UW-Milwaukee Goes Global

...UWM fosters learning about the world beyond our borders, explores research partnerships that expand our knowledge base, supports an internationally diverse constituency of students and faculty and connects with the community to harness the strength of the university’s expertise… UWM International Vision Statement

Universities across the United States are exploring ways to prepare students to succeed in an increasingly interconnected world. In recent years, UWM faculty and staff have also been focusing new attention on the need to position the university as a globally-engaged research institution. A task force was established in 2008 to coordinate and advance these campus efforts.

UWM already has many established international connections. It hosts nearly 1,000 international students from close to 90 countries, and international faculty who hail from almost 50 countries. The university also boasts 86 study abroad programs to 32 countries, providing hundreds of students with the opportunity to live, study and work in diverse cultures around the world. Thousands more are enrolled in the study of world languages and globally-oriented coursework.

The campus community also has access to a wide range of internationally-oriented public programs. There are many lectures, films, performances and exhibits sponsored by Union Sociocultural Programming, the Peck School of the Arts and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), among others. The School of Continuing Education offers a variety of language, culture and other international learning opportunities. UWM is also home to the Institute of World Affairs (IWA), Wisconsin’s only World Affairs Council, which organizes a series of public programs and hosts International Focus, a weekly television program on Milwaukee Public Television.

The recommendations from the Internationalization Task Force build on existing international initiatives, expanding teaching, research and community dialogue around global issues. The first step in this process is to increase the visibility of these efforts, encourage the UWM community to highlight their international connections. For example, the College of Health Sciences has an “international” link on its website that features updates on global programming, partnerships and an international photo gallery.

To build on the work of the Internationalization Task Force, an International Council has been created with representatives from all of the schools and colleges across campus. Future priorities for the Council include the development of new international research partnerships, increased recruitment of international students, and the expansion of support for student study abroad opportunities. An annual UWM International Leadership Award will also be created. The award will honor “individuals and teams of faculty and staff who have made outstanding contributions to the internationalization of the university by enhancing student, faculty, and staff awareness and participation in international education, research, and related activities.”

Wisconsin’s economic competitiveness increasingly depends on a workforce that is globally aware and engaged. To learn more about how UWM is trying to respond to these challenges, please visit the Center for International Education website at www.international.uwm.edu

Your feedback is essential

Please consider taking a 5 minute survey to provide feedback on the UWM Academic Staff Connection Newsletter. (see page 5 for more information)

CLICK HERE
UWM instructors and students share ideas for accessibility within a classroom setting.

This set of 4 YouTube videos, total of approximately 30 minutes, was created by the ACCESS-ed Project as a resource promoting universal design in higher education. Instructors and students share ideas for accessibility within a classroom setting. Students with disabilities express concerns based on their experiences and explain what has worked for them. Instructors from UWM discuss how they have effectively applied universal design in their courses (e.g. making PowerPoint slides accessible and available to everyone on D2L, speaking slowly and look directly at the students, speaking the words simultaneously while writing math equations on the board, and more).

- To view the YouTube Videos with closed captioning, [CLICK HERE](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2)
- To play these videos with video descriptions, [CLICK HERE](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2)

This Universal Design tip was provided by the R2D2 Center (Rehabilitation Research Design and Disability Center). For more information see their website at [http://www.r2d2.uwm.edu/index.html](http://www.r2d2.uwm.edu/index.html)

Now through October 14, the UWM Planetarium presents “The Year of the Solar System” where you can learn about all the exciting current or planned missions to inner and outer planets in our solar system. Each program includes a stargazing component with stars projected on the dome. The program runs from 7:00–7:55 p.m., costs $2, and is intended for anybody age 5 and above. The UWM Planetarium is part of the Physics building at 1900 East Kenwood Boulevard. For more information, see [www.planetarium.uwm.edu](http://www.planetarium.uwm.edu).

For the month of November, you can take advantage of two great programs next to each other. Take in the UWM Planetarium program “2012: Fact or Fiction” that runs from November 4 to December 16 and learn about aspects of 2012. During those November evenings, walk across the hall from the planetarium to Physics 137 to enjoy the UWM Science Bag “Fuel Cells and Cellular Fuels: What Powers Life?” with Carol Hirschmugl and Ann Batiza. This is the first program in the Science Bag series. There are shows November 4, 11, 18, 25 at 8 p.m. and a matinee on Sunday, November 13 at 2 p.m. UWM Science Bag programs are free and they are intended for people ages 8 and above.

In the new year, learn through the UWM Science Bag about “Rock, Paper, Scissors: Earth’s Amazing Balancing Act” from Harvey Bootsma. This program will be on January 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 15 at 2 p.m. In the new year the UWM Planetarium will also have a special series called “Odyssey under the Stars”. This production is unique: it is a joint venture with storytelling expert Dr. Mello from the UWM Theatre Department that involves myths, stars, navigation, and even songs. Performances are on January 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7:00pm with two matinees on January 14 and 15 at 2:00pm.
The south lawn of the Physics building is brimming with beans, tomatoes, squash and other fresh produce from the summer’s harvest.

UWM is part of a growing movement of campuses across the country building community vegetable gardens. The planning for the gardens has been underway since last fall, when a group of faculty, staff and students convened to explore the level of interest in developing a community garden on campus. UWM’s Sustainability Coordinator Kate Nelson initiated the garden group as part of a series of programs focused on food sustainability. The resulting UWM Food and Garden Club has been meeting regularly ever since then. “Food was my entry point into sustainability,” Nelson says. “Food connects us to each other and to the environment.”

Students, faculty and staff signed up for individual plots in the spring, and volunteers assembled 50 raised beds outside the Physics building during a mandatory furlough day in May. The site was selected to maximize hours of sunlight. The Club is also planning to expand fruit and vegetable production on campus in the coming years with a perennial food garden adjacent to Sandburg Hall.

The purpose of the edible gardens is to provide the UWM community with greater access to healthy, affordable produce and to promote sustainability by using organic growing methods and reducing the distance food travels. The gardens are also an educational resource. Some of the garden plots were set aside to serve as a learning laboratory for a course in the Conservation and Environmental Sciences program. The Food and Garden Club also offers occasional free educational seminars on gardening, cooking, and food preservation.

This is not the first time vegetables have been grown on campus. During World War I and World War II, “victory gardens” were established on fields west of Maryland Avenue to address food shortages and supplement rations. During the Second World War, planting vegetables was encouraged as part of the war effort.

Today’s gardens provide faculty, staff and students with an “open forum to discuss what sustainability really means, and come together to solve problems,” according to Nelson. Gardeners share information and expertise, water each others’ plots, and gather for occasional garden work days.

A different kind of garden has also been growing on campus this summer. A 50,000 square foot green roof was installed on top of the Golda Meir Library and planted with sedum, a hardy plant that quickly draws in moisture. It is the largest green roof in Wisconsin on a public building, and will reduce the amount of water entering the storm water system during rainfalls. Solar panels are also being installed on the roof to increase renewable energy on campus.

These initiatives are all part of UWM’s efforts to reduce the university’s environmental impacts. For more information on the campus gardens and green roof, please visit www.sustainability.uwm.edu.
Want to participate with governance and learn more about campus and your colleagues? Try joining a committee. Every fall a preference sheet is sent to all Academic Staff requesting their interest in committee work for the year. There are 9 committees that are filled by election but there are 5 Academic Staff Senate Sub-committees that are open to anyone that is interested. These committees are Category A, Category B, Economic Benefits, Legislative, and Public Relations subcommittee.

**Category A Subcommittee’s** goal is to communicate policies, procedures and issues of particular interest to non-teaching/non-research academic staff. They take the lead to address issues of service opportunities, self-evaluation critiques, and information and clarification of policies and procedures. Category A meets the 4th Tuesday of the month. Contact Neal Korfhage, korfhage@uwm.edu.

**Category B Subcommittee** works to communicate and explain university policies and procedures to teaching Academic Staff, instructors and Researchers. They meet the 2nd Friday of the month starting on October 14, 10–11:30am in a Union meeting room. Category B also advocates for improved working conditions by working with the Senate and Academic Staff Committee. Contact Vicki Bott, vlbott@uwm.edu or William H Barrett, wbarrett@uwm.edu.

**Academic Staff Economic Benefits Subcommittee** works on benefits issues of concern to Academic Staff (e.g. tuition reimbursement). They meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 11:30-12:30, in a Union meeting room. They regularly schedule guest speakers to provide updates on topics that affect economic benefits/compensation received by Academic Staff. The committee also conducts an annual survey on benefits and compensation topics at the annual UWM Health and Benefits Fair. Contact Angela McManaman, alm5@uwm.edu

**Legislative Subcommittee** considers how to best pursue issues of concern to the academic staff with the UW-System Board of Regents, legislators, the Governor and other elected officials. For more information on meeting dates please contact Brian Hinshaw, bhinsha@uwm.edu or Seth Zlotocha, zlotocha@uwm.edu.

**Public Relations Subcommittee** works to enhance community and campus relations as it pertains to Academic Staff. They create this newsletter to share information with Academic Staff about different aspects of campus life. The committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 1:30 – 2:30pm in a meeting room in the SBA building. Contact Jean Creighton, jcreight@uwm.edu.

For more information on these committees go to: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/acad_staff/senate_subcom/
The A.S. Connection team consists of the following members of the Academic Staff Public Relations Sub-committee:

Stephanie Collins, Jean Creighton (Chair), Anna D. Johnson, Rachael Jurek, Gina Lukaszewicz, Nicole Palasz, and Beth Traylor.

If you would consider joining this committee, please contact Jean at jcreight@uwm.edu.

A UWM Planetarium Love Story...

On Friday, February 25th, 2011, the Planetarium held its regular Friday Night Show at 7:00 p.m. As the lights dimmed for the “Celebrating Hubble,” everything seemed ordinary. The audience had no idea what was in store for them. The crowd reveled at the beautiful slides being presented when suddenly something unexpected appeared on the planetarium projector.

Instead of showing the stars the audience was expecting, the unassuming slide read simply: “Stephanie Puente, I love you to the end of the universe and back. Will you marry me?” The audience clapped and cheered enthusiastically as she accepted the proposal.

All of this was the endearing plan of Sebastien Cherney, a geometry teacher who resides in Chicago. He and his now fiancé Puente, who works at a cytogenetics lab in Rosemont, IL, made the drive all the way to Milwaukee for the special evening. In choosing the perfect proposal setting, Cherney had no problem deciding where to go. Cherney used to come to the UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium with his parents and grandparents and brought Puente to the UWM Planetarium for their first date. Furthermore, the night of the proposal marked exactly four years of their relationship. When asked about her emotions after the proposal, Puente responded, “I’m the happiest girl in the world!”

Needless to say, Cherney and Puente are now the happiest couple in the galaxy.

Survey on the A.S. Connection

In effort to provide our readers with valued information the Academic Staff Public Relations Sub-committee would like to invite you to participate in a 5 minute survey regarding our newsletter. Please CLICK HERE and submit your feedback.

If the above link does not work, please go to: https://new.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bwQMlHEUjuyD5Aw&Preview=Survey&BrandID= milwaukee