UWM Opens World-class Research Complex

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

The Kenwood Interdisciplinary Research Complex is a beautiful place to make world-changing discoveries.

The complex, known as the KIRC, will be dedicated Friday, October 2, 2015. Designed to foster innovation, it is expected to become a center for world-class research and a guiding force in Wisconsin industry.

“The Kenwood IRC is a landmark project for UWM – and the first new all-academic building on our East Side campus since 1995 when Lubar Hall was constructed. It significantly advances our abilities in the areas of scientific creative collaboration, ingenious partnership, and critical thinking through research and innovation,” Chancellor Mark Mone said. “I am humbled by the generosity and the diligent efforts that so many with ties to UWM have put forth to officially open its doors.”

Space for innovation

Primarily home to the physics department, KIRC also houses researchers from the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health, and the Shimadzu Laboratory for Advanced Applied and Analytical Chemistry, which is used by many different research groups.

With support from the Energy and Defense Departments and the National Science Foundation, physicists on the third floor grow unique crystals in an effort to uncover the secrets of new states of matter. The materials have properties that will revolutionize the production of batteries, data storage devices and superconductors. Unlike copper and other traditional conductors, superconductors can carry electrical currents indefinitely without losing energy.

Meanwhile, researchers in the Leonard E. Parker Center for Gravitation, Cosmology, and Astrophysics on the fourth floor are exploring the bounds of space by searching for gravitational waves, elusive ripples in the fabric of space and time that Albert Einstein predicted almost a century ago.

One floor up, professors and students in the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health delve into environmental health sciences, examining the biological and ecological impact of contaminants in air and water.

The space on these floors is designed to foster the interdisciplinary teamwork needed to address complex scientific questions. Open areas and nooks where faculty and students can meet or study encourage constant interaction, while the positioning of labs eases the transfer of samples between researchers.

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“Modern research demands collaboration between disciplines – biologists working with physicists working with engineers working with chemists and so on,” said Rodney Swain, dean of the College of Letters and Science. “Our new building supports this type of essential collaboration, giving UWM researchers, students, and members of the research community at large access to the latest equipment and space to work together to find answers to important questions.”

State-of-the-Art Equipment

KIRC’s modern equipment gives scientists the means to advance research in drug discovery, biomedical imaging, astrophysics and new material development. Electron microscopes with high resolution down to the atomic level aid in the study of matter’s electronic and structural properties, leading to new knowledge and potentially new materials that could be used in the energy or technology sectors.

The High Performance Computing Data Center contains a collection of computers working together to deliver exponentially greater performance power than any single server could. The HPC cluster, known as Mortimer, processes data for areas such as the digital humanities and bioinformatics in ways that were previously impossible.

Other equipment includes multiple mass spectrometers, which use electric and magnetic fields to measure the mass of charged particles; fluorescent microscopes; and chromatography systems that use gas or liquid to separate chemical compounds.

“It’s really a great advantage to us as students to have access to these different instruments because we can get a variety of research experiences that we haven’t before,” said Margaret Guthrie, who is in her third year of graduate work in chemistry. Guthrie spends much of her time in the Shimadzu Laboratory, working with Assistant Professor Alexander Arnold and the Milwaukee Institute for Drug Discovery on a study that could lead a pill to treat asthma.

An engine for economic development

Several researchers at KIRC work under the umbrella of the Science and Technology Center, a group funded by one of the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious awards. They use powerful lasers and advanced microscopes to study the structure of proteins and viruses and how they work within the human body.

Physics Professor Valerica Raicu built his own equipment, piecing together different lasers, microscopes, and computers so the team of biologists and biophysicists could study “in vivo” cells. Medical imaging has traditionally relied on “in vitro” cells, samples that are only partially intact or dead. Raicu’s system can look at “in vivo” cells, which are still alive and interacting with their surroundings. The ability to compare living and dead cells provides opportunities for novel interdisciplinary work in medicine and environmental science.
If you found the Fountain of Youth and had a chance to live forever, would you drink the water?

UWM Associate Professor of Philosophy Luca Ferrero would, if the circumstances were just right. For the past year, he’s been working on a grant from the Templeton Foundation as part of The Immortality Project at the University of California-Riverside, an endeavor which asks philosophers to explore issues related to the concept of immortal life. Ferrero’s part of the project is to investigate the structure of such a life in hopes of answering one important question: is living forever actually desirable?

He presented his thoughts at the project’s Capstone Conference this summer and he’ll be writing a paper for publication detailing his thoughts.

“There’s a fantasy about having an immortal life and the things it will do for us, but when we reflect on the things that are really most important to us, it turns out that they are always related necessarily to the fact that we take our lives to be finite,” Ferrero said.

Given that, Ferrero thinks that there are two ways of looking at immortal life. The first is as a narrative with a beginning, middle, and end. An immortal life has no end and that’s a difficult concept for humans to conceive. But Ferrero suggests to think of an ending not as a stopping point, but as what he calls a ‘dynamic resolution,’ a satisfying conclusion to an action before the next action begins. We can imagine immortal life if it’s like a continuous story and we digest it in small chunks that are linked together. Think of it in musical terms.

“In harmony, you can move away to a dissonance, but at some point, the dissonance gets resolved,” Ferrero said, “and yet, the music keeps going.”

The second way of looking at immortal life is in terms of opportunity and scarcity. Ferrero examined the claim that the things we value in life we find important because we expect that our lives will end. What if, he wonders, we value these things for other reasons?

“It’s not because they are finite in time; it’s more because there are limited opportunities for action over time,” he said. “Imagine for a moment that you have a life that never ends, but is such that you face certain choices and then you can never go back. It could be careers; it could be people, places. My conjecture is that even if our life goes on forever, it’s still very recognizable given that we continue to face these kinds of choices and we might suffer permanent losses.”

There is a dark flipside to this argument. What if an immortal life has no loss? What if there is unlimited time to accomplish everything possible, so everything in the universe that is possible does ultimately occur?
CES students catch the green roof buzz

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

UWM was abuzz this summer – especially on campus roofs.

That’s where Conservation and Environmental Science majors Amanda Pastirik and Meghan Wersel spent much of their break, laying the groundwork for a long-term research project on the presence of pollinators – specifically honeybees and bumblebees – on the university’s green roofs.

“There’s a lot of concern about pollinators. They are suffering from loss of habitat. They are suffering from pesticide use. They’re really important both in natural systems and in agriculture, and people haven’t been paying enough attention to pollinators, so their numbers are declining,” explained Gretchen Meyer, manager of the UWM Field Station. Meyer is running the long-term research project with Mai Phillips, coordinator of the CES program, and recruited Pastirik and Wersel to do the initial data collection.

Green roofs are stretches of plantings on the tops of buildings. They provide several benefits, including capturing and filtering storm water, lowering the overall temperature in cities, and reducing costs for heating and cooling of the building. And, Meyer said, the roofs could provide an urban habitat for pollinators who have few other places to go – but there’s no data to say for certain.

“The idea behind this project … is to see if the pollinators were using the green roofs, and then, as a comparison, add one of the prairie plantings to see if the patches of green roof are similar to other little patches of habitat on campus,” Meyer said.

Pastirik and Wersel began collecting data in June. Each week for about two months, they visited two of UWM’s six green roofs, located atop Golda Meir Library and Sandburg Hall. For 10 minutes at a time, they sat and watched a small patch of roof – about a quarter-meter squared – and took an inventory of the bees that flew through the plantings. The library roof is covered with sedum, the most widely-used plant for green roofs, while the Sandburg roof is home to a variety of prairie plantings and vegetables.

The students also checked the number of bees frequenting small sections of UWM’s spiral garden, a ground-level patch of prairie plantings near the Norris Health Center.

The results surprised them.

“The first week we went out was very exciting because we were expecting to be very bored and to sit there for 30 minutes and maybe see (one) bee,” Pastirik said. “Instead, we were seeing 10 bees in our 10-minute observation period. … They’re using the habitat, which is the main thing we wanted to learn.”

The students had expected the spiral garden to be more appealing than the roofs because of its ground level.

“It was almost the opposite,” Wersel said. “The first day that I went up to Sandburg’s roof, I saw at least 15 bees in my quadrant, which was totally unexpected.”

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Lisa Schiller is not a woman to do things by half-measures, no matter how long it takes.

Today, she’s the Director of Investigations and Media Relations for Better Business Bureau Wisconsin. Before that, she was an investigative producer for 10 years at WITI-TV/Fox 6. Before that, she was a full-time assistant at Fox 6, a part-time waitress, and a UWM Communication student who was slogging her way through six years of night classes to earn her Bachelor’s degree.

“It was tough,” she said. “I was working two jobs but I stuck with it because I could see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

Schiller grew up in the Milwaukee area. She started a job with the Better Business Bureau after graduating high school and took classes at the Milwaukee Area Technical College before she decided that she wanted a degree and a Communication major. She entered UWM in 1995 and attended evening classes Mondays through Thursdays. While she was in school, she left the BBB and was hired at the WITI television station as an assistant on top of her waitressing job. It was a busy time, but a good one.

“I had great professors in the Communication Department. I had a couple who were so encouraging and interesting,” Schiller said. “It made you want to learn. It made you feel like you could go out and use this degree, that it was a really worthwhile degree – which I still feel it is.”

Schiller’s classes came in handy even before she graduated. Within two years of being hired at Fox 6, she was promoted to Investigative Consumer Producer for the Contact 6 segment of WITI broadcasts. She was responsible for investigating scams, shady business practices, and other forms of consumer fraud, and then shooting and writing the stories you would see on the TV news that night. Over her 10 years at the station, she investigated numerous complaints and helped countless people who had been scammed, but one report in particular stands out.

“One of the pieces I did was a hidden camera investigation on a plumbing company that we had gotten calls about from a lot of senior citizens, saying the company was over-charging. … We worked with NARI, the home improvement agency, and they sent out an expert to make two minor problems with my toilet. They would have cost $1.50 for the part,” Schiller recalled. “I called the plumbing company out, and sure enough, they never really took a look at my toilet. They made me an offer – ‘We can fix your toilet for about $2,000.’ We ended up exposing the way this company did business.”
During her internship with the U.S. State Department, alumna Katelyn Hinkens was more likely to be asked to call up the head of a foreign government than to fetch the coffee. That was a year ago; currently she’s in the middle of “diplomatic boot camp,” training for her first post in the U.S. Foreign Service.

Hinkens might be in DC now, but she grew up in the Milwaukee suburbs and chose UWM for its proximity, affordability, and quality. She started out in the pre-pharmacy program, but she soon realized that she wasn’t enjoying her studies. Hinkens asked herself – what kind of career would make her happiest?

“In an ideal world I would like to be paid to travel,” Hinkens said. “I found the State Department and said, that’s my pie-in-the-sky goal.”

She set about earning it by switching her major to International Studies. She graduated in the spring of 2012 and then began a waiting game. Applying for a position with the U.S. State Department is a long and hard process. The State Department handles all of the country’s foreign services, from staffing consulates to appointing ambassadors and diplomats. There are multiple steps in the hiring process, including tests, interviews, and applications. If at any point an applicant doesn’t advance in hiring, they are barred from reapplying for an entire year.

Then Hinkens discovered the Pickering Fellowship, a program that provides recipients with preparation – mainly through graduate school – to enter the State Department’s Foreign Service. Hinkens applied, earned the fellowship, and began her graduate studies at Marquette University. As part of her fellowship, Hinkens was required to work in an internship each summer. That’s when her real fun began.

Her first summer was spent in the U.S. Secretary of State’s office in the Operations Center, where officials continually monitor world events, prepare briefings for the Secretary of State, and facilitate communications with foreign countries.

“There’s a room full of people, and the director calls – ‘This is Secretary (of State John) Kerry. Get me the president of China.’ You’re making those calls,” Hinkens said. “It’s very fast-paced, exciting, and stressful, but a really cool look at the inner workings of the State Department.”

Hinkens’ internship came at an interesting time; she was manning the phones when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was downed over Ukraine, and when health organizations were racing to contain the Ebola outbreak in western Africa.

Her internship this past summer took her halfway around the world, where she served in the U.S. embassy in New Delhi, India as an economics officer, working on trade agreements and technology imports, encouraging local entrepreneurship, and investigating sustainable energy initiatives. Much of her work centered around India’s slums, where millions live in poverty. Hinkens was grateful to make a difference.

“The work you do can really help people in impactful ways. You’re one person in a big world, but to put the bug in someone’s ear and get the ball rolling is rewarding,” she said. “I learned a lot about myself and our culture and how politics work.”

Hinkens returned to the United States just a few weeks ago and is now working full-time for the State Department, training for her first tour of duty as a Foreign Service officer. She’s hoping for a posting in Latin America – Brazil and Mexico are strong possibilities, she thinks – but she could end up anywhere in the world. She’ll end up being paid to travel, just like she wanted when she first switched her major at UWM.
Democratic presidential candidate Hilary Clinton visited Wisconsin in early September to speak about women, family, and students, and she stopped at UWM on her campaign trail. Students like Communication major Breana Farrell listened to Clinton’s speech so they could take part in the political process. 

https://youtu.be/7ofXjpzqvMw

Where did your degree take you? 

Schiller won a First Place Investigative Award with both the Wisconsin Broadcasting Association and the American Press in Wisconsin for her efforts on that particular piece. Two years later, she and some of the other staff members at WITI won an Emmy for their work on product testing.

The skills she learned in her Communication classes were vital in her career as a broadcaster, she said. She had honed her public speaking in the classroom, as well as her abilities to make strong arguments, stay organized, and pay close attention to detail.

After 10 years in television, Schiller left work to spend more time with her daughter. At the same time, she went back to UWM for another Bachelor’s degree — this time with a major in Criminal Justice in the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare. She graduated in December of 2014. Her next job married both degrees and her love of consumer advocacy. Schiller was hired at the Better Business Bureau again, this time as an Investigator looking into claims people made against particular businesses. After about a year, she was promoted and given an additional job in media relations.

“I do my investigations, I write press releases, but I also deal with the media – newspaper, radio, and TV,” Schiller said. “I understand from a media standpoint what it takes (to produce a story). I make sure that I’m available or we’re available for interviews. I try to go the extra mile for the reporters.”

Schiller credits her job successes to her supportive family. Though she enjoys her work, she said it’s helping others that truly makes her job worthwhile.

“When I started working at the BBB, it was just such an eye-opener. … I thought, look at all the consumers who would call and have questions about mailings they’d received, and phone calls they had gotten, and offers and sweepstakes. When you see these people and hear their stories, it breaks your heart. You want to do whatever you can to try to help,” Schiller said. “I love it. It’s so gratifying. We’ve seen a lot of success.”
Green roof pollinators

That’s important because bees play an essential role in plant reproduction. Bumblebees are especially crucial; certain plants, like tomatoes, can only reproduce with “buzz pollination,” meaning their pollen is released only at the specific sound frequency generated by a bumblebee’s buzz.

While the results are preliminary and the study won’t be complete for some time, Wersel and Pastirik think their initial findings have positive implications for green roofs, pollinators and Milwaukee.

“The world’s getting more populated. Cities are getting bigger. More buildings are getting built. It’s important to have an urban environment where these bees can go,” Wersel said. “It’s not like (green roofs are) a super-difficult thing to implement, either. I think we have to let people know that it is easy and it does work, and it is a good environment for bees. There’s a lot of benefits to it, and I hope people will see that from our research.”
Upcoming Events

Sept. 30
Celtic Studies Kick-Off Céilí. 5-8 p.m. Zelazo Center. Join the Celtic Studies program for lively music by Ceoil Cairde.

Oct. 1

English Department reading: United We Read. 7 p.m. Boswell Books, 2559 N. Downer Ave. Rebecca Dunham, UWM, reads with graduate students Loretta McCormick, Jenni Moody, and Andrew Ruzkowski.

Oct. 2


Oct. 2 and 9
Planetarium show: Science & Cinema. 7 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Learn about the technology featured in cinema that we take as everyday reality. Tickets are $3. [http://bit.ly/1uNTnBD](http://bit.ly/1uNTnBD)

Oct. 7
Urban Studies Programs Fall Social: Beyond Katrina - Strategies for Achieving Urban Flood Resilience. 2 p.m. AUP Building 110. Eion O’Neill, University College Dublin. [http://on.fb.me/1gGWzdw](http://on.fb.me/1gGWzdw)

Oct. 9
Mathematical Sciences Colloquium: The topological censorship theorem. 2 p.m. EMS Building E495. John Friedman, UWM. [http://on.fb.me/1NKzzx2z](http://on.fb.me/1NKzzx2z)


Oct. 15
Literary Reading and Q & A with Carmen Giménez Smith. 7 p.m. Hefter Center. Hosted by Graduate Creative Writing program and co-sponsored by the Departments of English and Spanish and Portuguese; Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latin@ Studies Program; Roberto Hernández Center; and Women’s and Gender Studies Program. [http://bit.ly/1QBxH3c](http://bit.ly/1QBxH3c)

Oct. 16

Oct. 22
From Bombay Brothel Owner to Yiddish Star: The Remarkable Life of Fanny Epstein. 7 p.m. Congregation Emannu-El B’ne Jeshurun, 2020 W. Brown Deer Rd. Historian David Mazower reconstructs the life of one of the most remarkable Jewish women of modern times. Sponsored by the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies. [http://bit.ly/1KvVH3a](http://bit.ly/1KvVH3a)

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This month, Letters & Science is pleased to recognize Economics alumnus Dennis Carr ('74 and '75) for his continued support of the UWM Economics Department.

Dennis Carr owes his career to his Economics professors and studies.

“It started by chance. During freshman class registration I signed up for an economics class because it fit my schedule, meaning not too early in the morning. I did not know what economics was about,” Carr said. “Steve Call was the professor and he was absolutely great. So, I took another economics class the next semester from Richard Meadows. That had me hooked! I changed my major from math to economics.”

He finished his Bachelor’s degree in three years and took just one year for his Master’s. He began working for the Wisconsin Telephone Company almost immediately.

“It so happened that they were looking for an economist, an entry-level position, that would do statistical modeling. ‘Econometrics’ is what the profession calls it,” Carr said. “I stayed with that employer for my entire career. … I kept getting different assignments and advancing. In my career, I was in economics. I was in marketing. I was in finance. I was in corporate strategy. I was in their leasing company. One position naturally migrated into another, but always different jobs.”

His career even took him to Belgium for three years working for Belgacom, the Belgian national telecom provider, where he was its Chief Operating Officer. During his time abroad, Carr was able to travel and so far has visited more than 30 countries.

“As I go through this whole career and everything that I’ve done, I cannot imagine that it would have been possible if I hadn’t had that first class in Economics and if I hadn’t had the teachers that I did in the Economics department – Bill Holahan in particular,” Carr said. “Everything would have taken a different course. It got me that first job at Wisconsin Telephone, largely because of the faculty recommendation that I got. It provided me with a discipline and a framework for thinking that has been invaluable in every position. I owe so much to that experience and those years there. Now I’m in a position where I can help out the university and help out that department in particular. Maybe somebody else is going to have that same experience as me. I believe that this is a pretty smart investment.”

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**Upcoming Events**

Oct. 23


Oct. 23


Oct. 24


Oct. 30

From the desk of the Student Association President

The Student Association, UWM’s student government, has been busy gearing up for a very promising year.

We have three new Letters and Science senators who are very committed to serving those in the L&S community: Dakota Crowell (dcrowell@uwm.edu), Cole Meller (ctmeller@uwm.edu) and David Koltermann (kolterm3@uwm.edu).

L&S is in a very unique position as far as drafting legislation goes. While most of the other schools on campus have only one senator, L&S has three since it is so big. Because of this, we strongly encourage all involved with the school to reach out to their senators and find a way to get involved. This may include working with your senator to add value and services to UWM or working to resolve any prominent concerns.

The Student Association is very ambitious to make this one of our greatest and most influential semesters on record. As L&S is our largest school on campus, we strongly encourage any L&S student to get involved in any way you can. We currently have a few at-large senator vacancies available. To view and apply for a vacancy, please visit our website at uwmsa.uwm.edu and click the ‘Get Involved’ tab in the navigation bar.

Please, feel free reach out to Sean Cornell (scornell@uwm.edu, Director of Student Outreach and Recruitment), Brandi Hernandez (herna334@uwm.edu, Vice President of Academic Affairs) or Mike Sportiello (sportie3@uwm.edu, President) for any other concerns. We are always available to help our student body.

The structure of immortal life

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“Sometimes, when people discuss immortality, they combine together the idea that the life never ends with the idea that there is no scarcity and thus all options, sooner or later, will become available,” Ferrero said. “Philosophers are worried, and I am too, that if this is what immortal life were to be like, then it would be shapeless. It would be unclear what would motivate us. Why should I get up in the morning if my life is immortal and whatever I’m supposed to do this morning, I could also do at a later time?”

Therefore, Ferrero says, if he encountered the Fountain of Youth, he’d have strict parameters for what would make immortal life worth living. It would have to be in a universe where people would be able to make choices with permanent consequences, and they would have to face losses and regrets – possibilities and opportunities that slip by.

To be clear, Ferrero and other philosophers are not debating whether life is actually immortal.

“I would say that many of the philosophers who are working on these issues these days, they probably accept that we are not immortal,” he said. “But they’re still interested in ... the meaning and desirability of immortality.”

All of this may seem like a thought exercise, but questions about immortality and what might shape that life are hugely important as science advances. Researchers are examining ways to reverse aging and extend human life. Some scientists are interested in “resurrection medicine,” where people legally dead are returned to life through medical intervention. Even questions about the cost of palliative care relate back to this field of philosophy, says Ferrero.

“For instance, should we invest and spend hundreds and thousands of dollars to extend the life of a person just for a few days?” Ferrero said. “These are actually questions that we already face, and I think it would be a lot better to reflect on them using philosophy. Because these questions involve death, a lot of people don’t want to face them. ... One of the bigger drives of civilization is how we conceive of death and how we address the prospect of death. It’s the very foundation of all the things that are important. So it is imperative that philosophy continues to reflect on it.”

So if you do find the Fountain of Youth, think long and hard before you take a sip.
People in print


“Clarence,” a profile by UWM alumna Kristin Catalano on Clarence Garrett (’07, BA) who graduated at the age of 87, was chosen for the 2015 Milwaukee Film Festival’s Cream City program. Garrett passed away in 2012. 
http://bit.ly/1MXyDkC

Thomas Holbrook (Political Science) lent his expertise to the Daily Caller to help explain Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump’s poll numbers and what they might mean for primary voting. (http://bit.ly/1hJE2ic) He also was quoted in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel regarding his take on former presidential candidate and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker’s debate performance. http://bit.ly/1JMHDMc

The Los Angeles Daily News wrote a touching tribute to honor Carolina Garcia (’80, BA Journalism) upon her retirement from her position as Managing Editor of the Los Angeles News Group. The article detailed her bright and vibrant career. http://bit.ly/1EBvbJr

Bertha Alvaez Manninen (’01, MA Philosophy) penned a defense of the Humanities and Philosophy education in particular for the Huffington Post. http://huff.to/1JNBG84


As the nation grieved for slain WBDJ reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Wood, Mark Zoromski (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) talked with Fox6 News about the discussion he and other JAMS professors will have with their students about their personal safety as reporters. http://bit.ly/1hUhdIQ

NPR interviewed Jennifer Jordan (Sociology) about her latest book Edible Memory: the Lure of Heirloom Tomatoes and Other Forgotten Foods on the program exploring food and culture, The Salt. http://n.pr/1i1UkDk

BizTimes.com announced that Executive Director of the Helen Bader Institute Douglas Ihrke (Nonprofit Management) will sit on a Nov. 9 panel at the Viewpoints Statewide Conference, presented by the Wisconsin Philanthropy Network. http://bit.ly/1KZeglh

Milwaukee Common Council President Michael Murphy (’86, BS Geosciences) was profiled in the Milwaukee Business Journal for his work with the city. He hinted at a possible mayoral run after Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett leaves office. http://bit.ly/1WdVuKz

Bill Hurwitz (’73, BA Sociology) was also featured in the Milwaukee Business Journal – he plans to retire from the Milwaukee Radio Alliance. The article discussed his work in the local radio industry. http://bit.ly/1PkJKUNH

Bettina Arnold (Anthropology) gave the keynote lecture, “Intersectionality, Personal Ornament and Gender Marking in Early Iron Age Southwest German” at the international conference “Être et paraître en Europe. Identité et parures féminines aux âges du Bronze et du Fer” in Brussels, Belgium in September. http://bit.ly/1KvYgCm

Alumni Accomplishments

Wendy Stankovich (’04, MS Biological Sciences) was named National Outstanding Advisor of the Year by the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society for First Year College Students. Stankovich is a senior lecturer in the Biology Department at UW-Platteville. http://bit.ly/1WUQZ8K

Novo Group, a recruiting solutions company in Milwaukee, and inVantage, a Milwaukee Human Resources consulting firm, recently combined and inVantage founder, Kelly Renz (’03, BA English), was named the President and CEO of the group. http://bit.ly/1Ez1Mj2
Laurels and Accolades

Bart Adrian (Atmospheric Sciences) was chosen by the Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences to be inducted to the Wisconsin Silver Circle. His induction occurs on Oct. 4. The Television Academy established the Silver Circle to honor professionals who have devoted 25 or more years to the television industry and made significant contributions to their local market. Adrian joins the ranks of individuals like Vince Condella, Jack Abrams and Mike Gousha, household names in southeastern Wisconsin.

Graduate student Sammi Dittloff (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) received a Student Leader of the Year award in May 2015 from UWM’s Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership, and Research. Sammi was honored for her work with Victory Garden Initiative, a Milwaukee non-profit dedicated to helping communities build socially just, environmentally sustainable, nutritious food systems for all.

Senior Lecturer Mark Zoromski (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) will be inducted into the Milwaukee Press Club’s Media Hall of Fame on Oct. 23. The Milwaukee Press Club advances the journalistic profession through public recognition of outstanding professional achievements, such as Zoromski’s work as news producer and director of news planning for WITI-TV and as UWM’s journalism producer, where he started the national award-winning UWM PantherVision.

Uk Heo (Political Science) has received a book award from the Korean Minister of Education for his book South Korea’s Rise: Economic Development, Power, and Foreign Relations published in 2014 by Cambridge University Press. His book, with Terence Roehrig from the Naval War College, was honored as one of the best research products funded by the Korean government.

Paru Shah (Political Science) received the Clarence Stone Scholar award by the American Political Science Association. The award recognizes young scholars making significant contributions to the study of urban politics.

Several Letters & Science faculty and staff member were recognized for their contributions to the university and will be honored as 2015 UWM Award Recipients at the annual Fall Awards Ceremony on Oct. 20. They include:

- Ernest Spaights Plaza Honorees Clifford H. Mortimer (Biological Sciences), who passed away in 1981, and Rachel I. Skalitzky (Comparative Literature), who passed away in 2014.
- UWM Faculty Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award winners John Berges (Biological Sciences) and Anne Bonds (Geography).
- UWM Faculty Distinguished University Service Award winner Mark Schwartz (Geography).
- Office of Research/UWM Foundation Research Award winners Jason Puskar (English), Rafael Rodriguez Sevilla (Biological Sciences), and Xavier Siemens (Physics).
- UWM Research Foundation Senior Faculty Award winners Carol Hirschmugl (Physics) and Reinhold Hutz (Biological Sciences).
- UWM Research in the Humanities Award winners Joseph Peschio (Foreign Languages and Literature) and Tami Williams (English).
- UWM Academic Staff Outstanding Performance & Service Award winner Donna Genzmer (Geographic Information Systems).
- UWM Academic Staff Outstanding Teaching Award winner Benjamin Schneider (English/Film Studies).
Raicu founded Aurora Spectral Technologies, which packages the technology with a user-friendly interface for use by others.

“Federal dollars like the National Science Foundation’s grant for the Science Technology Center directly lead to economic activity in our community,” Swain said. “They generate new innovation and new jobs.”

The Small Business Collaboratory, funded by two National Science Foundation grants, has a multiphoton microscope that allows researchers to create 3-D images of miniscule organisms and structures like proteins, tissue and antibodies. The lab is available to businesses, start-ups and researchers worldwide who would not otherwise have access to that type of equipment.

The Leonard E. Parker Center, founded with a generous donation by Drs. Isabel and Alfred Bader, allows members of the public to help in the search for gravitational waves. A program called Einstein@Home has volunteers all over the world using their computer’s idle time to collect weak astrophysical signals from spinning neutron stars, often called pulsars. These volunteers have already discovered about 50 new neutron stars.

“There is so much going on in KIRC — from the Zilber School of Public Health’s work identifying the impact of the chemicals in our environment on pregnancy, to the search for information on the formation of black holes, to the advances in new materials that might lead to better batteries, smarter computers and superconducting materials. I have no doubt that KIRC will attract new talent to the university and the city itself,” Swain said. “We’ve heard so much about ‘brain-drain’ in our state; this building will serve as a resource for ‘brain-gain.’ It will attract students and researchers from around the country and the world.”