CATCHING THE WAVE

UWM SCIENTISTS HELP PROVE EINSTEIN CORRECT
As one of America’s top research universities, UW-Milwaukee played a significant role in one of the biggest scientific discoveries in recent memory – the discovery of Einstein’s predicted gravitational waves – which is detailed in our cover story. An entirely new field of science and how we study the cosmos is emerging, and UWM is at this forefront.

Faculty and researchers have worked over decades, along with staff, students and alumni, to earn the highest rating for a research university from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Our discoveries are remarkable and the product of a 60-year journey from our inception in 1956. Throughout the school year, we will celebrate this important anniversary.

In this issue, we take a look at our incredible historical timeline. Alan Magayne-Roshak, who has been photographing the campus and its people for five decades, is a “visual encyclopedia” for UWM, and you can meet him on Page 17.

Read about fellow alumnus Kevin Evans (Page 30), who became homeless after being discharged from the Army in 1986. With the help of a veterans program, he found his way to UWM, earned a master’s degree, and he’s now making a profound difference in the lives of other veterans.

Get to know our new men’s basketball coach, LaVall Jordan, in his profile on Page 13, and learn about his goals for the team and his focus on family.

Plan to join us Oct. 4-8 for Homecoming (Page 34) as we celebrate our alumni and your vital role in the state – and well beyond. This fall, I will be at several Alumni Association gatherings and many other events. I look forward to hearing about your time at UWM and life beyond the campus.

Best regards,

Mark A. Mone

Chancellor
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Einstein predicted gravitational waves existed, but he doubted that humans could ever find them. A century later, UWM scientists helped prove Einstein correct, his doubts wrong, and cemented the school’s status as a premier research institution.

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As a UWM graduate, you are part of a worldwide network of more than 178,000 Panthers who are making a difference. Stay connected to your alma mater and show your black-and-gold pride.

UWM.EDU/ALUMNI

✓ register for events and volunteer opportunities
✓ update your contact information
✓ get campus news and updates

facebook.com/uwmalumni linkedin.com/45998 twitter.com/uwmalumni
A Moving idea

It might not look so different, but this wheel could someday alleviate the shoulder pain that afflicts more than 70 percent of adult wheelchair users. Produced by Illinois company IntelliWheels, the wheel has two gears and works like those on a multispeed bicycle. In low-gear mode, it requires less user effort when going uphill or on carpet, and inside a lab at UWM’s Innovation Campus, Brooke Slavens studies how it can improve wheelchair experiences. An assistant professor in the College of Health Sciences, Slavens works with children to intervene before wheelchair-related pain starts, and also studies how wheelchairs are used by adults, particularly military veterans. Data is collected in a room equipped with 360-degree motion-capture technology. Future plans even call for studying wheels equipped with an automatic transmission, which would sense and activate the best gear depending on surface conditions.

– Howie Magner
YOU KNOW ABOUT UWM'S EXCELLENT TEACHERS AND ITS GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCHERS. BUT FACULTY MEMBERS ARE INSPIRING STUDENTS TO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS, TOO. EIGHT UWM FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE RESEARCH-RELATED STARTUP COMPANIES, AND THE UWM RESEARCH FOUNDATION HAS FILED MORE THAN 150 PATENTS. HERE ARE JUST A FEW RECENT PRODUCTS UWM PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN CREATING.

Naira Campbell-Kyureghyan and her engineering students designed a unique industrial wrench that reduces injuries among gas utility workers, prompting Wisconsin-based tool company Snap-on to license the patent. The new wrench is now on the market.

Tiny, novel water sensors developed by engineer Junhong Chen offer low-cost and immediate detection of contaminated water supplies. The technology has been licensed to three Wisconsin companies that plan to integrate the sensors into their products.

Neonatologist Charles Potter had difficulty holding a clamp he regularly uses in removing newborns’ umbilical cords. So he and his son, Max, brainstormed an idea for a new design. Then he asked engineer Ilya Avdeev to help turn it into a device that’s easier for physicians and nurses to use.

UWM startup T3 BioScience is developing a compound that disarms the bacteria that causes fire blight disease in fruit trees, eliminating the need for antibiotics. Reducing the use of antibiotics in agriculture, said microbiologist Ching-Hong Yang, will help decrease antibiotic resistance in people.

Imagine how much fuel a vehicle could save if just one engine part were made with a self-lubricating metal. UWM Distinguished Professor Pradeep Rohatgi has, and he’s even successfully tested his material, called a metal matrix composite, in truck engines made at Oshkosh Corp.

Now, Rohatgi is working with two alumni and an industry partner to try to get their “super metal” in front of automotive companies while also making an engine part specifically to boost power sport vehicles.

Alumni entrepreneurs Chris Jordan and Simon Beno were introduced to the self-lubricating material while working in Rohatgi’s lab as undergraduates. They formed a startup company, called Intelligent Composites, with Rohatgi and his longtime research partner, David Weiss, vice president of engineering at Eck Industries in Manitowoc.

Over the years, Rohatgi and Weiss have perfected how to mass-produce the material.

“The federal mandates to reduce carbon emissions and increase fuel efficiency could be the incentives that finally help these composites into the marketplace,” Jordan says.

– Laura L. Otto

UWM Distinguished Professor Pradeep Rohatgi (left) oversees the production of a sample of his metal matrix composite.
Meet Nikki, one of the newest additions to the housekeeping staff at Milwaukee’s Jewish Home and Care Center. His name, fittingly enough, means “to clean” in Hebrew. He’s quiet, petite and 3 1/2 feet tall. His disinfecting skills have played a major role in reducing infection rates among Jewish Home residents.

Oh, and Nikki also happens to be a robot. When Nikki is switched on, its head rises up out of its body, revealing a “neck” made of lamps that emit pulsed-xenon ultraviolet light. The light is so strong that humans must step out of the room. It kills any pathogen in a 12-foot radius and is used in conjunction with traditional cleaning.

UWM nursing Professor Christine Kovach, who holds a three-year research chair at the Jewish Home, has studied the robot’s germ-busting ability. “We’re the first nursing home in the country to test it,” Kovach explains.

Kovach’s team swabbed “high-touch surfaces,” including bedrails, call buttons and toilet seats, to check for bacteria. They retested after housekeeping staff cleaned items with detergent, and again after Nikki zapped the room. They found surprisingly few pathogens after traditional cleaning, but even fewer after the robot – developed by the Texas-based company Xenex – finished its 15-minute cleaning.

Kovach’s team then looked at infection rates in the facility before and after staff began using Nikki. Kovach reports that hospital-acquired infections rose among residents admitted to hospitals in that period, but infections contracted at the Jewish Home dropped significantly. “Nikki,” Kovach says, “really made a big difference.”

– Erin O’Donnell
Paint by Numbers

Rust-Oleum had a problem. When the paint and coatings manufacturer sent paints by container ship to far-off markets like Indonesia or Australia, the paint could settle and harden in transit, rendering it unusable and resulting in lost profits.

Dennis Lay, Rust-Oleum’s head of research and development, turned to UWM’s industrial mathematics program for help. Mathematics Professors Bruce Wade and Lei Wang, alongside Wade’s graduate student, Emmanuel Asante-Asamani, learned the paint’s chemistry. Then they built a mathematical model to attack the paint-settling issue.

The apparent culprit: high temperatures inside the containers. “We formulated a system of differential equations that were based mostly on fluid mechanics,” says Asante-Asamani, “and we had to customize those equations to the specific problem of sedimentation.”

They tweaked the model by controlling for variables like the rocking of the waves or the vibration of the ship’s engine, and that helped pinpoint the problematic high temps.

“There were some really extreme temperatures when the shipping containers were in dock,” Wade says. “It was getting to 110, 120 degrees.

“When the [paint] polymers get damaged or the temperature affects their performance,” he continues, “paint can settle and make chemical bonds that can’t be broken.”

Lay says Rust-Oleum plans to use UWM’s findings to experiment on the paint formula. In the meantime, he’s grateful for the collaboration with the university.

“It was a great group of people,” Lay says, “and I came away impressed with everything that they did. It was very supportive to have those guys working with us.”

– Sarah Vickery

UWM joined the nation’s elite research institutions in 2016 with its designation for “highest research activity” from the Carnegie Classification of Institutes of Higher Education. The rating was bestowed upon only 115 of the 4,665 universities evaluated. In Wisconsin, only UWM and UW-Madison made the top tier.

Mark Harris, interim vice provost for research, says UWM’s climb reflects an intentional effort that dates to the 1960s, when the administration began building doctoral departments as “an implicit commitment to research quality.”

“When I think of the last 20 years at the university, we have brought in a lot of good young faculty who have been active researchers,” he continues. “And we’ve supplemented that with some investments on behalf of the university to help them really develop their research.

“Those investments have paid off.”

– Greg Walz-Chojnacki

UWM mathematics Professor Bruce Wade (left), graduate student Emmanuel Asante-Asamani (center) and mathematics Professor Lei Wang at Rust-Oleum’s facility in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin.
You may not know her face, but you might recognize the ones she creates. Melissa Ebbe operates a small Milwaukee business called Feral Works (melissaebbe.com) that makes costumes, masks and other role-playing accessories. But it was her success on the most recent season of “Face Off,” a Syfy TV reality show, that introduced her work to millions of viewers.

“Face Off” contestants compete in elaborate challenges, creating special effects and fantastical creatures. Ebbe was one of three finalists, and though she didn’t win, she earned a trip to Universal Orlando as well as national exposure.

Since the show, Feral Works is thriving, and Ebbe has been invited to give talks at events, conventions and universities. She also did a demo at Monsterpalooza, the popular California convention that caters to horror fans.

Away from the crowds, Ebbe lives in Milwaukee with husband Steven Shapiro and son Quinn. She keeps in touch with her “Face Off” competitors, who have become friends. “I met so many wonderful people that I would have never encountered otherwise,” Ebbe says, “both other artists and fans.”

– Kathy Quirk
Matt Wild graduated from UWM with a film degree, but after his student short “Super Hot Dog Man” didn’t set the world afame, he considered other callings. He found it in newspapers, specifically the satirical pages of “The Onion.”

Wild was an avid reader of the famed humor publication, and in 2010, he started freelancing for its local entertainment endeavor, “A.V. Club Milwaukee.” He rose to become AVCM’s editor, but Onion bosses had started pulling the plug on the national network of those local sites. Milwaukee’s was the last one standing, finally going dark in December 2013. But Wild wasn’t ready to give up the funny pages.

In spring 2014, he and colleague Tyler Maas started their own online entertainment publication, the Milwaukee Record, and AVCM’s advertisers followed. “Our first day, we had everyone from the Pabst and Riverside and Potawatomi to smaller clubs,” Wild said.

The site has proved profitable enough that its two co-founders can fully focus on it without needing second jobs – rare for a media startup when the industry’s stuck in a downturn.

“We’re certainly not getting rich,” Wild says, “but it affords us so much freedom to write what we want and do what we want. It’s been great.”

In addition to its slate of standard – which usually means irreverent – entertainment coverage, plans call for the Record to incorporate more long-form, in-depth journalism. And Wild, a native of small-town Mayville, Wisconsin, plans to stay in Milwaukee, doing what he loves.

“Ten years ago, a lot of people saw this city as a steppingstone,” he says. “A few years ago, it sunk in that I am gonna be here for the long haul, and I’m totally cool with that. That was kind of a big revelation.”

– Eben Pindyck

There’s a bobblehead doll of a basketball coach so excited about a win that he’s falling off his chair. There are bobbleheads depicting baseball players and race car drivers, Vince Lombardi and Mike Ditka, Charlie Brown and Donald Duck, men and women doing sports of all sorts.

With 5,000-plus items in the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum’s collection, variety and surprises are a given. That includes a doll portraying UWM Panthers superfan Michael Poll, the first bobblehead dreamed up by Phil Sklar, the museum’s co-founder and a UWM alum himself.

“We wanted to honor him,” Sklar says of Poll, the Special Olympian who’s renowned for being a vocal supporter at Panthers games. The Poll bobblehead and others have been displayed at temporary exhibitions in Milwaukee. A good portion of the collection can be seen online at bobbleheadhall.com.

Sklar and museum co-founder Brad Novak hope to have a permanent home for the collection in downtown Milwaukee by the end of 2016.

– Eben Pindyck
Ramon Escobar always had a brain for business and language. He dreamed of opening a baseball card shop on Vliet Street in 1990s Milwaukee. He’s fluent in English, French and Spanish, and he speaks intermediate Arabic. He’s putting those gifts to good use.

Today, Escobar can look back on a career that includes crucial diplomatic efforts while looking forward to building his family’s business. It’s a path he traces to his 2003 graduation from the UWM Lubar School of Business and Honors College, which led to a master’s degree from Columbia University, then several State Department posts at U.S. embassies.

He was stationed in Saudi Arabia, London and Baghdad, and did advance work for Secretaries of State John Kerry and Hillary Clinton. He was also a Colombia desk officer, which set the stage for his important background role in some historic negotiations.

For more than half a century, civil war rocked Colombia, killing an estimated 230,000 people, 80 percent of them civilians. But by 2013, peace was finally in reach. The State Department tasked Escobar with preparing and assisting the newly appointed U.S. special envoy to the peace process, diplomat Bernard Aronson.

“He maintained a level of empathy that I hope I can emulate someday,” Escobar says. Now, the process appears to have worked, as a milestone cease-fire was announced in June 2016.

Escobar took a hiatus from the State Department in 2015 to begin a one-year Rusk Fellowship at Georgetown University. He also returned to his business roots, combining them with familial roots, by launching his own company, Chufly Imports.

Escobar was raised in Milwaukee, but his father is from Bolivia. So is singani – a potent, aromatic grape-based spirit that Chufly debuted in the United States in 2015 under Escobar’s Rujero label.

Rujero is a centuries-old vineyard in the Bolivian Andes, where grapes are ripened at an extreme altitude but maintain their intense flavor due to lower boiling temperatures. “Every Bolivian knows this distillery,” Escobar says. “It’s what my father had on his shelf in Milwaukee when I was growing up.” Escobar’s business is making sure it has a place on shelves today.

― Angela McManaman

SPRING IN THE WHITE HOUSE

There are internships – and then there’s an internship at the White House.

Sequoia Baker capped her UWM tenure with a four-month spring internship on first lady Michelle Obama’s communications team. A Facebook post Baker wrote about the journey from a challenging childhood to the White House gained national attention. ABC News even picked up the story.

She graduated in May with a bachelor’s degree in political science and a minor in journalism. And in the months prior to that graduation, she found herself at her very own desk, right outside the first lady’s office.

No two days were the same for Baker, who worked on everything from state dinners to the famed Easter Egg Roll. A particular highlight was bringing her younger sister in for a visit.

“Coming from where we come from, it was very important to bring her out there,” Baker says, “to show her this is not just something I can do, but something that anyone can do if they’re willing to work hard for it.

“It’s possible, it’s all possible.”

― Kathy Quirk

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CHILDREN LIKE HER

When young Mai Shoua Xiong came to the United States from a refugee camp in Thailand, she had no formal schooling and spoke no English. One of the first Americans she remembers is Mrs. Winter, the kindergarten teacher who made all the difference to the little Hmong girl who felt lost in class.

“Even though I couldn’t understand everything going on, she encouraged me and never gave up on me,” Xiong says. Inspired by her role model, Xiong knew what she wanted to be when she grew up. “I knew I wanted to help children like me.”

She’s certainly done that. Xiong not only went on to teach children, but she had eight of her own. In 2015, she earned high honors from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as its Wisconsin Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

UWM played a big role in Xiong’s journey, as she earned her master’s degree from the School of Education. She’s been with Milwaukee Public Schools for 17 years, spending almost all of that time teaching first grade at the Academy of Accelerated Learning on Milwaukee’s south side.

“I knew I wanted to teach in MPS, and I wanted to be in a diverse setting,” Xiong says. “This is about as diverse as it gets, in terms of student body and teachers.”

Having eight children means she also relies on a strong family support system. “I love to see that twinkle in their eyes when they finally get something they’ve been struggling to understand,” Xiong says. “From my own experience, I know what they went through to get there.”

Xiong’s next assignment will be equally close to her heart. She’s accepted a leadership position at the Hmong American Peace Academy in Milwaukee. It’s the first Hmong charter school in Wisconsin and was founded by refugees like Xiong.

“One of my dreams has always been to go back to Laos and help Hmong children in the villages,” she says. “This is as close as I’ll come to seeing this dream come true for a while.” 🐾 – Kathy Quirk
Sure, you expected plenty of congratulatory messages showered upon UWM’s 3,000-plus spring 2016 graduates. You just didn’t expect one to come from megastar Justin Timberlake. But there it was, typed for all 55.4 million of his Twitter followers to see.

The May 23 tweet came in response to UWM’s version of Timberlake’s “Can’t Stop the Feeling” music video. His original video features everyday people dancing at everyday locations – a diner, a laundromat, a supermarket – and some Los Angeles landmarks. Ours featured new grads – and Chancellor Mark Mone – dancing at similar Milwaukee and UWM locations, as well as a few local landmarks, even in UWM’s fountain. It was shot in the week prior to graduation and has earned more than 260,000 views.

Watch it at youtube.com/uwmnews

UWM SHOWS OFF IN WISCONSIN SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Dive into Lake Michigan without getting wet, learn how glow-in-the-dark microbes light up, and see how Iron Age people made their own beer (and, yes, get your own sample).

It all happens during the 2016 Wisconsin Science Festival, Oct. 22 and 23. As the statewide festival’s featured partner in Milwaukee, UWM offers 10 entertaining and interactive public shows aimed at audiences ranging from high school students to adults.

The festival is sponsored by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, UW-Madison and the Morgridge Institute for Research. So get your curious on, and see the lineup at uwm.edu/sciencefest.
GREEN SCENE: UWM WINS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

To find the only Green Ribbon Schools award for environmental sustainability in the UW System, head for Milwaukee. UWM earned the U.S. Department of Education honor in 2016 after years of, shall we say, grass-roots and organic progress in key areas. Those include reducing environmental impact and costs, improving the health and wellness of students and staff, and providing effective environmental and sustainability education. For a few examples, survey the environment below.

- **Recognized as a BIKE-FRIENDLY CAMPUSS** by the LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS. (2013)
- **27%** reduction in energy consumption from 2008 to 2014.
- **$11.9 million** saved in avoided energy costs (through FY2015).
- **UWM students logged 50,000 volunteer hours in a single school year** (2014-15).
- **UWM offers 190 SUSTAINABILITY-FOCUSED AND RELATED COURSES across 38 DEPARTMENTS.**
- **Bublr bikeshare system introduced on campus with six stations and a five-year membership plan for students.**
- **All SYNTHETIC FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES ELIMINATED from campus grounds, replaced by a natural lawn care program of COMPOSTING, OVERSEEDING AND AERATION.** (2014)
- **Native prairie plantings in stormwater gardens throughout campus.**
- **UWM’s campus features the 11.1-acre Downer Woods.**
- **Cleaning products used in campus buildings reduced from 30 available products to four Green Seal-certified cleaners.**
- **GREEN ARCHITECTURE:**
  - **Five solar-powered sites.**
  - **Three LEED-certified buildings** (two gold, one silver) with three more projects trending toward LEED certification.
- **16.5 MILLION GALLONS** Stormwater averted annually through use of cisterns, green roofs and rain gardens.
- **125,200 sq.ft.** Total amount of square footage covered by seven green roofs.

GREEN SCENE: UWM WINS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

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SURE, HE KNOWS BASKETBALL. BUT IF YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND UWM’S NEW BASKETBALL COACH, YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT MATTERS TO HIM MOST, AND HOW HE WANTS TO BUILD IT HERE.

By Howie Magner
LaVall Jurrant-Lige Jordan grew up in the small, south-central Michigan town of Albion, a working-class enclave where he was one of 107 students in his high school graduating class. He was the star guard on Albion High School’s 1997 state finalist team, which lost the title to future NBA champion Shane Battier’s powerhouse from Detroit Country Day. Jordan played that game wearing a face mask to protect a broken nose. Challenges and underdog labels are nothing new.

He was raised by family in the broadest sense, not just by mom and dad, but also by an aunt and uncle, grandmother and grandfather. At various points during his upbringing, Jordan lived with them all. Each had an impact in different ways, and all held him accountable. “I had to do certain things to be able to have freedom,” Jordan says. “If I didn’t do them, I didn’t get the freedom.” And if his grades weren’t good enough, he would not play basketball.

His uncle, Lige Ridley, insisted on driving him to classes every morning rather than let him take the school bus. His aunt, Jetha Jeffers, was a landlord who had him mow lawns and tend gardens at her properties, often ending his procrastination with a simple statement: The dreading is worse than the doing. “I tell that to my daughters now,” Jordan says.

Always implicit was the message that Jordan’s actions represented his family, and that his accomplishments, or mistakes, reflected on his community. It’s a lesson he carried with him to Butler and beyond.

In many ways, Butler is where Jordan became the man he is today. Not just because of basketball, important though it was. He won 91 games there from 1997-2001, more than any previous Butler player, and went 9-0 against then-league rival UWM. In 2001, he led the Bulldogs to their first NCAA Tournament victory in 39 years, and later, Butler’s Todd Lickliter gave Jordan his first coaching gig.

But the biggest impact Butler had on Jordan was personal: It’s where he met Destinee. “He says I was his best recruiting job ever,” she explains.

They were introduced by mutual friends in 2001, just three weeks before he was to go play pro basketball in Europe. She was initially skeptical of a relationship, but Jordan made quite an impression during those 21 days. On the day he left for Europe, he told her he loved her, and in between a string of phone...
calls and emails, she flew overseas for a visit. Their love lasted through his pro season in Europe and his return to the United States to begin coaching. They married in June 2004.

Both adjusted to the lifestyle inherent in the coaching profession, one marked by relentlessly busy work schedules and unusual demands on personal time. “I remember coming home one time,” Jordan says, “and I don’t know what I was saying, but she told me, ‘I’m not one of your players. You don’t need to coach me.’”

Their family grew with his coaching career, first at his alma mater, then at Iowa from 2007-10, and then on to Michigan. While Jordan was on the bench as Michigan played for a national title in 2013, Destinee was in the stands with daughter Adalynn, who was only 3 months old. “We joke all the time,” Destinee says, “that he has sons in his job and the ladies at home.”

“You do,” Jordan admits, “end up with two families. You have your basketball family, and your family at home.” But, he says, they need not remain separate entities. “You merge them.”

The evidence is right there on his phone. He holds it up and goes to his photo gallery, swiping through the snapshots. There is a scene from that April dinner, taken minutes before Mone called with the job offer. Other photos show the basement of his home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where All-Big Ten Wolverines point guard Derrick Walton Jr. is reading books with Jordan’s children.

The connections stretch across every team he’s been a part of. Jordan is still close to Glen Korobov, who was on the Butler staff during Jordan’s playing days. “He still texts me Bible Scripture every day,” Jordan says.

It’s that type of kinship that Jordan is determined to create with the teams he coaches at UWM, one that fosters relationships that last not just for a season or a career, but for a lifetime.

“You want guys to have that great experience,” Jordan says. “The daily interactions and relationships make that experience for them. The winning makes it, too, but it’s always been about the players for me. You know it’s going to be tough. You’re going to have to grow through some things, but you only get it once, that college experience.”

He knows it can happen at UWM – the friendships and camaraderie, the excitement and the winning – not just because he’s seen it before, but because it’s happened at UVW before, too.

“It’s not like you’re trying to do something here that’s never been done,” Jordan says. He rattles off the names of former Panthers coaches Bo Ryan and Bruce Pearl and Rob Jeter, and notes that he has big shoes to fill. “You respect it,” he says. “That was one of the things that drew me. We’ve seen it here before.”

He wants to see it again, to make new memories for players and fans that mirror those he had at Albion, Butler, Iowa and Michigan. He remembers the struggles and the successes, the heartaches and the happiness, the hard work and the fun times, the basketball families and the family at home.

“All that lines up,” Jordan says, and he pauses a bit, “and then you get a phone call.”

And it leads to a new family. 🐾
How a UWM assessment program helps athletes perform better

By Erin O’Donnell

UWM men’s basketball forward JJ Panoske had the skills, the height and the potential to excel as a player, but he suspected his mental game was holding him back. The university’s Panther Performance Enhancement Program, or Panther PEP, confirmed his thoughts and helped him overcome the challenge.

Panther PEP helps UWM student-athletes understand how their physical, psychological and nutritional status affects their risk of injury and overall performance. The optional program was founded by College of Health Sciences faculty members Monna Arvinen-Barrow, an assistant professor of sport psychology, and Jennifer Earl-Boehm, an associate professor of kinesiology.

Panther student-athletes take baseline tests to search for physical factors that influence injury risk. They also take psychosocial surveys that measure their stress levels and responses to stress.

“We know that individuals undergoing a stress response or fight-or-flight response are more likely to sustain an injury than those who are not stressed,” Earl-Boehm explains. Other survey questions cover eating habits and nutrition knowledge. Athletes then receive an assessment that spells out their particular strengths and potential risks.

Panoske started weekly sport psychology consultancy sessions with Arvinen-Barrow. “I realized I was always worrying about the game that was coming up,” he says, “or if I’d made a bad play.” He began using a technique during breaks in the game that involved stopping to notice his next three breaths, which helped him stay present and shake his worries. Arvinen-Barrow also reminded him to have fun.

“She helped me remember why I picked up a basketball when I was 4 years old, and that just resonated with me,” he says.

After his consultations, Panoske saw improvement in his performance and statistics. “It just was a night-and-day difference,” he says, “and I was calm in games.”

After graduating in May with his degree in kinesiology, Panoske signed a contract with the Kangoeroes, who play in Belgium’s top basketball league. “If I hadn’t had these meetings with Monna,” he says, “I don’t know if I’d be ready to say, ‘OK, I can go overseas by myself in a new country for nine months and be OK.’”

MEN’S BASKETBALL

UWM alumni have access to discounted rates for men’s basketball season tickets. Fans who purchase seats in the Alumni Gold sections also receive free Milwaukee Alumni apparel. Alumni who graduated between 2012 and 2016 can get their Alumni Gold season tickets for $80 or $130.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Season tickets for women’s basketball are available starting at $25 for UWM alumni and Milwaukee men’s basketball season ticket holders.

For more information, please contact the Milwaukee Athletics Ticket Office at 414-229-5886 or email uwmtix@uwm.edu. Ticket information is also available at mkepanthers.com.
Alan Magayne-Roshak witnessed most of UWM’s history through the lens of a camera and framed it in a gallery of photographs. As we celebrate the school’s 60th anniversary, meet the man who became its visual encyclopedia.
BEFORE STUDENTS took graduation selfies with ubiquitous phone cameras, Alan Magayne-Roshak was a shy UWM undergrad with an almost obsessive drive to document the world using much bulkier equipment. So there he was at commencement in 1972, decades from the convenience of an iPhone, trying to pull off a one-handed shot of receiving his own diploma.

To do it, he had to guess-position the camera at arm’s length and click the shutter at the perfect moment. He wanted to capture both his own face and that of the Letters and Science dean handing off the document. “I knew I only had one chance to get it right,” Magayne-Roshak recalls. “I wouldn’t be able to stop and advance the film to get another shot.”

He got that shot, and so many more.

Not just while documenting the rest of commencement for UWM’s Photo Services, where he worked as a student, but while spending the rest of his career working as a UWM photographer. Decade after decade, Magayne-Roshak’s camera was trained on the university’s campus and its people. Perhaps nobody has played a bigger role in capturing UWM’s history since the university’s official inception.

“He’s a visual encyclopedia of all things UWM,” says Nancy Mack, who worked on the student newspaper with Magayne-Roshak before editing UWM publications from 1996 to 2014. She calls him the university’s institutional memory.

It’s been 60 years since two state institutions combined to form the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, six decades of filling an ever-present need for access to higher education and economy-boosting research while witnessing a torrent of social change and weathering growing pains. To commemorate the anniversary, UWM is planning celebrations and special events throughout the school year.

Since 1956, more than 20 buildings have been erected, 34 doctoral programs created and more than 178,000 graduates produced. UWM has the state’s only school of architecture and opened the state’s first MBA program, both established in 1966.

Through almost all of it stood Magayne-Roshak, now 68, diligently documenting the growth of the city’s public university in pictures. “He has recorded – formally and informally – an amazing slice of the campus’ history,” says David Gess, a fellow alum who also worked as a UWM photographer from 1978 to 1990. “It amounts to nearly 50 of the university’s 60 years.”

Magayne-Roshak says becoming a campus photographer right after graduation was a “dream job,” and it remained so until his retirement from UWM in 2013. His technical and creative expertise was recognized by more than 100 awards, among them the University Photographers’ Association of America’s “Photographer of the Year” honor in 1978 and its “Master of the Profession” accolade in 2014.

Particularly fond of portraiture, Magayne-Roshak used 18 different cameras during his UWM career, including a homemade 4-by-5-inch wooden box with an 1870s lens bought at Rummage-O-Rama.

“He was in an environment surrounded by really interesting people and photographing them,” Gess says. “That was part of why he never left.”

“... I just wanted to get the picture of something that nobody noticed unless they looked twice.”
LAN ROSHAK WAS BORN IN Chicago to Wisconsin natives and moved to Milwaukee at age 8. His father, an optometrist and amateur photographer, had developed film from reconnaissance missions during his World War II service. So the young Roshak learned the nuances of using a camera and, as a teenager, he spent weekends photographing old buildings in Milwaukee slated for the wrecking ball.

Because most of his relatives had attended UW-Stevens Point, Roshak was expected to do the same. But he finished coursework at South Division High School six months early. So, while waiting for fall semester to attend UWSP, he decided to enroll at UWM for the spring of 1966. He never left.

Almost immediately, Roshak discovered the student newspaper, the UWM Post. For eight months, he did a comic strip. “Then, one day, the photo editor needed someone to cover an event in the Union,” he says.

But the Plan-A photographer didn’t have a camera with him that day. “I always carried a camera,” Magayne-Roshak recalls, “so I said, ‘I can do it.’” He doesn’t remember exactly what that first opportunity was, but he’d proved his reliability. His first published photo in the Post was of Ted Sorensen, aide to the late President John F. Kennedy, who was on the UWM campus giving a lecture.

Over the years, Magayne-Roshak has photographed scores of visiting celebrities — former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Wisconsin-raised Apollo 13 astronaut James Lovell and South African human rights activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu. He photographed a young Willem Dafoe while the actor was still a UWM student. He estimates he covered 70 UWM commencement ceremonies and took portraits of seven of UWM’s nine chancellors.

He loves the way a picture’s details can tell a story in the subtlest way. “Some things, you know, you’ve got to get a shot of, like someone dressed in a bunny costume crossing the street,” he says. “But other times, I just wanted to get the picture of something that nobody noticed unless they looked twice.”

Like the well-worn spots on a library floor in front of some public rotary phones, back when such phones were prominent on campus. By the mid-2000s, almost all public phones had disappeared.

ROSHAK, who hyphenated his last name after his 1970 marriage to former Post reporter Kathryn Magayne, launched his career during a turbulent time at UWM and campuses across the nation. Racial tension and opposition to the Vietnam War bred a stream of public protests, and they were often the focus of his early work. But the atmosphere was rarely so politically and socially charged.

In addition to the usual spate of award ceremonies, speeches and images publicizing academic research, Magayne-Roshak captured the daily lives of several generations of UWM students. He did so as enrollment shot up. In 1956, UWM’s enrollment was 6,195. By 1971, it was more than 22,000. For the 2015-16 school year, the number stood at 27,156.

He was often dispatched to cover celebratory scenes like the one in the Union on Dec. 4, 1967 – the first time students who were 21 years old could buy beer on campus. His photo shows a TV cameraman filming exuberant youth reveling in the moment, but...
doing so with school spirit, courtesy of their UWM-branded steins.

Covering sports may not have been his favorite assignment, but he amassed quite a collection anyhow, reminders of a time when UWM’s football team played the University of Illinois-Chicago at Soldier Field. Funding issues contributed to UWM nixing its 75-year-old football program after the 1974 season.

Oft-tight finances didn’t keep UWM from growing into a major research institution and a destination for renowned experts. The internationally recognized Fine Arts Quartet relocated from Chicago’s Northwestern University to UWM in 1963, and Magayne-Roshak has photographed them multiple times.

In 1978, UWM became the new home for the archives of the 127-year-old American Geographical Society, a $30 million collection of rare maps and other historical documents. From atop Enderis Hall, Magayne-Roshak photographed the arrival of a caravan of cargo-laden trucks, which originated in New York and was escorted by state police.

The memories, and photographic evidence of them, go on and on, and Magayne-Roshak took pride in coming up with different ways to present his work. Long before the digital revolution, he had to find old-school solutions to photographic problems, such as manually piecing together images to help faculty document steps in their research.

And there were times when the artistic side of his photography took center stage. He had a fondness for taking “before and after” photos of the built environment, not just at UWM, but across the city of Milwaukee. In 2003, he exhibited pictures of disappearing old Milwaukee at a School of Architecture and Urban Planning show called “Less is Less: The 70s – A Decade of Demolition.”

“I want to remember things I see exactly as they happened,” he says. “With the photos I’ve shot, I can always go back and look again – and remember the details that might have been forgotten.”

Even when retirement became reality, he couldn’t quite give up working for UWM, and the school is still benefitting from his store of knowledge. He’s now digitizing many of the thousands of photo slides stored in the Photo Services offices to prevent snapshots of history from being lost or discarded.

He is uniquely qualified for the task. “Yeah,” he quips, “because I have a mind like a rusty steel trap.”

Fine Arts Quartet, 1976

“With the photos I’ve shot, I can always go back and look again – and remember the details that might have been forgotten.”

Fine Arts Quartet, 1976

UWM at 60: Six decades of excellence

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee opens for classes in September. Its roots go back to the 19th century and its incarnation as the Milwaukee Normal School, which began admitting students in 1885. That morphed into the Milwaukee State Teachers College in 1927, the Wisconsin State College in 1951, and finally UWM.

1960 1956

The Honors Program is established. It becomes the Honors College in 2005.

1964

UWM acquires the American Geographical Society collection. One of the premier collections of its kind in North America, the AGS Library contains more than 1.3 million items, including maps, atlases, books and photographs.

1965 1987 1991

WUWM-FM 89.7 signs on the air. The radio station becomes a charter member of National Public Radio in 1971.

The UWM Art Museum is established in Vogel Hall.

UWM’s baseball team ascends to NCAA Division 1 status. It’s Wisconsin’s only D-1 team.

UWM Alumni Association is incorporated. UWMAA traces its history to 1904, when alumni of the university’s first iteration, the Milwaukee Normal School, began holding regular meetings.

Lynn Buraczynski becomes UWM’s 100,000th grad. In the years since, the number of graduates has climbed past 178,000.
Celebrate UWM’s 60th

Some people say the diamond anniversary comes at 60 years, while others say it’s 75. We just know that as the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee celebrates its 60th anniversary, we want to make it sparkle.

Throughout the 2016-17 school year, you’re invited to participate in activities commemorating UWM’s six decades of education, research and success. You can participate in a communitywide book club, which encourages everyone to read and discuss the same book. You can take a pledge to volunteer as part of the 60,000 hours of giving. And you can find the full slate of 60th anniversary events at uwm.edu/60thAnniversary.

The Center for Great Lakes Studies is established, with facilities in Milwaukee’s harbor.

Beer is served at the UWM Union for the first time. Like today, you had to be 21 to imbibe.

Muhammad Ali visits UWM. He strolled the campus and spoke with students about boxing, racial issues and world affairs.

Wisconsin State institutions were merged with the four UW campuses (including Milwaukee) to become one UW System.

Nancy Zimpher is the first woman to be named permanent UWM chancellor. (Norma Rees served as acting chancellor in 1985-86.)

The first UWMAA Panther Prowl is held. Created to support UWM scholarships, the 5K run/walk has raised in excess of $250,000. More than 1,800 participated in 2015.

For the first time, PantherFest is held at Milwaukee’s Summerfest grounds. Through the years, it will feature musicians Lupe Fiasco, Dashboard Confessional, Kid Cudi, O.A.R., and Common.

Two graduate-level schools — one in Freshwater Sciences and one in Public Health — are established.

A doctoral program in kinesiology in the College of Health Sciences is approved, bringing the number of PhD programs to 34.

UWM earns the highest rating from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. UWM is one of only 115 U.S. research institutions to achieve this top-tier status.

The Sandburg Hall dormitories open, with a housing capacity of 2,150 students.

1966

UWM grants its first PhDs, in mathematics, to Ghulam Shah and Motupalli Satyanarayana.

1966

Beer is served at the UWM Union for the first time. Like today, you had to be 21 to imbibe.

2005

The first UWMAA Panther Prowl is held. Created to support UWM scholarships, the 5K run/walk has raised in excess of $250,000. More than 1,800 participated in 2015.

2006

The UWM Research Foundation is established. Today, eight faculty businesses have links to UWMRF.

2007

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CATCHING THE WAVE

EINSTEIN PREDICTED GRAVITATIONAL WAVES EXISTED, BUT HE DOUBTED THAT HUMANS COULD EVER FIND THEM. A CENTURY LATER, UWM SCIENTISTS HELPED PROVE EINSTEIN CORRECT, HIS DOUBTS WRONG, AND CEMENTED THE SCHOOL’S STATUS AS A PREMIER RESEARCH INSTITUTION.

By Kurt Chandler

It was an ordinary Monday morning in September for Patrick Brady. The physics professor walked into his kitchen, poured a cup of coffee and opened his laptop. Scrolling through his email, one subject line caught his eye.

“Hang on,” he said to himself. “Here’s something that looks really interesting.”

Brady, director of UWM’s Leonard E. Parker Center for Gravitation, Cosmology and Astrophysics, opened a data program built and maintained by a team of UWM physicists and worldwide collaborators, some of whom are former UWM students.

And there it was: notification that ultra-sensitive instruments in Louisiana and Washington had apparently collected data from a gravitational wave. If the readings were correct, the never-before-recorded phenomenon, born in deep space, had washed over the Earth at 4:50 a.m. Central time that very morning, Sept. 14, 2015.

“It took just three minutes to get data from the instruments,” Brady recalls, sitting in his sunlight-drenched office in the Kenwood Interdisciplinary Research Complex, or KIRC. “Then it was, ‘OK, what do we know so far?’ Wow was the answer.”

Within a couple of days, scientists calculated that two black holes had collided and merged 1.3 billion years ago, sending shockwaves – or gravitational waves – into the universe and creating a single black hole 62 times the mass of our sun.

The gravitational wave was such a huge discovery within the physics community that it’s almost hard to quantify. Until that first detection, the concept of the waves had existed only in mathematical equations. Albert Einstein in 1915 had predicted the waves’ existence as he formulated his theory of general relativity, which, simply put, shows how space and time are curved by matter and energy, resulting in the fundamental force of gravitation. Einstein doubted it would ever be possible to detect gravitational waves as they ripple invisibly through the universe, and for decades, scientists tried in vain to develop a successful way to observe them.
But Einstein’s doubts were put to rest on that fateful Monday morning in September, 100 years after he published his famed theory. Three months later, on Dec. 26, 2015, a second gravitational wave was detected, confirmation that the first was not just a one-off chance encounter.

“Gravitational-wave astronomy has truly started,” Brady said soon after the news. An entirely new field of science is emerging with the invention of a fresh way to peer into the universe. The detection of gravitational waves will produce data about celestial objects and cataclysmic events that occurred billions of light years away, opening doors to cutting-edge research projects in physics, astronomy and astrophysics that wouldn’t be possible with conventional telescopes.

The deep-space breakthrough has had repercussions close to home, too. UWM’s involvement in the project has generated some $25 million in federal grants and bolstered its national standing as a research institution. In February 2016, the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education placed UWM among the 115 first-tier doctoral universities in the United States. UWM had coveted such status for years, and projects such as the gravitational-wave research helped achieve it.

The method for observing a gravitational wave originated in 1972, when Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist Rainer Weiss outlined the design of what would become the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or LIGO. Conventional telescopes cannot directly observe a black hole, where gravity is so powerful that even light does not escape, nor can telescopes see the gravitational waves that emanate from black holes. So scientists devised sophisticated laser technology that measures the minute effect of a gravitational wave as it passes over the Earth. LIGO observatories were constructed, beginning in 1994, in Livingston, Louisiana, and Hanford, Washington. In 1997, founders of the project organized the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, now made up of more than 1,000 scientists from 90 institutions around the world. UWM’s LIGO group was among the founding members. Its faculty, postdoctoral researchers and grad students helped design and build the tools – a cluster of computers, databases and programs – that move data from the observatories to LIGO’s computer centers. They also helped analyze the data that confirmed the gravitational wave discovery.

Brady serves on the collaborative’s executive committee and chairs LIGO’s data analysis software working group. Weeks after the first wave was detected, he joined a conference call to track the results of LIGO’s deep analysis of the findings.

“Around the world,” he says, “hundreds of people watched as the webpage revealed what the results said. And it was that day that we knew this thing was five-sigma.” It’s the highest statistical measurement of confidence among scientists that their discovery is accurate and not related to chance.

A short walk down the hall from Brady’s office is one reserved for physicist Leonard Parker. A UWM distinguished emeritus professor, Parker has spent his career devising theories relating to the expanding universe. His trailblazing theory of the creation of particles – or mass – in the universe inspired thousands of published papers by physicists around the globe and put him on par with some of the biggest names in the field.

Dressed in a tweed sport jacket, Parker is modest and soft-spoken. He speaks humbly and sparingly about his professional
achievements, focusing instead on the work of his mentors and peers, while extolling the prominence of UWM’s physics department.

Still, it is his name that graces the Center for Gravitation, Cosmology and Astrophysics, a research center that has grown in size and stature since Parker was named its founding director in 1997.

At one point, Parker’s theories paralleled Stephen Hawking’s black hole theories. “His work set the scene for Hawking’s discovery that black holes do create particles,” says Brady, whom Parker promoted in 2007 to head the center. “That field – Leonard was the founder of it – was just a burgeoning field through the ’70s and into the ’80s, and of course has had a profound impact on our understanding of the universe and of black holes in recent times.”

Like many physicists, Parker contemplated the existence of gravitational waves decades before they were detected. And in some ways, his work was a steppingstone for the development of LIGO.

Parker retired in 2008, or “supposedly retired,” as he says. He worked with doctoral students for a few more years, and he still logs onto his computer from his home office these days. Sometimes, he walks to campus to join staff and students in colloquia and seminars. His KIRC workspace features thick texts stacked on bookshelves and the floor. One shelf holds his doctoral thesis, “The Creation of Particles in an Expanding Universe,” 360 pages of mathematical genius that caught the eye of the physics community when it was published.

That was 1966. Parker has been on a theoretical quest of the cosmos ever since.

He was born in Brooklyn in 1938. As a boy, he had a keen awareness of the role science played in World War II. “By the time the war ended in 1945, I had heard about nuclear fission and things like that,” he says. He was drawn to science early, conducting chemistry experiments in his parents’ basement, studying fruit flies in school. To gaze at the stars, he built a 3-inch reflecting telescope.

“At 12, I decided I wanted to be a physicist,” he says.

Neither of his parents graduated from high school. “They had to go to work,” he says.

His father continued in the family’s traditional profession by running a dress-manufacturing business in New York’s garment district. Parker’s paternal grandfather, a Jewish immigrant from Lithuania, had also worked in textiles. Meanwhile, his mother’s parents – Jewish immigrants from what is now the Ukraine – opened a grocery store in Brooklyn. Parker’s family eventually bought a house in Jamaica Estates, an upper-middle-class neighborhood in Queens.

Accepted into the prestigious Bronx High School of Science, Parker excelled. He was also a member of the Manhattan Chess Club, where he often played against – and lost to – a 12-year-old Bobby Fischer, who’d become history’s 11th world chess champion. Graduating high school in 1956, Parker enrolled at the University of Rochester in upstate New York. There, he met his wife, Gloria, who was studying elementary education. They married in 1961.

Since early in high school, Parker had been reading Einstein. “There were these statements you would always hear about relativity of time and blah blah blah,” he says. “So I tried to actually understand that. My next-door neighbor was the editor at Philosophical Library, which published books on Einstein. He would give me some of those books to read. I remember I was very excited about it all.” The neighbor had even planned to introduce Parker to Einstein, but Einstein died in 1955 before a meeting could be arranged.

Parker graduated from Rochester summa cum laude and was accepted into a graduate program at Harvard University. Suddenly, he was breathing the same air as many of the world’s eminent physicists, some of whom would win the Nobel Prize – Julian Schwinger in 1965, Sheldon Glashow in 1979 and Roy Glauber in 2005.

Parker studied Einstein’s theory of
When a grav wave passes by, space is stretched and squashed, causing the arms to alternately lengthen and shorten, so the laser beams travel different distances. Although the changes are typically only 1/10,000th the width of a proton, sensors can detect the discrepancy, creating a measurable interference pattern. If the pattern matches what’s expected from a gravitational wave source, scientists know they’ve detected a grav wave.

– courtesy of LIGO Scientific Collaboration

LIGO stands for Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory. Laser beams are shone through the observatory’s two perpendicular arms, which are 4 kilometers in length, and mirrors at each end reflect those lasers.

When a grav wave passes by, space is stretched and squashed, causing the arms to alternately lengthen and shorten, so the laser beams travel different distances. Although the changes are typically only 1/10,000th the width of a proton, sensors can detect the discrepancy, creating a measurable interference pattern. If the pattern matches what’s expected from a gravitational wave source, scientists know they’ve detected a grav wave.
solved the proof, showing how particles are emitted as a black hole is formed, generating radiation. Hawking submitted a paper for publication just three weeks before Parker’s submission was received. Parker had been scooped.

“It turned out I was not as productive as I should have been,” he says. “That was the problem that Hawking solved, in a beautiful way, using a different method.”

Still, he remained at the top of his game as an internationally renowned physicist throughout his career.

In 2011, Milwaukee philanthropists Alfred and Isabel Bader made a generous donation to UWM in Parker’s name. Alfred Bader, a Harvard grad and chemist who founded Aldrich Chemical Co. in Milwaukee, had been a good friend of Parker’s since the late 1960s. And as a condition of the $1.6 million gift, he and his wife asked the university to rename the physics center the Leonard E. Parker Center for Gravitation, Cosmology and Astrophysics.

Humbled yet hesitant, Parker tried to talk them out of it. “I thought it should have been named after Alfred,” Parker says, “but he insisted that it be named after me.”

From behind his desk, with a laptop, desktop computer and cell phone within easy reach, Patrick Brady spins entertaining narratives as he explains the complexities of gravitational physics. Speaking in a patient and at times lyrical manner, his Irish origin is betrayed by a slight brogue.

Brady, 50, grew up in Dublin. His father was a sheet-metal worker who toiled on automobiles, and his mother was a homemaker. “My dad was a very talented man with his hands, incredibly good at solving problems that required manual labor. I learned a lot,” he says. “People sometimes make fun of me in the LIGO collaborative because they think of me as a theorist who doesn’t know how to do any experimental things.

“But, you know,” and he smiles as he sets up the punch line, “I know how to change the clutch in a Mini Cooper in four hours. You can’t tell me that I don’t know how to use my hands.”

He was the first in his extended family to attend university, and both of his parents stressed the importance of higher education. “Dad would always say, ‘Education is no load to carry.’”

After Brady completed a degree in mathematical science at University College in Dublin, a professor’s recommendation led him to a three-year stint at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, to study with Werner Israel, a leading black hole theoretician. His interest in gravitational physics had started earlier, when he became fascinated with black holes in the 1970s. “I was a young kid at the time,” he says, noting he was born a year after a famous mathematical result was published by English physicist Roger Penrose. “He wrote a very short two pages in which he essentially convinced the world that objects must collapse down to form black holes.”

A renaissance in black hole theory was underway, led by the likes of Wheeler, Penrose, Israel, Hawking, Parker and Kip Thorne, one of LIGO’s three founders. In the face of ample scientific skepticism about the existence of so-called dark stars, “they were making fabulous discoveries about black holes and learning what Einstein’s theory told us about black holes,” Brady says. “That science was leaking into the popular culture.

While vacationing in the U.S. with his family a few years later, he rummaged through stores searching for books on Einstein’s work. “At that point, I was thoroughly fascinated with Einstein’s theory of relativity. In particular, I wanted to do the math.”
For Brady, the road to LIGO started in 1995 when he was a postdoctoral researcher at Newcastle University in northeastern England. Unexpectedly, he received an email from Thorne, who was a professor at the California Institute of Technology. Thorne offered him a fellowship, and Brady began working on gravitational wave detection at Caltech, developing software for analyzing and interpreting data.

A few years earlier, Thorne, Weiss and Ronald Drever, an experimental physicist from Scotland, had won funding for the LIGO project from the National Science Foundation, allowing them to assemble a team and begin designing the detector. The ongoing funding would eventually top $1 billion, making it the largest NSF-sponsored experiment in history. Finding a new way to look at the universe was deemed that important.

Meanwhile, at Parker’s urging, UWM hired theoretical physicist Bruce Allen. Allen had worked at MIT with Weiss, the original designer of the LIGO apparatus, and completed his doctorate under the guidance of Hawking at Cambridge University. While visiting LIGO scientists at Caltech, Allen met Brady.

“UWM’s involvement in LIGO began with Bruce Allen,” Brady says. “He convinced the university soon after he arrived that hiring somebody – which turned out to be me – in gravitational waves would be a good idea.” Brady accepted a position at UWM in 1999.

Soon after moving to Milwaukee, Brady met Rachel McGraw at a singalong at an Irish bar. They married and now live in the Riverwest neighborhood. A Milwaukee native, Rachel was a study abroad coordinator at UWM’s Center for International Education before she started work on a doctorate in geography at UW-Madison. “She’s also become my spokesperson,” Brady says. “She gives the spiel at cocktail parties of what I do. She’s very understanding of the complexity of the project and how long it took to get here.”

Around the same time as Brady’s arrival, UWM recruited fellow Caltech researchers Alan Wiseman and Jolien Creighton. They were helping design the LIGO computer infrastructure that would be up and running if and when a gravitational wave arrived. UWM’s LIGO team of data analysts was strong and getting stronger.

Bruce Allen moved on in 2007 to become director of the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics in Hannover, Germany. But with Brady as the center’s director, UWM continued to grow the LIGO group, recruiting Xavier Siemens later that year. And with that steady growth came research grants: During the past decade, the LIGO group has garnered some $25 million in National Science Foundation grants.

“We’ve been very strategic within the last decade, adding faculty with a strategic view for gravitational-wave astronomy,” Brady says. “Part of the effort is to open up that field, and then to work on the science that would come after we made the first discovery.”

The paper announcing the detection of the first gravitational wave was published on Feb. 11, 2016. It was signed by 1,004 authors from around the globe. About 20 were from UWM, including Brady, Creighton, Siemens and Wiseman. Another 20 to 40, Brady says, had close connections to UWM, usually as former students or faculty members who had moved on to other institutions.

The paper has been cited in more than 500 scientific articles. “That is very unusual,” Brady says. “Most of those
articles are written by other scientists about what the meaning of this observation might be. There are all sorts of wonderful ideas."

The detection of gravitational waves was a “revolutionary” moment in modern science, Brady says. “As we learn more, we’re going to understand more about how stars come to life, how they live, how they die, how the universe changes with time. It’s just going to be huge.”

In spite of his modest nature, Leonard Parker is greatly respected within the scientific world. His work is widely cited. He shares the podium at conferences with the likes of Hawking and Paul Davies, an English physicist and best-selling author. At an August 2015 conference on quantum field theory in Stockholm, Sweden, Davies noted that if it weren’t for Parker’s work, none of the participants would have been there.

Through the 1970s, ‘80s and into the ‘90s, the pioneering research of Parker and colleagues Bruce Allen and John Friedman – the former chairman of the department and now professor emeritus – placed the physics department on par with some of the best in the world. That includes such places as Cambridge, Caltech and the University of Chicago, distinguished company that lifted the entire status of UWM.

On the shoulders of their mentors, the next generation of theorists – Brady, Creighton, Siemens and Wiseman – uphold that world-class reputation, largely through their work on gravitational waves.

Brady will tell you that when he was at Caltech and looking for his next assignment, he viewed Parker and his UWM colleagues as “rock stars” in their fields. He’d cut his teeth on Parker’s work, and while Brady was completing his doctorate, his adviser steered him to Parker’s papers on quantum field theory.

As a postdoctoral researcher, he and a colleague wrote and published a paper on quantum mechanics and black holes, and a short time later, during one of his first visits to UWM, he was introduced to Parker.

“I went to Leonard’s office,” recalls Brady, “and he said, ‘I have your paper here. I’d like you to tell me about it.’” Sitting elbow to elbow, the mentor and the protégé went through it page by page, line by line. “I was struck by the fact that Leonard wanted to sit down and understand the details.”

Nearly 20 years later, Brady heads the center named for Parker, his patient benefactor. “The success of the Parker Center is the result of a fabulous team of faculty that historically began as a result of Leonard being here,” he says.

Today, Brady and that team are mentoring the next generation of standouts, young professors and researchers exploring ideas about galaxy formation and supernovas, struggling through proofs and searching billions of light years into the past for answers that could shape the future.
Near the lowest point of Kevin Evans’ life, he received the direction that would make him the man he is today. A staff member at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center looked at Evans, surveyed his problems, and saw someone with untapped capacities for leadership, perseverance and empathy.

“He told me,” Evans recalls, “You would be a great success in social service, working with people, if you went back and got your education. Also, you know a lot about the street life, and that’s great for helping people out.”

The man’s suggestion started Evans on a journey that led to a master’s degree in social work from UWM. And he couldn’t have earned that degree in 2011 without assistance from UWM’s Veterans Upward Bound program. Since then, UWM has opened its Military and Veterans Resource Center, or MAVRC. Both initiatives offer a broad range of services for veterans, and more than 1,000 of them are enrolled as UWM students.

Now, Evans uses his degree to help fellow veterans who are stuck in ruts similar to those he escaped. He works for the nonprofit Center for Veterans Issues, which assists vets through a variety of programs, including counseling, housing services and job skills. Evans was discharged from the Army in 1986 after a 10-year hitch as a wireman and supply clerk, which included a tour in South Korea protecting the Demilitarized Zone. He was eager to get home to Milwaukee, but Evans soon realized he had no idea what to do next. Unable to adjust to civilian life, he struggled with substance abuse and reintegration problems. He became estranged from his family, eventually drifting into homelessness on and off for much of a decade.

“Life wasn’t going too good,” recalls Evans, now 57 years old. “The transition was very hard.”

After that visit to the VA, Evans initially found the advice he received offensive. “How can this young white guy tell me anything,” he recalls thinking at the time. But his thoughts returned to what the man had told him: “What he was saying, he made a lot of sense.”

With encouragement from his mother, the big step came in 1997, when Evans reached out to the staff at VETS Place Central, a transitional housing service run by the Center for Veterans Issues. It provides temporary shelter to displaced servicemen and women. For Evans, taking that step wasn’t easy.

“It’s a pride thing. It’s like, ‘I’m a man and I should be taking care of myself,’” he says. “I had to go out to VPC and humble myself, and say, ‘Hey, I need you guys to help.’”

He didn’t know then that he’d someday become one of the helpers.
A social worker at the Center for Veterans Issues, or CVI, asked Evans what he wanted to do with his life. He told her he wanted an education so he could help people in situations similar to his. So, with CVI’s help, he enrolled in Veterans Upward Bound, a federally funded educational program that teaches veterans core learning skills in preparation for college coursework.

“We started doing the reading, writing and arithmetic,” he says. “Three areas that a lot of veterans are very slow in now. I went there and got all my stuff up to gear.”

He had tried college before, right out of Milwaukee’s North Division High School, where he was a champion wrestler. He earned a wrestling scholarship to UW-Parkside, but he didn’t maintain his grades and withdrew to enlist in the Army.

This time, he was determined to see a different result, and this time, he found that he liked school. Evans stuck with Upward Bound, slowly gaining proficiencies in key areas. Soon he began to collect diplomas. He received an associate degree in human services from Milwaukee Area Technical College in 2001. Then came a bachelor’s in criminal justice from Springfield College in Milwaukee.

“I guess I was a little older and wiser, and I really wanted to set some stakes in my life,” Evans says.

A few years after completing his undergraduate degree, Evans learned of UWM’s master’s program in social work. He realized it was the opportunity he was searching for, a path to landing a job in which he could help others in difficult situations.

“I wanted to change my whole life story,” he says. “I felt I was a menace to society and I wanted to give back.”

He enrolled, only to soon find himself struggling with the advanced coursework, partly because, he later discovered, he had a learning disability. Determination and personalized coping techniques had seen him through his previous degrees, but that wasn’t enough in grad school. This, coupled with something of an outsider status as a veteran and nontraditional student, suggested Evans had more difficult times ahead.

Jayne Holland, assistant director of community outreach at MAVRC, says those types of initial school experiences are common among former military personnel. “When [vets] leave the military, they’re leaving behind a place that’s very structured,” she says. “They were told what to do every day. They knew as soon as they woke up what they had to do that day. Then when they come to the college campus, it’s very unstructured. You are told you’re going to go to these classes, but the rest of it is up to you. So they lose some of that sense of purpose.”

MAVRC, colloquially called “maverick,” launched at UWM in 2013 and acts as a one-stop shop for veterans seeking assistance throughout their academic careers. It briefs vets on the application process at the Military Education Benefits Office, guides them through campus life, and connects veteran students and their spouses to employment resources.

“We try to help them every step of the way in every place they might need it,” Holland says. MAVRC also educates UWM faculty about veterans’ needs and behaviors in the classroom.

UWM educates more veterans than any other four-year institution in the
Midwest, with more than 1,000 enrolled annually, UWM is also one of only three universities nationwide to participate in all three major veteran support programs: Upward Bound, the Pat Tillman Foundation Scholars program and the Department of Veterans Affairs VetSuccess on Campus program.

The average age of veterans enrolled at UWM is 30, and 20 percent are female. The graduation rate hovers at about 90 percent. Holland says those figures probably underestimate UWM’s impact because they only look at veterans using federal benefits.

Although Evans was at UWM prior to MAVRC’s inception, Upward Bound introduced him to resources like the UWM Writing Center and encouraged him to speak to his professors about his learning disability. Instructors accommodated him in ways that didn’t leave him at a disadvantage. The adjustments allowed him to thrive.

“I never missed a day of school,” he says. “And I catch onto stuff fast. If you’ve ever been in the military, jumping out of airplanes and helicopters, you’ve got to catch on fast.”

Lisa Berger, an associate professor at the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, advised Evans and instructed him in two courses. “He was a student who was so happy just to be in school developing himself,” she says. “I really respect his commitment to his community of veterans and giving back. I think it makes him dedicated to what he does, and he’s driven by his own personal mission.”

He also took point on recruiting classmates for study groups, eliminating a difficulty Holland identifies as unique to many veterans. “They’re used to working as a team with a group of people in their unit and being part of that team. When they lose that support network, some of them struggle a little bit. They feel alone,” she says.

Evans says working around younger students brought him strength. Berger figures it was mutual. “His enthusiasm is rather contagious,” she says.

Evans took his newly minted master’s degree to a job at CVI, the same agency that ran the housing program that helped him nearly two decades ago. Working as an outreach specialist, he spends much of his time offering help to homeless vets. Some accept it. Others aren’t ready.

“One lady gave me a story one day,” Evans says. “I said, ‘I’ve got this housing for you to stay at.’ She said, ‘What did veterans used to do when we were in the service out in the field? We slept out in the woods.’ She wanted to continue sleeping out in the field. But I still gave her my business card and everything else, and told her that if she ever needs our help, she knows where our organization is.”

Working with vets facing obstacles he once faced has allowed Evans to appreciate how far he’s come over the past two decades. But the proximity to his former life also keeps him closely tethered to the idea about how short a fall it is back to that situation. “Every morning when I get up, my mind is already set,” he says. “I’m not going back today.”

Because he has better plans for the day.

“It makes me feel good when I go home at night knowing that I touched somebody else’s life,” he says. “I had a gentleman a couple months ago. His wife ran up to me after church and said, ‘I want to thank you for helping my husband. Now me, him and our daughter are back together.’

“This is what we do.”

The offices of UWM’s Military and Veterans Resource Center, known as MAVRC, are home to a wide range of support services for veterans. The center is just one of many examples of UWM’s commitment to educating veterans and a big reason why vets graduate from UWM at a rate of about 90 percent.

UWM EDUCATES MORE MILITARY VETERANS THAN ANY OTHER FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION IN THE MIDWEST, WITH MORE THAN 1,000 ENROLLED ANNUALLY.
Wayne Youngquist

The 1960 homecoming parade wound through downtown Milwaukee on Wisconsin Avenue, a celebration of a relatively new institution called the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In one of the open-air cars was the school’s student body president, 21-year-old Wayne Youngquist. A car in front of him held Milwaukee’s newly elected mayor, 42-year-old Henry Maier.

People lined the street, cheering the procession of cars, floats and marching bands, creating exactly the scene that Youngquist had envisioned while planning the festivities with fellow students. There had been other homecoming parades, but this one focused on a unified UWM. Rallying everyone around a common goal was no small achievement for a student body composed of so many disparate commuters, and for a campus still finding itself after the merging of its former component schools, the Wisconsin State College and the UW Milwaukee Extension.

“There was an identity issue,” recalls Youngquist, who’s now 77 and still lives in Milwaukee. “Anything you could do to enhance school spirit was a good thing.” It was a time to build memories.

Today, UWM’s identity is stronger than ever, and it’s being celebrated with a fresh commitment to homecoming festivities. From Oct. 4 to 8, some 20 activities will bring students and alumni together in the name of Panther Pride. It starts with the Homecoming Kickoff noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, at the Union Concourse, and it wraps up with UWM’s women’s soccer game against Oakland University, 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, at Engelmann Stadium. Other highlights include the Homecoming Concert, the Annual Alumni Awards Evening and the 12th annual Panther Prowl.

“Today, UWM’s identity is stronger than ever, and it’s being celebrated with a fresh commitment to homecoming festivities.”

Youngquist was part of UWM’s second full graduating class in 1961, which launched his dual careers as a college professor and a political analyst for Milwaukee TV station WISN Channel 12. In his wake, other students carried on the homecoming traditions. But the dissolution of UWM’s football team, which played its final down in 1974, contributed to homecoming’s fade from campus.

So when Youngquist heard that UWM was reviving homecoming, he loved the idea. “There are always going to be some people who self-engage,” he says. “But there are others who are on the fence. This is a doorway for them to come in and be involved, to add to that identity.”

More than half a century after that homecoming parade, Youngquist can still see the crowds and hear their excitement. He even remembers a moment after he and Maier had exited their cars and the cheers grew louder. Maier, ever the pragmatic politician, leaned over to his student companion. “They’re all on my side now,” he told Youngquist, “but when are they gonna turn?” Not for a while, apparently, because Maier held the mayoral office for 28 years.

Those memories mingle with others for Youngquist – his classes, his days on the UWM track team under coach John Tierney, the old Union office he used as student body president. “Now,” he laughs, “it’s a broom closet.”

Taken together, each little experience helped form the foundation of the man he became. “It was a fun time,” he says. “We had a ball, and perhaps did some good for the university.”
HARVEST FEST
10 A.M.-2 P.M., THURSDAY, OCT. 6, KIRC BUILDING
If the farmers market and food trucks don’t get your attention, maybe the “Human Foosball” will. Yes, it’s a thing, and one of many games planned for the lawn in front of the KIRC Building. Other activities planned around the fall-themed celebration include a pumpkin-carving competition, a pie auction and a corn roast. Come to harvest the fun.

PANTHER PROWL 5K RUN/WALK
10 A.M., SATURDAY, OCT. 8, INTERSECTION OF HARTFORD AND DOWNER AVENUES
Choose your pace; leisurely stroll or all-out effort. Just don’t miss what’s become one of the premier campus events of the year. More than 1,800 people participated in 2015, and all money raised directly supports UWM scholarships. Events are open to children and adults. After your race is run, or walked, dine at one of the food trucks or sample snacks from other businesses. You’ll have surely earned it.

THURSDAY, OCT. 6
BLACK & GOLD SPIRIT DAY
All day, campuswide
HARVEST FEST
10 a.m.-2 p.m., KIRC Building
GASTHAUS TRIVIA
8 p.m., Gasthaus, Union Basement
HOMECOMING CONCERT
8-10 p.m., Union Ballroom

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5
UWM FALL AWARDS CEREMONY
2-4 p.m., Union Wisconsin Room
LASER TAG TOURNAMENT
8 p.m.-midnight, Union Ballroom
LATE-NIGHT OLYMPICS
9-11 p.m., Klotsche Center

FRIDAY, OCT. 7
MASTER CHATS: A SERIES FOR ADVANCED LEARNING
(registration required)
10:30 a.m.-noon, Golda Meir Library
ALUMNI AWARDS EVENING
(invitation required)
6-9 p.m., Discovery World
500 N. Harbor Drive, Milwaukee
OUTDOOR MOVIE IN THE PLAZA
7-9 p.m., Spaights Plaza

SATURDAY, OCT. 8
PANTHER FAMILY WEEKEND 2016
9 a.m.-5 p.m., campuswide and citywide
PANTHER PROWL 5K RUN/WALK
10 a.m., intersection of Hartford and Downer avenues
FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL
10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Hartford Avenue between Downer and Maryland avenues
PANTHER FANDEMONIUM
1-3 p.m., Klotsche Center
TEDXUWMILWAUKEE PRESENTS I. AM. WE. ARE.
1-6 p.m., UWM Mainstage Theater, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd.
WOMEN’S SOCCER VS. OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
7 p.m., Engelmann Stadium

Events and times subject to change.
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Michael McCrea, ’91 MS Clinical Psychology, ’94 PhD Clinical Psychology

Michael McCrea is a board-certified professor of neurosurgery and director of brain injury research at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he has earned international recognition for his research on mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI, or brain concussion) and the associated implications for public health policy. Concussions are a major public health concern, particularly in sports and the military, two areas that have benefitted from McCrea’s extensive research and advocacy. McCrea is the principal investigator for multiple large-scale studies of the effects of concussion on brain structure and function.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SERVICE AWARDS

Judith Scott, ’81 MBA

Judy Scott has never forgotten how her UWM professors helped prepare her for a career in finance and secure a summer internship at Robert W. Baird & Co. in 1980. Today, she’s a senior adviser of investment banking at the company, where she helped organize its Panthers@Work initiative to bring together the many Baird employees with UWM degrees. Scott also has dedicated thousands of hours on campus, supporting the Honors College, student scholarships and networking, as well as skill-building opportunities for business and finance majors.

Christina Fiasca, ’80 BBA Accounting

Chris Fiasca’s UWM pride has shone in her personal and professional lives, starting when she met her husband at the Golda Meir Library as a student. As a vice president of finance at Northwestern Mutual, a role from which she’s since retired, Fiasca was deeply involved in the UWM Alumni Association’s Panthers@Work program, reaching out to the 800-plus alumni who work there, connecting fellow alumni and fostering their Panther Pride. Her business acumen has been invaluable to the UWM Foundation Board of Directors, which she has helped steer for more than a decade.

UWM FOUNDATION ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dennis Kois, ’96 BA Museum and Exhibit Design

Dennis Kois’ reputation as one of the museum world’s most innovative designers started at UWM, where he helped create his own degree program. Since then, he has transformed community institutions across the country, including The Grace Museum in Abilene, Texas, and Boston’s deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, where he installed one of America’s first museum-integrated preschools. He’s now president and CEO of the Milwaukee Public Museum, where his belief that museum experiences can transform lives informs his approach to community engagement.

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARDS

Michael Falbo, Regent Emeritus, University of Wisconsin System

Sally Lundeen, Professor, Retiring Dean, UWM College of Nursing

Les Weil, Principal, Les Weil Consulting

PANTHER PRIDE VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Chris Larson, ’07 BBA, Wisconsin State Senator

Peter Tellier, ’72 BBA, ’74 MBA, Certified Public Accountant, Retired

GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE AWARDS (GRADUATE)

Sarah Donovan, ’09 BS, ’12 MS, Assistant Vice President, Guaranty Bank

Nikiya Harris Dodd, ’01 BS, ’07 MS, Wisconsin State Senator

Nicholas Hartlep, ’12 PhD, Assistant Professor, Illinois State University

Aaron Lipski, ’02 BA, ’14 MPA, Deputy Chief, Milwaukee Fire Department

Susan Schweigert, ’11 MA, Founder and Owner, Schweigert Language Services

GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE AWARDS (UNDERGRADUATE)

Jonathan Brostoff, ’11 BA, Wisconsin State Representative

Eleanor Cotey, ’09 BFA, Head of Wardrobe, Joffrey Ballet

Catherine Giljohann, ’10 BBA, Project Manager-Global Sales Operations, Rockwell Automation

Audra O’Connell, ’08 BA, Coordinated Entry Program Director, IMPACT Inc.

Ella Peinovich, ’06 BS, Founder, SOKO

Julie Waterman, ’07 BA, Owner/Chocolatier, Indulgence Chocolatiers

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Reuben Harpole, ’78 BS, ’05 Honorary PhD, Humanitarian

Kimberley Motley, ’99 BS ,’03 MS, International Lawyer and Litigator, CEO of Motley Consulting International

CORPORATE PARTNER AWARDS

Marcus Corporation Foundation

The Water Council
Alumni from across UWM’s schools and colleges are helping future generations of Panthers by giving to scholarships. These graduates see themselves in the faces of our students and identify with the struggles they are facing. Some of these donors are honoring loved ones, some have made provisions in their wills, and some are slowly and steadily increasing their giving as their careers blossom. All of them recognize the value a UWM education can have in unlocking future success.

NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS GET A BOOST

Karin Schmidt ’89 attributes her successful 32 years in social work to completing her graduate degree as a UWM nontraditional student. She even worked at UWM, mentoring students headed for social work careers of their own.

With gratitude for her UWM education, Karin has made provisions in her estate plan to establish a scholarship for nontraditional students earning graduate degrees at the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare. Many of these students are raising a family or working full time and have fewer scholarship options.

“Supporting students of all ages is a priority for the Helen Bader School,” says Dean Stan Stojkovic. “Students pursuing careers in social work and criminal justice often find themselves in modestly paid positions and cannot sustain large student debt.” Thanks to generous donors like Schmidt, the school can ensure a strong pipeline of talented professionals to address some of society’s most challenging issues.

GIFT HONORS PARENTS OF NINE UWM ALUMNI

When Vi Horn married Harry Schell in 1964, their blended family included 12 children. During the next four decades, nine of the siblings attended UWM as first-generation college students: Richard (Dick) Horn ’66, ’68; Rebecca Schell Pelzek ’67; Barbara Horn Honesty; Robert Schell; Thomas Schell; Nancy Schell Lange ’73; Howard Schell ’76; Pamela Horn Roble ’00; and Jacquelyn Schell Schneider ’82.

Nearly 50 years after earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at UWM, Dick, along with his wife, Susan Rashid Horn, created a scholarship in honor of his parents. “We want to help other first-generation and nontraditional students create a meaningful future,” say Dick and Susan. “By making a bequest in our will to establish the Harry P. Schell and Vi Horn Schell Scholarship, we also recognize the crucial role UWM has played in the lives of the Schell/Horn children. We want this scholarship to be a catalyst for change in students’ lives.”
CREATING A LEGACY THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

“Finances should never be a roadblock to getting an education,” says DeVona Wright Cottrell ’06, who earned her EMBA at UWM’s Lubar School of Business and is now director and associate general counsel at Robert W. Baird & Co. Wright Cottrell recently established the Legacy Scholarship, which she says “is meant to embody the purpose and passion behind its creation – a scholarship for students of color who are high-performing leaders and trailblazers.” DeVona’s personal story of tenacity in achieving her education despite financial pressures and difficult circumstances can encourage her scholarship recipients to aim high and find their own success. The scholarship is being awarded this year for the first time.

“As DeVona’s former professor, it’s been wonderful observing her career success and growing engagement with UWM, the Lubar School of Business and the UWM Foundation,” says Chancellor Mark Mone. “UWM students have greater opportunity thanks to DeVona’s leadership and generous support.”

A COMMITMENT TO HONORS STUDENTS

“I would not have made it through my undergraduate years at UWM without the help of scholarships,” says AJ KleinOsowski ’99, an alumna of the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences and the Honors College. Now a research scientist and design engineer with The Boeing Company, AJ and her husband, Kevin KleinOsowski ’97, have established a scholarship for Honors College students at UWM.

“As soon as I paid off my student loans, I took the equivalent monthly payments and routed those funds into scholarships for future students,” she explains. “As my career progressed and my income increased, I elevated those funds to a named undergraduate scholarship, and each year, I leveraged matching funds from my employer to increase the impact of my giving. I am very proud to support the KleinOsowski Honors College Scholarship at UWM. I cherish the opportunity to help these exemplary students in launching their academic and professional careers.”

40 NEW SCHOLARSHIPS CREATED $2,730 AVERAGE AMOUNT PER SCHOLARSHIP

12.6% MORE DOLLARS AWARDED THAN 2014-15 10.5% MORE STUDENT RECIPIENTS THAN 2014-15

Statistics from 2015-16 academic year
SEX, DRUGS, ROCK AND PROTEST: REVISITING UWM IN THE 1960s
Lawrence Kessenich ’74

Award-winning poet Lawrence Kessenich is the author of “Cinnamon Girl,” a new novel set at UWM and on Milwaukee’s east side from 1969-70, one of the most tumultuous years in our history. He recalls the social upheaval of the era, and asks us to consider what caused it and what it accomplished.

WHAT DOES THE WORLD MAP LOOK LIKE IN 100 YEARS?
Frank Schneiger ’64

Frank Schneiger is founder and principal of a firm that specializes in organizational change. In this talk, he will examine three political maps, starting with one from the midst of World War I. He’ll then examine what the world map looks like in 2016 and try discerning how it will look in 2116.

JOHN BASCOM AND THE ORIGINS OF THE WISCONSIN IDEA
J. David Hoeveler

The UWM distinguished professor in history has written seven books, including this most recent one about the Wisconsin Idea. Bascom was president of the University of Wisconsin from 1874-1887 and championed temperance, women’s rights and labor. Hoeveler explores his long-lasting legacy with the UW System.

These free events are held at the Golda Meir Library fourth-floor conference center from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Reserve your spot: attend.com/masterchats
1960s

Rhoda Ebersole ('66 BS Medical Technology) underwrote the publication of the book “Seasons in Time” – which was dedicated to the Suring Area Historical Society in 2015. She donated money earned from the book to SAHS to help with the renovation and preservation of the 100-year-old Opera House in Suring, Wisconsin.

Dick Sauer ('66 BFA Art, '69 MFA Art Education) exhibited his “Jimmy Buffett Tribute Series” in ArtsPark, the largest gallery in Hollywood, Florida. Sauer has taught at UW-Stevens Point, Mount Wachusett Community College and Rhode Island School of Design. His website is dick-sauer.fineartamerica.com.

1970s

Diana L. Ahmad ('74 BA History, '79 MA History) is a professor of history at the Missouri University of Science and Technology specializing in the American West. In January 2016, she became a curators’ teaching professor.

Thomas J. Trimborn ('67 BFA, '68 MM Music), a Truman State University professor emeritus of music, was inducted into the Missouri Music Educators Association Hall of Fame, recognizing his lasting impact on music education in Missouri and beyond. Prior to joining the Truman faculty in 1993 as director of the master of arts in education’s music program, he taught at Palatine High School in Illinois and Valparaiso University in Indiana. He retired in 2014 after 45 years as a teacher.

Philip Kassner ('74 BS Clinical Psychology) recently published “Coffee Ennui,” an autobiographical book of poems and photos.

Kevin Baaske ('76 BA Communication, '78 MA Communication) was presented with an Outstanding Professor Award at the 2015 University Convocation for California State University, Los Angeles, where he’s a communication studies professor. An active member of the university community, he’s served on many academic senates and directed speech and debate teams there for 20 years.

Joyce Goulet ('77 BS Social Welfare) is now the chapter chair of SCORE Southeast Wisconsin, a nonprofit organization offering free mentoring to startups and existing small businesses. Goulet is the founder and former managing principal of The Goulet Group.

Lawrence Kessenich ('74 BA English) is an author and former editor at Houghton Mifflin Publishing Co. His first novel, “Cinnamon Girl,” deals with the collision of politics and college life in the late 1960s at UWM. He's also written short plays that were produced in New York and Boston, and one that won the People’s Choice Award in a national drama competition in Colorado.
Phyllis Dixon ('78 BBA Marketing) is author of the new novel “Down Home Blues.” She’s also written the novel “Forty Acres” and is co-author of “Let the Brother Go If...” She is a contributing author to “Chicken Soup for the African American Woman’s Soul,” and has written for American Legacy magazine and the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Holiday gatherings for the Flanagan/Gaertner family have quite the UWM theme. Their last Christmas get-together included 12 UWM graduates as well as a current UWM student.

Next to stairs, front to back: Michael Bloom ('90 BA English) and Mark Flanagan ('95 BBA Management Information Services).

On stairs, front to back and left to right: Joey Gulotta (current student), Tom Flanagan ('95 BBA Management Information Systems), Beth Flanagan Bloom ('90 BS Education, English), Karen Ewig Flanagan ('77 BA Exceptional Education), BarbaraJean Flanagan ('82 BBA Management Information Systems), Sarah Gulotta ('12 BS Religious Studies), Susan Gaertner Claus ('86 BS Nursing), Mary Ellen Flanagan ('97 MS Curriculum and Instruction), Paul Gaertner ('82 BBA Finance), Susie Flanagan ('09 MS Communicative Sciences and Disorders) and Jennifer Bortolotti Flanagan ('91 BA Communication).

1980s

Kathleen Deegan Curley ('80 BBA Marketing) is serving her second three-year term on the board of trustees with the Napa Valley Museum in Yountville, California. She also served as an officer on the board’s executive council for three years.

Dr. Andrew Haig ('80 BS Medical Science) is an internationally recognized expert in rehabilitation. He recently joined the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital as its vice president of accountable care and medical informatics. He is a professor emeritus of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Michigan and president of Haig et al. Consulting in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Suheil Abdo ('81 PhD Chemistry/Catalysis-Surface Science) is a senior fellow at UOP LLC, a division of Honeywell Corp. His career has resulted in more than 75 U.S. and international patents, and many publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. He was recently named visiting distinguished professor at King Fahd University in Saudi Arabia.


Phyllis Dixon ('78 BBA Marketing) is author of the new novel “Down Home Blues.” She’s also written the novel “Forty Acres” and is co-author of “Let the Brother Go If...” She is a contributing author to “Chicken Soup for the African American Woman’s Soul,” and has written for American Legacy magazine and the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Patrice Van Hyle ('83 BA French, Italian and Political Science) is owner and translator at PVH Translate LLC. She was featured on the front page of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel’s business section in the article “Love of languages translates into fast-growing career.” She has contributed numerous articles to publications in the areas of translation, human rights, the environment, international development and interreligious dialogue.

William Thien ('84 BA English, '16 EMBA) is author of “The Dream Chip” and a published poet. He’s traveled to 20 countries and visited 40 of the contiguous United States. He’s a veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Reserves.
Eric Nitschke ('99 BSE Civil/Environmental Engineering) joined GRAEF as a senior project manager in its infrastructure group. He previously served as director for the southeastern region of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He draws upon his extensive experience working with the DNR, including expertise in water resources, as he returns to his engineering roots at GRAEF.

Matthew Dumich ('99 BS Architectural Studies) was named one of 2015’s “40 under 40” by Crain’s Chicago Business for his work as a senior architect and project manager at AS+GG Architecture. He also serves on the board of directors for Chicago’s chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Lois Carter (Fay) Crawford ('88 BA Clinical Psychology) and her husband, Don, have launched a robust recipe website, recipeideashop.com. They share recipes for time-tested family favorites and delectable treats, many of which are gluten-free, dairy-free and vegetarian. Each recipe includes instructions, a photo of the finished product and nutrition information, along with a personal story related to the recipe.

Stephen Lesavich ('86 MS Computer Science) was selected to serve on the Business Community Partnership Committee for Lakeview Technology Academy in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. The committee is a collaborative partnership of business leaders, government leaders and parents for discussing issues related to educating science, technology, engineering and math high school students. Lesavich is founder of the Lesavich High-Tech Law Group.


Laty Johnson ('99 BA Linguistics) has been selected as a visiting fellow with Education Pioneers, a national nonprofit dedicated to using collaboration, optimism, courage and action to make a profound impact in the lives of children.

Katherine Montweiler ('94 MA English) has been named director of the Women’s Studies and Resource Center at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Montweiler chairs the department of English and is a scholar of 19th-century literature. In 2009, she was awarded a distinguished teaching professorship, and in 2011, she received a Discere Aude award, which is presented to outstanding professors who have supported students in a mentoring role.

James Lowder ('99 MA English) is editor of “The Munchkin Book,” an official companion to the best-selling card game, which was released as part of BenBella’s Smart Pop book line. His fantasy and horror short stories have recently appeared in anthologies such as “Ghost in the Cogs” and “Genius Loci.”

1990s

Matthew Dumich ('99 BS Architectural Studies) was named one of 2015's “40 under 40” by Crain's Chicago Business for his work as a senior architect and project manager at AS+GG Architecture. He also serves on the board of directors for Chicago's chapter of the American Institute of Architects.
Betsy Buntrock Smith ('04 MS Taxation and Management) was promoted to vice president of finance at Association Acumen. Smith has 18 years of public and nonprofit accounting experience. At Association Acumen, she oversees accounting and finance functions as well as information technology. Prior to her promotion, she served as executive director of finance.

David Williams ('01 English) published "The Renegade Chronicles" in March 2016. The trilogy began as a class project when he attended UW-Fond du Lac. The content specialist at BrownBoots Interactive in Fond du Lac owns the independent publishing company One Million Words LLC, and his website is david-michael-williams.com.

Guangliang Ye ('04 MA Economics, '06 PhD Economics), Distinguished Professor John Heywood (Economics) and Zheng Wang ('14 PhD Economics) visited the Forbidden City in Beijing, China, in March 2016. Heywood was a keynote speaker for a workshop at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. Ye and Wang, Heywood’s former students, participated in the workshop and invited him to tour the Forbidden City together. Both Ye and Wang teach at universities in Beijing.

Marieke Westerman ('00 BBA Marketing) was named the vice president of Capture Marketing. Westerman previously owned and operated a consulting business that provided strategic marketing and communications services.

Nicolle Davies ('11 MLIS Library and Information Science) is the executive director of Arapahoe Libraries and has been named the Library Journal’s 2016 Librarian of the Year. Davies was recognized for building a committed and energized staff, and for implementing a forward-thinking strategic plan to move the library from “nice” to “essential.”

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Photos are welcomed!
KATHRYN HENRY, WHO GRADUATED IN MAY WITH a bachelor’s degree in vocal performance, has already made her mark in the opera world. In March 2015, at just 22 years old, she was a finalist in the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions. Now, she's off to The Juilliard School to work on her master's degree. The young soprano talks about her career so far and where it might yet go.

HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN OPERA?
In my last year of high school, my teacher told me to listen to “The Marriage of Figaro” by Mozart. I thought, ‘Like, wow, this is really cool.’ But I didn’t really fall in love with opera until I came to UWM. My freshman year, I saw my first opera live at the Marcus Center, and I decided this is absolutely what I want to do for the rest of my life.

WHY AUDITION FOR THE MET?
My teacher [Tanya Kruse Ruck, an assistant professor of voice and opera] wanted me to go out there and have that experience, because the Met auditions are such a big deal in the opera world. She said, ‘If nothing happens, it’s OK. It’s just your first time.’ And then I ended up going to the finals, which both of us never expected.

HOW UNUSUAL IS IT FOR SOMEONE YOUR AGE TO GET AS FAR AS YOU DID IN THE MET AUDITIONS?
It was really odd for me to go that far. Usually your voice [as an opera singer] doesn’t really fully develop until after age 25. But for someone who just turned 22 to sing at the Met, over an orchestra, and be able to compete with people who were three years or more older than me, that’s just really crazy. It was an amazing experience.

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR MASTER’S DEGREE?
I’ll be at Juilliard for two years. After that, I don’t know. I would love to get into an opera company. I am looking at possibly moving to Europe for a young artists program. What I’ll do during grad school is audition everywhere. I’ll just see where the road takes me. I just want to be able to live on my own and support myself.

WHEN PEOPLE MEET YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME, DO YOU GET A WEIRD REACTION WHEN YOU TELL THEM YOU’RE AN OPERA SINGER?
Yes, absolutely. I guess it’s because people just don’t understand it. They’re like, ‘You can get a degree in singing?’ You have to explain it to them, but that’s OK, because I love what I do and I’m lucky that I get to do what I love every day.
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