RESEARCHING THE NEW AGING
Table of CONTENTS

1 Panther & Proud
2 Quotable & Notable
4 New @ UWM
6 Too early to research? ‘Not so,’ say undergrads
7 Zen and the art of architectural spaces

8 RESEARCHING THE NEW AGING
UWM researchers are helping us navigate the rocky shoals (and sandy beaches) of aging

15 LIFELONG LEARNING AT UWM
Adventures in auditing and other food for your brain

18 AUTUMN ON CAMPUS
Students love using Instagram to capture and share the scenic views around them.

20 UWM honors Distinguished Alumni
25 Veterans hit the trail to raise awareness
26 Welcome, new UWMAA board members
28 Panther athletics
31 Class notes
34 An alumna’s story of the 2013 Boston Marathon

On the cover: Now 78, John Shier graduated from UWM at age 60 in 1994 with a bachelor’s degree in nursing, launching his third lifetime career. He now does healthy living presentations, manages a wellness website—thatguynurse.com—and has just published a new book, “Choose Today, Live Tomorrow,” based on his presentations. Among his own favorite activities are biking and kayaking.

Special thanks to Crank Daddy’s Bicycle Works, 2170 N. Prospect Ave. in Milwaukee (crankdaddys.com), for supplying the bike and many of the accessories for our cover photo. Thanks also to the UWM Bookstore for the Panthers biking jersey.

Cover concept by Mario R. Lopez; photography by Troye Fox.
Looking cute and cozy in her UWM onesie is Lainey August Techtmann, born June 16 to Jeremy Techtmann and Maggie Tate Techtmann (’04 Psychology, Women’s Studies). She’s “dreaming of Pounce the Panther,” Tate Techtmann says. (Maybe she’s also roaring like a Panther?) Tate Techtmann is a current MS in Nonprofit Management and Leadership student at UWM.

Teri (Stoltenberg) Joyner (’01 BA Mass Communication–Public Relations) reports that she and husband Mike are raising the next generation of Panther basketball stars. Shown here with son Ryk, Joyner was starting point guard for the 2001 women’s team, the first UWM basketball team ever to earn an NCAA Tournament berth. Joyner says she is using more of what she learned at UWM in class and on the court in raising her children than she ever thought possible.

TELL US ABOUT IT

Have a Panther Pride photo you’d like to share? Want to comment on something you’ve seen or read in the magazine? We welcome your input. Send submissions by email to alm5@uwm.edu, or by snail mail to Angela McManaman, UWM Alumni, Mitchell Hall 895, 3203 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee WI 53211. Please include your name, address and degree year(s).

PANTHER CUBS

UWM’S RESPONSIBILITY TO ADDRESS CRITICAL AGING ISSUES

Even though I celebrated my fifth anniversary at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee this summer, I’m still frequently and pleasantly surprised by the depth of this university’s research on topics that are of current importance to our community. In this issue of UWM Alumni magazine, the focus on “Researching the New Aging” is an excellent example.

It’s no secret that the population of the United States is aging, and, while we often think this is only a temporary by-product of the Baby Boom generation, the reality is that the nation will be aging for the foreseeable future. The 2010 U.S. Census showed that in that year, one of every seven U.S. residents was 65 and older. Projections based on that census estimate that by 2060, that ratio will increase to one in every five U.S. residents. In simple numbers, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates those 65 and older will increase from 43.1 million in 2012 to 92 million in 2060.

The aging of America is no short-term situation and, as a university, we have a responsibility to address this societal need. Our responsibility can be found in our mission statement, which calls on UWM “to promote public service and research efforts directed toward meeting the social, economic and cultural needs of the State of Wisconsin and its metropolitan areas.”

I invite you to examine this issue of UWM Alumni and pass along the good word about how this university is addressing aging in the 21st century.

Michael R. Lovell
Chancellor

SHOW YOUR PANTHER PRIDE

Josh LeVeque (’00 Civil Engineering) recently traveled to Southern California with his wife, Shelly, and 4-year-old-son, J.J. Shelly took this photo of Josh in his Panther gear with the iconic Hollywood sign as a backdrop.
UWM GRAD MOSEYS INTO TECH START-UP

Eric Persha (’04 BS Marketing and Human Resources) is the co-founder and CEO of Mosey, a San Francisco-based online platform that is one part social media and one part tour guide.

“Essentially, we’re trying to answer the question of ‘Hey, I’m coming to your town, what should I do?’” says Persha.

Persha fielded that particular question a few too many times. He got it from every friend who came to visit from his hometown in Wisconsin – Mayville – or from India, where he worked for three years.

“People ask that question of their friends because they can answer that question vastly better than an Internet search,” he says. “The goal of Mosey is to create the best four or five hours in a new city.”

Since April, Mosey users have been creating tours of their favorite places to keep a weekend itinerary, entertain guests or just share their favorite places. In the first eight weeks of Mosey going live, people had made Moseys in over 45 countries and 350 different cities.

“The way we think of the product is as a storytelling device,” Persha says. “What you love that’s around you or what you love at places that you’ve been to. It’s very much about curated experiences rather than giving people a list of your favorites.”

Persha found a brand new use for Mosey in August, during his wedding. He and his wife had family and friends coming from all corners of the world to San Francisco for the celebration.

“I made a list of Moseys for our first dates – where I took my wife and what we did,” he says. “That was very much in the storytelling vein. I don’t know that I expected people to go on those Moseys, but people enjoyed reading them and learning about how our relationship progressed.”

For Persha and Mosey, the future is at home. Originally highlighted as a travel tool, Persha says users are beginning to use Mosey to feature hidden gems in their own cities and neighborhoods.

“We’re trying to bridge the gap from the travel world and make it much more oriented around your local world.”

GROWING MILWAUKEE’S ART SCENE WITH GREEN GALLERY

Wauwatosa native John Riepenhoff (’04 BFA Painting and Drawing) started his art gallery, Green Gallery, in his attic in March of 2004 – before he even graduated.

He says his humble beginnings were filling a communal niche that had been going unnoticed.

“When I was a student at UWM exploring the art scene in our city, I didn’t find venues that were supporting the art and the artists that I was interested in, so the natural progression for me was to create that venue,” he says.

Having a space to showcase fun and interesting projects allows Riepenhoff to provide contemporary art for the Milwaukee area and critique the idea that these kinds of art galleries can only exist in New York or Los Angeles.

“The gallery functions as an experimental space for people and ideas to come through and do something semi-public,” he says. “We’re unique in that we’re kind of using a New York model of conceptual, contemporary art scene but we’re not in New York.”

By spring 2005, Riepenhoff had enough traction to move into a Riverwest warehouse on Center Street and expanded over the next seven years by adding another location on Farwell Avenue, started an international art fair and added a business partner who also happens to be his cousin, Jake Palmert.

Along with Palmert, Riepenhoff took the Milwaukee International Art Fair from Falcon Bowl on Clarke Street in 2006 to New York City in 2008 and to Cologne, Germany, in 2009. The acclaim that the Milwaukee International Art Fair brought Green Gallery attracted more artists, as well as sent Riepenhoff to curate projects around the world.

Although a 2012 fire destroyed the elder of the two galleries, Green Gallery continues to live on at the Farwell Avenue location.

“We’re still sort of in rebuild mode,” Riepenhoff says. “I’ve done increasingly more projects at other people’s spaces, but right now I’m starting the slow planning of doing another project at a new venue.”

In the meantime, he has been curating art of all kinds and challenging the status quo of the art world.

“The instinct is for people interested in these things to gravitate to where the scene is,” Riepenhoff says. “But we took kind of a radical approach by committing to where we are and saying the center is shifting.”
ROSS BACHHUBER AND ODD DUCK

FROM FINE ARTS TO FINE DINING: ROSS BACHHUBER AND ODD DUCK

Ross Bachhuber (’99 BFA Painting and Drawing) is co-owner and head chef at one of Milwaukee’s newest hot restaurants, Odd Duck (2352 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.).

For Bachhuber, the transition from fine arts to fine dining isn’t much of a stretch because of the imagination needed to create the food at Odd Duck.

“I still use my painting degree all the time by making the restaurant better,” he says. “I have more of a creative vision when it comes to my work.”

It wasn’t just straight from college to kitchen, though. Bachhuber had been in the business for over a decade before he opened his own place.

“I paid my way through college by being a cook and then kind of just realized that I could make a better living for myself by being a chef than being a painter,” he says.

During school, Bachhuber worked as a sous chef at The Astor Hotel. He followed with stints as the executive chef at the Milwaukee Art Museum and at the Lowlands Group, which owns some of Milwaukee’s most popular restaurants.

All that work, according to Bachhuber, was a means to an end that came to a head in 2012. Odd Duck opened on April 15 last year after a 12-year process.

“We’re intensely focused on creativity and sourcing the best ingredients possible, and then creating a feeling like you’re in my house or coming over for dinner,” he says of the goals of Odd Duck.

The daily menu at Odd Duck shifts with the ingredients that come in as much as it changes with the imagination of the chef.

The quality of the food amidst the unpretentious atmosphere at Odd Duck has given the restaurant a citywide reputation in just 18 months.

“I think we’ve built a lot of trust with people in the past year,” Bachhuber says. “Now, people who would only go out for steak and potatoes are coming out for a Korean pancake.”

Even with the success, Bachhuber says Odd Duck is a labor of love – albeit one that won’t be replicated.

“I’ve got tons of ideas for other places, but I don’t want to do another Odd Duck,” he says.

A MILWAUKEE STUDENT FOR THREE YEARS, ASAWA IS REMEMBERED WORLDWIDE

World renowned artist and honorary UWM BFA recipient Ruth Asawa died at her home in San Francisco in August. She was 86.

A victim of Japanese internment during World War II, Asawa built off of her adversity and experiences traveling through Mexico in the 1940s, which inspired the woven-wire sculptures she was known for.

During the war, Asawa was taught to draw by three Disney animators while incarcerated in California. She graduated from high school after being moved to another internment camp in Arkansas.

In 1943, a scholarship from the Quakers brought Asawa to Milwaukee State Teachers College, a UWM predecessor institution. Her education at the teacher’s college ended after three years, and without a degree. As a Japanese American, Asawa could not get a student teaching placement, and without a placement she could not graduate.

“It’s very important for UWM to acknowledge moments of failure, in this case because of racism,” says Jasmine Alinder, director of UWM’s Urban Studies program. “Asawa’s example shows us that prejudice and barriers were rampant throughout the country.”

After studying art at Black Mountain College in North Carolina, Asawa returned to Mexico and learned to weave baskets. She would adapt the technique to the wire sculptures she would become known for.

By 1950, Asawa and husband Albert Lanier had made San Francisco their home. Decades of exhibitions earned her work a place in the collections of museums like the Guggenheim and the Whitney. San Francisco came to know her as the “fountain lady” for her many public commissions, including Ghirardelli Square’s iconic Andrea Mermaid Fountain.

Asawa later dedicated herself to promoting art education in San Francisco’s public schools. In 2010, the School of the Arts High School in San Francisco that she had helped build was renamed the Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts.

In 1998, UW-Milwaukee offered to present Asawa with an honorary doctorate. At Asawa’s request, she was presented with the bachelor’s degree she should have received in the 1940s. She also held honorary doctoral degrees from three academic institutions in California.

Despite the discrimination she faced in Milwaukee, Asawa remained optimistic about her time at Milwaukee State Teachers College.

“I was learning all the time,” Asawa told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in 1998. “We drew on the stone, we did etching, we just sort of learned the fundamentals.”

BY ALEX WENDLAND

Terry Schmitt
EMMONS NAMED PECK SCHOOL DEAN

Scott Emmons has been named the new dean of UWM’s Peck School of the Arts. He served as interim dean during the 2012-13 Year of the Arts at UWM, a celebration of the Peck School’s 50th anniversary.

A professor of music education, Emmons joined the UWM faculty in 1992. He is a widely sought clinician in the field of technology for music educators and is a founder of the national New Horizons Band for Senior Adults program. He has served as a regional representative to the Music Educators National Conference and the state council of the Wisconsin Music Educators Association.

Emmons holds a PhD from Eastman School of Music and a Master of Music from Northwestern University. He is the author of more than 30 books and numerous articles on music education, and has guest conducted and presented workshops throughout the United States and in Australia.

FIVE GIFTS MOVE INNOVATION CAMPUS FORWARD

As construction kicked off on the first building at UWM’s Innovation Campus in early June, Chancellor Michael R. Lovell announced five generous gifts that will help grow the university’s new research park.

The gifts are from the Wisconsin Energy Foundation, $2 million; Michael J. Cudahy, $2 million; the Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation, $1 million; Dennis Klein and KBS Construction, $250,000; and an anonymous donor, $300,000.

Innovation Campus is adjacent to the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center to allow collaboration among industry, research and medicine. Construction is now under way on the UWM Innovation Accelerator building, funded in part with a $5.4 million federal grant. The first private development at Innovation Campus also is under way. ABB Inc. and developer Zilber Property Group are developing a 95,000-square-foot building to house the company’s regional headquarters.

STUDENTS BUILD MILWAUKEE COUNTY MOBILE APP

In the near future, riders of Milwaukee County Transit System buses will be able to limit the amount of time they spend at the bus stop. Simply by consulting their smartphones, they will be able to track their bus in real time as it moves along its route.

It’s part of a mobile app for Milwaukee County services that was created in UWM’s new Mobile Innovation Lab (“the App Brewery”), which employs UWM students who apply skills learned in coursework offered in the School of Information Studies to real-world projects for area nonprofits.

The county’s mobile app also will feature information on county parks, the zoo, Mitchell International Airport and county parking lots. The lab also is working on apps for the Sojourner Family Peace Center and Visit Milwaukee.

“These are real-world projects for very real clients,” says Aaron Hartwig, a sophomore in engineering. “You don’t feel like you’re at a university when you’re in these meetings. You feel like you’re working for some company.”
MILWAUKEE POETS LAUREATE HAVE UWM TIES

Milwaukee’s two new poets laureate both have UWM ties.

Jim Chapson has taught creative writing at UWM for 34 years. Jeff Poniewaz received his BA and MA degrees in English from the university, and also has taught poetry courses. They were named laureates in April by the Milwaukee Public Library and will serve for two years.

Chapson, who grew up in Hawaii, went on to study poetry at Oregon State and San Francisco State University, discovering Ferlinghetti, Ginsberg and other Beat poets in the rich literary life of 1960s San Francisco. His own poetry ranges from lyrics to short narrative poems, inspired by classical writing or something he observes or reads about, often with a satiric tone. His most recent books include “Daphnis & Ratboy,” “Scholia” and “Plotinus Blushed.”

Poniewaz is known for his eco-activism, which encompasses everything from local urban greenspace struggles to the global rainforest catastrophe. A collection of his eco-poems spanning 1975-82, “Dolphin Leaping in the Milky Way,” was praised by Allen Ginsberg for its “impassioned prescient ecological Whitmanesque/Thoreauvian verve and wit.” A volume of his selected poems will be published this fall.

Numerous UWM poets have served as laureates, including John Koethe, Brenda Cárdenas, Susan Firer, Marilyn Taylor and Antler.

TWO (MINIATURE) LIBRARIES ADDED TO CAMPUS

You’ve probably seen a few around your neighborhood, looking like oversized mailboxes or birdhouses and packed with books for the sharing.

Now two “Little Free Libraries” have arrived at UWM, thanks to a collaboration among the UWM Libraries; the Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership and Research (CCBLLR); the Architecture Department; and Physical Plant Services.

Little Free Libraries (LFL) are meant to promote reading and literacy, as well as a sense of community. Books are free and users are encouraged to contribute their own.

The impetus for campus LFLs came from a UWM Libraries staff member who had placed one in front of her home last year. Several other staff took up the idea and joined with CCBLLR.

A competition to design the libraries was held among Architecture Professor Mark Keane’s students. The winners, Trevor Koehler and Peter Hiller, each received a $500 stipend from the Libraries and the cost of materials for construction from CCBLLR.

UWM ROLLS OUT NEW PEACEBUILDING, ARCHITECTURE DEGREES

UWM students will have the opportunity to learn more about building sustainable peace, as well as sustainable building, with two new master’s degree programs approved by the UW System Board of Regents in June.

The Master in Sustainable Peacebuilding (MSP) is an interdisciplinary program designed to prepare students for careers in fields such as international development, post-conflict reconstruction, poverty reduction, sustainable resource development and similar areas.

The new Master of Science in Architecture is designed for practicing architects who want to expand their skills to new areas such as sustainable building, or are looking for a stepping-stone to the doctoral program. The existing Master of Architecture program, which is a studio-based degree to prepare students to become registered, licensed architects, will continue.

The MS in Architecture began this fall. The MSP will launch in 2014, though select courses are available to current UWM students.
David Stock explored the bones from abandoned cemeteries, looking for clues to life and death in rural Wisconsin.

Dylan Wilmeth turned a longtime fascination with geology into research on rare geologic formations more than a billion years old.

Florine Ndakuya immersed herself in studying the health needs of African immigrant and African American women in Racine and Kenosha.

These three students are among the many UWM undergraduate researchers who are getting hands-on experience in their majors through the university’s Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR), which matches interested students with a faculty mentor who guides the research experience.

Students can begin their research as soon as the summer before their freshman year, according to Kyla Esguerra, associate director of OUR.

‘WIN-WIN-WIN’

Involving undergraduates in research is a “win-win-win” situation for faculty, graduate students and undergraduate researchers, says Robert Jeske, an anthropology professor who mentors Stock. “It’s a good chance to integrate everybody together on a project.”

The 10 or so undergraduates in the archaeological research lab can learn from the grad students, and the graduate students benefit from the interaction with undergrads since many are, or will be, teaching them. Research helps with learning, and prepares students to move into graduate level work, Jeske adds.

“It’s a lot of fun working with undergraduates,” adds Stephen Dornbos, associate professor of geosciences, who was Wilmeth’s mentor. Their enthusiasm reaffirms his research interests. “It helps me to see science from a different perspective again.”

Stock is developing an interdisciplinary major, with the goal of working in a museum or teaching at the university level. As part of Jeske’s team, he helped in the analysis of skeletons from three Lutheran parish cemeteries of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The bones, unclaimed by relatives, were unearthed many years ago when a highway went through the area. Studying the bones gives researchers insight into immigrant lifestyles, and the prevalent diseases of their time, says Stock.

UWM’s undergraduate research program was a key attraction for Stock, who grew up in New Zealand and considered universities there before choosing UWM. He started in the summer research program before his first year (with mentor David Mulroy, now retired from Classics).

The experience has not only helped him make connections between what he was learning in class and in the lab, but gives him opportunities to network within his field.

“Through research I have met many committed professors, graduate students and professionals who have given me brilliant advice on everything from completing large research projects, to internship/professional development opportunities, to navigating my field beyond the classroom.”

Wilmeth knew he wanted to be a geology major when he started at UWM and was quick to take advantage of the opportunity to get involved in hands-on research. “It takes those things you read about in class and puts a practical application to them.”

BUILDING A STRONG RESEARCH PROFILE

In addition to the learning and hands-on experience, student researchers also have the chance to present their research at professional conferences. In summer 2012, Ndakuya and Keighla Mueller, Rebecca Robinson and other nursing student researchers presented their work at the Intercultural Cancer Council (ICC) Biennial Research Symposium sponsored by the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Ndakuya was based at UW-Parkside in Kenosha as part of Parkside’s collaborative nursing program with UWM, and worked with mentor and Professor of Nursing Sandra Millon Underwood. She is now a grad student at UWM.

“When I started, I had little idea what research is about,” she says. “This has helped teach me a great deal about community participatory research.”
BY LAURA L. HUNT

It’s hard to say what kind of built environment Japanese architect Sou Fujimoto will inspire when he teaches at the UWM School of Architecture & Urban Planning (SARUP) next semester. But it’s possible the students may experiment with what Fujimoto is best known for: delicate structures that fit into the existing urban sphere.

Fujimoto has been awarded the fifth Marcus Prize for Architecture, a biennial award supported by the Marcus Corporation Foundation and administered by SARUP. The $100,000 award – one of the most lucrative in the world – recognizes emerging global talents. In addition to a cash prize to the recipient, the award also supports a design studio at SARUP that will be collaboratively led by the award winner.

Fujimoto has won several international awards and, at 42, is the youngest architect invited to design a temporary summer pavilion where public events are held in London’s Kensington Gardens.

“The fact that he was just chosen to build the Serpentine Pavilion in London, which is usually only designed by the world’s top architects, is evidence of his growing reputation,” says Robert Greenstreet, dean of SARUP and a member of the Marcus Prize jury. “The work is modern, and explores the role of building within the city as well as its relationship with the natural world.”

During the spring 2014 academic semester, Sou Fujimoto will make scheduled visits to SARUP, leading a graduate studio in collaboration with SARUP Associate Dean Mo Zell, dealing with specific challenges in architecture that will have enduring benefits to Milwaukee’s urban fabric. He will also be invited to participate in public workshops and lectures.

Fujimoto’s work focuses on light, material and human experience, uniting simplicity with complexity, as his design for the Serpentine Pavilion illustrates.

In what Fujimoto calls “flexible architecture,” his designs feature spaces within spaces that people can adapt to fit their individual needs.

In addition to Greenstreet and Zell, jury members included Brian Lee, design partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Chicago; William Menking, founder and editor-in-chief of The Architect’s Newspaper and professor at Pratt Institute, New York; Donna V. Robertson, the John and Jeanne Rowe Chair at IIT College of Architecture, Chicago; and David Marcus, president, Marcus Investments, Milwaukee.

The consensus of the jury: “Sou Fujimoto’s work is expertly crafted. His work can’t be categorized. He is unique, one of a kind, and he will no doubt make a significant contribution to the school and the city of Milwaukee through his ability to inspire the collective imaginations of the community.”

“Fujimoto’s work focuses on light, material and human experience, uniting simplicity with complexity, as his design for the Serpentine Pavilion illustrates. In what Fujimoto calls “flexible architecture,” his designs feature spaces within spaces that people can adapt to fit their individual needs.”

The Marcus Prize is a part of our ongoing commitment to support the growth and development of Milwaukee,” says Steve Marcus, Marcus Corporation chairman of the board and director of the Marcus Corporation Foundation.

The Marcus Corporation Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Marcus Corporation, a lodging and entertainment company headquartered in Milwaukee.
A member of the "Silent Generation" plans for support during an upcoming knee or hip replacement and thinks, "I remember when I had to find a drop-in caregiver for Dad." For Baby Boomers, "aha" might be the first time a young clerk peers at them and says, "I gave you the senior discount." Even some Generation Xers are finding their first membership appeals from AARP in the mailbox.

Aging and the issues surrounding it do concern all of us, whether we choose to acknowledge it or not. And whether layperson or expert, we often find our perspective altered after confronting aging in our personal lives.

On the next few pages, UWM Alumni magazine explores just some of the research that’s going on at the university to help us personally, and as a society, navigate the rocky shoals (and sandy beaches) of aging.
Rage – OR PAIN?

What if you were hurting, but couldn’t tell anybody?

That’s frequently the case with adults who have dementia. Often, they can only express their pain through nonverbal behaviors or resistance to care.

Nursing home residents with dementia are consistently untreated or undertreated for pain, according to Christine Kovach, a professor in the College of Nursing. Many residents receive unneeded or inappropriate medicines – a resident who doesn’t want to move around might be given an anti-anxiety medicine, for example, when the real problem is arthritis pain.

“People with dementia often don’t communicate pain verbally, but through behavior,” she explains.

The Serial Trial Intervention (STI), which Kovach developed and tested in a number of major clinical studies funded through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is now used around the world.

The STI helps caregivers identify changes in behaviors and evaluate whether they are being caused by physical or emotional pain. The caregiver can then try a series of interventions with simple comfort measures or pain medications.

“This approach was unheard-of when we started,” says Kovach. “Now it has changed nursing practice around the country.”

Colleagues have helped make gerontological nursing a specialty emphasis of the College of Nursing. Sarah Morgan, assistant professor, researched the use of the STI in home care situations. Michelle Simpson, now a nurse-researcher with Aurora Health Care, collaborated with Kovach and others on studies comparing the effectiveness of two different protocols.

Enriching LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS

Exploring how the arts can enrich the lives of older adults is both a passion and a research interest for Anne Basting. A professor of theater in the Peck School of the Arts (PSOA) and former director of the UWM Center for Age and Community, she has written and lectured extensively on aging. Her creative work includes plays and public performances.

Arts At Home is a current collaboration between Basting, Sojourn Theatre, Interfaith Older Adult Programs, Milwaukee County Department on Aging and Goodwill, and Stowell Associates, designed to bring meaningful, creative engagement to older adults who are living alone or under-connected to their community.

The first theme of this innovative effort is Islands of Milwaukee, “a creative look at how we can imagine a more connected future for all Milwaukeeans,” says Basting. Through “Questions of the Day” and in-house visits from artists, the Arts At Home team will create three large-scale public arts events.

The performances will debut in September 2014 and are designed to inspire a community-wide conversation about the causes of, and solutions to, social isolation across the life course.

Basting also is founder and facilitator of the Creative Trust, an alliance to foster lifelong learning through the arts. Projects include “Let’s Talk Art,” Arts Partner Fellowships, Flourish Fest, TimeSlips Creative Storytelling and Creative Trust Research.
“Assuming care for an aging loved one is challenging,” says Rhonda Montgomery.

The emotional aspect of caregiving can be more difficult than the physical demands, and hits everybody. “Even if Mom’s not living with me, I’m still dealing with the emotions surrounding her growing dependence – my feelings and hers.”

Montgomery is Helen Bader Endowed Chair of Applied Gerontology in the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare and professor in the Department of Sociology, College of Letters & Science. Over the past 25 years, she and her UWM team designed and developed TCARE, a system designed to provide care managers – specialists assisting family caregivers – with a step-by-step tool to tailor care plans for caregivers.

A care manager and a caregiver meet and, through TCARE’s Web-based protocol, assess that caregiver’s needs and strengths. The care manager then identifies local resources for specific assistance, such as finding respite care.

With the licensing of TCARE as a business (TCARE Navigator) through the UWM Research Foundation, Montgomery has been promoting TCARE to private insurers, accountable-care organizations, self-insured employers and government agencies.

While decision makers are drawn to TCARE by the prospect of impressive health care savings, Montgomery says it’s more often personal experience that tips the balance in favor of TCARE.

“CEOs and executives who have attended to a loved one’s needs recognize the importance of supporting family caregivers.”

NEW CENTER AT UWM TACKLES CRITICAL AGING ISSUES

More and more people are living longer and longer in the U.S.

The older population (65+) will increase dramatically between now and 2030 to represent nearly 20% of the total population.

Those age 85 and over could triple their numbers by 2050 to 19 million.

The growth of this group affects many aspects of our society, challenging families, businesses, health care providers, policymakers and others, according to the National Institute on Aging.

How do we meet the needs of all these individuals?

UWM’s new Center for Aging and Translational Research (CATR) was created to bring together researchers and educators from across campus who are working in the field of aging.

CATR also administers UWM’s Graduate Certificate in Applied Gerontology (GCAP), designed to help graduate students or returning students with a bachelor’s degree pursue or advance careers.
"A multidisciplinary approach is paramount to tackling complex 21st century problems," says Scott Strath, associate professor of kinesiology and interim director of UWM’s Center for Aging and Translational Research (CATR).

This multidisciplinary approach has been identified as the best strategy for tackling problems. Scientists from various disciplines, with different degrees and diverse backgrounds, tackle the same problems together.

The support of Chukuka S. Enwemeka, UWM Distinguished Professor in kinesiology and dean of the College of Health Sciences, and Stan Stoijkovic, professor of criminal justice and dean of the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare (HBSSW), has been instrumental in establishing CATR, which replaces the Center on Age and Community.

Rhonda Montgomery, Helen Bader Endowed Chair of Applied Gerontology at HBSSW, also has played a major role.

"A key aspect of CATR’s mission is unifying campus resources into a university-wide infrastructure that will support aging-related research initiatives," says Enwemeka.

Stoijkovic emphasizes that instead of basic science, CATR is focused on building a base of knowledge that can be directly translated into specific programs, policies or practices.

"We’re talking about addressing and solving real-world problems – getting to the core of an issue and assisting people."

Examples might include new options for the elderly to navigate buildings, better ways for people to manage dementia or Alzheimer’s disease, or improved techniques and guidelines for older people as they exercise and keep active.

Stoijkovic also points out that UWM’s strengths include “specialists in the fields of education and communication who are experts in presenting workshops, sponsoring outreach efforts, teaching courses and creating certificate programs that deliver the information that can make a difference in people’s lives.”

Montgomery adds, “Given the realities of an aging society and UWM expertise in aging, now is the time to build upon that strength and advance aging research, education, training and community dissemination to benefit our community and beyond.”
Making end-of-life decisions for a loved one with dementia or Parkinson’s disease can be overwhelming. **Jung Kwak**, assistant professor of social work, is developing innovative coaching strategies to bring family caregivers and health care professionals together in informed, shared decision-making. The goal is to improve the quality of life and experiences of both families and their loved ones at the end of life. Because of her promising research in this area, she was named in 2010 as one of the nation’s six John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholars.

Studies show that wearing multifocal lenses (such as bifocals) can double the risk of falling. That’s one area of research being tackled at UWM’s Rehabilitation Research Design & Disability (R2D2) Center. Director **Roger O. Smith**, professor of occupational science and technology, points to another initiative that will benefit many older adults. The Access Rating for Buildings (ARB) project will run apps on Android and iOS allowing people to read and contribute reviews related to the accessibility of public buildings. “For example, if someone uses a crutch, walker or wheelchair, the app will list problems people have posted about steps or heavy doors.”

**Hong Tao**, assistant professor of nursing, has researched the impact of informal caregivers – friends, family and others – on elderly patients released from the hospital into home health care. Up to 30% of these patients end up back in the hospital within 30 days. “Most of these rehospitalizations are preventable,” Tao says. “It’s a high cost for Medicare, it’s expensive for the home health care agencies, and it’s a concern for patients and their families.”
What are your risks of developing Alzheimer’s disease or dementia as you grow older? Ira Driscoll, assistant professor of psychology, is studying the genetic risks and also searching out early predictors of disorders that rob older adults of their memories. She’s recruiting healthy volunteers in the 40-60 age range for a study focused on the function of the hippocampus, a region of the brain often affected early by Alzheimer’s. “That is a fruitful area of research because, by the time someone is diagnosed, so many things have gone wrong that it’s hard to tell what’s a consequence of the disease and what might have been a cause of it.”

Caring for a partner may pose particular challenges for older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) adults. Mark Williams, assistant professor of social work, studies the health of older LGBT adults, specifically examining the associations between intimate-partnership status and health outcomes. His research includes innovative methods for studying hard-to-reach populations like LGBT older adults, and examines how individual circumstances, community resources and social policies influence their health and well-being.

Laura Joosse, assistant professor of nursing, became aware of the possible links between sound and agitation when helping care for her father, who was in the early stages of dementia before his death. “He seemed to become more agitated with too much sound stimulation,” she says. Joosse is working with Milwaukee-area nursing homes to reduce sound levels – particularly at mealtimes, which often include loud background music and the clinking, clanking and banging involved in setting up and clearing tables. Her theory, which she plans to test in future studies, is that reducing noise will reduce stress levels and agitation among patients – and staff.
James Cook, UWM Distinguished Professor in chemistry, and his research team are developing compounds that could be used to improve cognitive function in Alzheimer’s patients and those with age-associated memory decline. That National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research has resulted in the development of compounds – some commercially licensed – that can potentially be used in medications to treat alcoholism and neuropathic pain. The compound to improve cognitive function, currently in the animal testing phase, grew out of that research. Cook and James Rowlett of Mississippi State received a five-year NIH grant from the National Institute on Aging to study this compound and other analogs.

When Nadya Fouad was quoted in a New York Times article about the psychological issues facing older, unemployed workers, readers responded with heartbreaking stories of fruitless searches and subtle age discrimination. Fouad, UWM Distinguished Professor in educational psychology, is working on proposed American Psychological Association guidelines on dealing with workplace issues and unemployment. “In America, we identify with work,” she says. “If psychologists don’t understand the link between unemployment and mental health, they’re not going to be able to help their clients.”

The loss of estrogen at menopause increases a woman’s risk of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, yet hormone replacement therapy can cause harmful side effects. Karyn Frick, professor of psychology, hopes to more fully understand exactly how estrogen affects brain regions that mediate cognitive function. She is steadily unraveling the hormone’s role in the complex cellular communication system underlying memory formation in an animal model of human aging. The ultimate goal is to develop new drugs that provide the beneficial cognitive effects of estrogen without increasing the accompanying risks of breast cancer or cardiovascular disease.

To read more about these UWM researchers, go to www5.uwm.edu/news/aging.
My adventures as a senior auditor began when I decided to learn to speak Russian so I could communicate better with my daughter-in-law and other visitors from Tuva. My middle son, Sean, met his wife while studying Tuvan throat singing on a Fulbright scholarship and now lives in Tuva with his family.

Tuvans, who live in an autonomous Russian republic in central Asia, have proudly kept their own language and culture, but since Russian is the country’s official language, almost all Tuvans are bilingual.

Knowing that Tuvan courses were pretty much nonexistent in the U.S. and I needed the structure of a class, I decided to start taking Russian classes.

I had just matured enough to qualify for the UW System’s Over 60 Audit Program, which allows seniors to take some university courses, with the instructor’s approval, for free.

My five-year journey from the basics of Russian 101 to Advanced Conversation and Composition via the program has been amazing, fun, interesting, challenging and humbling.

On the one hand, it’s a truly wonderful feeling to study something just to learn it, without worrying about tests, grades or attendance. On the other hand, unlike other classes that auditors can take for pure enjoyment, learning a language takes work. Many auditors I’ve talked to opt out of tests, but I decided to take them to gauge my progress – or sometimes lack thereof.

Being a senior auditor can be a delicate balance between sharing your wisdom and being a know-it-all. I always tried to be respectful of the students paying for the class and let the instructor be my guide in how much I participated. Over-sharing my wisdom wasn’t really an issue, since I was struggling right along with the 21-year-olds with Russian verbs of motion.

Fortunately, all the instructors I’ve had have been incredibly welcoming and encouraging. If the class had slots for projects or presentations, I’d take part if the instructor needed to even up the numbers or fill the schedule.

I do make some contributions. As we introduce ourselves and talk about our families in Russian, I feel like I’m expanding the other students’ vocabulary.

I’m the only one in class with “vnuki” (grandchildren – pronounced “vnooki”).

Each UW System campus has a process in place to admit and register Over 60 Audit Program students. At UWM, you can apply online at www4.uwm.edu/registrar/faculty/upload/audit_only_app.pdf. (Or go to the homepage at uwm.edu, type in “auditor application” and choose the second option – Nondegree Undergraduate Application Audit Only). For other UW System campuses, see the website at uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/admissions/special/audit.aspx.

More food for your brain

UWM’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute offers adults over age 50 a variety of opportunities to learn – without tests or grades. Currently, more than 900 members are active in the institute, based in the School of Continuing Education.

Participating in Osher programs and activities is an excellent way to get involved, keep your mind fresh and make new friends. Members can choose from a variety of offerings:

**Short Courses** are two- to six-week sessions covering changing topics in the arts, literature, ethics, science, politics, religion and history.

**The Osher Lecture Series** features prominent speakers on a wide range of fascinating topics.

**Go Explore excursions** are one-time, docent-led outings to places of interest in the Milwaukee area such as museums, theaters and planetariums.

**Special Interest Groups** meet regularly for study and discussion. They are offered in such fields as languages (French, German, Italian, Spanish and Thai), history, ecology and reading.

**Educational Travel & Tours**, offered by the UWM Alumni Association and the School of Continuing Education, provide experiences of a lifetime. Travel to remarkable locations around the world on tours led by noted UWM faculty and staff, and take full advantage of the discount available to Osher members.

Although most members are retired, you do not have to be a retiree to join, nor do you have to be associated with UWM. People of all educational backgrounds are welcome. Membership is $45 a year for individuals; $80 for couples or two people at the same mailing address.

For more information, visit uwm.edu/sce/osher.cfm, or call 414-227-3321 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW STAFF

The UWM Alumni Association (UWMAA) welcomed two new staff members this summer. By coincidence, both are UWM neighbors, with enviable walking commutes of just a few blocks to the alumni office.

**TAD GOSPODAREK**
Alumni Engagement Officer

Tad Gospodarek, a UWM journalism alumnus (’98 BA), joined the Alumni Association in July as an alumni engagement officer. Gospodarek is no stranger to the UWM community; his most recent role was director of alumni relations at the Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business.

He also brings a wealth of event-planning and relationship-building experience from past positions at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and Core Creative.

Gospodarek’s focus at the UWMAA includes working collaboratively with UWM’s school and college units on joint programming and events. He also directed all plans for the Alumni Awards Evening, in addition to UWMAA’s networking breakfast and PAAWS (Professional Alumni After Work Social) event series.

“I’m so thrilled to share my passion and excitement for UWM with my fellow alums,” Gospodarek says. “I look forward to the rewarding work of engaging with our alums on many different levels, as well as planning exciting events that will give our alums great opportunities to connect and engage with one another and the university.”

Outside the office, Gospodarek serves on the board of Milwaukee Pets Alive, and enjoys cooking, wine, spending time with his family and friends…and his two corgis.

Gospodarek can be reached at 414-229-3000 or gospodar@uwm.edu.

**ELIZABETH MUELLER**
Alumni Engagement Officer

Elizabeth Mueller recently took on a new role at the Alumni Association as an alumni engagement officer. Previously, she served as the interim assistant director of career services for the association.

Mueller is now the liaison to all local, regional and national UWMAA chapters. In addition, she is charged with cultivating student leadership through a new Future Alumni Network (FAN) group, a first at UWM.

She comes to the UWMAA at an exciting time of growth and new vision for chapter expansion and student engagement.

“I am thrilled and honored to work with the Alumni Association chapters to support UWM students, the university and their fellow alumni,” Mueller says. “I look forward to collaborating with alumni chapter leaders and members to provide a strong foundation for existing chapters to expand, and for new chapters to develop so we can ever increase the positive impact UWM alumni have on the university campus, in the Milwaukee community and far beyond.”

Mueller’s background and volunteer experience provide an excellent foundation for her new role. She has held positions in marketing and higher education in Chicago and Milwaukee, and earned her Master of Educational Leadership degree from Marquette University last year.

Outside the office, she enjoys working on home improvement projects, traveling and road biking.

Mueller can be reached at 414-229-3266 or eliz5@uwm.edu.
BECOME A PART OF

UWM’S AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Your enthusiasm for UWM and your personal experience can MAKE A DIFFERENCE for students exploring their college options.

By volunteering to be part of the UWM Alumni Ambassador Program you will have the opportunity to help expand the university's presence locally and nationally by providing a valuable, genuine connection with future generations of Panthers.

SIGN UP TODAY!

alumni.uwm.edu/panther

UWM Alumni Association
414-229-3018
alumniambassador@uwm.edu
Many think fall is the most beautiful time on campus. Students love using Instagram to capture and share the scenic views around them. Get a closer look at campus life as seen by Panthers who live and learn here by visiting everyday.uwm.edu.
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is presented on limited occasions when the UWM Alumni Association recognizes an alumnus/alumna with exemplary achievements over the span of a lifetime. In the history of the UWM Alumni Association, only 14 alumni have received the award.

Luis Arreaga
‘81 PhD Economics, ‘76 MS Management
U.S. Ambassador to Iceland

Luis Arreaga has dedicated over 32 years of service to the United States. He currently serves as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland.

Arreaga joined the Foreign Service right after college, focusing on economic development issues. He has served as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Panama, U.S. consul general in Vancouver, Canada, and director of the executive secretariat staff in Washington, D.C.

His career accomplishments include overseeing the largest increase in Foreign Service personnel in State Department history, bringing much-needed relief to refugees from Rwanda and other war-torn nations in Asia and Africa; developing economic and political policy to help curb the Colombian drug trade and terrorism while solidifying Panama/U.S. trade relations and garnering support for a U.S. initiative to deliver preventive health care to rural Central America.

Arreaga has strengthened America’s relationship with Iceland by establishing an American-Icelandic Chamber of Commerce and securing a $1 billion order of 12 American-made Boeing aircraft by Icelandair.

Born in Guatemala, Arreaga is fluent in Spanish and English, and he’s learning Icelandic. He frequently uses social media, and writes a blog chronicling his daily life as a diplomat and his family’s explorations of the Icelandic countryside.

As one colleague wrote in his recommendation, Ambassador Arreaga “epitomizes the American dream.”
2013 CHANCELLOR’S RECOGNITION AWARD
The Chancellor’s Recognition Award honors and recognizes superior professional achievement and the ongoing pursuit of excellence.

Jim Rygiel
’77 BFA Painting & Drawing
Visual effects artist

Jim Rygiel is recognized globally for his innovative visual effects work on films including “Night at the Museum,” “The Amazing Spiderman” and “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy, which earned him three Academy Awards.

He began his career at Pacific Electric Pictures, one of the first companies to use computer animation in ads and films. In 1983 he moved to Digital Productions, where his commercial work won numerous awards, including a CLIO for the ad introducing the Sony Walkman.

Rygiel supervised projects at Pacific Data and Metrolight before being asked, in 1989, to establish a computer animation department at Boss Film Studios. The one-person department grew to 175 animators and support staff in a little more than a year. Before Boss closed, Rygiel supervised visual and digital effects for a long list of films, including “Air Force One,” “Batman Returns” and “The Last Action Hero.”

Rygiel spent three years in New Zealand working on “The Lord of the Rings.” Over the course of the trilogy, 23,000 people worked on the movies. Of those, about 800 directly or indirectly reported to Rygiel.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARDS
The Distinguished Alumnus Award celebrates outstanding UWM graduates whose professional achievements and commitment to the community bring honor to the university.

Jill Pelisek
’83 MS Economics, ’80 BBA Finance
Adjunct Professor and Lawrence G. Regner Executive-in-Residence, UWM Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business

Jill Pelisek, a retired vice president of Firstar Bank, has taught business courses in operations and strategic management at UWM for more than 10 years. But her contributions to UWM go back much farther. She co-chaired the campaign to acquire the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, and has hosted a number of events to introduce Chancellor Lovell and other campus leaders to community members and potential donors. She is chair of the UWM Foundation Board of Directors Development Committee and serves on the university’s Advisory Task Force planning upcoming campaigns. She also seeks out internship opportunities for graduate students.

Pelisek has deep philanthropic roots in the community, serving on boards and councils of numerous civic and arts organizations, including the Greater Milwaukee Committee, Professional Dimensions, the Columbia College of Nursing, Milwaukee Art Museum, Nature Conservancy–Wisconsin, Urban Ecology Center, Rotary Club of Milwaukee, Village of River Hills Foundation, YMCA and Zoological Society of Milwaukee. She was the recipient of The Business Journal’s 2011 Mentor Women of Influence Award.

Nicholas Contorno
’68 MS Music Education, ’61 BS Music Education
Conductor, musician, composer

Nicholas Contorno served for 24 years as the director of music programs, bands and orchestra at Marquette University. He began his career as an instrumental music teacher in the Glendale (Wis.) Public Schools, and also served as director of bands at Dominican High School in Whitefish Bay, Wis., and music curriculum supervisor and director of bands at Kettle Moraine High School in Wales, Wis.

An award-winning composer and arranger, he also is an active professional musician. He has performed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Holiday on Ice Orchestra, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Band, Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra and Les Elgart Orchestra.

Broadway show credits include “Annie” and “42nd Street”; he also has backed Linda Ronstadt, Natalie Cole, Manhattan Transfer, Vic Damone, Johnny Mathis, Dinah Shore, Mel Torme, The Four Lads and Sonny & Cher, among other artists.

He is one of only a handful of university band directors ever invited to serve as a guest conductor of the United States Marine Band.
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS
The Community Service award honors alumni who have generously contributed their time and talents for the enrichment of others and the betterment of their communities.

Tyrone Dumas
'77 BS Architectural Studies
Administrative Assistant and Educational Consultant, Growing Power Inc.

Among Tyrone Dumas’s varying roles at Growing Power, he assists in site evaluation and acquisition, and works closely with the organization’s founder, Will Allen (who received an honorary doctorate from UW-M last year).

Dumas also is an education consultant in the areas of school leadership and climate, and teacher and principal preparation and support.

He has consistently been recognized for his community leadership, work against violence, youth mentoring and motivational speaking, while working to better the lives of Milwaukee’s disadvantaged youth.

For the past 19 years, Dumas has adopted a class of students at Milwaukee Public School’s Dr. Martin Luther King School and raised more than $300,000 to facilitate an annual Civil Rights and College tour for the students.

He has been married 40 years to Ceciel Dumas (’04 MS Education). They have two children and four grandchildren.

Derrick Jackson
'76 BA Journalism and Mass Communication
Op-ed columnist, The Boston Globe

Derrick Jackson is an award-winning columnist and a 2001 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in commentary. Since joining the Boston Globe in 1988, he has been a two-time winner and three-time finalist for awards in commentary from the National Education Writers Association, and a five-time winner and 12-time finalist for political and sports commentary from the National Association of Black Journalists.

He also is a talented photographer, best known for nature photography. His images of Barack Obama have been exhibited by Boston’s Museum of African American History.

Beyond his professional work, Jackson has volunteered for many years with the Boy Scouts of America, and especially Boy Scout Troop 56 in Cambridge, Mass. He is recognized for revitalizing this urban troop, providing leadership and advocating for equality, tolerance and diversity.

For the past three years, he has guided young men through a challenging two-week hiking and camping trip in New Mexico that is part of the journey to Eagle Scout.

Frank Schneiger
'64 BA History
Founder, Human Services Management Institute

Frank Schneiger’s community activism goes back to the 1960s with his involvement in the civil rights movement and anti-poverty programs in the South Bronx.

He has devoted his life to service for the public good. In the 1970s, he was named New York City assistant health commissioner and the city’s first director of prison health services. Time magazine cited his program of prison health care reform as America’s leader.

When he served as executive director of the Federal Region II Children’s Services Resource Center under President Jimmy Carter, the center was recognized for excellence by the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

As executive director for implementation, Schneiger organized a staff of 50 in designing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ first department of children and family services.

Schneiger’s Human Services Management Institute has become the leading firm offering organizational development, strategic planning and change-management services for the human services sector.
GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE (GOLD) AWARDS
The GOLD award recognizes recent graduates who have achieved a measure of success in their fields, bringing credit to themselves and the university.

Stephanie Allewalt Hacker
’07 Master of Urban Planning
Senior Planner, GRAEF; Adjunct Professor of Urban Planning, UWM School of Architecture & Urban Planning

In addition to securing funding for major catalytic projects in Milwaukee, Stephanie Allewalt Hacker has worked with nonprofit entities to foster local investment and encourage community partnerships. She was named to the National Housing Institute’s “6 Under 36” list in 2011, and to The Business Journal’s “Forty Under 40” list in 2012.

Lauren Baker
’04 MS
Administrative Leadership & Supervision in Education, ’93 BS Educational Policy & Community Studies
Career and Technical Education Coordinator, Milwaukee Public Schools

Beginning her college career in 1972, Lauren Baker understands nontraditional routes to success – particularly for women and underrepresented minorities. She develops and implements programs to aid students in gaining knowledge and skills for careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

Shahla Anders
’03 BS Clinical Laboratory Sciences
Clinical Assistant Professor, UWM College of Health Sciences

A well-respected instructor and lab director, Shahla Anders has volunteered for more than 16 programs at UWM, including mentoring in the GEAR UP program for underrepresented high school students, and has received both the Omicron Sigma Award and the Board Service Award from The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science for her dedication to the profession.

Joseph Braun
’95 BS Nursing
Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Brown University

The current focus of Joseph Braun’s research is the influence of endocrine-disrupting compounds like bisphenol A (BPA) and phthalates – chemicals found in everything from personal-care products to plastic bottles and canned and packaged foods. These pollutants are present in the bodies of virtually all people who live in industrialized countries.

Benjamin Engel
’05 BBA
Finance President/Owner, J.K. Cook Co.

Engel took evening and weekend classes to complete his UWM degree while working full-time as a business banker. He currently volunteers with a number of local groups and organizations, including Make a Difference–Wisconsin, which provides financial literacy programs and resources for students. He was named to The Business Journal’s “Forty Under 40” list in 2011.

Michael Hacker
’07 MS
Architecture, ’05 BS Architectural Studies
Associate and Architect, Bray Architects

In addition to cultivating several multimillion-dollar projects for Bray, Michael Hacker also has led 11 facility and planning studies for civic entities. He volunteers with a number of nonprofits, and currently serves as board secretary for the American Institute of Architects Milwaukee. He was named the “Rising Young Professional of the Year” by The Daily Reporter in 2012.
Using the fundamentals to understand the ways people think, act and what drives change, Betsy Leonhardt used her social work background to help launch Fab.com, an innovative online retail company in New York City. She is proud to be a Panther and supports fellow Panthers through UWM’s scholarship funds.

Jose Omar Martinez Lucci
‘11 PhD Engineering, ’06 MS Mechanical Engineering
Associate Professor, Universidad Europea de Madrid, Spain

Jose Omar Martinez Lucci is a respected teacher and researcher in the Aerospace Department of the Universidad Europea de Madrid. An expert in quality control, he has published more than 20 articles and papers, and is serving as co-organizer of an NSF Wind Energy Workshop to be held in Spain next year.

Kate Nelson is recognized for expanding campus recycling programs, organizing the Zimride ride-sharing program and establishing the first campus gardens since the 1940s. A leader of UWM’s “Energy Matters” team, she has secured $1.7 million in grants for campus sustainability initiatives. Her efforts have garnered several local and national awards.

Katherine Pakieser-Reed
‘06 PhD Nursing
Director, Center for Nursing Professional Practice & Research, University of Chicago Medical Center

Katherine Pakieser-Reed is a nurse-scholar with more than two decades of experience, Katherine Pakieser-Reed educates and oversees nursing-quality programs, research and regulatory standards of professional development programs for nurses. The center currently coordinates the clinical experiences of 500-600 nursing students.

UWM’s partnership with Johnson Controls is focused on research into next-generation energy storage devices and batteries. The Energy Advancement Center, a state-of-the-art dry lab built by Johnson Controls, is housed within the College of Engineering & Applied Science. It is unique in the United States. Johnson Controls has donated more than $4 million to UWM over the years, and employs over 300 UWM alumni.

Rockwell Automation
A UWM corporate partner for more than 30 years, Rockwell Automation employs more than 850 alums, and, most recently, established the Supply Chain Management Institute at the Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business with a $2.5 million endowment.
**VETERANS HIT THE trail to raise awareness**

**BY BETH STAFFORD**

**Grim statistics:**

- 22 veterans commit suicide each day.
- At least 20% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD and/or depression.
- 19% of veterans may have traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- 27% of veterans met criteria post-deployment for alcohol abuse.

But two veterans from the Milwaukee area are literally putting boots on the ground to try to improve the odds.

With their Veterans Trek, Anthony Anderson and Tom Voss plan to walk from Milwaukee to Los Angeles, with the goal of raising funds for the nonprofit veterans support organization Dryhootch and awareness of veterans’ issues. Both men have ties to UWM, although the two were brought together by Dryhootch.

Anderson graduated in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in secondary education, with an academic career that began in 2001 and was interrupted by his military service. Voss studied social work at UWM from 2009-11.

Dryhootch provides veterans and their families with a stable, substance-free environment to gather, support each other and enhance their post-service life experience. Dryhootch is growing rapidly in locations and services, and is helping an increasing number of veterans and their families.

Anderson and Voss kicked off their journey on Aug. 30 from the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center on the lakefront. They estimate their walk will take five months.

They have the ambitious goal of raising $100,000 for Dryhootch, but recognize that increasing the average person’s awareness of issues facing veterans may be an even bigger challenge.

“During World War II, people planted Victory Gardens, gas was rationed and kids collected tin cans for the war effort. Everyone had a close family member that was in the military and part of the war effort,” says Anderson. “Today, few of us personally know someone in the military. But we all benefit from the service of military members and veterans. It’s time we all start paying attention.”

Both men say their effort pales when compared to the sacrifices made by active military. Vet Trek does represent a significant contribution of time and effort, however.

Anderson has a wife and baby daughter at home. He’ll miss out on five months of their life together while he’s “walking west.” His boss, Dryhootch founder and president Bob Curry, also a veteran and UWM alum (‘75 BA Economics), granted Anderson a five-month leave of absence from his position as director of operations for Dryhootch of America Inc.

Anderson and Voss are tackling the public education aspect of their trek through traditional and social media. They hope the “Are those guys crazy?” aspect of the trek will encourage others to track their progress as they update their blogs and download video from the road.

As veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Anderson and Voss openly share their struggles in returning to civilian life. The two predict that they’ll meet vets along the way who need support but haven’t connected with fellow veterans. They also anticipate meeting family members of vets facing their own challenges.

“We’ve received Facebook messages from vets who want to walk with us through their own city. By sharing our experiences, we hope to inspire those vets to become active in their own communities,” said Voss.

To follow their journey, and learn how to support the effort, visit veteranstrek.com.

Peter Jakubowski ’07

**Grim statistics:**

- 22 veterans commit suicide each day.
- At least 20% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD and/or depression.
- 19% of veterans may have traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- 27% of veterans met criteria post-deployment for alcohol abuse.
Welcome, new board members

The UWM Alumni Association welcomed three new members to its Board of Trustees in September. Here are short profiles.

Chris J. Larson, ’07 BBA Finance
Senator, District 7; Democratic Party Minority Leader, Wisconsin State Legislature

Larson was born and raised in Milwaukee County. He graduated from Saint Thomas More High School and went on to earn a degree in Finance and a minor in Political Science from UWM.

Just one year out of college, he successfully ran for Milwaukee County supervisor on a platform of fully funding the parks and transit system.

In 2010, after defeating the incumbent in the fall primary, Larson was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate. Two years later, he was elected by his colleagues to serve as Senate Democratic leader for the 2013-14 legislative session. He is the youngest state senator in Wisconsin and the youngest Senate leader since World War II.

Larson serves on the Committee on Senate Organization, Joint Legislative Council, Joint Committee on Employment Relations and the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization.

He is active in many local, state and national groups, including the South Side Business Club of Milwaukee, Airport Area Economic Development Group, Coalition for Advancing Transit Steering Committee, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin, Young Elected Officials, Humboldt Park Watch, South Shore Park Watch, Bay View Neighborhood Association, Bay View Historical Society, Bay View Lions Club, Lake Park Friends, Thomas More Alumni Club, Arbor Day Foundation, Badgerland Striders, TriWisconsin and MPTV Friends. He is an avid runner who has finished 22 marathons.

Larson and his wife and son live in Bay View.

Adrian A. Tigert, ’05 BBA Marketing, ’06 MBA
Territory Manager, EMC Corporation; basketball analyst, Time Warner Cable Sports, ESPN3.com and the Horizon League Network at UWM

Adrian Tigert is currently a territory manager for EMC Corporation, a leading provider of IT storage hardware solutions. He also is a UWM scholar-athlete with a record-breaking career.

As a freshman at UWM, Tigert was named to the Horizon League All-Newcomer Team, the only true freshman to be honored.

In his first season, he recorded his first career double. By the next season, Tigert started every game and led the team in both assists and rebounds. Among his many kudos, he was named Second-Team All-Horizon League honoree, Horizon League All-Defensive Team member, Horizon League All-Tournament MVP and NACDA Division 1-AAA Scholar Athlete.

He was a school leader in starts with 119, and made 120 appearances in all – the most in UWM history. Along the way he scored 1,091 career points, ranking 17th in school history, and 760 career rebounds, ranking third in school history. He is tops in school history for minutes played (3,365) and field-goal percentage (57.1).

Tigert remains active both in the community and in athletics. He has worked at the Michael Jordan basketball camp and volunteers for various UWM Athletics Department community service projects, including UWM’s annual Neighborhood Cleanup.

He lives in Wauwatosa with his wife, Emily, whom he met at UWM. Together they enjoy spending time with friends and family, staying active and supporting all things UWM.
Clarice Yenor, ’73 BS Nursing
Manager of Policy and Performance, Health Services Department, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts at Walt Disney World

Clarice Yenor, who grew up in Milwaukee, became interested in nursing when she was 5 years old and accompanied her dad to the factory where he worked. Her inspiration was “Aunt Laura,” the industrial nurse, who was a great health counselor and friend to the employees.

After graduating from UWM, Yenor worked at St. Luke’s Hospital and in Allen-Bradley’s Medical Department before her family moved to Florida. After jobs in worker’s compensation and disability case management, she was offered a position at Walt Disney World in 1995.

“I never thought I’d be working for Mickey Mouse,” she says with a laugh, adding that the park, with its castles, fairy-tale cottages and pirate ships, is “the most magical place on earth to work.”

In her current role, she supports and helps oversee the health and occupational care of “cast members,” as park employees are called, from all over the world at the approximately 47-square-mile entertainment destination. Walt Disney World is the largest single-site employer in the U.S., with more than 65,000 employees.

Yenor also is active in her community, serving as treasurer of the Case Management Society of Central Florida and president of the local branch of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses.

UWM Alumni Association Board of Trustees 2013-14

**Officers**
President: **David P. Misky** (‘92 BS Biological Sciences), Assistant Executive Director, Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee
Vice President: **Brent C. Handley** (‘92 BA Economics), Vice President, Business Banking, BMO Harris Bank N.A.
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**Stelios N. Fakiroglou** (‘80 BS Architectural Studies), Project Manager/Architectural Sales Representative, Weather-Tek Design Center
**Marshall L. Gallant Sr.** (‘73 BS History, ’79 MS Curriculum & Instruction), retired (MPS), Adjunct Faculty, Educational Policy, UWM School of Education; Alumni Chapters Committee Chair
**Chris J. Larson** (‘07 MBA Finance), Senator, District 7, Wisconsin State Legislature
**Alberto J. Maldonado** (‘96 BFA Inter-Arts, ’10 MS Cultural Foundations of Education), Assistant Director for High School Recruitment, UWM Department of Admissions and Recruitment; Member at Large to the Executive Committee

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UWM Student Association President

**Rita Nawrocki-Chabin** (‘00 PhD Urban Education), Professor, Program in General Education, Alverno College School of Education; Honors Committee Chair
**Rosalee Patrick** (‘91 BA Economics), Order Management Specialist, GE Healthcare
**Adrian A. Wolaver** (‘02 MBA Marketing, ’06 MBA), Owner, Magellan Promotions LLC
**Clarice E. Yenor** (‘73 BS Nursing), Manager of Policy and Performance, Health Services Department, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts at Walt Disney World

**Dele Ojelabi** (‘99 MS Management), CEO, Comcentia LLC
MEN’S BASKETBALL RETURNS TO THE CELL

UWM and the Wisconsin Center District have reached an agreement for the Panthers to play their men’s basketball games at the U.S. Cellular Arena.

The five-year contract begins this season and runs through the 2017-18 campaign. The 2013-14 schedule has Milwaukee hosting DePaul Nov. 19 in its first regular-season game back downtown.

The new agreement returns the Panthers to the Cell after the team played its 2012-13 season at the on-campus Klotsche Center.

“Restoring our presence downtown will reopen a number of opportunities for us to reconnect with our fans from all around the Milwaukee area,” Jeter says. “The setup downtown is perfect for special events and for the postgame gatherings I know are very popular with our supporters. Plus, we’ll continue the outreach to our students, who have always told me they enjoyed the games downtown and are ready and willing to support our program.”

“A presence downtown is important for men’s basketball, for athletics and for the university as a whole,” adds Amanda Braun, director of athletics. “We can expose ourselves to new or potential fans, and the university can expose itself to new students, potential donors and the community at large.”

In returning downtown, the Panthers will again be positioned to raise their profile in the Milwaukee community while providing an exciting entertainment option for UWM students.

For more information, contact the Panther Ticket Office at 414-229-5886 or uwmtix@uwm.edu.
PANTHER MEN: AIMING TO BOUNCE BACK

The 2013-14 Panther men’s basketball team will look to a number of new faces along with some key returnees as it hopes to bounce back from a disappointing 2012-13 campaign.

Senior guard Jordan Aaron heads the list of returnees for the Panthers. The junior-college transfer was honored by the Horizon League following last season, earning All-Newcomer Team recognition. He finished second on the team in scoring, averaging 14.4 points per game, making 30 starts and reaching double figures a team-best 23 times. He also had 128 assists, including a pair of double-figure assist outings.

A number of young faces look to have a bright future with the Panthers after strong 2012-13 campaigns. Redshirt freshman J.J. Panoske made 16 starts and averaged 5.0 points and 3.7 rebounds per game. True freshman Austin Arians started three times but made his biggest impact off the bench. He finished fourth on the team in scoring at 6.6 points per game.

Milwaukee’s lineup also is likely to include a number of new faces. Indiana State transfer Steve McWhorter is eligible this season and seems the odds-on choice to be the starting point guard, allowing Aaron to move to an off-guard position. Matt Tiby will play this season after arriving in the middle of last season, and could well be a starter up front. UWM also adds at least two other junior-college transfers (Trinson White and JeVon Lyle), and signed a pair of freshmen (Cody Wichmann and Brett Prahl). Plus, transfer Malcolm Moore is a graduate student after finishing his undergraduate degree at UTEP and is eligible this season.

The Panthers will hope for more consistency and health this season. Milwaukee struggled with injuries and lineup changes throughout the 2012-13 season en route to an 8-24 mark. Twelve different players started at least one game for Milwaukee, with eight of those players making their first collegiate starts during the year. Five players who started games during the year also missed time due to injury.

The Panthers are putting the finishing touches on their 2013-14 schedule. Milwaukee will open the home regular season Nov. 19 against DePaul and will also host Northern Iowa and Bradley in non-league play. The regular season opens Nov. 8 with a contest against now-Missouri Valley Conference member Loyola. Trips to Davidson and Wisconsin are also on the docket.

PANTHER WOMEN: BEGINNING THE CLIMB

The Panther women’s basketball team enters year two under head coach Kyle Rechlicz looking to begin its climb up the Horizon League standings.

Senior Angela Rodriguez will lead the way for Milwaukee this season. The guard started 28 of 29 games she appeared in a season ago, leading the team in both scoring (13.2 points per game) and assists (3.5 per game). She also led the team by shooting nearly 85 percent from the foul line.

Senior Emily Decorah returns alongside Rodriguez in the backcourt. She was one of four players to average in double figures a season ago, scoring 11.1 points per game, and broke both school and Horizon League records for 3-point field goals.

Ashley Green is also back for Milwaukee. The junior averaged 11.6 points and 6.2 rebounds per game in 29 outings, including 27 starts. She finished 16th in the league in scoring and was one of two Panthers to record a 30-point outing last season.

Two other returnees are also looking to step up this season. Junior Janna Swopshire averaged better than 4 points and 3 rebounds a season ago, and the 6-foot-1 forward also made four starts. Meanwhile, Milwaukee native Aivyanna Young averaged over 4 points and 4 rebounds per contest, with the 6-foot-1 sophomore forward appearing in 29 games.

The Panthers hope to be bolstered by a strong group of newcomers. Sydney Snower was a member of the Whitney Young (Chicago) squad that went 34-0 and won the Illinois 4A IHSA state title in 2012. She was team captain last season as her team went 26-5 and finished third in the state.

Bre’Zall Warren of Slidell, La., was a First-Team Louisiana Sports Writers Association All-State honoree and her high school’s all-time leading scorer. Plus, 6-foot-3 Christina Wakeman led her high school team in Spring Lake Park, Minn., in rebounding while finishing second on the team in scoring.

The Panther women will play an attractive schedule this season, highlighted by home games against Wisconsin and Marquette. Milwaukee also has a road test at Indiana and will play three games during a six-day trip to New Mexico.
MILWAUKEE BASKETBALL
presents the
UWM Alumni Gold Zone

For more information, contact the Panther Ticket Office at (414) 229-5886 or uwmtix@uwm.edu

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U.S. CELLULAR ARENA

MEN’S

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Total Ticket Cost + Handling Fee $10

TOTAL

Send Completed Form To: UWM Athletics, Attn: Ticket Office
3409 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211
1960s

Tom Brophy ('67 MS) was honored with the James Ryan Lifetime Achievement Award by the Public Policy Forum, an independent, nonprofit research organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of public policy decision-making in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Jack N. Porter ('67 BA), president of The Spencer Group, has been named a research associate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. During his three-year appointment, he will research resistance to Nazism during the Holocaust. His latest book, “Jewish Partisans of the Soviet Union,” was published in May. Porter married Raya Evashke of Kiev, Ukraine, last year; the couple resides in Newton, MA.

1970s

Mary Pieschek ('70 BA), owner of Pieschek Public Relations and an adjunct professor at Concordia University Wisconsin, both in Mequon, has been named to the Women’s Democracy Network (WDN) Council, Washington, D.C. Pieschek has been an international communications trainer for the International Republican Institute (IRI) since 1996 and its WDN program since 2006. WDN is dedicated to increasing women’s political participation, leadership and representation in elective offices in developing and threatened democracies around the world. Pieschek has conducted WDN and IRI training programs in more than 18 countries; most recently, she led public relations and fundraising training for North Korean refugee programs in Seoul, South Korea. Pieschek was named the UWM Alumni Association's Fox Valley Alumnus of the Year in 1998.

Panther Pride nationwide

REGIONAL & NATIONAL CHAPTERS FORMING

UWM Alumni Chapters have long served to enrich the university experience for alumni and students, foster beneficial relationships and keep UWM tradition alive and ever-evolving here in Milwaukee. But this year, the Alumni Association is taking it on the road to spread Panther Pride nationwide, and we need your help.

“Establishing a national or regional UWM Alumni Chapter is an incredible way to make a lasting and positive impact on your fellow alumni, UWM students, the university and your community – wherever you may be,” says Adrienne Bass, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations.

“We are looking for the next generation of regional and national ambassadors to step up and take leadership roles in their home community.”

National Panther Pride is spreading quickly, with several chapters already forming and more on the horizon.

The new Madison Area Alumni Chapter is going strong. The group hosted a networking and tailgating party at a Madison Mallard’s baseball game in August and is planning a visit back to the UWM campus in the fall. Contact Jill Schaefer ('01 BA) at schaefer.jill@gmail.com to become involved with this group.

The Washington, D.C., Alumni Chapter held a successful kickoff event this summer hosted by Chapter President Marcy Stras ('73 BA) at the law offices of Cozen O’Connor. The group is planning ahead for more networking and social opportunities throughout the year. Contact Stras at MStras@cozen.com to get involved with this group.

New York City Panthers took the Big Apple by storm on Sept. 18 with Chancellor Michael R. Lovell leading the way at a reception hosted by local alumnus Michael Fenlon ('86 BA) at PricewaterhouseCoopers. The NYC Chapter is beginning to form and is actively recruiting leaders and members. Contact Alumni Engagement Officer Elizabeth Mueller at eliz5@uwm.edu if you are interested in joining the effort.

SPREAD THE PRIDE

No matter where you live, if you are interested in staying connected with UWM and networking with fellow alumni, consider forming a regional chapter. Thanks to new tools made available through the Alumni Association, forming a chapter is simple, fun and immensely rewarding.

Find out how to get started at uwm.edu/alumni/chapters and help us continue to spread Panther Pride nationwide!
Ed Hinda ('72 MS) was recently honored with the Wisconsin Lions Foundation Birch-Sturm Fellowship Award for extraordinary service to the West Allis Central Lions Club and his work on the Wisconsin Lions Foundation license plates.

Lawrence Kessenich ('74 BA) has just published his first full-length book of poetry, “Before Whose Glory,” available on Amazon.com. An English major at UWM, Kessenich has been writing poetry since high school. In 2010, he won an international poetry prize in Ireland.

Jere Brinkley ('75 BS) is CEO of Attrick Aviation LLC in Port St. Joe, FL. He has had a long and illustrious career in all areas of aviation test and evaluation (T&E), both with the U.S. Air Force and in civilian life, including a posting to the Pentagon. He served in Vietnam as a pilot with the U.S. Navy, receiving a number of medals, including the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. Among his other awards are the USAF Civilian Meritorious Service Medal and Outstanding Career Service Medal (Legion of Merit). As a private pilot, he has logged more than 700 hours of pilot-in-command time; he also is a rated U.S. Air Force RPA (remotely piloted aircraft) pilot.

Robin Lysne ('75 BFA) has received her PhD from the University of Natural Medicine in Santa Fe, NM. She has published three books, and is now working on two poetry books and a novel.

Steven R. Volz ('75 BBA), a partner at Reilly Penner & Bentzon, has received the Spirit Award from the Wisconsin Institute of CPAs for his active participation in the organization and his commitment to the future of the accounting profession.

Randy S. Parlee ('76 BA, ’78 MA) was named Lawyer of the Year in Milwaukee for personal injury defense litigation by Best Lawyers in America. He and his wife sponsor the annual Randy and Joanna Parlee Scholarship in UWM’s Department of Communication. Parlee also is an adjunct professor of law at Marquette University.

Carlos Castillo-Chavez ('77 MS) has been reappointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science. Castillo-Chavez is a professor of mathematical biology at Arizona State University and is best known for his work as a mathematical epidemiologist, using math to analyze the spread of diseases such as influenza and HIV. He is the recipient of a Presidential Faculty Fellowship Award and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring.

Maureen McGinnity ('77 BS) was ranked as a leading lawyer in her field for 2013 by America’s Leading Lawyers for Business. McGinnity specializes in litigation: general commercial. She is a partner at Foley & Lardner’s Milwaukee office and lives in West Bend, WI.

Randolph C. Henning ('80 MArch) was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Taliesin Fellows, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to further the ideals and principles of Frank Lloyd Wright’s organic architecture, both as an independent organization and as a part of the greater community inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright. Taliesin Fellows also is the official alumni association for the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, located at Taliesin outside of Spring Green, WI, and Taliesin West in Scottsdale, AZ. Henning is a practicing architect and published author located in Lewisville, NC.

Dana L. Thorpe ('81 BA, ’84 MA), a national leader in historical museum management, has been appointed executive director of the Upcountry History Museum at Furman University in Greenville, SC.

Cecilia “Ceci” Broussard ('82 BS) is celebrating her 40th year as a dance instructor. A member of a show business family who began singing and dancing onstage at age 3, her career began when she was asked to fill in at a local dance studio – and was offered a position. She became interested in the educational aspects of dance, and graduated with honors in the Educational Studies program. Now a senior teacher, she has taught all kinds of dance to people from 3 through middle age. “I hope to do this type of work for as long as I can,” she writes, “as I find it extremely rewarding and at times still challenging.”

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Did you meet your true love at UWM?

Share your story...

Did you meet during a late-night study session at the library? Reunite years later with an old crush from your student days? We are collecting alumni love stories. They may be featured in future editions of the magazine. We’ll also have information available soon on a special February event just for UWM alumni couples.

Share your story at love-stories.uwm.edu.

1980s

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Sheri (Jungers) Lofton (‘83 BS), a family physician with Columbia St. Mary’s in Milwaukee, was awarded a Bravewell Fellowship and has graduated from The Fellowship in Integrative Medicine at the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine, launched in 1997 by holistic health pioneer Andrew Weil at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. The Bravewell Fellowship is designed to support exceptional medical doctors with demonstrated leadership ability, an interest in integrative medicine and the potential to have an impact on improving the service and delivery of health care, and increasing the health and well-being of patients.

Deborah (Garfinkel) Rosen (‘83 BA, ‘86 MA) is the new director of the International Institute for Global Leadership, a tuition-free, Internet-based education program designed to prepare students to become compassionate leaders in their communities and the world. She previously served as dean of students and director of resource development with the institute, which is based in Asheville, NC.

Steve Scaffidi (‘83 BA) is the mayor of Oak Creek, WI.

Jo A. Baldwin (‘85 PhD) is the author of “Bible Verses Given To Me: A Memoir,” available online in the theology section of www.amepublishinghouse.com.

Stephen Lesavish (‘86 MS) is co-author of “The Plastic Effect: How Urban Legends Influence the Use and Misuse of Credit Cards.” The book examines 25 of the most common urban legends associated with credit cards and how they affect a person’s credit score, credit report and credit card debt. His co-author, Polly A. Bauer, is the former CEO of the credit card division of the Home Shopping Network.

Grace Olsen (‘86 BS) has worked at Waukesha Memorial Hospital since 2003 in the Intensive Care Unit, High Care Unit, Radiology and the Interventional Pain Clinic.

Mollye Barrett (‘87 MA) has been named an Associate Fellow by the Society for Technical Communication. Barrett is a veteran content strategy, content management and technical communication consultant at ClearPath LLC, where she helps clients optimize content, improve their authoring environment and plan for business continuity. She lives in Milwaukee.

Thomas Greenwald (‘87 BA) has been named chief financial officer of Goranson Bain PLLC. He was also recognized as one of the top 100 attorneys in Texas in 2012 by Texas Monthly. The photo shows Greenwald at the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain, last July.

Jayne Jaskolski (‘87 BS) was awarded a PhD in Language and Literacy from Cardinal Stritch University in May 2013. Jaskolski currently is an assistant professor in the Speech-Language Pathology Program at Midwestern University, Downers Grove, IL.

Patrick Lofton (‘88 BA), associate superintendent of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, has been named executive vice president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

Lydia Morrow Ruetten (‘88 MLIS) has been named dean of the Governors State University (GSU) Library. She began her career with the library in 1989 as a serials librarian and most recently served as interim dean. GSU is located in University Park, IL.

Mark Kassel (‘89 MS) has been named a leading lawyer in his field for 2013 by America’s Leading Lawyers for Business. Kassel specializes in intellectual property law. He is a partner at Foley & Lardner’s Madison office and lives in nearby Verona, WI.

Patrice Roberts (‘89 BA) retired as an elementary-school teacher for Milwaukee Public Schools in 2011.

Share your stories.
We love bragging about you.

Won an award? Started a business? Had an adventure? Welcomed a baby? We’d like to hear about it. Email your class notes to alumni@uwm.edu or write to UWM Alumni Association, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee WI 53201.

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 welcome!
Eighth-time marathoner and two-time alumna Chris Wodke (’82 BS Materials Engineering, ’89 MS Engineering) understands a runner’s superstition. She never wears a race T-shirt until she’s finished the race. And after arriving in Boston last April 12 for her second Boston Marathon, she photographed the finish line a couple of days early, but refused to step on it.

“We all agreed it was bad luck to touch it until you cross on race day, Monday,” Wodke says she decided with guides Cheryl Monnat (’86 BS Engineering) and Robert Kearney.

Her feeling of unease persisted into Sunday, and began to feel like something stronger than pre-race jitters. “I always write a blog entry the day before a race, and I always end with: ‘See you at the finish line.’ I left it out this year because the feeling was so strong I would not see the finish.”

She didn’t.

“We were on mile 23 when my guide started getting text messages about what was happening. She got so many concerned texts from friends and family; we stopped so she could answer them.”

That moment, and the days that followed, were a painfully sharp contrast to the festive, celebratory sideline energy of Wodke’s first 23 miles on April 15. Her right hand grew numb from high-fiving kids and college students lined up along the race’s 26.2-mile route. She accepted gummy bears and orange wedges from spectators. She reveled in shout-outs from a raucous team of marathon fans from Wellesley College.

So even after texts came in from Monnat’s concerned family and the two runners were diverted from the course and told the race ended prematurely at mile 25.5, news of what was happening didn’t quite sink in.

“We continued to run, not realizing the extent of events at the finish line,” Wodke recalls. “We ended up running 26.3 miles until we stopped. In a blink of an eye it was over.”

As founder and manager of TEAM CMT, Wodke shoulders the double responsibility of living with the nerve disorder Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) and fundraising for it. Since 2010 she’s participated in events with a growing team of 100+ athletes to raise funds and awareness to support those with CMT.

“Running Boston in 2012 was the accomplishment of a long-held dream,” she explains. “Because I had run for a charity to raise awareness of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease and did a bit of media, I felt I was under some pressure. Because my run was so public I felt I couldn’t fail and disappoint so many people.

“So I had set a goal to finish in the top three in my division, and ended up placing second in the Mobility Impaired Division.”
“But with my CMT,” she adds, “I never know if any marathon I run will be my last. I had told friends Boston 2013 might be my last.”

Like much of America, Wodke has watched events in Boston unfold from mile 23 on April 13 to today. She learned about the plot by alleged bombers Dzokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev. Being on the course that day has changed her plans for Boston 2014.

“I handle stressful things in life by writing and running,” says Wodke. “I hope by running in Boston 2014 I can support all of the communities along the route.”

Sometimes, she still imagines herself or one of the dozens of children with whom she smiled, cheered and celebrated on race day in the place of one of the bombings’ 264 injured victims and three fatalities. The reminder has proven too powerful, and too painful, to keep Wodke sidelined.

“What I can’t put into words – it’s too emotional – I hope I can demonstrate by returning and running the event again. Runners are strong, and we can be strong for the people of Boston. We can show them we understand and feel their pain.

“Although we cannot erase the events of April 15, 2013, we can do what runners do, overcome obstacles, sometimes against all odds.”

Chris Wodke runs, raises funds and builds awareness of CMT worldwide. She blogs at run4cmt.blogspot.com.
Janet Fitch ('99 MA) creates films to reclaim the public sphere for discussion of complex social topics. Her current award-winning documentary series, "Guns, Grief and Grace in America," revolves around the issue of gun violence and how a public-health focus on prevention can play a part in controlling the epidemic.

2000s

John Herrera ('00 BA) has associated with Lommen Abdo, a Minneapolis-based law firm, in an "of counsel" position. Using both his legal and MBA backgrounds, Herrera has been an adviser on legal, development and financial matters for several decades. His clients have included tribal governments, Fortune 1000 corporations, large nonprofit organizations and closely held businesses.

Amy Stillson ('00 BS) received her MA in Teaching from National-Louis University in 2006 and taught in Virginia for five years. She is now the Title 1 teacher at The Learning Exchange in Milwaukee.

Eric Wightman ('00 MS) is the principal of E.W. Luther Elementary School in South Milwaukee.

Jason Wrasse ('00 BFA) has been named a partner at Milwaukee-based Reilly, Pennen & Benton, Wisconsin’s oldest registered accounting firm. A CPA who joined RPB in 2000, he will be the lead partner involved with Milwaukee and Racine Parental Choice program audits and will also provide tax services and work with closely held businesses and nonprofits doing audits, reviews and compilations. The father of 5-year-old twin boys, Wrasse also serves as the treasurer of Milwaukee Mothers of Twins Club Inc.

Katherine Beeson ('01 BA) has had her second play, "Is Murder Tax-Deductible?," produced by The West Allis Players. Her first play, "In Lieu of Flowers," was presented in 2012. She works as a freelance print journalist in Southeastern Wisconsin and is a docent at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Danica Duensing ('01 BA) has been promoted to full-time direct support professional at PathPoint, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping developmentally disabled adults reach their fullest potential. She is based at PathPoint’s Lancaster, CA, location.

Ross Koepsel ('02 BA) was named a partner at Commercial Property Associates Inc., a Milwaukee-based commercial real estate brokerage firm.

Chris Hedstrom ('03 MS) is the assistant superintendent for human resources and labor relations for the Waukesha (WI) School District. He took this position in July 2011.

Christina Boyce ('04 BS) graduated from the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare and went on to earn her Master’s in Counseling this year. She works at Curative Care helping individuals with disabilities find employment in Milwaukee County. She says she uses her undergrad foundations from UWM every day.

Michael J. Lowrey ('04 BA) is a volunteer administrator/system operator for Wikipedia and president of Local 91, Wisconsin State Employees Union/AFSCME.

Mark Easterday ('05 MBA) has been named vice president of sales and marketing for Star Manufacturing’s Star Group. He will lead sales and marketing strategy for the commercial food-service brands Star, Holman and Toastmaster, as well as manage sales activities and personnel. Star Manufacturing is a division of The Middleby Corporation, a global leader in the food-service equipment industry based in Elgin, IL. Easterday lives with his family in Milwaukee.

Dan Piessens ('05 BSE), a consultant with Centare, has been named a Patterns & Practices (P&P) Champion for 2013 by the Microsoft Corporation. Centare is a Milwaukee-based software development firm.

Patrick Mongeon ('06 BFA) has been named the senior media operator for Walgreen Co. in Deerfield, IL. He is responsible for the production of media content for various internal needs.

Josh Rosenberg ('06 BA) and co-producer Scott Foley are working on their second low-budget feature film, “Jessica,” the story of a woman coming of age – five years too late. Their first film, “Tracks,” the story of two teenage girls searching for something more – or less – won the Wisconsin’s Own Jury Prize at the 2009 Wisconsin Film Festival.


Mark Theine ('06 BBA) is a founder and senior vice president of asset and investment management at Physicians Realty Trust, a new healthcare real estate investment company based in Milwaukee. The firm is led by Tommy Thompson, former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, and John Thomas, former head of the Medical Facilities Group at Health REIT. The company began trading publicly on the New York Stock Exchange in July.

Nicholas J. Boerke ('07 BA) has joined the law firm of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP as a member of the Transactional Practice Group in the Milwaukee office.

Richard Joseph Deklotz ('07 BS) was one of 194 students to receive a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in May. He will serve his residency in anesthesiology at MCW Affiliated Hospitals in Milwaukee.

WHOOPS!

In the Spring 2013 issue of UWM Alumni, we stated that David Michael ('86) was the first graduate of the MBA program at UWM. Actually, he was the first graduate of the MPA (Master of Public Administration) program. We apologize for the error.
Carrie Rogers-Whitehead ('07 MS) is a senior librarian for Salt Lake County Library. In March 2011 she created the first public library programming in the state of Utah for those with special needs, particularly autism. In January, Rogers-Whitehead began a new library program for older children and teens with special needs, one of only a few in the country. She has done training on literacy and autism for professionals around the state and is working to expand free library programming to more locations. She is the Utah Library Association’s 2013 Librarian of the Year.

Nathaniel Sharadin ('08 MA) has been named a 2013 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellow by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The Newcombe Fellowship is the nation’s largest and most prestigious award for PhD candidates in the humanities and social sciences whose dissertations address questions of ethical and/or religious values. Sharadin will receive a 12-month award of $25,000.

Scott Anderson ('10 MBA, EMBA) has been promoted from plant manager–production to operations manager of Standard Process Inc., a whole food supplements manufacturer based in Palmyra, WI. In his new role, Anderson will provide overall supervision, leadership and strategic planning for all production, farming and procurement operations.

Hannah Buckmaster ('10 BFA) has joined the HS Design Lab team at Hare Strigenz as a graphic designer. Hare Strigenz Inc. is a full-service strategic marketing and communications firm based in Milwaukee.

Zach Erdmann ('11 BA) has worked at Northwestern Mutual since September 2012.

Justin Kellner ('11 BS) has been hired as a programmer analyst at Piggly Wiggly Midwest’s corporate headquarters in Sheboygan, WI.

Kevin Kelly ('12 BA) has been named a Fulbright Scholar. He will teach and study in Germany during the 2013-14 academic year.

The new UWM Alumni Directory is your gateway to a network of more than 150,000 alumni worldwide. Log on and keep up with a constantly evolving campus and alumni community.

Use the directory to update your contact information, complete your profile, register for events, volunteer or join a chapter, and reconnect with classmates while making new connections.

Visit AlumniDirectory.UWM.edu and use your name and 10 digit alumni ID number (located in the mailing label on the back of this magazine) to create a new account. Alumni who update their profile by Nov. 30, 2013, will be entered in a drawing for one of 10 iPad minis.

Directory FAQs

Is the online directory secure?
Only you can access and update your personal information. Other registered users of the UWM online community can view your directory information via a password-protected login. You can limit what information appears to other alumni by using the “Hide” checkboxes in your profile. All information except for name, class year and degree information will be automatically set to “Hide.” Please unhide any information you wish to have available for classmates to search when you update your profile.

Can I remove my information from the directory?
You can choose to remove any or all contact information from the online directory. The only information that cannot be removed is your name, class year and degree information.

How much of my information can other alumni see?
You choose how much information you want other alumni to see. To keep members’ records as up to date as possible, we ask that you fill out all the fields. You can then click “Hide,” which will hide information you do not wish to appear on your profile.

Can I set my own contact preferences?
You can choose your email, phone and address preferences. For example, you may wish for all emails to be directed to your personal email address, but you may prefer to receive mail at work instead of home. This option is located on the Preferred Contacts “Edit” page.
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