A search-and-destroy strategy for killing tumors

By Laura Otto, University Relations

Current cancer drugs do not distinguish between malignant cells and healthy ones. In order to destroy tumors, drugs must target all cells in the body.

“There are many ways of treating cancers, but the common problems are the side effects, so the patients suffer a lot during the treatment,” says UW-Milwaukee Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Xiaohua Peng.

But new compounds developed by Peng are actually attracted only to the cancer. The compounds she has designed are activated by trademark conditions inside cancer cells - increased oxidative stress and hypoxia. This strategy allows the drugs to kill the diseased cells selectively.

Oxidative stress occurs naturally in the body during processes like metabolism. Cancer cells grow and divide so quickly that they’re literally engaged in a metabolic marathon - leading to the formation of high levels of hydrogen peroxide and free radicals.

Peng’s compounds dispatch a toxic agent to the exact location of increased oxidative stress. The drugs have shown promise in recent laboratory screen tests conducted by the National Cancer Institute and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, which investigated the compounds’ effects on human cancer cells. The screenings found a 60-90 percent reduction in various kinds of cancer cells - leukemia, colon, renal and some types of lung cancer.

MD Anderson’s tests also found the compounds had no adverse effects on normal human cells. Next, Peng and her lab members will test these compounds on mice with cancer.

Also in progress is a second family of anticancer compounds developed by Peng. These seek another environmental trait of tumors - the presence of little to no oxygen. Hypoxia is common among tumors that are located farther away from blood vessels, and it diminishes the effectiveness of radiation treatment.

Peng’s hypoxia-targeting compounds could provide a way to improve results of radiation treatment.

“This unique approach, where the agent will only be converted to the toxic form in the presence of both radiation and hypoxia, holds considerable promise,” she says.

In the last five years, Peng has supported her research with funding from a mix of local and national sources: a Bradley Catalyst Grant from the UW-Milwaukee Research Foundation, a Shaw Scientist Award from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and a grant from the National Institutes of Health.
Tracking the start of Spring

University Relations

A new online tracker that allows you to watch the start of spring is based on the work of a UWM researcher.

Mark D. Schwartz, a Distinguished Professor of Geography, developed the spring indices, which measure relationships between temperature and plant growth.

He explains vegetation phenology, his indices and how the science can be used in agriculture, wildfire prevention and gardening.

What is vegetation phenology?
Vegetation phenology is looking at changes in plants, particularly in seasonal climates like where we live, and where the plants go from being dormant to starting to grow in the springtime. When we are looking at trees, we are looking at when the leaves come out, and when we are looking at herbs and shrubs, we are looking at flowering.

How did you become interested in this field?
I’m a climatologist by training so I’m interested in seasonal weather patterns. I first got involved by building a model using weather data to understand these changes in plants. I have since learned that these changes are useful in trying to understand a lot of other things that go on in the environment. When plants become active, they pump out water vapor into the atmosphere, and it changes the lower atmosphere and its composition, and that affects a lot of things.

I am also inclined to be interested in this area as someone who grew up in this part of the country. As a kid growing up in Michigan, I thought about the return of asparagus and rhubarb and mushroom hunting in the springtime. All of those activities relate to natural events and the return of plant growth.

What are the spring indices that you have developed?
They are models that use a fairly straightforward approach. A lot of the changes in plant growth in parts of the country where moisture isn’t a limiting factor are controlled by temperature. The models use some different processes to better track the subtleties of the relationship.

In the past, models were often developed to make them really good for a very small area. When I put these models together, I was trying to create models that would be applicable over large areas such as the entire lower 48 United States. The neat thing was that even though it was developed from particular plants, it has applicability for a wide number of plants.

When does spring start?
To me, real spring is when the plants begin to grow. In the models that I developed, I have two different events that are simulated. The first is the first leaf, which is the first bud opening and the leaf coming out from the bud. I think of this as early spring. Then around a month later, say mid-May, we get to the point where the lilac has at least one open flower on half of the flower clusters. I refer to that as late spring.

Continued on page 5
Heirloom tomatoes: Food for collective thought

By Sarah Mann, College of Letters & Science

That tomato on your dinner plate has come a long way to be there. It started out as a tiny, inedible wild fruit in the Andes Mountains thousands of years ago and made its way to Central America in a tastier form where the Aztecs cultivated it alongside their more beloved tomatillo. Its seeds traveled in the holds of Spanish ships back to Europe, where many people mistakenly thought of it as a poisonous curiosity rather than the staple in Italian and Spanish cuisine it would later become.

It’s a long history for a little plant, but a great story. UWM Associate Professor of Sociology Jennifer Jordan is especially interested in how the stories attached to tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables – especially “heirloom” fruits and vegetables – shape how we interact with our food. It’s the subject of her latest book, *Edible Memory: The Lure of Heirloom Tomatoes and Other Forgotten Foods*.

“We save seeds from one generation to the next. We pass along recipes to families and community members and nations too,” Jordan said. “People are clearly very comfortable connecting memory and food, and they’re doing that in ways that really shape how they act in the world.”

Heirloom fruits and vegetables, when it comes to plants that reproduce from seeds, are generally classified as varieties that are open-pollinated and can be genetically traced to before World War II, before the rapid expansion and industrialization of agriculture. Often, Jordan said, the seeds come with a story attached – perhaps about the family that originally grew the strain, or what community developed it, or who handed down the seeds to their children.

Those stories are becoming increasingly important as heirloom fruits and vegetables take a more central role in our diets. Jordan researched her book in part by poring through old newspapers to pinpoint when heirloom varieties began to crop up in societal awareness. There wasn’t much mention until the early 1990s.

“While now that’s something you can get at Whole Foods or in really fancy restaurants, at the time, most of the writing about heirloom tomatoes was about gardening,” Jordan said. “At some point in the late ’90s, there’s a flip, where there’s much more coverage about heirloom tomatoes in restaurants as something fancy, as kind of a status symbol.

“That’s the kind of thing that, as a sociologist, I find really intriguing. The object is the same, but the meaning around the object changes a lot. … When demand increases for heirloom tomatoes, the seed becomes much more widely available. The developing taste for heirloom tomatoes actually helps biodiversity.”

There’s also a more organized drive to collect and preserve these plant strains. Organizations like the Seed Savers Exchange in Iowa have workshops and online tutorials to teach people the best ways of preserving historical strains and seeds. People collect not only the seeds, but the stories associated with them as well.

Some modern day stories particularly stand out for Jordan. Her research has taken her to several locations across the country, from Weston Orchards in New Berlin, Wisconsin, where her favorite heirloom apple grows, to Silicon Valley in California. She recalls interviewing a farmer in the Valley about his quest for the perfect peach.

“He talked about how he’s spent his whole life trying to recreate the flavor of a peach that he ate as a child. He has this incredible collection of heirloom fruit trees, and he also breeds new varieties of fruit trees,” Jordan said. “It’s all in pursuit of this flavor that he has yet to be able to reconstruct.”
Grant helps students by speaking their language

By Sarah Mann, College of Letters & Science

What does it take to be a global citizen? Speaking the language first certainly helps, which is why a significant portion of a $1.7 million grant awarded to the UWM Center for International Education will be dedicated to foreign language studies at UWM. Earlier this year, the CIE was awarded the Title VI National Resource Centers and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships by the U.S. Department of Education. UWM’s Language Resource Center is using its share of that money to hire undergraduates studying less commonly taught languages (LCTL) to conduct research projects and develop instructional materials for first-year students learning to speak tongues like Arabic, Polish, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, Portuguese and Korean.

“Right now, some of the LCTL programs are struggling with staffing and limited funding. We’re trying to build from scratch, basically, learning resources for the students,” said Mingyu Sun, Director of the Language Resource Center. “We were very happy to receive this grant. It helps a lot with the students’ learning, as well as research.”

For instance, first-year Sociology major Kristen Lango is working to develop a computer game that will guide students through Poland and Polish at the same time.

“My idea was to have each town that you go through represent a case (part of grammar),” she said. “You would have to do different things in the town which would revolve around the rules that each case holds.”

Lango said she is working with Computer Science majors to handle the programming aspect of her game. She’s also looking at introducing Polish nationalist songs into classrooms to help students understand grammar and vocabulary and the unique way Polish words work in relation to each other.

Music is also an integral part of Brandon Berthiaume and Bryan Rogers’ projects. Rogers, a Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latin@ Studies major, is drawn to South American music like *samba*, *forró*, and *Música Popular Brasileira*. He hopes to gather popular songs from Portuguese-speaking counties and guide students in interactive exercises with the music to fill in missing words and use the lyrical constructions in other aspects of the language.

Berthiaume, a Spanish major, is contacting Portuguese-speakers from outside of Brazil, the largest Portuguese speaking country in the world, so they can record short language videos to expose students to language-speakers from places like Angola or East Timor.

“It would expose them to a little bit different thing than you normally get with Portuguese,” Berthiaume said.

Cultural exposure is more important than people think, said Sarah Shelnutt, a Japanese major who is working with fellow Japanese major Dana Johnson to help students at Shorewood High School learn how to write in Japanese.

(From top to bottom) New student hires of UWM’s language resource center will help create activities and materials to help students at the university and in the Milwaukee community learn less commonly taught languages. From left are Sarah Shelnutt, Bryan Rogers, Brandon Berthiaume, Corey Schaeffer, Dana Johnson, and Kristen Lango.

Sociology major Kristen Lango explains her computer game to help students learn Polish.

Japanese major Sarah Shelnutt displays some of the graphics she uses to teach Japanese language-learners about the country’s culture.

Spanish major Brandon Berthiaume displays some Portuguese vocabulary lists.

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Tracking spring across America

Why is it important to know when spring starts?
Anyone involved in agriculture is interested in when the growing season is starting. When farmers decide what crops to grow, they base that, to some degree, on making sure that when they put a particular crop into the ground, it will be able to be brought successfully to harvest. They don’t make those decisions at the last minute. The decision to plant a particular kind of crop in a particular area is based on the long-term climatology.

From a natural resources standpoint, particularly in the western part of the country, it can make a difference in things like fire danger. In places where moisture is limited, like in the western states, if the growing season starts earlier, it means plants start to pump water out of the ground and deplete the soil moisture earlier. It doesn’t directly cause wildfires, but if the season starts earlier, that could lead to more potential for wildfire in the western United States, due to drier conditions.

How does phenology help the public understand climate change?
Phenology gives another independent measure of what is happening. When I talk to people about change, I can say, for example, that over the Northern hemisphere from the mid-1950s to the early 2000s, the timing of the beginning of spring using my models has gotten earlier by about a week. It’s a very easy thing to explain. It’s something that most people can readily understand.

Can anyone make the same general observations?
You don’t need special instruments. You can go out and watch the plants yourself and decide if these things are happening or not. Having these gridded spring indices up on the USA National Phenology Network site gives people a tool so they can not only see what’s happening in their backyard, but see what’s happening in other parts of the country.

Watch spring start here: https://www.usanpn.org/data/spring
Walking on UWM’s campus on March 7 was like using a time machine. You encountered history in every room, with opportunities to learn about Theodore Roosevelt’s work establishing America’s national parks system, recall Mary Lou Retton’s triumph in the 1984 Olympics, and discover the origins of the Red Cross.

March 7 marked the southeastern regional for Wisconsin’s National History Day competition. The event, which drew more than 300 students to UWM’s campus, asks middle and high school students to complete a project relating to an overall theme – this year’s theme was Legacy and Leadership. Students could write a paper, create an exhibition, film a documentary, put on a performance, or build a website to present their topic. And these students truly excel, said Dr. Ellen Langill, a Senior Lecturer in the UWM History Department.

“We’ve had many people who went on to Nationals. We’ve had people who won at Nationals, which is incredibly prestigious,” Langill said. Langill coordinates UWM’s history day, marshalling an army of nearly 100 judges and finding room in three campus buildings to house each student project.

Out of the many students who enter, only two or three from each category are selected by a panel of judges to present at the state level. Those who win at State advance to Nationals.

That seemed a long way off for Jessica Zeitler, an eighth-grader from Trevor Grade School. She was relieved just to get through the judging. As a gymnast, she is far more used to judges grading her beam routine than her speaking skills.

“It was fun. It was nerve-wracking talking to the judge,” she said.

Inspired by her own sport, Zeitler completed a project on Olympic gymnast Mary Lou Retton, a personal hero. She constructed an exhibit based off of extensive research – 12 primary sources in addition to 12 secondary sources. The most interesting fact she learned was that Retton was the first woman to appear on the Wheaties breakfast cereal box.

UWM graduate Tamara Lange, who served as the room chair in the exhibits category room, is constantly surprised by what students pick to research and the facts they find. Lange was a Master’s student in History and graduated in 2004, but she comes back each year to volunteer for the event.

“It’s so interesting to see the topics they pick out and how they design their exhibits,” Lange said. She’s the curator of the Sheboygan City Historical Museum. “Exhibits are what I do for my job, so it’s great to see how the kids are interpreting it.”

History Day also represents a chance for students unfamiliar with the UWM campus to explore and gain exposure to some of the university’s faculty and graduates. History Day is a large outreach event that draws students from as far away as Racine.

For Langill, the joy of the day is seeing students not only begin to take an interest in the world that came before them, but also start to understand how they can contribute to it.

“I came to love history because of how it really trains you to think. You have to analyze and you have to support an argument and you have to look at evidence,” she said. “For these students, they not only have to do that, but also produce history. They have to go that next step, which is to write and create around a topic.”
Letters & Science salutes: Robert Greenler

From an early age, Robert Greenler was never content with just looking at rainbows. He had to know how they happened. That natural curiosity grew into a firm belief that it’s good for people to question the physical world around them. That’s how science starts, he said.

Greenler is a UWM Professor Emeritus of Physics. He retired in 1992 after 30 years of teaching (“with occasional time off for good behavior,” he jokes), but he’s coming back to give one more lesson by sponsoring a new lecture series – the Dean’s Distinguished Lecture in the Natural Sciences. Greenler himself will give the inaugural talk on April 23 entitled “Seeing with the Mind as Well as the Eye.”

The lecture will focus on the kind of naked-eye observation that any curious person could make, and continues with questions to find the story behind the immediate image. He believes this approach has not only been fundamental in the initial development of science, but is still important to practice today.

“I hope that this lecture will mark the beginning of a series where people from all of the natural sciences show how such observations lead the way to new understanding in their fields,” Greenler said.

Greenler started at UWM after working as a research scientist in the laboratories of Allis Chalmers for five years. He was hired in 1962 when UWM was just beginning to realize its potential as a research university. Over the next 10 years, he became instrumental in founding university research programs, including the Laboratory for Surface Studies. He helped bring in many promising scientists involved in this interdisciplinary effort, several of whom were later tapped for leadership positions at UWM.

Over the years, he has donated countless hours to bring science to the UWM campus and the Milwaukee community. With Professor Glenn Schmieg, Greenler co-founded the much-beloved Science Bag series, a weekly lecture with a different topic each month. The program is still going and has had a cumulative attendance of about 180,000 over 41 years.

When you ask him about the highlights of his career, though, Greenler skips over his research and the Science Bag. He takes great satisfaction in the success of his students. He tells the story of George Blumenthal, a student who, as an undergraduate, worked with Greenler to try to understand the origins of sun pillars – a column of light rising above the sun when it is low in the sky. It was known to result from sunlight reflecting from tiny ice crystals in the sky, but when Greenler tried to explain its shape to Blumenthal, he realized that he didn’t really understand it himself. Together they started an investigation that, a few years later, resulted in the publication of paper in a popular scientific magazine with Blumenthal as one of the authors. In the meantime, Blumenthal went on to earn a PhD in astrophysics, which led him into a successful scientific career after which he became the Chancellor at the University of California Santa-Cruz.

“A few years ago, we brought him back to give him an honorary doctorate. That was in 2011,” Greenler said. “He said to several groups that Bob Greenler opened his eyes to the world of possibilities in science, and that gave him a whole new outlook on the possibilities in his life. That’s pretty gratifying.”

The Dean’s Distinguished Lecture in the Natural Science is on April 23 at 4:30 p.m. in the Zelazo Center, Room 250. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/18YkX79

Heirloom foods

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Heirloom tomatoes, peaches and other foods go beyond learning the stories behind each seed, however.

“Thinking about edible memory, thinking about connections between food and memory and communities, it requires us to ask where does our food come from. The tomatoes that you ate in salsa this week, who harvested them? Under what conditions? What are the origins of those tomatoes? How have they moved around the world and been bred and adapted to different situations?” Jordan asked. “You can learn a lot about contemporary social formations and historical social formations by asking where your food comes from.”

Jordan’s book is due out in late April. The book can be pre-ordered at Amazon.com or through the University of Chicago Press.
Upcoming Events

April 1-9

April 1

April 2
International Language and Culture Fair. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Union Concourse. Learn about the many languages offered for study at UWM alongside internationally-focused culture programs, majors, minors, and certificates. Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the international language and culture programs. http://bit.ly/1bu9rBK


A Chain of Endless Tigers. 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Hefter Center. Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges spoke at UWM in April 1976. In 2014, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies staff digitized re-discovered videotape of the Borges talks, which will be screened during the event. Co-Sponsored by the UWM Year of the Humanities, the Masters in Languages, Literature and Translation Program, CLACS, and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. http://on.fb.me/1EGkleM

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

April 3
Chemistry & Biochemistry Awards Day and Research Symposium 2015. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Wisconsin Room. Tracy Hamilton, University of Alabama at Birmingham, speaks at 3 p.m. http://bit.ly/1Cbbdk1


April 7
Eat Local::Read Local Kickoff. 7 p.m. Pizza Man restaurant, 2597 N. Downer Ave. The event kicks off a month-long celebration of Eat Local::Read Local, a UWM Creative Writing effort to deliver free poems to diners in Milwaukee and Madison restaurants. http://on.fb.me/1M5EqVp

April 9

Geosciences Colloquium: New Sauropodomorph Dinosaurs from the Jurassic of Antarctica. 3:30 p.m. Lapham N103. William Hammer, Augustana College.

April 10-16
The 37th Annual Latin American Film Series, 2015. Films begin showing at 7 p.m. April 10 and play at various times through April 16. Union Theater. Admission is free. See the website for a list of films and showing times. http://bit.ly/19lRFz4

Continued on page 9
Upcoming Events

April 10

Neurohumanities Forum. 1:30 p.m. Heft Center. Ralph Savarese (Grinnell College), Barbara Stafford (University of Chicago) and Gabrielle Starr (New York University) explore how brain science informs the humanities. [http://bit.ly/1CdZ5ib]


April 13
LACUSL lecture - In Search of the Sacred Book: Religion and the Novel in Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s “One Hundred Years of Solitude”. 4 p.m. Gold Meir Library, 4th Floor Conference Center. Anibal Gonzalez-Perez, Yale University.

April 14
Women’s Studies Brown Bag: Diversity, Stereotypes, and Attorneys. 12 p.m. NWQB 7578. Erin Kaherny, UWM. [http://bit.ly/1Dr0aWO]


April 17
Geography Colloquium: From there to here, and from then until now - a personal historical geography. 2:30 p.m. AGS Library. Mick Day, UWM. [http://bit.ly/1LZZjkJ]


April 18

April 20
Center for Jewish Studies Lecture: The Future of Holocaust Education. 7 p.m. Congregation Shalom at 7630 N. Santa Monica Blvd. in Milwaukee. Rachel Baum, UWM. [http://bit.ly/1t2ym0H]

April 21
Year of the Humanities Distinguished Lecture - The Audacity of Despair: The Decline of the American Empire and What’s in it for You. 7 p.m. Union Wisconsin Room. David Simon, creator of HBO’s “The Wire,” offers perspective on race, class, culture and capitalism in contemporary America. Advance tickets are free for UWM Students, $10 for the campus community and $12 for the general public. [http://bit.ly/1GWkb5N]

April 22-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. Opening talk is on April 22nd at 4:30 p.m. presented by students from the Museum Studies program. [http://bit.ly/17qqaDs]

April 23
Upcoming Events

April 23
Dean’s Distinguished Lecture in the Natural Sciences: Seeing with the Mind as Well as the Eye. 4:30 p.m. Zelazo 250. UWM Professor Emeritus Robert Greenler delivers the inaugural lecture encouraging scientific observations about the world around us. For more on Dr. Greenler, see Page 7.  http://bit.ly/18YkX79

April 24-26
Italian Film Festival USA. Various times. Union Theater. The local premieres of award-winning Italian films will occur at various times throughout the weekend. Films are free and open to the public.  http://bit.ly/1E1aw06

April 24

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

April 26
Inventing the Latin Kingdom: Art and Architecture during the Crusades. 3 p.m. Sabin G90. Lisa Mahoney, DePaul University. Co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America-Milwaukee Society and the departments of Foreign Language and Literature (Classics); Anthropology; and Art History.  http://bit.ly/1lwov7

April 27
UWM’s 2nd Annual International Dessert Competition. 3:30 p.m. Greene Hall. Student contestants will have their culinary dessert efforts from around the world judged by local experts. Participants must register by April 20. Sponsored by UWM’s international language and culture programs; the Center for International Education, the College of Letters & Science, and the Division of Student Affairs.  http://uwmdessertcompetition.weebly.com/

April 27
Feminist Film Night: It Was Rape. 5 p.m. NWQB 7578. Film followed by discussion. Sponsored by the Women’s and Gender Studies program. Free and open to the public.  http://on.fb.me/1CZBchX

Less commonly taught languages

“It’s very important that you understand culture to understand why things are the way that they are,” Shelnutt said. “Maybe you can listen and understand what they’re talking about if you’re fluent, but you don’t understand why it’s important or what it actually signifies.”

“The university is big on promoting global citizens – how do we make a global citizen? We not only need language competency, we also need culture competency,” Sun added.

Culture and language competency have become increasingly important as the world economy grows more connected, the Internet brings people closer together, and countries rely more than ever on foreign trade and business. The U.S. government has listed several LCTL, including the ones taught at UWM, as languages essential for diplomatic relations and national security.

“I think the major message is language-learning is an essential component of being a global citizen,” Sun said. “The awareness, the perspective of other cultures – that’s so important that we cannot ignore it. We know science and math are important, but language-learning is a must in order to go on to that higher level of global competency and understanding of other cultures and the world they are in.”
Laurels and Accolades

Ahila Na (Biochemistry), Bushra Alsharif (Microbiology) and Camille Lucjak (Biological Sciences), along with Bushra Fathima from the College of Health Sciences, took second place in a statewide healthcare case competition organized by the Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers in January. The team took home $2,000 for taking second place out of nine finalist teams, from an original pool of 21 teams.

The UWM Mock Trial Team qualified for the Opening Round Championship Series, the second step toward the National Championship, in Topeka, Kan. Sophomore Alexia Gates (Political Science) won an Outstanding Witness Award. She was the only student to earn top-ten ranks.

Chia Vang (History) was recognized as a “Wisconsin Woman Making History” by WomeninWisconsin.org. http://bit.ly/1BQIy3G

PantherVision, a student-run television broadcast pulling students from the Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies program, took home some top honors at the Midwest Broadcast Journalist Association awards. Jenna McGlin, Kali LaCount, Emily Topczewski, Cole Stevenson, Maria Corpus, Danielle Stobb, Amanda Porter, and Michael Kohl won Best Series, as did Erin Nordloh. Maria Corpus and Danielle Stobb won Best Soft Feature.

The Milwaukee Press Club recognized UWM students in the 2014 Excellence in Journalism awards. Winners in the collegiate category included Media Milwaukee and UWM Post, and PantherVision students, including students in the JAMS 320 class. Milwaukee students earned awards in a number of categories. http://bit.ly/1y6HS6s

UWM’s PantherVision has been named best collegiate newscast in the state by the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association. Emily Topczewski and Cole Stevenson won for best news story and Andrew McCann and Laurie Bell won for best sports story.

PantherVision students will receive three regional Mark of Excellence awards for the Society of Professional Journalists:

- Erin Nordloh - Television General Reporting
- Jenna McGlin, Kali LaCount, Emily Topczewski, Cole Stevenson, Maria Corpus, Danielle Stobb, Amanda Porter, Michael Kohl - Television General Reporting
- Jenna McGlin, Kali LaCount, Emily Topczewski, Cole Stevenson, Danielle Stobb, Maria Corpus, Amanda Porter, Michael Kohl - Television In-Depth Reporting

UWM’s online Psychology degree was ranked No. 5 out of 30 ranked online psychology degree programs by TheBestSchools.org. http://bit.ly/1EclArr

Passings

Stephanie R. DeNatale, secretary to former Letters & Science Assistant Dean Bill Horstman, passed away on Feb. 23, 2015. She was 93 years old. Stephanie worked faithfully at UWM until her retirement. She is survived by many siblings, relatives, and friends. Stephanie was laid to rest on March 2 at St. Robert Catholic Church. http://bit.ly/1F58llq

Alumni Accomplishments

Quan Zeng (’11, PhD Biological Sciences) has joined the faculty of the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment in New Haven as assistant plant pathologist.

The Africology Department’s annual “Taste of Africa” event brought hundreds of Milwaukee-area school children to the UWM campus to learn about African culture, food, music, and history. The event not only exposes students to new cultural traditions, but also gives them an introduction to the UWM campus.

People in print


Neil O’Reilly (Conservation and Environmental Science) explained some of the controversy surrounding the sale of the Downtown Transit Center site in Milwaukee on WUWM. [http://bit.ly/1zicp0u](http://bit.ly/1zicp0u)

Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel (BA ’97, Political Science) reflected on his first few months in office in a Brookfield Now article. [http://bit.ly/1DvFSc3](http://bit.ly/1DvFSc3)

What do soil and dirt have to do with your wine? Barry Cameron (Geosciences) and Snejana Karakis (Geosciences) explained their research into the impact of soil on wine flavor in a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article. [http://bit.ly/1zj9ggS](http://bit.ly/1zj9ggS)

It seems like some people are losing faith in science these days. Andrew Petto (Biological Sciences) discussed why that might be so on WUWM’s Lake Effect. [http://bit.ly/1x03Mxh](http://bit.ly/1x03Mxh) He was also recently named to the Board of Governors for the national Vaccine Education Project. The project aims to provide support to public school teachers, students, and parents via the health curriculum for understanding the role of vaccination in public and personal health.

UWM Economics students volunteered their time to help more than 100 teens from area high schools participate in team-building and goal-setting activities through the Money Coach program, which helps students learn financial literacy. [http://bit.ly/1BKB0gw](http://bit.ly/1BKB0gw)

Well-rounded students are stars outside of the classroom as well as in it. Fox 6 News featured Rachel Margis (Chemistry) in an article regarding her diving skills. [http://bit.ly/1E9cq9N](http://bit.ly/1E9cq9N)

Bernard Perley (Anthropology) was featured in an online Dial Urban Milwaukee article for both his anthropology research and his artwork. [http://bit.ly/1AqTZv8](http://bit.ly/1AqTZv8)

William Velez (Sociology) helped to tell the 150-year-old history of Milwaukee’s Italian community in a Milwaukee Public Television feature. [http://bit.ly/1BArBKw](http://bit.ly/1BArBKw)

Gordon Gauchet (Sociology) had his research regarding individual views on science’s role in government featured in the Washington Post. It comes down to far more than politics, the research reveals. [http://wapo.st/1EHRI4J](http://wapo.st/1EHRI4J)

Jeffery Sommers (Africology and Global Studies) delivered two lectures at Brown and Harvard universities on the effects of austerity measures in the Baltic states.


In mid-March, Owen Thompson (Economics) served as an expert panelist for WisBusiness.com on a panel examining and presenting updates on the major effects of the Affordable Care Act and its possible future impacts on the health care industry, business, and more. [http://bit.ly/1Bz4bC2](http://bit.ly/1Bz4bC2)


Rebecca Neumann (Economics) joined the board of Make a Difference Wisconsin, a major nonprofit organization dedicated to improving financial literacy. [http://bit.ly/1x09FL1](http://bit.ly/1x09FL1)

Senior David Nichols, who is studying English, wrote an article covering a military veteran possibly suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder which was published in the March issue of Milwaukee Magazine. [http://bit.ly/18i7cje](http://bit.ly/18i7cje)

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In the Media

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Noel Mariano (English) was interviewed for a WUWM broadcast detailing some of the steps UWM has taken to be more welcoming and supportive of the LGBT+ community. http://bit.ly/1BCmnzg

Students in the Principles of Biomedical Science Class at the Endeavor Charter School in Milwaukee pitched research projects to Doug Stafford (Chemistry and Biochemistry), director of UWM’s Milwaukee Institute of Drug Discovery. Students proposed methods for monitoring or treating diabetes and presented to a mock panel to receive further funding for research. http://bit.ly/1EtbUJf

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel featured Xavier Siemens and David Kaplan (both Physics) for their role on the new UWM-lead research team that will be exploring gravitational waves in space in hopes of gaining a clearer understanding of the structure of the universe. http://bit.ly/1MoiMsU

Anastasios Tsonis (Atmospheric Science)’s research suggests that cosmic rays do not cause global warming. His research was featured in the Washington Post. http://wapo.st/1Bw9VB0

Jean Creighton (Manfred Olson Planetarium) alerted Milwaukee to a potential aurora borealis in the southeastern Wisconsin area in a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article. http://bit.ly/1EoehaF

Jeremy K. Larson and Reinhold J. Hutz (Biological Sciences) did a Skype interview to appear on an internet TV show by the Brazilian Research Network In Nanotechnology, Society and Environment. They spoke on nanoparticles as reproductive endocrine disruptors.

Marc Levine (History, Urban Studies) lent his expertise in a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article exploring Wisconsin’s rank as the state with the highest number of unemployed African Americans. http://bit.ly/190b7RX He also penned an editorial in the same newspaper outlining his take on Wisconsin’s economy and recently reported jobs numbers. http://bit.ly/1EqrHMQ

Jessica McBride (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) and her journalism students have been tracking down photos of Vietnam veterans as part of a project to find pictures of military men whose photos have been missing from the public eye. They were mentioned in a Leader-Telegram article. http://bit.ly/1LSRkWw

Director of the Field Station James Reinartz was interviewed by Tom Luljak on WUWM about the university’s outdoor learning areas. http://bit.ly/1HYffgZ

Elana Levine (Journalism, Advertising and Media Studies) was interviewed for the Minority Media Association’s program, U-View, on gender in the media. https://vimeo.com/121517321

Mark Zoromski (Journalism, Advertising and Media Studies) was selected to present three breakout sessions at the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association student seminar in Madison. His seminars were entitled “Beating the Big Boys,” and discussed how college journalists can consistently beat the commercial television stations.

Students Megan Connor, Kate Kallenberger, Daniel Murphy, Ethan Collins, Cole Stratton, Paromita Sengupta, Meg Kohlmann, Ryan Sugden and Chris Terry (Journalism, Advertising and Media Studies) were selected to present papers at the UW Communication Crossroads 2015 Conference.

At the annual Conference of the Wisconsin Nonprofits Association (WNA), a study completed by faculty and staff of UWM’s Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofit Management was released. The report illustrates aspects of the scope of Wisconsin’s nonprofit sector. It will help the WNA inform policymakers, foundations, the media and the public at large about the important, diverse - and growing - nonprofit sector. Shelly Schnupp, Associate Director of UWM’s Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofit Management, was elected President of the Wisconsin Nonprofits Association (WNA) in March 2015. http://bit.ly/1ZGJbM

Karyn Frick (Psychology) explained her take on nootropic drugs that some students use to enhance academic performance on TMJ4. http://bit.ly/1Ctlrh6