recently, he was a visiting scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, Mass.

Florence Vatan, assistant professor, French, Italian, and Comparative Literature, holds a PhD in French from the University of Chicago (2004) and a PhD in Germanic Studies from the University of Sorbonne, Paris III (1996). Previously, she served as assistant professor, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, Syracuse University, N.Y.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Sandra Jones, assistant professor, Africology, earned a PhD in English, Literary Studies, from UWM (2004). Most recently, she was acting director of the UWM Cultures and Communities Program.

Anna Mansson McGinty, assistant professor, Geography and Women’s Studies, holds a PhD in European Ethnology from Lund University, Sweden (2002). Previously, she was a lecturer, Anthropology, at UWM.

Marcellus Merritt, assistant professor, Psychology, earned his PhD in Psychology from Howard University, Washington, D.C. (1997). Before arriving at UWM, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute on Aging, Baltimore.

Katie Mosack, assistant professor, Psychology, holds a PhD in Human Development and Family Service from The Ohio State University, Columbus (2001). Previously, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Center for AIDS Intervention Research, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Lisa Silverman, assistant professor, History and Jewish Studies, earned her PhD in German Studies from Yale University (2004). Most recently, she was visiting professor, German and Jewish Studies, Whitman College, Walla Walla, Wash., and visiting research fellow, Centre for German-Jewish Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton, England.

Michael Tofias, assistant professor, Political Science, holds a PhD in Political Science from Duke University, Durham, N.C. (2006). Most recently, he was a graduate instructor at Duke teaching “Development of Congress as an Institution.”

Chia Youyee Vang, assistant professor, History, earned her PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (2006). Previously, she was president of a research consulting firm in St. Paul, Minn.

Erin Winkler, assistant professor, Africology, earned her PhD in African American Studies from the University of California, Berkeley (2005). Most recently, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of African American Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

WUWM

LaToya Dennis, reporter and news producer, previously worked at various radio stations in Michigan.

Maria Dixon, donor fulfillment specialist, previously served as interim executive director of the Milwaukee Leadership Training Center, an MPS charter school, and is president of the Center’s board.

Bob Reitman, host, “It’s Alright Ma, It’s Only Music,” a live, weekly music program. Previously, he was the morning radio personality on WKTI-FM, Milwaukee. He hold a master’s in Urban Education from the UWM School of Education.

Erin Toner, host, “All Things Considered,” previously worked as a reporter and host at WMUK-FM, Kalamazoo, Mich.
“It can be said, according to the school of thought I subscribe to, that human beings are born predisposed to learn any language,” says Hamid Ouali. He should know: the assistant professor, Foreign Languages and Linguistics, has a head start on most of us. A native of Morocco, Ouali speaks Berber, Arabic, French, English and Norwegian. This may seem an unusual mix, until you learn about his life and journey from Morocco to Milwaukee.

Though his native languages are Berber and Arabic, and he learned French living in Morocco, “I majored in English, because it was new and exciting to me,” he recalls, “especially for a teenager in the late 1980s and early 90s; the music and culture we heard and read about was American and English. I listened, picked up some words, and thought, ‘What if I can actually speak it? It would be intriguing to be different.’”

In college, he discovered The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger and books by John Steinbeck and other American and English novelists. The more he read, the more he wanted to find out. The study of linguistics followed when, he says, “I discovered it is a full-fledged science, studying what language is, what sounds are and how they are put together.”

Later, Ouali chose the University of Tromso, Norway, where he earned an MA in Linguistics (1999), specializing in Theoretical Linguistics, focusing on Scandinavian languages. He chose Tromso because there were fellowships available, and English is a second language for most Scandinavians.

And unlike Morocco, there was plenty of snow and cold weather, so he took up the national sport of cross-country skiing to travel from his dormitory to his classes. However, after his initial interest in the different climate, the blindingly sunny, long summer days, followed by long, dark, interminable winter days were somewhat oppressive.

Ouali chose the University of Michigan, where he completed his PhD in Linguistics (2006), because “the best linguistics departments are in the U.S. In Europe, there is a lack of breadth,” he explains. “In the U.S., you’re stretched to be prepared as both a scholar and a teacher, so that you can convey your knowledge to others.”

The trip from Ann Arbor to Milwaukee isn’t far, the climate is similar, and Ouali says, “I felt comfortable; people were very welcoming from the beginning.” Also, he was given the opportunity to teach a language, Arabic. “I find it fascinating to see students with no knowledge of Arabic become speakers of this language,” he says. “It’s very gratifying to teach the language and realize they’re interested in Mideast issues.

“Also, when I teach, as a linguist I’m aware that it can be challenging, and I’d like to help students have an easier experience when learning a language.”

Meanwhile, when he isn’t in the classroom or his office, the self-professed soccer addict, who played on a Michigan semi-professional team, is a member of a Milwaukee soccer club. And with all of the snow this past winter, it wouldn’t be surprising if he strapped on his cross-country skis now and then.

Winkler Teaches Ways to Confront Racism

Born and raised in a Midwestern middle class white family, it seems unusual to some that Erin Winkler, assistant professor, Africology, chose this area of research and teaching. But Winkler says it was her interest in African-American issues that led her to this field and last fall to the UWM Department of Africology.

A native of Ann Arbor, Mich., Winkler’s areas of specialization are African-American families and communities, childhood and adolescence, racial identity and well-being, and race and place. She earned her PhD in African-American Studies (2005) from the University of California, Berkeley, with her dissertation, “Negotiating Race in Detroit: The Racial Socialization of African-American Children.” At Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., where she was a postdoctoral fellow in African-American Studies, her research focused on explaining how young people understand race, racism and racial identity in different social contexts, and how these processes affect identity and well-being.

She remembers, as early as first grade, celebrating Martin Luther King Day and becoming interested in race relations. Throughout high school and college at the University of Michigan, “from my very first class in African-American Studies, I knew that this is what I wanted to do, what I needed to do,” she said. “And I was fortunate, because mine was the first generation where it was possible to get a PhD in African-American Studies.”
Physicist’s Questions Reveal More Complicated Mysteries

“Why is the sun setting in the water?” That is one of the “weird” questions that, as a youngster, Luis Anchordoqui often asked his mother. Throughout his youth, Anchordoqui wondered about the world around him, but now the assistant professor, Physics, attempts to unlock more complicated mysteries about the Universe.

Born in La Plata, Argentina, he earned his PhD in cosmic ray astrophysics from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in 1998, followed it with a UNESCO fellowship in Italy, then conducted research funded by the National Science Foundation at Northeastern University, Boston.

Anchordoqui joined the UWM faculty in August, 2006. Recalling his Milwaukee interview last year, he says that the field of physics is changing so quickly that “half of the information I was discussing at my interview has already been updated.” And that’s one of the reasons he finds this field compelling – it’s rapidly changing.

His research concentrates on cosmic ray astrophysics and neutrino astronomy, with applications to particle physics and cosmology. In fact, Anchordoqui says, many of the key discoveries early in the history of particle physics came from the study of cosmic rays.

Originally, he set out to study engineering, but found it was “too technical” and switched to physics. “If you are open to elementary particle physics, you are open to the world,” he explains.

As a member of the Pierre Auger Project, he is one of 440 scientists exploring the Universe through use of the Pierre Auger Observatory. The observatory includes two locations: one on the vast plain of western Argentina which observes the southern sky; the other, to be located in Colorado, will focus on the northern sky. The observatory was designed to study the Universe’s highest energy particles, which shower down on Earth as cosmic rays. Anchordoqui compares the crash of cosmic rays in the upper atmosphere to the opening shot in a billiard game, but one in which the results are still a mystery. The solution of such a mystery, he explains, may shed light on the origin of the Universe.

It’s this quest to understand these fast-moving particles from space that propels him to solve mysteries that lead to even more questions and more mysteries to solve.

And that’s fine with him.

Winkler continued

Winkler’s mother, a librarian, always encouraged her curiosity and interest in a wide variety of subjects. Despite advice from some of her professors to choose graduate work in a more “traditional discipline,” Winkler recalls, “I was encouraged by my professors in African and African-American studies, such as Earl Lewis, who is now provost at Emory University, Atlanta. I knew from my very first class with him that this is what I wanted to do.”

Now, she teaches an introduction to Africology and a course on the psychological effects of racism. “At the beginning of the semester I had students rate themselves in their knowledge of race and racism,” she explained. “Wherever they are on the spectrum, I gave them tools to recognize, confront and work against racism. In the end, they all made progress. I find that very rewarding.”
CAMPUS NEWS

Humanities and Communication

The Department of English Run-Ons team won the Largest Team and Most Money Raised awards for the Panther Prowl, the UWM Alumni Association’s run to raise scholarship money.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics and the Department of English hosted the 25th annual UWM Linguistics Symposium. Scholars representing institutions in 18 countries presented 70 papers. The Symposium was funded in part by the College of Letters and Science and the Center for International Education.


Deb Brenegan, doctoral student, English (fiction), has accepted a tenure-track offer as assistant professor, Creative Writing, Westminster College, Fulton, Mo.

David Brusin, lecturer, Foreign Languages and Linguistics/Hebrew Studies, was accepted into the 2007 Brandeis University (Waltham, Mass.) Summer Institute for Israel Studies. Brusin is developing a course, “The Zionist Idea.”

Liam Callanan, assistant professor, English, published his second novel, All Saints (Delacorte Press, 2007).

Derek Counts, assistant professor, Art History, was appointed to the editorial board of the American Schools of Oriental Research academic journal, the Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research, an English language journal of Eastern Mediterranean/Near Eastern archaeology and culture.

Susan Firer, adjunct assistant professor, English, had her poem, “Call Me Pier,” adapted as a dance work, choreographed by Janet Lilly, associate professor, Peck School of the Arts Department of Dance, and performed in New York.

Kathryn Olson, professor, Communication, received a 2006 University of Wisconsin System Regents Teaching Excellence Award.


Patrice Petro, professor, and Gilberto Blasini, assistant professor, both in English and Film Studies, are moderators for the Milwaukee Key Sunday Cinema Club, which introduces new independent and foreign films to members. For information, see the Web site: www.keysundaycinemaclub.com/club_milwaukee.php.

Natural Sciences

The National Science Foundation awarded a $345,000 grant to the project, “Interdisciplinary Research Experience for Teachers (RET),” under the direction of principal investigators Carol Hirschmugl, associate professor, and Robert Wood, senior lecturer, Physics, and William Keen, professor, Geosciences. This is the first free-standing RET site in the nation, which means it is not combined with a Research Experience for Undergraduates.


Jean Creighton, lecturer, Physics, was named director UWM’s Manfred Olson Planetarium. Since 1999, she has taught astronomy courses and labs at UWM.

Jonathan Kahl, professor, Mathematical Sciences, received a UWM Alumni Association 2006 Award for Teaching Excellence.


Albert Milani, professor, Mathematical Sciences, was awarded a research and teaching grant from the Fulbright Foundation for his research project investigating the long time behavior of solutions to quasilinear evolutions.

Stefan Schnitzer, assistant professor, Biological Sciences, received a $310,000 grant for the proposal, “Do Lianas Cause Chronic Disturbance and Alter Successional Trajectories in Tropical Forests?” from the National Science Foundation, Division of Environmental Biology, Ecology Program (2006-2009).
Social Sciences


Sara Benesh, associate professor, Political Science, was named the Boden Visiting Professor of Law, Marquette University Law School, Milwaukee, during the Fall 2007 semester.


Michael Hynan, professor, Psychology, co-presented, “Delivering Bad News to Parents and Families” at the Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care annual meeting in Milwaukee.


James Moyer, Jr., assistant professor, Psychology, is principal investigator for “Evaluation of Aequorin as a Potential Neurotherapeutic,” which received a grant of over $638,000 from Quincy Bioscience, LLC.


Richard Passman, professor, Psychology, was elected an executive officer of the American Psychological Association Developmental Psychology division.

Diane Reddy, professor, Psychology, received a 2006 UWM Alumni Association Award for Teaching Excellence, and created the U-Pace Initiative, a total redesign of Introductory Psychology, aimed at increasing student learning and retention.

Mark Schwartz, professor, Geography, received a National Science Foundation grant to further development of the USA National Phenology Network, which studies plant and animal life-cycle events triggered by environmental change.


Rodney Swain, associate dean, and associate professor, Psychology, co-presented “Conjugated Linoleic Acid (CLA) Inhibits New Vessel Growth in the Mammalian Brain,” at the 2006 annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, Atlanta.

Marc Tasman, lecturer, Journalism and Mass Communication, and coordinator of the Digital Arts and Culture Program, was awarded a Mary L. Nohl Fellowship for Emerging Artists and a Community University Partners Grant from Cultures and Communities.

Honors College

Alan Singer, Bradley Assistant Professor of History, organized a panel on xenophobia for the British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies annual meeting at St. Hugh’s College, Oxford University, England. His paper was titled, “We Have Detected a Villain, a Jew: Nativism and the Case of Henry Simons, 1751-1753.”

Robin Weigert, formerly recruiter and advisor, was named assistant director.

Retired Faculty and Staff


Please support the New Directions Scholarship Fund—it can make the difference in whether or not a gifted student attends UWM. L&S faculty, staff, retirees and alumni have funded 369 scholarships over the years, but there are always more deserving students than there are available scholarship funds.

Use your UWM Gives to UWM reply form (be sure to clearly indicate New Directions or Fund #2700) or contact Julie Carlson at jbc@uwm.edu or 414-
UWM Conference Commemorates Civil Rights Marches

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the open housing marches in Milwaukee, which will be commemorated by the March on Milwaukee project. Several L&S faculty members are helping plan events, including a conference, “March on Milwaukee: The Struggle for Civil Rights Past, Present and Future,” on Saturday, Sept. 29, at the UWM Union.

The project’s goals are to honor past efforts and to re-start discussions and refocus attention on unresolved social justice problems, thereby encouraging active civic participation. According to the coordinating committee, “We believe this message is especially crucial for public school teachers and students, as education remains the chief vehicle of positive change.”

Coordinating committee L&S participants include Michael Gordon, associate professor, and Jasmine Alinder, assistant professor, History; Gregory Jay, professor, and Cheryl Ajivotutu, associate professor (Anthropology), Cultures and Communities; and Joseph Rodriguez, associate professor, Urban Studies Program.

Gordon will conduct oral interviews with 1967 open housing march participants; transcripts will be housed in the UWM and Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum archives.

Dick Gregory, a veteran of the Civil Rights movement, will be the keynote speaker at the Sept. 29 conference. Sessions, panels and discussions will focus on segregation, inequality, racism, discrimination and poverty.

For more information, please visit the March on Milwaukee Web site: www.marchonmilwaukee.org.

Psychology Associates Start Careers at UWM

We have three new research associates in the Department of Psychology. They come from very good PhD programs and have chosen UWM as the place to start their research careers.

-Fred Helmsetter, professor

Taekwan Lee recently finished his PhD in Psychology at Yale University. He completed his undergraduate work in electrical engineering at Korea University, Seoul. While at Yale, Lee received a Dissertation Fellowship and a John F. Enders Fellowship to support his work on associative learning mechanisms. He came to Milwaukee to work with Helmstetter and Medical College of Wisconsin scientists on the use of high field magnetic resonance imaging to measure changes in the brain following stress and learning.

Marieke Gilmartin received her BS in Biochemistry from the University of Michigan and her PhD in Neuroscience from Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. As a graduate student, she was awarded a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award pre-doctoral fellowship from the National Institutes of Health and the D. G. Marquis Behavioral Neuroscience Award from the American Psychological Association. Her graduate research involved recording electrical activity from single neurons in the brain during learning. She joins Fred Helmstetter’s group and will study molecular mechanisms of memory storage.

Catherine Cook Kaczorowski did her undergraduate training in psychology at UWM, graduating summa cum laude in 2000. She completed her PhD at the Northwestern University Institute for Neuroscience working in the Department of Physiology. She was a Ruth L. Kirschstein pre-doctoral fellow and received the Northwestern Graduate School University Scholar Award. At Northwestern, she focused on how learning changes the excitability of brain cells and how these changes might relate to Alzheimer’s Disease and other disorders. She is working with James Moyer Jr., professor, Psychology, on cellular mechanisms of neurodegeneration and aging.
David Miller

David Miller, emeritus professor, Geosciences, died Oct. 20, 2006. Miller served at UWM from 1964, when he was appointed professor, Geography, later becoming a professor of Atmospheric Science, until he retired in 1988. However, he continued teaching after retirement from the University. He was an expert on snow and was called a “scientist’s scientist” by his colleagues. Before coming to Milwaukee, he worked as a meteorologist and instructor for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Weather Bureau. The results of his snow investigations were used to improve flood warning systems and control other water resources.

Miller received many honors including fellowships from the National Science Foundation, a National Academy of Sciences exchange scientist award, two Fulbright fellowships and an honorary degree from the University of Newcastle, Australia.

Mark Teply

A professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Mark Teply died Nov. 10, 2006, having served UWM since 1985. His main research interests were non-communicative rings and their modules, and he was widely recognized as a leading expert in Torsion Theory. For many years, Teply was the department’s graduate studies coordinator and was instrumental in obtaining U.S. Department of Education grants for mathematical sciences fellowships.

Serving on the editorial boards of several distinguished mathematical sciences journals, he served as editor-in-chief for Communications in Algebra from 2000-06. He also was an active editorial advisory board member for two book series: Pure and Applied Mathematics and Lecture Notes in Pure and Applied Mathematics.

Spaights Plaza L&S Honorees

Two College of Letters and Science retirees were honored in 2006 with the Ernest Spaights Plaza Award, having made enduring contributions to the University.

Thomas Burton, emeritus senior advisor

Officially, “Mr. B.” worked at UWM from 1956 until his retirement in 1996. However, he continued to come to the office, without compensation, until June 2003, applying his encyclopedic knowledge and uncanny data retrieval skills to the L&S student records area. Burton took great pride in his work and detailed record keeping, and sincerely cared about the personal story of each person he met. At UWM since its official beginning, he helped the University develop into the institution it is today.

Referred to as “the institutional memory for the campus,” he recognized the importance of UWM’s historical record and he was committed to being the guardian of that record.

As a colleague said, “He has the biggest heart of anyone I’ve ever met.”

Erland Olfe, emeritus assistant dean

Erland Olfe served UWM from 1967 until retiring in 2003. He was an Academic Staff Committee founding member and a long-standing member of the UW System advisory group on faculty and academic staff compensation. Eclipsing those accomplishments was his devotion to serving L&S students though his management of the College’s advising unit. Advisors depended on his wise counsel, his fairness and his consistency when dealing with student issues. As one stated, “He showed how far caring and a good heart can go toward smoothing a difficult path.”

The foundation of his work was his understanding and enjoyment of advising students. As one student later wrote, “You were so kind and treated me as an individual. You saved me from reaching the breaking point. I will always be indebted to you.”

One nominator’s words apply to both of these accomplished men: They are kind, gentle, smart, and immensely giving human beings who are richly deserving of this honor.

JMC Students’ Excellence Honored

Congratulations are in order for the Broadcast Journalism students of Mark Zoromski, senior lecturer, and Maryann Lazarinski, lecturer, both of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The Northwest Broadcast News Association presented four Eric Sevareid Awards for Journalistic Excellence to students in Television News Reporting, Television News Management, and the Broadcast Club @ UWM. The awards are open to students at Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin universities, and were presented in the following categories at a Minneapolis ceremony: Sports Reporting, Hard Feature and Television Photojournalism and Best Talk/Public Affairs Program.

Reporters for UWM Panthercast and UWM Panthervision recently won seven awards, including first place in each of the sports and news reporting categories, in the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association statewide collegiate journalism contest. The recipients were presented their awards at a ceremony in Madison.
2006-07 Retirements
At our annual Recognition Dinner in May, the College of Letters and Science will honor the following faculty and staff members who are retiring in 2006-07. We thank them for their many years of service (indicated in parentheses) and wish them a long and fulfilling retirement.

- **Marcus Bullock**, professor, English (21)
- **Sami Hawi**, associate professor, Philosophy (35)
- **James Hazard**, professor, English (39)
- **William Horstman**, senior assistant dean, L&S Administration (40)
- **Michael Hynan**, professor, Psychology (33)
- **Markos Mamalakis**, professor, Economics (40)
- **William Mayrl**, associate professor, Sociology (35)
- **Walter Neevel**, associate professor, Philosophy (33)
- **Sheila Roberts**, professor, English (21)
- **John Wanat**, professor, Political Science (6)

The College congratulates these faculty and staff members who have been recognized with University-wide awards.

**Faculty Distinguished University Service Award**
- Alice Gillam, associate professor, English

**UWM Foundation and Graduate School Research Awards**
- Patrick Brady, associate professor, Physics
- Rina Ghose, associate professor, Geography

**Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Awards**
- Glen Jeansonne, professor, History
- Paul Roebber, professor, Mathematics/Atmospheric Sciences

**Academic Staff Outstanding Performance Awards**
- Kevin Beisser, senior student services specialist, English as a Second Language
- Susan Yelich-Binecki, senior administrative program specialist, Institute of World Affairs

**Student Accessibility Center Above and Beyond Awards**
- Michael Hero, lecturer, Mathematical Sciences
- Christopher Sears, teaching assistant, Mathematical Sciences

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**Variety of UWM Awards**