

Blugold FYI archive: April 2020

Blugold FYI: April 7, 2020

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Important announcements

UW-Eau Claire updates regarding COVID-19

A running account of campus information regarding COVID-19 and its impact on the campus and community continues to be maintained online at uwec.edu/coronavirus-updates. Check the link regularly to find resources and updates, including twice-weekly emails sent to faculty, staff and students, regarding UW-Eau Claire's response to the pandemic.

Employee assistance offered through FEI

If you are looking for personal or professional development opportunities, please consider accessing our employee assistance program, FEI. The FEI EAP website, feieap.com (username: SOWI), offers articles and webinars on many topics related to work and family life, such as COVID-19, financial stress, legal resources, wellness, nutrition and more. Questions? Call 866-274-4723.

Electrical outage planned for April 16

Facilities has announced an April 16 electrical outage in the following buildings: Vicki Lord Larson Hall, McIntyre Library, Katherine Thomas Hall and Putnam Hall. The outage will be from **7-11 a.m. in VLL and McIntyre Library** and from **noon-4 p.m. in Katherine Thomas and Putnam halls**. Questions? Contact Chris Buckley in Facilities at bucklec@uwec.edu.

New TravelWise website launched

The new [UW TraveWise website](#) has launched. Now hosted by the UW System rather than Fox World Travel, the new site will give UW System greater control over the content and provide users with a website that is easier to navigate. A redirect from the old URL will be in place for a short period of time; however, any redirects will go to the new homepage and not to the corresponding subpages. In addition, a new meal and incidental per diem calculator can be found on the new [Reimbursement page](#) and as a new tile on the [E-Reimbursement module](#). Questions? Contact the Firstsource Support Team at askcenter@uwec.edu or 715-836-3131.

Appreciate a fellow Blugold? Let them know!

Feeling especially thankful for another Blugold? Maybe a colleague who made your day, a

student employee who went that extra mile or a supervisor who's been extra supportive? Everyone loves to know they're appreciated, and you can now send a note via [Thank a Blugold](#). University staff members who are recognized through Thank a Blugold will be entered into a monthly prize drawing.

Nominate colleagues for 2020 faculty/staff excellence awards

The university administration and excellence awards committees encourage faculty, staff and students to nominate deserving colleagues for excellence awards to be presented at the fall academic year opening meeting/Blugold Breakfast. The UW-Eau Claire Foundation presents \$1,500 to each of the five award recipients. [Nomination forms are available online](#). The submission deadline is **April 17**.

Campus Harvest food pantry open to students

The [Campus Harvest](#) food pantry, located in Room 49 of Brewer Hall, currently is open to students from **2-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. The main doors to Brewer Hall (facing Hibbard Hall) will be unlocked during that time to allow students to access the pantry. Questions? Contact Dr. Demetrius Smith at smithdem@uwec.edu.

Ergonomics for telecommuters

Are you feeling uncomfortable or achy as you work from home in your improvised office space? Awkward postures can increase your chance of becoming injured. UW-Madison has created [Ergonomics for Telecommuters](#) to help optimize your home or virtual work environment to avoid symptoms and maintain productivity. If you have questions or are experiencing discomfort related to your remote workstation after trying the modifications recommended in this resource, please contact ergo@uwec.edu.

McIntyre Library announcements

- The Chronicle of Higher Education, which is tracking the impact of COVID-19 on higher education, is available to all UW-Eau Claire and UW-Eau Claire – Barron County faculty, staff and students through our institutional subscription. If you do not already have a Chronicle account, you can [create one using your UW-Eau Claire email address](#). You also may [download a pdf of the April 3 issue](#).
- Subscription access to The New York Times also is available by following [these instructions](#).
- All library items due between March 9 and May 31 have had their due **dates changed to June 2**. This includes DVDs and equipment such as laptops and cameras that students have checked out. Questions? Email library@uwec.edu.

Register to vote online

The Wisconsin Elections Commission has created a website where residents can quickly and easily register to vote. [View the MyVote Wisconsin website](#).

Purchasing: End-of-fiscal-year-2020 deadlines

Following are upcoming purchasing deadlines to keep in mind:

- Simplified bid requisitions (\$5,000-\$49,999): **April 24.**
- Blanket purchase order (BPO) requests for fiscal year 2021: **May 15.**
- Requisitions up to \$5,000, and any dollar amount not requiring a bid process (contract purchases): **May 22.**

Purchasing also has updated information pertaining to [COVID-19 purchases and FAQs](#). Questions? Please contact Purchasing at purchasing@uwec.edu.

LTS webpage connects to resources for working remotely

Learning and Technology Services has created a resource to help support faculty and staff working from home to assist in preventing the spread of COVID-19. [Visit the LTS Remote Services webpage](#) for helpful links to technology solutions for a remote working environment. If you need additional information, LTS Help Desk support is available at helpdesk@uwec.edu or 715-836-5711.

Alternatives to face-to-face teaching support from CETL

To ensure a smooth transition to teaching through an alternative course format, support through CETL and LTS is available. [View virtual session schedules, consultation information and resources](#) on CETL's website. All of CETL's regular spring programming has been **anceled through April 30.**

[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

Mari Bodensteiner, lecturer in the department of languages, was invited by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to host a webinar titled "Teachers Working Together: A Successful Community of Practice." International English language educators from around the globe participated in the live-streamed event on March 11. The [previously recorded webinar](#) can be viewed online.

Dr. William Miller, associate professor of accounting and finance, and his co-authors Dr. Tara Shaver, King's College, and Steven Mintz, Cal Poly, recently had their paper, "Measuring the value of integrating GVV into a standalone accounting ethics class," published in the Journal of Accounting Education. This is the latest publication stemming from Miller's spring 2017 sabbatical. [View the abstract of the paper and other information online.](#)

Patti See, academic advisor in the Advising, Retention and Career Center/senior lecturer in women's gender and sexuality studies, had her story "[The Culture of Staying Apart: A COVID-19 Diary](#)" published in the April 1 issue of Volume One.

Dr. José Valero, professor of Spanish, gave a presentation titled "Una visión humanista cívica de la pintura: La 'Epístola a un pintor insigne' de Manuel José Quintana (1790)" ("A civic humanist view of painting: Manuel José Quintana's 'Epistle to a renowned painter' (1790)") at the XXV Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos, March 4-6, 2020, in Lima, Peru.

Jake Wrasse, government and community relations specialist in the Chancellor's Office, had his essay "[Looking for Hope Within a Crisis](#)" published as a part of Volume One's COVID-19 coverage. Titled "Pulling Together While Staying Apart," this Volume One special publication includes details on ways to support local artists, musicians and businesses during this period of social distancing. The issue was available for home delivery and will be on racks through the month of April.

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In memoriam

Condolences to Ron Keezer, associate professor emeritus of music, whose wife, Mary Keezer, passed away March 31 in Eau Claire. [View full obituary.](#)

New employees, position updates and retirements

Have you recently joined UW-Eau Claire as a faculty or staff member? Moved to a different campus department or unit to start a new position? Recently retired? If so, we welcome your news.

[Submit position update item](#)

In the news

Sara Lassila, a 2005 biochemistry/molecular biology graduate and test development supervisor at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, was featured in the April 4 Leader-Telegram article "[Scientists with local ties lead efforts to develop COVID-19 tests.](#)" **Dr. Crystal Del Valle**, assistant professor of biology, also was quoted in the article.

Patrick Marsh, a 2014 nursing graduate, was featured in the March 31 WGN-TV story "[Chicago area Navy lieutenant shares what it's like on board USNS Mercy.](#)"

Robin Miller, associate professor in McIntyre Library, was quoted in the March 31 Leader-Telegram article "[Advocates seek new ways to promote census amid pandemic.](#)"

Dr. Gretchen Peters, professor and chair of music and theatre arts, and **Dr. Jennifer Fraley**, lecturer in music and theatre arts, were quoted in the April 6 Leader-Telegram article "[Time to share: UW-EC music and theatre arts department presenting music online.](#)"

Dr. Geoffrey Peterson, professor and chair of the political science department, was interviewed for the March 30 WQOW-TV story "[How will COVID-19 impact the election?](#)"

Brian Schwartz, a 2007 criminal justice graduate and Minnesota state trooper, was featured in the April 5 Leader-Telegram article "[Minn. state trooper, UW-EC grad, lauded for donating masks to doctor.](#)" Retired UW-Eau Claire swimming and diving coach **Arthur Brandt** also quoted in the article.

Dr. Kent Syverson, professor of geology, was quoted in the March 31 OK Energy Today article "[Downturn caused by virus leaves frac miners struggling for survival.](#)"

See more media coverage by visiting the [News + Events page](#) and scrolling down to UW-Eau Claire In the News.

[Submit news item](#)

Campus news and features

- [Elizabeth Glogowski honored for innovation through research with students](#)
- [Construction begins on Flesch Family Welcome Center at UW-Eau Claire](#)
- [Physics, astronomy faculty are ready for classes to resume online](#)
- [Geology major Trevor Nelson named UW-Eau Claire's newest Goldwater Scholar](#)

[Read/view more campus news and features](#)

Professional development

OPID Spring Conference on Teaching and Learning postponed

The 2020 Spring Conference on Teaching and Learning has been postponed because of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Full refunds for conference registration and book orders are being processed.

EDI spring professional development

EDI workshops and book groups have been **canceled through April 30**. Faculty and staff may participate in the following online/reading opportunities:

- **Independent film viewing and reflection:** "[Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock](#)," "[Killing Us Softly 4](#)," "[The Mask You Live In](#)," "[Paragraph 175](#)," "[Pray the Devil Back to Hell](#)," "[Somali Stories of Family Separation](#)" and "[Unslut](#)." All films will be **available through May 1**.
- [Diverse Voices Book Challenge](#).

[Submit professional development item](#)

Meeting notices

- [See all meetings and agendas](#).
 - [Submit your meeting notice](#).
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University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

Blugold FYI: April 14, 2020

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Mental health support available

For students, staff or faculty who might need mental health support, the UW-Eau Claire student organization affiliated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness has created a site on Canvas to share resources and support. Mental health and well-being can be significantly impacted by the current global health and economic crisis, and NAMI at UW-Eau Claire is here to help. Whether you or someone you know is experiencing mental health challenges, contact Dr. Bob Nowlan, professor of English, at ranowlan@uwec.edu to receive permission to join the group.

Employee assistance offered through FEI

If you are looking for personal or professional development opportunities, please consider accessing our employee assistance program, FEI. The FEI EAP website, feieap.com (username: SOWI), offers articles and webinars on many topics related to work and family life, such as COVID-19, financial stress, legal resources, wellness, nutrition and more. Questions? Call 866-274-4723.

McIntyre Library offers virtual learning and literature resources for PK-12

Kati Schaller, McIntyre Library's education librarian, has created a guide to connect parents to learning materials, e-books, virtual read-alongs and storytimes that are freely available during the COVID-19 crisis. [View the virtual learning and literature guide](#).

Electrical outage planned for April 16

Facilities has announced an April 16 electrical outage in the following buildings: Vicki Lord Larson Hall, McIntyre Library, Katherine Thomas Hall and Putnam Hall. The outage will be from **5-8 a.m. in VLL and McIntyre Library** and from **10 a.m.-noon in Katherine Thomas and Putnam halls**. Questions? Contact Chris Buckley in Facilities at bucklec@uwec.edu.

Campus mail update

To help reduce staffing levels and limit exposure to those on campus, effective April 9, mail service on campus will be limited to three days per week. On-campus mail will continue to be delivered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and additional deliveries will be made for time-sensitive items. If you have questions about on-campus mail service for the remainder of the spring semester, email mailservices@uwec.edu.

Nominate colleagues for 2020 faculty/staff excellence awards

The university administration and excellence awards committees encourage faculty, staff and students to nominate deserving colleagues for excellence awards to be presented at the fall

academic year opening meeting/Blugold Breakfast. The UW-Eau Claire Foundation presents \$1,500 to each of the five award recipients. [Nomination forms are available online](#). The submission deadline is **April 17**.

Check out the April wellness newsletter

The [April wellness newsletter](#) features a spotlight on Dr. Abraham Nahm, professor of management and marketing, as well as spring cleaning and decluttering tips, healthful movie night snacks, home workouts and more.

Purchasing: End-of-fiscal-year-2020 deadlines

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[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

Congratulations to the faculty and staff completers of the EDI Tier 3 professional development program. The following individuals completed 10 or more Tier 2 sessions and a project within their scope of duties to help improve EDI on campus: **Jessica Barnier**, Records and Registration, "Catalog Accessibility Refresh Project"; **Lisa Coen**, Children's Nature Academy, "Supporting All Students Through Students"; **Tina Killey**, Activities, Involvement and Leadership, "Wisconsin Tribal National Flag"; **Dr. Jessica Sertling Miller**, department of languages, "Decolonizing the French Curriculum"; and **Jamie Tester Morfoot**, Social Work, "MILWAUKEE 53206: An examination of the impact of mass incarceration on communities of color in Wisconsin." [Learn more about the EDI professional development program](#).

Dr. Rachel Merkel, associate professor of nursing; **Dr. Jeanette Olsen**, assistant professor of nursing; **Dr. Shelley-Rae Pehler**, professor of nursing; **Dr. Rita Sperstad**, professor emerita of nursing, students **Hannah Sisto** and **Hannah Mades**, as well as **Kristin Brunsell**, a registered nurse and Ph.D. student, recently had their article, "[An Innovative Civility Intervention Created by a Faculty and Student Action Research Team](#)," published in the *Journal of Nursing Education*, 2020; 59(4):214-217. The paper describes their action research to develop a quality improvement project targeting incivility in nursing education and practice.

Dr. Jim Phillips, professor and chair of the UW-Eau Claire chemistry department, is one of three recipients of the 2020 Outstanding Mentorship Award from the chemistry division of the Council on Undergraduate Research. [Learn more about Phillips' recognition.](#)

Patti See, academic advisor in the Advising, Retention and Career Center/senior lecturer in women's gender and sexuality studies, had her column "[Bird Man of Chippewa Falls](#)," about a 100-year-old local birder, published in the April 4 Leader-Telegram.

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

New employees, position updates and retirements

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[Submit position update item](#)

In the news

Dr. Crystal Del Valle, assistant professor of biology, was quoted in the April 10 WEAU-TV story "[College students and professors transition to online learning.](#)"

Casey Holm, the new Blugold men's soccer coach, was quoted in the April 6 Leader-Telegram article "[UW-Eau Claire men's soccer could help local scene.](#)"

Luke Kempen, director of the Small Business Development Center at UW-Eau Claire, was interviewed for the April 6 WEAU-TV story "[Financial help for small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)"

Jan Larson, professor and chair of the communication and journalism department, was a guest on Wisconsin Public Radio's "The West Side" April 10 to discuss the difficulties the coronavirus pandemic has created for local media. [Learn more and listen.](#)

UW-Eau Claire student **Fidencio Lopez Rosales** was quoted in the April 6 Lake Mills Leader article "[Wisconsin National Guard service members support their own communities.](#)" Student **Jared Logsdon** also was mentioned in the article.

Ivar Lunde Jr., professor emeritus of music, and **Tiit Raid**, professor emeritus of art, were quoted and featured in the April 8 Leader-Telegram article "[EC musicians earn award nomination with improvisational album.](#)"

Dr. Geoff Peterson, professor and chair of the political science department, was interviewed for the April 7 WQOW-TV story "[Impact of extensive absentee ballot requests.](#)"

Dr. David Tschida, associate professor of communication and journalism, and director of liberal studies, was quoted in the article "[Long lines form in Milwaukee as Wisconsin proceeds with elections under court order](#)" that was published in the April 7 issue of The Washington Post.

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[Submit news item](#)

Campus news and features

- [UW-Eau Claire, Mayo Clinic and community makers working together to produce face shields for local hospitals](#)
- [UW-Eau Claire health care programs donate personal protective equipment to area facilities](#)
- [Nursing grad providing care on Navy hospital ship supporting COVID-19 relief efforts](#)
- [Dr. Jim Phillips receives national award for research mentoring](#)

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Professional development

Alternatives to face-to-face teaching support from CETL

To assist faculty and staff now teaching through an alternative course format, support through CETL and LTS is available. [View virtual session schedules, consultation information and resources](#) on CETL's website. All of CETL's regular spring programming has been **canceled for the remainder of the semester.**

EDI spring professional development

EDI workshops and book groups have been **canceled for the remainder of the spring semester.** Faculty and staff may participate in the following online/reading opportunities:

- **New: Live webinars from Book a Muslim (BAM):** [Ramadan 101 - Supporting Muslim students and community during Ramadan during the 2020 Pandemic](#): April 16, 1:15-3:15 p.m.; and [Yoga, Henna, and Sweatshops - Cultural Appropriation of South Asian Culture](#): April 23, 12:30-2 p.m.
- **New:** [Promoting Equitable Access for Students With Disabilities](#), recorded session.
- **Independent film viewing and reflection:** “[Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock](#),” “[Killing Us Softly 4](#),” “[The Mask You Live In](#),” “[Paragraph 175](#),” “[Pray the Devil Back to Hell](#),” “[Somali Stories of Family Separation](#)” and “[Unslut](#).” All films will be **available through May 1**.
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University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

Blugold FYI: April 21, 2020

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Important announcements

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Chancellor Briefing: COVID-19 response, fall enrollment plans

Chancellor Schmidt provided updates on the university's response to COVID-19 and the resulting budget impacts April 16 in a livestreamed briefing for all faculty and staff. The briefings will continue weekly to keep employees informed about how the university is addressing an \$8.5 million spring-semester budget hole caused by moving to all-online instruction, as well as the novel coronavirus's potential influence on fall enrollment and planning. The next Chancellor Briefing will be [livestreamed](#) at **5 p.m. April 23**. [Read a synopsis](#) or [view the video recording](#) of the April 16 Chancellor Briefing.

'Blugold Spotlight' features Wanrudee Buranakorn

Enjoy the latest "[Blugold Spotlight](#)," which features Wanrudee Buranakorn, professor of art & design.

Online CERCA set for April 27-May 1

Planning for CERCA — UW-Eau Claire's annual Celebration of Excellence in Research and Creative Activity — is in full swing! Although the format is a bit different this year as we will be hosting CERCA on a Canvas site, we are thrilled that many of our presenters are able to adjust to this change and share their scholarly and creative works with the campus community as planned. Information on CERCA, including updates, is available on the [CERCA website](#). The CERCA Canvas site will be available for all to view and provide feedback to presenters during the week of CERCA, April 27-May 1. Please plan to visit the Canvas site during this time to support our presenters! [Learn more about this year's CERCA event](#).

Mental health support available

For students, staff or faculty who might need mental health support, the UW-Eau Claire student organization affiliated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness has created a site on Canvas to share resources and support. Mental health and well-being can be significantly impacted by the current global health and economic crisis, and NAMI at UW-Eau Claire is here to help.

Whether you or someone you know is experiencing mental health challenges, contact Dr. Bob Nowlan, professor of English, at ranowlan@uwec.edu to receive permission to join the group.

WiSys welcomes great ideas

WiSys, a nonprofit organization that works with faculty, staff, students and alumni of the UW System to facilitate cutting-edge research programs, is challenging its partners to develop innovative ideas to boost local community preparedness and response to pandemics via “WiSys Innovation Challenge: COVID-19.” WiSys’ challenge comes in response to the national crisis that forced students to leave Wisconsin campuses. WiSys will select 20 innovators who will have two weeks to create a proof-of-concept. They then will receive \$100 to implement their idea. [Learn more about the WiSys Innovation Challenge: COVID-19.](#)

Book rental returns

For students who rented books for the spring semester, the University Bookstore is lending a helping hand to simplify the return process. For those who rented books online and had them delivered, a [free UPS return label](#) may be printed. To create the return label, students will need to provide their original order number and the email address they used when they placed the order. Students are asked to visit the [rental textbook return page](#) for detailed instructions on the return process.

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[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

UW-Eau Claire’s French program recently was designated as an Exemplary Program with Honors by the American Association of Teachers of French. The program is one of 10 in the nation to receive the award in 2020. UW-Eau Claire also received the award in 2017. “Thanks to its excellent program, UW-Eau Claire, which offers language learning from beginning to advanced courses, has increased its enrollment in French throughout the past four years,” wrote the AATF in its award notification letter. “The program makes use of innovative and creative methods in teaching language and culture, and gives standards-based assessments to

meet university and national outcomes. Its faculty members show excellent preparation and enthusiastic dedication to their work." [Learn more](#).

Several UW-Eau Claire nursing faculty members and students presented at the first virtual Midwest Nursing Research Society conference. The conference was to be held in Schaumburg, Illinois, from April 1-4, but due to COVID-19, it was converted to a virtual conference. Following are the UW-Eau Claire presentation citations (with faculty names bolded and student names bolded and marked with an asterisk):

- **Jansen, D.A.**, Sauve, J. and Aubart, S. (2020, April). Community-dwelling Elders' Perceptions of the Importance of Variety to their Lives and Well-being. Competitive symposium presentation for the Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference (held virtually).
- **Pehler, S.R., Olsen, J., Merkel, R., Sperstad, R.** (emerita), **Sisto, H.***, **Mades, H.***, **Brunsell, K.*** (April 2, 2020). A Faculty-Student Developed Quality Improvement Project for Creating a Culture of Civility. Guaranteed Symposium Session on Building the Science of Nursing Education for the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Conference.
- **VanWormer, A.** and Buchholtz, K. (2020, May). Nurse Attitudes toward Integrative Therapies in Acute Care Settings. Virtual Poster presentation at the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Annual Conference. Acknowledgment: This research was supported by the Vicki Lord Larson Collaborative Grant.

Lindsey Creapeau, health care administration practicum coordinator and instructor in management and marketing, has been awarded the 2020-21 Mae E. Lampert Scholarship through UW-Stout's University Foundation as she enters her final year of doctoral study. The scholarship recognizes nontraditional female students.

Dr. Dorothy Ka-Ying Chan, assistant professor of English, had her second full-length poetry book, "Revenge of the Asian Woman" (Diode Editions, 2019), selected as a [2020 Eric Hoffer Award da Vinci Eye finalist](#) — an honor given to books with outstanding cover art.

Jan Larson, professor and chair of the communication and journalism department, had a shared byline in The Washington Post for her [April 7 Wisconsin Election Day coverage](#). In addition, Larson, a contributor to Wisconsin Life, had her essay, "[Faith, HOPE and Love: Anticipating a Better Tomorrow while #SaferAtHome](#)," air on Wisconsin Public Radio on April 11.

Dr. Paul Thomas, professor of physics and astronomy, wrote the April 18 Leader-Telegram column "[Europa Clipper: Mission to an ocean world](#)."

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In memoriam

Condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Diane Marcyjanik. Marcyjanik, assistant professor of nursing at UW-Eau Claire, passed away April 13. She had taught in UW-Eau Claire's nursing program since 2007. A memorial service will be held after the current restrictions on public gatherings have been lifted. [View full obituary.](#)

New employees, position updates and retirements

Have you recently joined UW-Eau Claire as a faculty or staff member? Moved to a different campus department or unit to start a new position? Recently retired? If so, we welcome your news.

[Submit position update item](#)

In the news

Dr. Mary Hoffman, director of academic planning and assessment, and **Jan Larson**, professor and chair of the communication and journalism department, were interviewed for the April 15 WEAU-TV story "[UW-Eau Claire professors plan online classes for fall semester.](#)"

Dr. Jarrod Hyam, associate lecturer of philosophy and religious studies, was quoted in the April 16 GQ article "[Baul festival: A site that's a cross between Woodstock, Burning Man and the Kumbh Mela.](#)"

Dr. Jeffrey Janot, professor and chair of the kinesiology department, was quoted in the April 14 Business Insider Australia article "[How to do suspension training exercises at home to get a full body workout.](#)"

Dr. Matt Jewell, associate professor of materials science and engineering, was quoted and given a photo credit in the article "[Foxconn's buildings in Wisconsin are still empty, one year later,](#)" which was published in the April 12 issue of The Verge.

Dr. Jennifer Johs-Artisensi, professor of management and marketing/associate director of the Center for Health Administration and Aging Services Excellence, was interviewed for the April 16 Leader-Telegram article "[UW-EC prof discusses senior care, how to stay connected.](#)"

Dr. Thomas Kemp, professor and chair of the economics department, was quoted in the April 15 WEAU-TV story "[What you need to know about the IRS stimulus checks](#)" and in the April 15 Leader-Telegram article "[Stimulus package expected to help economy in short term.](#)"

UW-Eau Claire student **Olivia Kroner** wrote the April 15 Volume One article "[Learning at a Distance: UWEC Students Adapt to Online-Only Education](#)," in which faculty members **Allyson Loomis**, associate professor of English; **Dr. Blake Westerlund**, associate professor of English; and **Dr. Mary Hoffman**, director of academic planning and assessment, are quoted, along with students **Michelle Sheahan** and **Kayleigh Pook**.

Kayla Piper, outreach program manager in Continuing Education, was interviewed for the April 15 WQOW-TV story "[UW-Eau Claire health program donates equipment to essential workers.](#)"

Chancellor James Schmidt's April 16 campus briefing was the subject of the April 16 WEAU-TV story "[Chancellor Jim Schmidt provides UWEC COVID-19 update.](#)"

Isabel Walters, interim director of Admissions, was interviewed for the April 14 WQOW-TV story "[UWEC now offering virtual campus visits.](#)"

Kimera Way, Foundation president, was interviewed for the April 14 WEAU-TV story "[UW-Eau Claire creates emergency fund for students.](#)"

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[Submit news item](#)

Campus news and features

- [UW-Eau Claire faculty remain flexible to support students](#)
- [UW-Eau Claire students giving back to hometowns during COVID-19](#)
- [Sonntag Centre project temporarily suspended](#)

[Read/view more campus news and features](#)

Professional development

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EDI workshops and book groups have been **canceled for the remainder of the spring semester.** Faculty and staff may participate in the following online/reading opportunities:

- **Live webinars from Book a Muslim (BAM):** [Yoga, Henna, and Sweatshops - Cultural Appropriation of South Asian Culture](#): April 23, 12:30-2 p.m.
- [Promoting Equitable Access for Students With Disabilities](#), recorded session.
- **Independent film viewing and reflection:** "[Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock](#)," "[Killing Us Softly 4](#)," "[The Mask You Live In](#)," "[Paragraph 175](#)," "[Pray the Devil Back to Hell](#)," "[Somali Stories of Family Separation](#)" and "[Unslut](#)." All films will be **available through May 1.**
- [Diverse Voices Book Challenge](#).

OPID Spring Conference on Teaching and Learning postponed

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Blugold FYI: April 28, 2020

Check out the important UW-Eau Claire employee info in this week's **Blugold FYI**.

- **Have content for an upcoming edition?** Send it via the [Blugold FYI submission form](#).
 - **Interested in the latest UW-Eau Claire news stories?** [Visit the news page](#).
-

Important announcements

UW-Eau Claire updates regarding COVID-19

A running account of campus information regarding COVID-19 and its impact on the campus and community continues to be maintained online at uwec.edu/coronavirus-updates. Check the link regularly to find resources and updates, including twice-weekly emails sent to faculty, staff and students, regarding UW-Eau Claire's response to the pandemic.

Chancellor Briefing focuses on fall planning

At the April 23 briefing for all UW-Eau Claire faculty, staff and student leaders, Chancellor James Schmidt shared some positive admissions indications and provided additional detail on planning scenarios for the fall semester should enrollment fall short of previous years' levels. [Read a synopsis](#) and [view the video recording](#) of the April 23 Chancellor Briefing. The next briefing will be at **5 p.m. April 30**.

CERCA makes online debut

CERCA has officially begun and will run **through May 1**. Please visit the [CERCA Canvas site](#) to view the array of scholarly and creative work. More information about CERCA, including event updates, is [available online](#). Companion events, such as the [Provost's Honors Symposium](#), will remain open beyond the week of CERCA to allow for more opportunities for feedback. Student presenters also are invited to participate in the [WiSys Quick Pitch @ Home](#) program.

Nonessential travel suspended through August

In light of Gov. Tony Evers' extension of the Safer at Home order and the executive staff's request of everyone at UW-Eau Claire to join together to reduce expenses, all nonessential travel through Aug. 31, 2020, is to be suspended. Please submit requests for exception to this travel suspension through the [Shared Financial System \(SFS\)](#) Travel Authorization module. The vice chancellor of your division will evaluate your travel request. Contact the Firstsource Support Team at askcenter@uwec.edu or 715-836-3131 for travel booking and reimbursement assistance.

Purchasing: End-of-fiscal-year-2020 deadlines

Following are upcoming purchasing deadlines to keep in mind:

- Blanket purchase order (BPO) requests for fiscal year 2021: **May 15**.

- Requisitions up to \$5,000, and any dollar amount not requiring a bid process (contract purchases): **May 22.**

Purchasing also has updated information pertaining to [COVID-19 purchases and FAQs](#). Questions? Please contact Purchasing at purchasing@uwec.edu.

[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

Joshua Potter-Efron, clinical assistant professor of social work, had his opinion piece, titled "[Judging others all too commonplace](#)," published in the April 25 Leader-Telegram.

Dr. Louisa Rice, associate professor and chair of the history department, was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant as part of the Humanities Connections program. The grant will enable Rice and co-project director **Dr. Julie Anderson**, associate professor of biology and Health Careers Center director, to design a new undergraduate integrative certificate program in health humanities. The project team includes faculty from biology, English, history, philosophy and religious studies, psychology and social work.

Dr. Paul Wagner, professor emeritus of computer science, had his poster "The SQL File Evaluation (SQLFE) Tool: A Flexible and Extendable System for Evaluation of SQL Queries" accepted for the 51st Technical Symposium of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Special Interest Group in Computer Science Education (SIGCSE) in Portland, Oregon. While the symposium was canceled at the last minute due to COVID-19, an online portal for all scheduled presentations will be opened on May 4.

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In memoriam

The family of Darryl Balts, a UW-Eau Claire custodial team lead who passed away in February, has shared a [note of appreciation](#) with the university community.

New employees, position updates and retirements

Leah Davis has joined the biology department as an academic department associate. Welcome, Leah!

Have you recently joined UW-Eau Claire as a faculty or staff member? Moved to a different campus department or unit to start a new position? Recently retired? If so, we welcome your news.

[Submit position update item](#)

In the news

Michael Axelrod, professor of psychology and director of the Human Development Center, was interviewed for the April 21 Leader-Telegram article "[UW-EC psychology professor discusses schooling, loss, hope.](#)"

Amber Dernbach and **Tabitha Tatro**, UW-Eau Claire theatre arts alumni, were guests on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Spectrum West" April 23 to discuss how their routines have changed without live performances to prepare for. **Bruce Taylor**, professor emeritus of English and former Eau Claire poet laureate, also offered his perspectives and shared some of his writing. [Learn more and listen.](#)

Dr. Lucy Johnson, assistant professor of digital literacies in the English department, was quoted in the article "[UW-Eau Claire faculty ready to remain online](#)" that was published in the April 21 issue of The Spectator. Johnson discussed the transition to online learning, the potential for fall online courses and training faculty in effective online instruction. **Dr. Mary Hoffman**, director of academic planning and assessment, **Dr. Kristine Knutson**, associate professor of communication and journalism, and student **Avery Burns** also were quoted in the article.

Dr. Thomas King (emeritus), communication sciences and disorders, and **Debra King**, a retired member of the Continuing Education staff, had their work referenced in the March 30 BuzzFeed article "[23 Actually Useful Skills You Can Learn In One Week While You're Stuck Inside.](#)" No. 4 on the list is "Learning Morse Code in less than a day with this Google experiment." Some of the Kings' recent work with Google and Adaptive Design Association, New York City, on modern Morse Code is depicted, along with a link to the PDF of Tom's 2000 textbook, "Modern Morse Code in Rehabilitation and Education," Allyn & Bacon, Boston. Debra was director of the UW-Eau Claire Morse 2000 Outreach from 1993-2004. The Kings are both Blugold alumni, members of the Wisconsin Writers Association board of directors and members of Lake Superior Writers, Duluth, Minnesota, and St. Croix Writers group, Solon Springs.

Dr. Justin Patchin, professor of criminal justice, was interviewed for the April 20 District Administration article "[Will cyberbullying rise alongside online learning?](#)"

Dr. Geoffrey Peterson, professor and chair of political science, was interviewed for the April 23 WAOW-TV story "[Politics behind the pandemic](#)."

Mike Rindo, assistant chancellor for facilities and university relations, was quoted in the April 23 Leader-Telegram article "[Public employees affected by COVID-19](#)." Rindo also was among the guests on Wisconsin Public Radio's "[The West Side](#)" April 24 to discuss the economic, academic and outreach implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on area universities.

See more media coverage by visiting the [News + Events page](#) and scrolling down to UW-Eau Claire In the News.

[Submit news item](#)

Campus news and features

- [28th annual student research event, CERCA, to take place online April 27-May 1](#)
- [Social work majors find new ways forward after COVID-19 ends internships](#)
- [Chancellor Briefing discusses UW-Eau Claire planning for potential fall budget disruptions](#)
- [Continuing Education announces program changes amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Continuing Education develops timely webinar and hybrid leadership programming](#)
- [Career Services supporting Blugolds in their search for internships and jobs](#)

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Eau Claire