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At press time, state legislators were finalizing details of Wisconsin’s 2015-’17 biennial budget. While we don’t know the exact impact the final budget will have on the university, the proposed budget does call for a sizable funding reduction for the entire University of Wisconsin System. For UW-Milwaukee, this funding cut could mean a loss of $40 million over the next two years.

I want to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to all who have advocated for UWM in the face of this budget challenge. Your letters and calls of support and the stories you have shared about the impact UWM has made in your life, these will continue to be essential to securing the future of our university. Let’s build on them in the months ahead. I encourage you to make your support of UWM ongoing and official as a member of our Panther Advocates group, a welcoming and influential network of UWM alumni and friends. Find out more about Panther Advocates at PantherAdvocates.uwm.edu and on page 36 of this issue.

One of the best things about being chancellor at UWM is seeing the remarkable work that our students, alumni, staff and faculty do that changes lives. UWM reaches far beyond its campus to make an impact through engagement with and partnerships in every industry and every corner of Milwaukee and beyond.

One example is being named among the nation’s top universities for community engagement by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This is significant recognition of the impact that our students, faculty and staff have created through their service and engagement for the good of society. The Carnegie designation is about both building success in academics and life preparedness for our students and our state’s future leaders.

And at UWM, we are working to strengthen the region as the entire state faces a critical turning point in terms of economic development. Southeastern Wisconsin is home to the state’s largest workforce and concentration of industry and commerce. UWM is the only urban public research university in the state. We are the industry partners and backbone of the labor supply for many employers in the region. As alumni, you serve a critical role in our state’s economy; as the teachers, actuaries, physical and occupational therapists, engineers, information specialists, leaders and so many others who make a difference.

As we continue to build our strong and vibrant alumni base, UWM is looking ahead to— and is prepared to address— what is a looming talent shortage in our state. Less than 10 years from now (by 2023), there will be 5,000 fewer employees ages 15 to 69 in Wisconsin. During the same period, there will be 95,000 new jobs. That’s a significant shortage.

UWM is deeply committed to increasing the number of college graduates in Wisconsin. More than 5,400 individuals earned degrees from UWM last year and are now part of our proud Panther network. UWM needs you, the region and state need you, and your impact is, indeed, far beyond our geographic boundaries.

This spring and summer, I will be at several Alumni Association gatherings and many other events. I’m looking forward to meeting more of you and hearing about your experiences at UWM and life beyond the campus.

Mark A. Mone
Chancellor
8 couples, 2 dogs, 1 lawsuit end with a wedding finale for UWM sweethearts

They met at UW-Milwaukee. They fell in love at UWM. One of them now works at UWM, but an official happily-ever-after took some time for Roy Badger and Garth Wangemann.

It took two court rulings in 2014 to enable the longtime couple to marry legally in Wisconsin, which they did in front of family and friends – with UWM tech employee Badger ('98 BA Sociology) wearing a microphone from a local TV station – on Nov. 8, 2014.

Badger, 57, met Wangemann in 1976 when they were both living in Sandburg Hall. It was happiness at first sight.

“I took a picture of him at a St. Patrick’s Day party because I thought he was cool,” remembers Wangemann, 59.

Fast-forward 38 years. In February 2014, Badger and Wangemann were one of eight couples named in an ACLU-led lawsuit, *Walker v. Wolf*, seeking to overturn a 2006 Wisconsin constitutional amendment that denied same-sex couples the right to marry. The couples made a persuasive case; four months later, a U.S. District judge ruled the ban unconstitutional. The state appealed the decision, but that appeal was eventually overturned – clearing the way for these college sweethearts to end their very long engagement.

“I was very moved by the support and good wishes we received from my workplace and from UWM alumni at all levels,” Badger says. “Maybe it’s my age, but I’m still kind of surprised by it.”

As a young gay couple in the ’70s, Badger and Wangemann endured police harassment on their way to the bars. In contrast, their wedding reception featured letters of congratulations signed by President and Mrs. Obama and U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin.

Now Roy and Garth Badger are settled into a quiet newlywed existence with golden retriever Daisy and bishon-poodle mix, Winston. The husbands say that’s really all they ever wanted.

Young lives, familiar faces inspire new grad student and new master’s program

Less than one year into his studies, Darius Carr has already been to Ferguson, Missouri, and stood with the Coalition for Justice that organized in response to the police shooting of unarmed Dontre Hamilton in his hometown of Milwaukee.

“I am affected by the systems I study,” he says.

He felt that connection within hours of his first research trip to Ferguson. Invited to actions and conversations planned in response to the fatal police shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in August 2014, Carr was tear-gassed as he researched and demonstrated.

Closer to home, professors encouraged Carr (’14 BA Global Studies) to ground his research in and near his Lincoln Creek neighborhood.

So on a recent afternoon on campus, Carr tells a roomful of teenage boys that their group conversation will touch on intense topics. His tone is gentle and he speaks slowly – with diction more like a poet than a professor.

He passes around copies of a systems map he has designed, an intricate blend of arrows and text that layers and links a variety of factors related to gun violence in Milwaukee: black on black crime, militarized law enforcement, fragmented media attention, Ferguson.

He tells the boys they’ll be talking about the map and their lives, but that it’s confidential, they they’re in a safe space, that they must respect one another.

Facilitation skills like these were essential to Carr’s undergraduate job as a clinical interviewer for the Milwaukee Young Parenthood Study, run out of the Zilber School of Public Health.
Entrepreneurial artist makes an impact teaching, creating, recycling

By day, she’s Ms. Danielle at the Journey House, a south-side Milwaukee nonprofit offering adult education and youth development to help families move out of poverty.

“The kids are so great,” she says of her art students. “They really want to learn, they have no cell phones, no distractions. As the teacher, you are the coolest person in the room and they are like sponges — soaking it all in.”

Evenings and weekends, she’s CEO and principal photographer at Danielle Burren LLC. “I’m so booked with weddings and corporate work that I’m not taking a lot of new commissions right now,” she says.

Doing it all is something UW-Milwaukee students know well. Many balance part-time jobs with full-time study and community service with coursework. Burren (’12 BFA Art & Design) was no exception during her time in the Peck School of the Arts. She got involved in service through UWM’s Habitat for Humanity chapter. She spent winter breaks teaching art in Nicaragua with a mission group, and connected with Milwaukee-based artists and art educators in Peck and School of Education courses. Burren envisioned a hybrid artist/educator career that would allow her to flourish as an artist and keep her grounded in the Milwaukee community she grew to love at UWM.

“There is this humble aspect of Milwaukee that is really appealing,” explains Burren, an Appleton, Wisconsin, native. “It’s not just this city where everybody is wrapped up in doing their own things. People care about the community here. The coffee shops, the bars, the galleries are places where you can sit back and talk about what you’re doing to make a difference. People want to talk about it.”

Her students feel that sense of purpose, too. They made Valentines for program donors, and then began creating a 3-D replica of Milwaukee out of recycled materials.

“It gets the kids really excited about the city, and talking about their neighborhoods as not just a place where bad things might happen,” says Burren, “but beauty happens, too.”

Now in her eighth year as a photographer and her third as an art and community education teacher, Burren is pondering a return to UWM to earn an education degree, showing her fiber art and painting collections in galleries and preparing to teach a new photography course at Journey House. And, she just got promoted to lead the nonprofit’s girls’ empowerment program, Girls in the House.

“I’ll always have a passion for my own art,” she says, “but to combine it with a teaching career is so much more fulfilling.”

“I couldn’t just be this bourgeois scholar in a cardigan,” he says with a laugh. “We were talking about their sons, about how to parent — asking, ‘What does it mean to be loved?’”

A storyteller at heart, Carr says that community and vocabulary are key to his goal of being a public policy scholar whose biography won’t ever be completely separate from his research.

“When someone calls a Milwaukee neighborhood a food desert, I want to talk about food injustice,” Carr explains. “Poor neighborhoods don’t suffer from a legacy of apathy — maybe the issue is a legacy of distrust. Why are certain medical problems considered ‘endemic’ in poor neighborhoods, but they’re ‘epidemics’ when they reach the suburbs?

“Community can inform how language can be changed, so we have to be present in the community.”
Dressmaker Hedy Strnad vanished during the Holocaust, leaving behind only a wisp of memory and a packet of beautiful designs.

Now, people worldwide will be able to learn her story, thanks to an innovative collaboration between the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the Jewish Museum Milwaukee.

Strnad’s story is captured in the first online exhibit from UW-Milwaukee’s Digital Humanities Lab. “Stitching History from the Holocaust: The Story of Hedwig Strnad” can be seen at liblamp.uwm.edu/omeka/A/.

The Digital Humanities Lab’s exhibit originated at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee, where curators and dressmakers researched, chronicled and then crafted the story of Strnad, a dress designer from Czechoslovakia. Little was known of her life until relatives here found a letter from Strnad’s husband to his cousin in Milwaukee and a packet of Hedy Strnad’s dress designs.

“You had to be in Milwaukee to see the original exhibit and the dresses,” says Ellie Gettinger, education director of Jewish Museum Milwaukee. “But now you can see the story wherever you are.”

“As we find out more about the Strnads, we can update the exhibit,” says Ann Hanlon, head of digital collections and initiatives at the UWM Libraries.

Putting Strnad’s story online so people around the world can view it was a perfect first project for the Digital Humanities Lab, adds Rachel Baum, adjunct assistant professor of Jewish Studies and Hebrew Studies.

“I think we all really got drawn into the story. We wanted to make it come to life.”

History involves a lot of “big data” that can be hard for people to process, Baum adds.

“Instead of talking about the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust, this is the story of one woman, about whom almost nothing was known, who didn’t exist before in cultural memory. Now she is being cared for.”

UWM, Jewish Museum Milwaukee transform Holocaust story into digital exhibit

‘Made in Milwaukee’ now online

A connection between autism and air pollution, improved cancer treatment, the revival of Milwaukee’s native Anishinaabe language, the future of tasty trout – there’s no end to the vital questions and surprising answers UW-Milwaukee’s 1,700 faculty generate and research each year.

Take an online, anytime look at some of the most compelling, transformative UWM research this year at uwm.edu/MadeinMKE. The 2015 edition of the annual UWM research report, “Made in Milwaukee” focuses on the ways Milwaukee’s industrial, entrepreneurial past has set the stage for a regional revival that connects UWM faculty and students with corporate, nonprofit and research partners locally and nationally.

But not all world-class research happens in Milwaukee. Visit UWM researchers at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. Hear what our nursing faculty are saying – and studying – about treating Ebola. See what 21st-century technology can tell us about 2,500-year-old treasures in Cyprus.

Prepare to be amazed, inspired and proud of the work that happens at your alma mater every day. Visit uwm.edu/MadeinMKE.

PHOTO BY KENNY YOO

Ann Hanlon (left), Rachel Baum and William Tchakirdes adapted Jewish Museum Milwaukee’s “Stitching History” exhibit for the Digital Humanities Lab at UWM.
UWM is StormReady®

This spring and summer, UW-Milwaukee’s in-house atmospheric scientists can make at least one meteorological guarantee: UWM is the only StormReady® college or university in Wisconsin.

Representatives from the National Weather Service joined Mathematical Sciences Assistant Professor Clark Evans, Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administrative Affairs Robin Van Harpen and Innovative Weather meteorologists for a winter 2014 ceremony to present UWM with its official StormReady designation.

UWM is one of only 16 StormReady sites in Wisconsin.

“StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness,” according to a statement from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which oversees the National Weather Service.

The ability to anticipate severe weather, communicate potential hazards clearly to all affected parties and easily coordinate law enforcement, administrative and meteorological resources to address severe weather is the foundation of any successful StormReady application.

“We can move faster to coordinate and communicate a response to severe weather because we’re not just watching the news and waiting for the latest information,” says Van Harpen. “We’ve got access to expert weather resources right here on campus, and they’re connected to overall campus operations at all times.”

A new home for Milwaukee baseball?

KE Sports & Entertainment has partnered with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in an effort to build a multifunctional 4,000-seat baseball stadium in Oak Creek by 2016.

The stadium would host the UW-Milwaukee Panthers baseball team, which is the state’s only Division One baseball program, as well as a new independent minor league team.

The Milwaukee baseball program would continue to utilize Henry Aaron Field, which would get a synthetic surface upgrade, as a practice facility.
Meet Mark Mone, UW-Milwaukee chancellor, gourmet cook and pal to Max, the family dog.

When named UWM’s ninth chancellor in December 2014, Mone was already deeply moved by stories from UWM students about how alumni and others support the university every day.

“At receptions on campus, I heard students tell donors how much they appreciate their scholarships. These scholarships allow students to do more community service. They enable them to have two jobs instead of three. They can help a single mom with a full academic load and three kids at home to attend school,” explains Chancellor Mone.

One of his goals as chancellor will be to expand UWM’s already strong ties to its more than 160,000 alumni and encourage them to contribute their skills and experience to deepen the university’s impact as Wisconsin’s premier comprehensive urban research university.

“One of my goals as chancellor will be to expand UWM’s already strong ties to its more than 160,000 alumni and encourage them to contribute their skills and experience to deepen the university’s impact as Wisconsin’s premier comprehensive urban research university. I believe our alumni are crucial to our success. Through their financial support, volunteering and engagement, they help to create a culture of excellence on campus. And they serve as an important source of inspiration for our current and future students.”

Relative to private schools and many other public schools, we are still incredibly affordable. Our alumni can play a huge role in supporting students because alumni know better than anyone else the value of what UWM provides and how much further their dollars go here,” he says.

In addition to working closely with UWM alumni, Mone identified three goals aimed at maximizing the school’s potential for change in the community:

- Bolster the university’s student retention and graduation rates, as well as support alumni success after graduation.
- Elevate the university’s research profile.
- Expand UWM’s economic and social impact on Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin.

“I see UWM as a university of choice for students in Wisconsin and surrounding states,” Mone says. “We have tremendous pride from faculty and staff. Our alumni say attending UWM was a life-changing experience. In conjunction with our partners, we will be a force that makes a difference in Milwaukee and beyond. Everything we do at UWM is a noble cause.”

From the Lubar School to Chapman Hall

Before the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents approved his appointment on Dec. 15, Mone had served as the UWM interim chancellor following the May 2014 departure of Michael R. Lovell.

Mone was a professor of management within the UWM Lubar School of Business and served as the chancellor’s designee for strategic planning and campus climate from
Our vibrant student campus life has helped create more opportunities and ways for our new alumni to stay engaged than in any previous time.

2012–14. In that role, Mone worked with the university’s senior leadership, governance groups and others invested in the university to develop UWM’s 2020 strategic plan, and to develop and implement university-wide programs to improve organizational climate.

Mone has been a member of the UWM faculty since 1989, serving for more than 15 years as the Lubar School of Business associate dean for executive education and business engagement. His responsibilities involved external relations for the Lubar School, including partnerships with business, medical, legal, government and nonprofit organizations. Mone was also responsible for the school’s Executive MBA program, the longest running program of its kind in Wisconsin; career services; and other financial and marketing functions.

“[Mone’s] academic experience and expertise in building relationships with businesses, governments and communities are a great fit with the university’s commitment to quality, access and economic development,” says Regent President Michael Falbo, who chaired the committee that interviewed the three finalists for UWM chancellor last fall.

Mone before Milwaukee

Mone holds a doctorate in management from Washington State University where he focused on organizational behavior and organization theory. He earned a master’s degree in business administration from Idaho State University, and his bachelor’s degree in organizational management with an English minor from Central Washington University.

A native of Ellensburg, Washington, Mone worked as a chef before and during college and still cooks family dinners when he has time. He is also an avid bicyclist.

Mone and his wife, Sara Swanson, have two children: Eric, a senior accounting major at UWM (See “Mone on Mone”, page 8), and Emily, who attends the University of Colorado. The Mone family also includes Max, their 7-year-old yellow lab.

Sara Swanson is a clinical neuropsychologist, professor of neurology, and division chief of neuropsychology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She and Mark met while they were in graduate school at Washington State University.
Meet Eric Mone, UW-Milwaukee Class of 2015.

Weeks before completing his degree in the Lubar School of Business, Eric interviewed his dad, UWM Chancellor Mark Mone, in the family’s Bayside home. Shortly after the interview, the family moved into the official chancellor’s residence and Eric made final preparations to receive a BBS Accounting diploma – and a hug – from his dad on commencement day.

Eric: As a new college grad in 1982, where did you see yourself in 30 years?
Mark: My goals included many things I do have today, in terms of a great life, starting with a great family, you and your sister and mom and of course our wonderful dog, Max. Professionally, I wanted make a difference. It’s been quite an adventure.

Eric: As a new alum, how may I support and boost my school?
Mark: First, congratulations, Eric! Stay engaged. We have so many alumni events through our UWM Alumni Association. Share the experiences you’ve had, and recognize we’re always here to help you.

Eric: What new challenges do college grads face?
Mark: A significant challenge is the student debt load. As tuition has risen, and states’ support has declined, the load on students and their families is just enormous. There’s the complexities and challenges with changing technology, affecting so many aspects from personal touch to work plan.

Eric: For me, it was nice stopping by for a free lunch every once in a while. But what was it like for you having your son attend UWM?
Mark: A source of pride. I never leaned on you to attend UWM. You chose to come to UWM. That says that you thought an awful lot of the school.

Eric: Are you and Mom relieved that I’m finally graduating?
Mark: We’re so proud. You’ve taken on some difficult subjects and big challenges on the academic front. It’s a tough field you’re in, and it’s a big challenge on your part, so I’m just thrilled for you.

Eric: What will I miss about college?
Mark: Well, having your dad around all those times!
There is a rhythm and stability in college. When you’re done, it’s all on you. I’m 110 percent confident you’ll do well. But the energy on campus is hard to replicate outside. You’ll probably miss some of the time you spent socializing, but that’s natural.

Eric: What’s the biggest lesson new grads should take from college?
Mark: The value and gratification of hard work, recognizing that what you put in equates to what you’ll get out of it. And, you have to remember that the college years aren’t just about preparing you for a career... in some ways, these can be the most powerful years of your life.

Eric: How do you think Max is adjusting?
Mark: As you know, he’s a needy guy and he likes his routine. You might be doing a lot of dog-sitting.

Chancellor Mone turned the tables and grabbed the mic for one final question.

Mark: Eric, how do you feel about your UWM experience?
Eric: Lots of learning, lots of decisions. I’ve definitely learned a lot, made a lot of friends, had great, positive experiences.
Mark: Love you, man. Go Panthers!
The UW-Milwaukee Alumni Association’s Panthers@Work Program allows UWM alumni to do just that. Founded in 2012, the Panthers@Work Program creates Panther Pride and fosters networking and camaraderie among UWM graduates in the workplace. Its goal is to make involvement easy and career-relevant to working Panthers by taking UWM directly to where they work.

Panthers@Work groups start with UWM alumni who share a common workplace, be it a corporate or nonprofit environment. Groups host speakers, hold receptions, raise money for scholarships and network with each other and serve the community – all while strengthening their ties to UWM. There are active groups at Rockwell Automation, Baird and Northwestern Mutual, and a new Panthers@Work for UWM alumni employees launched in April 2015. Groups receive access to special events and faculty and staff presenters and some great Panther swag.

Catherine Giljohann (’10 BBA Management Information Systems, Marketing), a leader of Panthers@Work at Rockwell Automation since 2012, says that she can see the difference Panthers@Work has made at Rockwell Automation in enhanced camaraderie, new mentoring relationships and networking among UWM peers. Panthers@Work at Rockwell Automation has hosted faculty and staff presenters and recently sponsored a special tour of the School of Freshwater Sciences. “I think our employees find tremendous value in exposure to topics that are not front-of-mind in our day-to-day work,” says Giljohann. “These opportunities improve our leadership skills, provide insight into what’s happening in our community, and show us how we can give back.”

At Baird, Panthers@Work events have included a lunch presentation by Research Foundation President Brian Thompson and the formation of a “Blue Panthers” Panther Prowl team. Panthers@Work at Baird leader Jen Funk (’99 BA Communication) says that the opportunity for professional development motivated her to get involved. “It’s professional growth and a learning curve, but not in a traditional academic sense,” she says. Funk counts developing budgets, getting at what’s interesting to others at Baird and interfacing with senior leadership among the key opportunities Panthers@Work has offered her.

Kevin Olp (’84 BBA Marketing) is one of the Panthers@Work leaders at Northwestern Mutual, where the group recently completed a service project at Metcalfe School on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. For Olp, Panthers@Work is both a labor of love and good business practice. “Business today is a business of collaboration,” he says. “Panthers@Work allows us to build relationships with people in our office around something that we’re all passionate about – our alma mater.”

Olp noted that Panthers@Work builds meaningful ties not only companywide but with other Panthers@Work groups in workplaces throughout Milwaukee, too. “We get to build contacts not only across our company, but across the city. How cool is that?”

TO LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED
Visit uwm.edu/alumni/panthers_at_work
Or contact Cindy Petrites at 414-229-3295 or petrites@uwm.edu
When Milwaukee residents need help — whether it’s teaching students to read, getting refugees to jobs or providing medical care in neighborhoods lacking doctors — they turn to UW-Milwaukee. The university has married its expertise to empowerment, working with civic leaders, nonprofit organizations and others to transform lives in the city.

Laurie Marks (left), Rob Smith and Joan Prince are the architects of engagement at UWM.
Many universities do good, but UWM is helping set a new standard in higher education by investing equally in teaching students and elevating the community it calls home. The White House and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching both honored the university this year as a leading engaged university, recognizing the work it does in collaboration with more than 300 nonprofit partners.

That work began nearly 30 years ago. The Silver Spring Community Nursing Center, established in 1986, was among the first major university-community partnerships. The UWM engagement profile and partnership roster has grown steadily and significantly ever since.

Students and faculty lead the way
Consider that UWM students will log more than 43,000 volunteer hours this academic year. Nearly 10,000 Milwaukee residents who lack medical care will be treated by students and faculty from the College of Nursing. Hundreds of elementary students will read better, throw a baseball harder and believe a college education is more achievable after working closely with UWM undergraduates and faculty at diverse sites across Milwaukee.

“This cumulative impact is what it means to be engaged. We’re not working for the awards or the status,” says Joan Prince, the university’s vice chancellor for Global Inclusion & Engagement. “We see them as a catalyst to deepen our community engagement in a way that will not only transform lives, but will also produce innovative, creative opportunities for the entire UWM family to participate in.”

The UWM approach prepares students for life, rather than just a single career path, adds Rob Smith, associate vice chancellor for Global Inclusion & Engagement.

“There’s a lot to be learned from the lived experiences of our alumni and community partners,” Smith says. “We prepare our students for the reality that you never stop learning — education isn’t something that is housed in a university for four years.”

A step beyond service
What might be considered “service” at other institutions is defined as “engagement” at UWM. The difference? The university and its partners have equal power in identifying priorities to address, and how to tackle them — transforming lives and the region, together.

UWM also has a unique one-stop shop for students who volunteer individually or as part of a class.

“I’m a matchmaker,” says Laurie Marks (’10 PhD Education, ’95 BA Political Science), founding director of the Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership and Research. “When someone from the community calls me and says they need job-training support for their refugee clients, or schools need reliable tutors for after-school reading programs, I line them up with the right faculty member.”

Engagement takes that service to the next level, weaving in faculty expertise, administrative support and focused feedback to ensure UWM’s work in the community is done right.

“What our faculty, staff and students can get out of being an engaged university,” Prince says, “is taking the knowledge that is produced here and utilizing that knowledge in a way that is transformative.”

The following pages tell the story of UWM’s engagement. Prepare to be inspired by students, faculty members and alumni who are changing lives – and being changed themselves – through leadership, research and service.
What began as an academic assignment – pairing young African refugees and immigrants with UW-Milwaukee students to help tell their stories of coming to the United States – ended up helping both student groups “feel a part of the community, that they can do something and can actually help,” says Art & Design Associate Professor Shelleen Greene.

Students in Greene’s 2014 course, Multicultural America, spent months interviewing youth enrolled in after-school programs at the Pan-African Community Association (PACA), which helps recent African immigrants and refugees transition and integrate into the Milwaukee community. Their assignment was to produce short videos about those students’ experiences leaving their homes in Eritrea, Ethiopia and other eastern African countries and coming to Milwaukee.

At UWM, service learning helps to bridge the gap from classroom to community by pairing students with nonprofit partners on projects that require face-to-face collaboration and factor into students’ final course grade. Service learning sites are coordinated by the UWM Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership and Research.

The 3- and 4-minute PACA videos range from the prosaic – a young girl’s first snowfall – to the profound – a boy’s trek across African national borders before arriving in Wisconsin.

“Our youth program would not be possible without UWM’s commitment to connecting students and faculty to our organization. PACA is a small nonprofit with many community members who benefit from the attention of these UWM students, whether it’s tutoring, mentorship or a project such as this,” says Michael Grochowski, who until recently served as education program director. He holds a graduate certificate from UWM in nonprofit leadership.

Education quickly becomes a top priority for the students that PACA serves. Grochowski wanted the PACA students to have time to work on the service-learning video project, so he asked UWM students to first help their PACA counterparts complete their assigned homework.

“Some of the stories are quite difficult, parents who took children out of dangerous situations, separating them from their families, children who had to travel through bad terrain and deserts, leaving abusive or volatile situations, even civil wars,” says Greene.

UWM’s involvement with PACA benefits the organization as well as its young clients.

“Making the most of Multicultural America

Multicultural America is taught in various departments across the university and is the core course for the UWM Cultures and Communities Certificate Program. Greene’s section concentrates on racial and ethnic identities through materials drawn from a variety of media, with attention to African-, Asian-, Hispanic-, European- and Native American experiences.

Each semester, her students engage in a different service-learning project. A previous semester involved home renovations in the Lisbon Avenue neighborhood, where the UWM students learned right alongside residents, says Greene.

“Our youth program would not be possible without UWM’s commitment to connecting students and faculty to our organization.”
When it comes to GIS, he knows the city best

What happens when you merge a traditional map with other kinds of information like population data, traffic patterns and crime? Informed decisions happen.

Since 1993, Bill Huxhold has taught a class in which students are paired with nonprofits to solve problems using an electronic tool called Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

“GIS is valuable because it allows you to see relationships and clusters,” says Huxhold, a professor of urban planning.

For example, his students have helped public health officials locate areas in the inner city that don’t have grocery stores. Using GIS, they have identified areas that could benefit from a community block watch program and found the safest route for neighborhood children to ride their bikes to school. When a citizen’s group wanted to lobby for a new county dog park, GIS revealed where it would get maximum use.

For local governments, GIS translates into a wise use of limited resources, Huxhold explains. For area nonprofits, it documents conditions that will aid in obtaining valuable grants.

After joining the UW-Milwaukee faculty in 1991, Huxhold developed one of the first university GIS programs. Just a few years later, his students were hired to help launch the City of Milwaukee’s Map Milwaukee project.

With Map Milwaukee, more than 160,000 land parcels in the city can be seen with layers of data overlaid on them – like U.S. Census demographics, zoning information, traffic records and property assessments. It’s an Internet-based portal that offers public access to city data.

A pioneer turned professor

Teaching GIS is a natural extension of Huxhold’s groundbreaking map making. In the 1970s and 1980s, he led the City of Milwaukee’s efforts to build one of the nation’s first municipal GIS systems.

“Bill was one of a very few ‘pioneers’ in Wisconsin who understood the potential for GIS to impact government decision-making processes and then was able to convince city leaders at the time to adopt his vision,” says Milwaukee County Land Information Officer William Shaw.

In 2000, with grant money from the U.S. Department of Justice, Huxhold and faculty assistant Joyce Witebsky worked with city GIS developers to create a sister site to Map Milwaukee. Called COMPASS, this second tool was specifically designed for law enforcement agencies to proactively take steps to improve public safety. For example, it can help police determine where to put officers on foot versus in patrol cars.

The use of GIS for policing has given rise to a new course in the Department of Criminal Justice that pairs GIS students with nonprofits.

Taught by Assistant Professor Aleksandra Snowden, current students are working with groups like the International Institute of Wisconsin to help resettle refugees in Milwaukee. They’re also helping St. Stephen’s Catholic Church identify specific locations on the south side where people in need of the church’s services are likely to live.
PICTURING A NEW WAY TO LEARN

It took UW-Milwaukee senior Kaivahn Sarkaratpour only a few sessions at the youth enrichment nonprofit Our Next Generation to realize he wasn’t just tutoring the children there. They were teaching him.

“They helped me understand education as a whole,” says Sarkaratpour, who has now been volunteering there for four years. “They’ve helped me understand where they’re coming from and how to change the way we’re learning.

“UWM and Our Next Generation have given me some amazing experiences that I would not have gotten attending another university,” adds Sarkaratpour, a Madison native and design and visual communication major.

Thousands of UWM students yearly have diverse opportunities to build skills and prepare for careers in medicine, architecture, education and engineering (to name a few) through community engagement and service work coordinated by the university’s Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership and Research.

Sarkaratpour began his relationship with Our Next Generation when he walked into a program meeting, literally – tutoring sessions are regularly held in his university residence.

Design with consequences

Another example of these only-at-UWM opportunities to combine resume building with community building: Sarkaratpour’s work at the Digital Craft Research Lab, where Associate Professor Frankie Flood and his team create 3-D printed prosthetic hands to help children with disabilities.

“You see how design works functionally in everyday life in terms of access for people who are disabled,” Sarkaratpour says.

That work has taken Sarkaratpour to Baltimore, where he attended a conference at Johns Hopkins University that drew design and accessibility experts from across the world. During a workshop there, Sarkaratpour watched parents print 3-D hands for their children who have congenital hand deformities.

A second design position, this one at the Rehabilitation Research Design and Disability Center, gives Sarkaratpour the opportunity to work on accessible design for people who have disabilities.

“That experience opened my eyes to making the lives of kids more accessible, and I saw the impact of bringing design to families so they could build something themselves.”

“I saw the impact of bringing design to families so they could build something themselves.”
In Arlington Heights Park on Milwaukee’s south side, a rough-looking space under the 35th Street viaduct has caught Dan Adams’ eye. He wonders if this shabby space could be reborn as a community gathering spot.

Adams is director of neighborhood planning for Layton Boulevard West Neighbors (LBWN), a nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing three south side communities that lie west of Layton Boulevard: Silver City, Burnham Park and Layton Park.

As a nonprofit, the group can’t afford professional designers, so it found another way – enlisting students from UW-Milwaukee’s School of Architecture & Urban Planning (SARUP), who earn academic credit for taking on real-world clients.

“We wanted the students to help us envision what it could be,” says Adams. “What would increase the aesthetics and add sustainable elements? We needed for them to actually put something in front of the residents to get them excited and help them see different possibilities.”

The input not only aids in planning and budgeting for LBWN, but it supports grant-writing efforts. Grants are an essential resource for nonprofits.

“It was a real-life scenario and directly relatable to what we do in our studios at SARUP,” says John Barac, a junior who committed to 40 hours working with the nonprofit in fall 2014.

Service learning boosts GPA, resume

Barac and four fellow students – Pao Yang, Kinghi Thao, Maria Tigreros and Margaret Sippel – were assigned to the LBWN project as part of Professor Mark Keane’s service learning course, Greening Milwaukee.

The project was rigorous, says Yang, because it required detailed plans across the three communities, not just at one park.

“My favorite part was the free flow of ideas,” he says.

For the park, the group imagined turning an unused parking lot into a spot for a local farmers market and installing bio-ducts to channel stormwater runoff, making the project more environmentally friendly.

The group also provided renditions depicting possible solutions for treatments along a busy street at one end of the park.

“We were focused on trying to keep it safer instead of just putting in a fence to cage it in,” says Yang. “So we used light boxes to give it some definition.”

As professional architects and planners, these students will take on a certain amount of volunteer work in their careers, says Keane.

Now in its fifth year, his course has put a total of 150 students to work for more than 60 agencies on projects ranging from a kiosk at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory that educates visitors about green roofs to a full building design for the growing construction-recycling group WasteCap Resource Solutions.

Keane’s course isn’t the sole service-learning offering. More than 40 service-learning courses are available to UWM undergraduates. A third of all architecture and urban planning courses require work with community partners or developers, making a positive impact on recommendations, policies and developments.

Architecture students Maria Tigreros (left), John Barac, Pao Yang and Margaret Sippel teamed up to help the Layton Boulevard West Neighbors to brainstorm to revitalize the neighborhood. They each put in 40 hours during the semester on this service-learning project.
When President Barack Obama wanted a National Day of Service as part of his 2009 inauguration, when he needed community leaders to help shape the White House’s first Office of Social Innovation, when he was seeking changemakers for the White House Council for Community Solutions, he called Paul Schmitz (’94 BA Political Science).

Today, Schmitz keeps a foot on the ground in Washington, D.C., as the first innovator in residence at Georgetown University’s Beeck Center for Social Impact + Innovation. But the UWM graduate still lives within walking distance of the alma mater that profoundly shaped the writer and thought leader he is today.

Commuter student to change agent

In the early ‘90s, community engagement was getting off the ground at UWM, and commuter students like Schmitz were the majority of the student population.

He was president of College Dems and juggled political science courses with a telemarketing job. He was earning straight As for the first time in his life and flexing the writing muscle that would land him guest columnist roles in The Washington Post and power his first book, “Everyone Leads: Building Leadership from the Community Up” (2011).

He had just one problem with college life – he wasn’t giving back.

“I was a recovering addict, and I was already involved in service through that, but I was looking for more,” says Schmitz. “I had this sense that was built into my DNA by then: Whenever you’re given the opportunity, you need to give back.”

Then he met someone.

“I met Vanessa Kirsch in ’92. She told me she was starting an organization, Public Allies, for young people who had a passion for making a difference to turn that passion into careers in nonprofit and public service.

“When I heard that, I said: That’s it! That’s what I want to do.”

By 1993, Schmitz was founding director of Public Allies Milwaukee, one of the first city chapters of the national nonprofit that recruits and trains young leaders for the nonprofit sector. His closest colleague during those early years was a Princeton and Harvard Law graduate from Chicago. “It made me feel like a complete imbecile,” he now says, laughing. “I was 24 and didn’t even have my bachelor’s degree completed.”

Good thing that in addition to being talented and professional, Public Allies Chicago Director Michelle Obama was a gracious colleague.

Schmitz turned out to be a natural leader himself. He became Public Allies national CEO in 2000. When he stepped down in summer 2014, Allies alumni numbered 5,600 in 23 city chapters nationwide.

Uniquely UWM

Through it all, family and career kept him based in Milwaukee, where he’s proud to see his alma mater firmly entrenched in the city’s nonprofit community and many of his fellow alumni taking on diverse leadership positions across the city.

“People, UWM students, serving the community tend to stay in the community,” he says. “When they get involved with an issue or an organization, there’s a potential for sustainability with that.”

He thinks the city-university bond, strengthened by UWM’s success in enrolling first-generation Milwaukee-area students, makes the UWM engagement model uniquely authentic within higher education.

“At UWM, more students come from the community and live in the community. Many universities that are doing student service, the students are coming from the outside – and typically far outside the economic class of the city they’re serving in,” explains Schmitz, who also holds a senior adviser position with the Collective Impact Forum. “For Milwaukee and UWM, students aren’t coming in with some view of the community as something outside of them but as something they are part of. That is why UWM is such a vital asset for our community.”
For Cynthia Davy, the UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences (SFS) helped open her world and launch an unexpected new career.

As a development assistant for the school during her graduate studies in freshwater policy, Davy ('14 MS Freshwater Sciences) represented SFS at industry and community events, organized its first career fair – complete with a panel of experts – and discovered extraordinary networking opportunities.

“I was interacting with presidents of companies, individuals in government from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, government from other countries and professors,” says the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse biology alumna.

When SFS received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to fund a freshwater supervisor at a nonprofit group, the school contacted the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC), which provides vocational training to young adults.

Executive Director George Leutermann liked the idea, but his organization needed a freshwater supervisor who could teach people working through criminal records, drug addiction and other challenges. He met Davy at a conference and offered her the job.

Science gets practical, personal

“It’s very removed from the scientists I’d been working with. I’m making connections and relationships with skilled tradespeople, underserved communities and other nonprofits,” Davy says. “We’re not talking about science at a highly removed level; we’re talking about it at a practical level.”

Teaching corps members how to clean up beaches and conduct freshwater testing is only a portion of her job. Davy’s also a program coordinator, grant writer and parent figure for the 18- to 28-year-olds. “I’m responsible for increasing their soft skills, building self-esteem and making them feel they are in an environment of trust. I’m one of the two people they discuss housing, food, child care, criminal and personal issues with,” Davy says.

“Cynthia brings to the table an incredible number of talents in addition to her background in freshwater. She’s able to talk with them, and they respect her. She knows how to explain things to them in a way they’re comfortable with, and they don’t feel threatened by her,” Leutermann explains.

Individuals are referred to MCSC by community organizations, parole officers, Milwaukee Public Schools, family members or word of mouth. Finding them work is the corps’ ultimate goal. Alumni have landed jobs with Northwestern Mutual, UPS, the U.S. Postal Service and Walmart. Others pursue pre-apprentice courses at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

In the summer, Davy nurtures her love for the water, bringing corps members to work at the beach. Some of them have never seen Lake Michigan before.

“It was very unfamiliar to them. But they got in their waders and went into the water,” Davy says. “I was exposing them to a side of nature they’d never seen.”

Davy has been exposed to new perspectives as well. “They broaden my perception. We all have problems, but their problems come down to survival,” she says.

It’s a very different scenario than Davy first imagined as a new college graduate with a job in a research and development lab. After two years in that position, she wanted additional challenges, and her passion for the environment led her to SFS.

“I feel good about making connections and relationships with people in the community. The nonprofit world is fantastic training, because you’re given an exceptional amount of responsibility,” Davy says.

“Now, I really see myself working in nonprofits. It’s exceptionally rewarding to be helping someone every day, not 10 years from now. I don’t want to wait to see impact of the work I’m doing.”
For Homecoming Week details, visit uwm.edu/homecoming
Historic UWM photos from the Archives Dept, UWM Libraries.

For Homecoming Week details, visit uwm.edu/homecoming

Oct 9-10

SAVE THE DATE

2015
The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s App Brewery and the Sojourner Family Peace Center have partnered to develop an app that discreetly and quickly gives those affected by domestic abuse an emergency connection to the help they need.

“We know that the information and support that a survivor can get by talking to an advocate saves lives,” says Carmen Pitre, executive director of Sojourner Family Peace Center. “This is one more tool to make information easily available.”

The Sojourner Peace app includes links and phone numbers for places where abuse victims can find help, including Sojourner’s 24-hour domestic violence hotline and Sojourner Family Peace Center programs and services.

Unlike other informational apps that the in-demand App Brewery has developed, the Sojourner Peace app comes with privacy features to help protect users. One quick touch fades the screen to black and clears the browsing history. The button for the app itself can be hidden behind a generic app button.

“When we found out what Sojourner does, and how their work affects those who’ve been abused, we thought it was a project that could really make a difference,” says UWM App Brewery Project Manager Dustin Hahn.

Spreading the ‘Peace’ app

After months of testing alongside their UWM colleagues, staff loaded the Sojourner Peace app on their phones, practiced with it and are now sharing it with clients. The Peace app is compatible with Apple and Android products.

In addition to emergency contact info, users can confidentially examine their relationships and take preventive measures. If the app’s relationship quiz indicates a user is at risk of being abused, the app encourages her to contact an agency for follow-up services and a discussion about safety.

“Safety is always our primary focus,” says Pitre.

While there were concerns that abusers might use the app to try to locate or further harass their victims, the center’s staff decided to go ahead and market it widely to victims and potential victims.

“We encourage victims to talk to an advocate about technology safety overall, including the safety of downloading the app,” adds Pitre.

Brewing up a reputation for good work

Like other apps the Brewery has developed, the project involved student developers from academic programs that prepare them for careers in information studies and technology, graphic design and computer science. Students apply classroom learning as they work directly with influential nonprofit firms throughout Milwaukee – 15 to date. Nonprofit clients, who might not have much of an information technology budget, get a useful mobile app that helps them reach out to those they serve.

“Our students get real world experience,” says Tomas A. Lipinski, dean of the School of Information
Studies (SOiS). “Community service is one of the hallmarks of UWM, and one of the things we do at SOiS is to teach students to empower themselves and others through technology. This app is an excellent example of that.”

There is already talk of expanding the Peace app’s reach. Now available in English and Spanish, the app might include a Russian version soon, according to Hahn.

“This is a useful resource and tool, so we wanted to spread the word far and wide,” says Pitre.

SOIS students bridge the IT gap for patients, tourists, environmentalists

National statistics show that 88 percent of nonprofits have little or no tech support, but UWM has a growing and talented team of students and staff from design, information technology and computer sciences lending their support to major Milwaukee nonprofits.

The Peace app is among a number of such projects the App Brewery has brought to life through collaborations across southeastern Wisconsin. Originally founded in a renovated brewery complex in 2013, the Brewery is now located on UWM’s Innovation Campus near the Medical College complex and is run by the School of Information Studies.

Since its start, the Brewery has worked with 15 different companies and organizations, developing eight different apps now in use:

- A Visit Milwaukee information app to give conventiongoers and visitors information about destinations, maps and local news.
- Six joint projects with the Medical College of Wisconsin. Among the first to launch are an app to help medical professionals recruit patients for clinical trials more quickly and another to help doctors “step down” doses of steroids more easily and communicate the details with patients and families.
- A health-screening app that provides users with easy access to key checklists through collaboration with an African American men’s health group.

Outside the App Brewery, the SOiS nonprofit Program pairs technology students with local nonprofits that need help with the design or upgrade of their websites and other IT services. The nonprofit Program is currently working with Milwaukee Riverkeeper and Community First. Last year, the group worked on websites for St. Josaphat Basilica Foundation and Housing Resources Inc.
Eight years ago, Clifton Sharpe picked up a flyer about free health screenings at the Silver Spring Community Nursing Center located in the center of Westlawn, the state’s largest public housing project.

"They are now my only health care provider," says Sharpe, 44, who no longer lives at Westlawn but still receives medication and diet and exercise advice there, helping him manage his hypertension. "They’re like family. Whenever I come in, they always say they’re glad to see me and happy they can help."

Created by Sally Lundeen, now dean of the UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing, the center opened its doors at 5460 N. 64th St. almost 28 years ago as one of the first nurse-managed health centers in the country. A second center opened a few years later at the House of Peace, 1702 W. Walnut St. The two are among the poorest neighborhoods in the city.

Not only do the UWM-administered centers exemplify the Wisconsin Idea — the notion of a university transforming a community through teaching, research and engagement — they serve as a national model for nurse-managed care as the country strives to provide quality health care at an affordable cost. The two centers combined see an average of 8,000 patients yearly, with a joint staff of fewer than eight full-time employees, including support staff.

Empowered patients are one element of the centers’ success. Education is another. More than 100 UWM nursing students are on site yearly to put into practice the skills learned in Cunningham Hall – the home base for Wisconsin’s largest nursing program.

Kris Peterka chose to spend her clinical semester working at the clinic. "What it showed me was that health care is more than meds. Most of the time, people don’t enter the health care system until they are sick. The context of family and community has to become part of treatment.”

An inspired location

When she arrived at UWM in 1985, Lundeen had spent more than eight years directing an inner city clinic in Chicago, one that had expanded to five sites by the time she left. "I had a passion for
community health care and service to those who were uninsured or disadvantaged in some way.”

She began her tenure at UWM seeking funding and a site for a Milwaukee clinic. A million-dollar federal grant provided the money, but Lundeen was equally focused on location, location, location. “I believed the only way it would work was for us to work with community partners.”

The Silver Spring Neighborhood Center was a natural choice. It has been the anchor for Westlawn for decades. Dozens of community organizations are based in the building. Supported by some 30 partner organizations, the center provides everything from preschool to senior programs, community gardens to a food pantry and literacy services to job-search help.

Jean Bell-Calvin was brought on board by UWM in 1988 and has served as the nursing center director since 1998. Finances are always a challenge but were especially so in the early days. “For the first year, I had a series of three-month contracts,” she remembers.

A neighborhood fixture

The nursing center provides health screenings for seniors when they come on Fridays for food from the pantry, emergency care for any child who needs it during the day, and immunizations, mammograms and educational sessions on prenatal care, nutrition and exercise. Nurse practitioners conduct physical exams, monitor health and prescribe medications in collaboration with a consulting physician.

“A lot of what we do is taking time to really listen to what people need,” Bell-Calvin says. “One man said he wanted glasses, teeth and a house.”

Anthony McHenry, executive director of the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, sees the nursing center as critical to the neighborhood in many ways. “There’s no place in close proximity where people can go for health care,” he says. “Many residents don’t have vehicles.”

The nursing center also played a key role in the redevelopment of Westlawn, an effort that involved tearing down many of the more than 700 housing units and creating a community that is more of a neighborhood and less of a traditional housing project. “The nursing students collected data and gave a voice to the people who live here in the planning process,” McHenry says.

Those voices, amplified by the Westlawn Partnership for a Healthier Environment, a coalition led by the College of Nursing, articulated a need for housing units designed for asthmatics. Asthma affects urban communities at a high rate. Phase one of these healthier homes was completed in 2012 and promptly earned a prestigious environmental award for neighborhood design.

Center staff have themselves become neighborhood mainstays.

“I was at a gas station not long ago when a young man walked up to me because he remembered I was a nurse at the center years ago,” says Bev Zabler, who now directs the College of Nursing’s Institute for Urban Health Partnership that oversees the community nursing center program. “He said he remembered how we helped his family. He showed me pictures of his family. He wanted to tell me how he had become a success.”
Someday, Abby Padlock (‘13 BA Political Science) hopes, the troubled nation of Rwanda will be known for its Olympic volleyball team, rather than poverty, illness or genocide.

Padlock spent part of 2014 in Rwanda helping to establish sustainable community gardens and youth centers through the Health Development Initiative-Rwanda (HDI), a health and human rights organization.

A former collegiate volleyball player, she also found time to assist on a project to establish volleyball on a national scale.

Padlock worked with Vince Ruhumuliza, a Rwandan-American who wants to create beach volleyball leagues so that Rwanda may someday qualify to send a team to the summer Olympics.
Her involvement with HDI began with desire to travel internationally, as she considered a career in international law after graduation. Padlock was hired by HDI as its advocacy and policy monitoring officer. “All of the projects HDI does are very focused on self-sustainability,” Padlock says. “In one community, we helped villagers plant sweet potato and other vegetable gardens and helped teach them how to maintain gardens so they can continue to grow food on their own.”

HDI is also working on a project to help villagers breed pigs to sell for food and a basket-weaving co-op enabling women to start their own businesses and sell the baskets to provide for their families.

Another project in particular stands out for Padlock. “When I was there, we were approached by the Swedish government and they wanted to give us a big grant because they liked our organization,” she says. The HDI director asked her and her co-workers to figure out how to best use the grant money.

“We ended up writing a proposal for a stigma-free, youth-friendly center. A place where people can come – youth and others – for HIV testing, counseling and other STI testing, without being judged or stereotyped,” Padlock says.

HDI is dedicated to helping those who are in the most need of help. In Rwanda, that often means people with HIV or AIDS, who are shunned by their families and society. HDI also helps other traditionally marginalized peoples like the Community of Potters, a stigmatized group living in extreme poverty.

They were known as the “Batwa” before the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

Still, HDI and other groups are helping the country and many of its impoverished citizens heal and improve. Because of her volleyball background, Padlock found another avenue to help by connecting with Ruhumuliza. With other volunteers, they began training people interested in the sport and scouting locations for volleyball camps and practice facilities.

Before she left for Rwanda, Padlock organized a fundraiser to aid both HDI and Ruhumuliza’s organization, Volleyball for Rwanda, by holding a volleyball tournament at Rivals bar in Kenosha, where she is employed. The money Padlock raised helped players afford equipment and transportation to and from practice and transportation around Africa to participate in tournaments, and it also went toward the pig cooperative for a Batwa village.

Help is important to get volleyball off the ground, Padlock says, because “any organization that starts up over there and gives people an opportunity to succeed is going to drive someone out of poverty.”

Echoes of the genocide haunt the country, Padlock says. The Hotel des Mille Collines of “Hotel Rwanda” fame still stands, and some buildings remain damaged from the turmoil of 20 years ago. Rwandans are slow to trust and are generally unwelcoming of visitors compared to citizens of neighboring Tanzania or Ethiopia, Padlock says.

In November 2014, Padlock returned to the United States, where she still conducts fundraisers and acts as a contact for U.S. donors. She says that while she plans to travel elsewhere – perhaps to other parts of Africa or South America – Rwanda will always hold a place in her heart.

“I definitely know I will go back,” Padlock says. “When you do something like that, you will forever have a lifetime attachment to it.”
Go to alumnidirectory.uwm.edu to update your contact information. Keep your information current to receive communication about the university, campus news, alumni events, resources, and opportunities that are of interest to you.
B eing an NCAA Division I student-athlete is time-consuming. Countless hours of studying and staying on top of schoolwork are required, in addition to training, practicing, competition and travel. But if you’re a UW-Milwaukee student-athlete, you come prepared to take on all of the above responsibilities, plus one more: giving back.

Milwaukee Athletics’ 300-plus student-athletes performed more than 4,000 hours of voluntary community service during the 2013-’14 academic year. This year, members of each of the university’s 15 varsity teams have been involved in community outreach initiatives that range from Kapco Kids 2 Kids Christmas to tutoring emerging scholars at nearby elementary schools.

From track star to tutor, Shorewood to south side

A 1995 record-holder in the 800-meter, Tim Kenney eventually traded in his Milwaukee Panthers track gear for a suit and tie. Today, he’s principal of Shorewood High School, but in 2013, he worked with his former UWM track coach, Pete Corfeld, to start a tutoring program at the district’s Atwater Elementary School.

Once a week, Milwaukee track and field student-athletes continue to work with Atwater students in group or one-on-one settings, in any subject required.

“When Coach Corfeld mentioned the program, I was really excited,” says cross country student-athlete and Lubar School of Business senior Gerrit Bruni. “Although I have never been interested in becoming a teacher, I have always enjoyed working with kids, and this was a great opportunity to do just that.”

At the south side nonprofit Journey House, Panther student-athletes and coaches educate area youth on what it takes to be successful at the collegiate level.

“Milwaukee Athletics really comes out into the community,” says Journey House Executive Director Michele Bria (’05 PhD, Urban Education & Leadership). “We’ve got Coach Jeter, Amanda Braun helping with our football, basketball and baseball programs. It’s more than sports. It’s really about education and how to get to the next level, the whole pathway to college. At Journey House, we’re really forging deep relationships with multiple UWM departments.”

“While we are involved with children at Journey House athletically, the emphasis of the program is on the academic and life skills that are key to a great and successful student-athlete experience,” agrees Deidre Merritt, assistant athletic director for student-athlete affairs. “We have enjoyed the partnership so far, with active participation from the men’s basketball program.”

This spring, the Milwaukee Panthers stepped in as Wisconsin’s only NCAA Division I baseball program to assist with Journey House’s Felix Mantilla Little League.

Panthers Pay it Forward

To recognize the great work done by charitable organizations near and dear to the heart of Milwaukee Athletics, a Panthers Pay it Forward community service partner award was established for the 2014-’15 basketball season. At select UWM home games, representatives from the Milwaukee Athletics Department saluted the efforts of the department’s community partners.

“While the volunteer efforts of UWM student-athletes and coaches are commendable, the individuals who devote their lives to assisting those in need are the ones who should be saluted for their commitment to making a difference in people’s lives,” says Director of Athletics Amanda Braun.

“The Panthers Pay It Forward award is just a small token of our appreciation for all that our community partners do for their efforts to improve lives in the city of Milwaukee.”
Amy P. Tessmer Boening dedicated her life to education. After graduating from Central State Teachers College (now University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point) in 1951 with a degree in elementary education, she began teaching in the Milwaukee Public Schools. She dedicated her time and considerable focus and energy to children in the intermediate grades for 18 years – spending 10 years at Carlton Elementary School, six years at Maryland Avenue Elementary School and two years at Longfellow Elementary School.

While teaching, Boening pursued graduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, earning a master’s of art in education in 1964. At the time of her death in 2012, the extent of Boening’s gratitude for the impact higher education had on her life, as well as on her husband and family, became evident. Her estate left bequests totaling $5.87 million to support Wisconsin universities.

Among those bequests was $726,000 to the UWM Foundation, establishing the Amy Tessmer Boening Scholarship Fund to provide for students enrolled in the UWM’s School of Education (SOE) graduate program.

Boening lived a life of learning and giving, always thankful for the opportunities that the UW System had provided for her and her husband. Boening served on the SOE’s Alumni Chapter Board in the early 1990s. Her husband, attorney James E. Boening, died in 1989. He was a graduate of UW-Madison and UW-Madison Law School. The couple had no children. Boening’s siblings predeceased her as well.

**Life changing education, generosity**

In 1969, Boening was promoted to assistant principal and served in that capacity at Gaenslen Elementary School, Wisconsin Avenue School and Ninth Street Elementary School.

In 1973, during the era of school integration, Boening became principal at Hayes Elementary School, a host school for African American children who were pioneers in Milwaukee’s court-ordered busing program. Boening worked very hard to support students, teachers and parents during this transition.

Boening continued as principal of Hayes Elementary School for 11 years. She finished her career as principal of Grant Avenue Elementary School from 1984 to 1986.

Sixteen scholarships have been awarded since the fund was established last year, including one for Cindy Clough, a doctoral student in Social Foundations of Education who works with educators to address social issues in K-12 education.

Clough’s goal is to promote inclusive services for children labeled as having disabilities. She has three children, two of whom will be starting college in the next three years, and a husband whose health needs affect the family. The Amy Tessmer Boening scholarship has allowed her to increase her credit load and reduce her need for financial aid.

“To Amy, I would like to say thank you for your generosity and commitment to higher education,” Clough says. “At a
time when publicly available financial resources are scarce, scrutinized and challenging to access, you can be assured that your scholarship fund has made a difference for this scholar and for the future of social justice work in education.”

“We are so honored to have received this gift from Mrs. Tessmer Boening,” says Barbara Daley, who was interim dean of the School of Education at the time the gift was made. “As a School of Education, we help students navigate the rigors of pursuing a graduate degree, as well as offering opportunities to help them balance the cost.

“Often, donors think about undergraduate students needing financial assistance. However, Mrs. Tessmer Boening’s generosity will help us offer more fellowships, assistantships and provide other avenues to help defray the cost of our graduate program. School of Education graduate programs prepare a wide range of professional educators.”

We have a distinct obligation to ensure that those students with the talent and the tenacity do indeed succeed as they bring invaluable service to the state of Wisconsin. Mrs. Tessmer Boening’s legacy will give countless graduate students an opportunity to pursue advanced education.”
LEND A HAND & GIVE THE NEXT GENERATION A RUNNING START

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11th Annual

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www.pantherprowl.net
1960s

Howard Schoenfeld
(‘68 BS History) was included on the National Trial Lawyers Association’s list of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Wisconsin for 2015. He is a litigator with DeWitt Ross & Stevens S.C.

1970s

Michael Davis
(‘71 BA Political Science) was included on the National Trial Lawyers Association’s list of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Wisconsin for 2015. He is a litigator with DeWitt Ross & Stevens S.C.

John Kissinger
(‘79 BSE Civil Engineering), CEO of Wisconsin-based engineering and consulting firm GRAEF, received the 2014 Chairman Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies. He joined GRAEF in 1984 as a structural engineer in the firm’s Milwaukee office. Since that time, he has held positions of increasing responsibility including project engineer, project manager, principal, vice president, regional manager and COO. Named GRAEF CEO in 2012, Kissinger’s most notable projects include the Milwaukee Art Museum addition, on which he served as engineering project manager, the McCormick Place West Expansion in Chicago and the Lambeau Field renovation in Green Bay.

Alan Magayne-Roshak
(‘72 BA) was one of two university photographers named a Master of the Profession by the University Photographers Association of America in 2014. He retired from UW-Milwaukee in 2013 with a total of 109 awards.

Jim Hauerwas
(‘77 BS Health Sciences) has been inducted into the Wisconsin Wrestling Coaches Association George Martin Hall of Fame.

Gary Pachucki
(‘77 BS Architectural Studies) is president and founder of iBT Group, managing developer of Pulaski Promenade, a 139,000-square-foot shopping center under construction in Chicago. The real estate development company, founded in 1999, also has started work on a shopping center in Evergreen Park, Ill.

Janice (Gruel) Kamholtz
(‘79 BA German, ’81 MLS Library & Info Science) was named dean of instruction at Bryant & Stratton College’s Wauwatosa campus. She has been with Bryant & Stratton College since the campus opened in September 2004.

Kenneth Pobo
(‘83 PhD English, ’79 MA English) has released a 32-poem chapbook titled “When the Light Turns Green” through Spruce Alley Press. Pobo is a professor of English and creative writing at Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania.

Robert John Zagar

Maureen (Miller) Bagg
(‘77 MA) is vice president of client services at Corporate Images Inc., a marketing firm in Racine, Wisconsin, that she owns and operates with her husband, Alan. She was previously an educator for more than 30 years.

Ronald Mehler
(‘75 BA Mass Communication - Journalism) is the author of “Digital Integrated Circuit Design Using Verilog and SystemVerilog,” published by Elsevier. Mehler is a professor of electrical and computer engineering at California State University, Northridge.

Maaine S. Williams
(‘71 BFA) was named to the 2015 Best Lawyers in America publication. She is a partner with Willig, Williams & Davidson, a labor, employment and workers’ compensation firm in Pennsylvania.
1980s

Katina Daanen
(‘83 BFA Art) recently published “The Northern Forest Canoe Trail Through-Paddler’s Companion,” a guidebook to paddling the 740-mile water trail from its western terminus in Old Forge, New York, to the eastern terminus in Fort Kent, Maine. She researched, wrote, and designed the book after through-paddling the trail in 2011 in celebration of her 50th birthday. She is a teacher at Greenfield Bilingual School, part of Milwaukee Public Schools.

Christian Lebano
(‘87 BFA Theatre - Acting) has been named artistic director of the Sierra Madre Playhouse in Sierra Madre, California, while continuing to serve as office manager for the ACLU of Southern California. He was heralded by the local CBS affiliate as “one of the five directors to watch in Los Angeles.” He recently directed the Los Angeles premiere of Amy Herzog’s Pulitzer Prize-nominated play “4000 Miles” and will be presenting classmate James DeVita’s (‘87 BFA Theatre - Acting) adaptation of “A Little House Christmas” from the Laura Ingalls Wilder books in December 2015.

1990s

Terry L. Rahl
(‘90 BS Criminal Justice) was selected to be the FBI’s first attaché to the Netherlands. The FBI legal attaché in The Hague has oversight for the FBI’s counterterrorism, criminal, cyber and counterintelligence programs in the Netherlands, as well as the European Police Agency.

David Luhrssen
(‘91 MA History) has published his latest book, “War on the Silver Screen,” for the University of Nebraska/Potomac Press. Co-written with Professor Glen Jeanson of UW-Milwaukee’s history department, “War on the Silver Screen” examines how the public remembers America’s wars through their depiction in the movies. Luhrssen continues to work as film critic and arts and entertainment editor for Milwaukee’s weekly Shepherd Express newspaper.

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Please be sure to include your full name (including maiden name, if applicable), address, year(s) of graduation, degree(s) and major(s). Photos are welcomed!
Robert Silverman ('97 PhD Urban Studies) and Kelly Patterson ('02 PhD Urban Studies) published a book called “Qualitative Research Methods for Community Development” with Routledge in 2014. Silverman was recently promoted to full professor and named PhD program director in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University at Buffalo.

Bridget Henk ('06 BSE Civil Engineering), a project engineer at Wisconsin-based engineering and consulting firm GRAEF, has achieved the Envision Sustainability Professional certification from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure. She has taken on complex design roles for GRAEF clients and is refining the standards of GRAEF’s stormwater management group. Recently, Henk prepared preliminary grading, roadway and utility plans for the potential residential development of the Eschweiler site within the UW-Milwaukee Innovation Campus.

2000s

Tim Guilette ('00 BBA Marketing) was promoted to vice president of operations for Paul Davis Restoration & Remodeling in Southeast and Fox Valley, Wisconsin, a provider of restoration, remodeling and emergency services. He started with the company as an estimator in 2002.

David Dahms ('01 BA Communication) was appointed by Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson to the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. Dahms works for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and has served as the state boating law administrator since 2006.

Melissa (Fink) Temple ('01 BBA) has been promoted to IT business analyst at Standard Process Inc. She will be responsible for analyzing, testing and launching new systems, protocols, platforms and productivity initiatives. She has worked for Standard Process for the past 13 years in various information technology roles.

Jason Pruitt ('03 MHRLR Human Resources & Labor Relations) received a Future 5 award from the Kenosha Area Business Alliance/Young Leaders in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Joan V. Zivich ('05 MLIS Library & Info Science) received the Indiana Health Sciences Librarians’ highest award, the OVATION, for exemplary service. She previously was honored by the Medical Library Association Hospital Libraries Section and appointed by the National Library of Medicine and the American Academy of Pediatrics to their Project Advisory Committee on access to pediatric health information during a national crisis. She has worked with the Indiana Lead-Safe and Healthy Homes Task Force for many years and served two terms as IHSLA president. She leads Lacera Memorial Library at Community Hospital in Munster, Indiana.


Rachel Arndt ('08 MLIS Library & Info Science) was promoted to manager of general reference and customer service for Milwaukee Public Library. Her department provides all the general public services at Milwaukee’s Central Library, including circulation, registration and general reference, and staffs Milwaukee’s Ready Reference phone line.
2010s

Adam Ausloos
('12 Executive MBA, CRPC®, a financial adviser with Ameriprise Financial in Brookfield, Wisconsin, recently earned the Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor® designation from the College for Financial Planning. Ausloos was also recently elected president of the Lubar EMBA Alumni Chapter.

Matt Bednarski
('98 BSE Civil Engineering, '14 Executive MBA), senior municipal engineer at Wisconsin-based engineering and consulting firm GRAEF, has achieved the Envision Sustainability Professional certification from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure. Bednarski leads GRAEF’s Kinnickinnic River Rehabilitation Project team and has also overseen design, construction documents, bidding, construction management and permitting of various roadway construction and rehab projects in the Village of Newburg.

Nongluk Buranabunyut
('08 PhD Economics) opened a restaurant called “Thai-namite” on Milwaukee’s Brady Street in 2010 and has recently added another location to the Milwaukee Public Market.

Michael Dean Clark
('10 PhD English), Trent Hergenrader
('13 PhD English, '07 MA English) and Joseph Rein
('11 PhD English) contributed a chapter.

Marly Fink
('10 BA Mass Communication Journalism) is a copywriter at Michael Kors Corporation. Fink previously was an assistant editor for Hearst Corporation’s Country Living magazine and a fashion copywriter for Saks Fifth Avenue.

Kevin Kelly
('12 BA German) recently completed a 100-mile bike race in the mountains outside Anchorage, Alaska, where he is currently a tour guide. He was a 2013 Fulbright Scholar who taught and studied in Giessen, Germany.

Mary Wegner
('11 BA Anthropology) of Bangor, Wisconsin, joined the Peace Corps and is working as an English education volunteer in Uganda.

Rachel Rebitski and Matt Mahoney were married on May 31, 2014 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Their reception was held at Thornberry Creek of Oneida.

Matt and Rachel met as teammates on the UW-Milwaukee Swim and Dive Team. Many of their Panther teammates were in the wedding party or at the wedding. All those who swam or dove at UWM took a picture to capture the moment.

Matt graduated from UWM in December 2010 receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Finance and Marketing. Rachel graduated in May 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and in May 2013 with a Master of Social Work.

The couple lives in Milwaukee. Matt is employed at Wells Fargo Bank and Rachel at Rogers Memorial Hospital.
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Also, see page 9 for more details!