

[Blugold FYI Archive: January 2021](#)

Blugold FYI: Jan. 5, 2021

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 - **Interested in the latest UW-Eau Claire news stories?** [Visit the news page](#).
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Important announcements

ORSP funding available for spring research

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Physical Plant Planning Committee to host listening session Jan. 28

The University Senate Physical Plant Planning Committee will host a virtual listening session from **1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28**, about its draft proposal "[Supporting Cessation and Prevention: Toward a Commercial Tobacco-Free Campus](#)." All campus community members are invited to [join the Zoom session](#) (Phone: 312-626-6799; Meeting ID: 744 452 3769; Passcode: 109377).

Join 'Eau These Blugold Nights!'

Tune in to the [UW-Eau Claire Alumni Facebook page](#) at 6 p.m. tomorrow, **Wednesday, Jan. 6**, for the Facebook Live series "Eau These Blugold Nights!" This week we're pleased to feature **Jodi Thesing-Ritter**, executive director for EDI, and **current and former student coordinators of the Civil Rights Pilgrimage**, who will present "The Power of Getting on the Bus." The series, hosted by the UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association, brings Blugolds to you the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. to share an art, craft, knowledge or talent.

Check out this month's wellness newsletter

The [January wellness newsletter](#) includes information on a number of accessible, sustainable ways to help improve your overall mental health, including tips on sleep hygiene, breakfast, hydration, physical activity and more.

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Deadlines for the following opportunities have been extended to **Feb. 5**: China: Changshu Institute of Technology, Summer 2021; and England: Harlaxton College, Fall 2022 or Spring 2023. Interested faculty and instructional academic staff can [learn more about the opportunities and application process](#) online. Questions are welcome; please contact [Colleen Marchwick](#).

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The Summer Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Grant program, offered through the [Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#), supports educator/student collaborative projects for development and assessment of new curriculum, including courses and other educational experiences. [Learn more](#) about this program. Applications are due **Feb. 10**.

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The College of Nursing and Health Sciences will host the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for a virtual accreditation review from **March 10-12**. This evaluation will include the baccalaureate (traditional BSN and BSN Completion), Master of Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs. As part of the review process, CCNE provides the opportunity for program-identified communities of interest to submit comments concerning the program's qualifications for accreditation. Signed, written comments will be accepted by CCNE **until Feb. 17**. If you would like to submit a comment about the nursing programs, please email thirdpartycomments@ccneaccreditation.org. Or, if you prefer, mail comments to: Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, Attn: Third-Party Comments, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, D.C. 20001.

UW-Eau Claire updates regarding COVID-19

A running account of information regarding COVID-19 and its impact on the campus and community continues to be maintained on the [COVID-19 Updates page](#). Check the link regularly to find resources and updates, including emails sent to faculty, staff and students, regarding UW-Eau Claire's response to the pandemic.

[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

Dr. Terry Allen, professor emeritus of theatre, recently was nominated for a [Best of the Net Award](#) for his poem "[The Rule of Three](#)," which has been published in Into the Void Magazine.

Mary Hoefft, professor emeritus of communication arts and French at UW-Eau Claire – Barron County, has co-authored a new book titled "From a Single Pebble: Barron County Restorative Justices Programs." [Learn more about the book and its origins](#).

Dr. Lauren Likkel, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy, had her article "[Planets coming together to give us a Christmas star](#)," published in the Dec. 18 Leader-Telegram.

Dr. Katherine Schneider, psychologist emerita in Counseling Services, had her story "[It Seems to Me: Fifteen positives from a challenging 2020](#)" published in the Dec. 24 Leader-Telegram.

Patti See, academic advisor in UW-Eau Claire's Advising, Retention and Career Center/senior lecturer in women's gender and sexuality studies, had her story "[Good riddance, 2020](#)" published in the Dec. 31 Leader-Telegram.

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In memoriam

Condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Stephen Kurth. Kurth, a member of the UW-Eau Claire faculty from 1968 until his retirement in 2001, passed away Dec. 8 in Eau Claire. He served UW-Eau Claire in many different roles over the years, including professor of physical education, director of men's athletics, chair of physical education and athletics, and associate dean of what was then the School of Education. [View full obituary](#).

In the news

Dr. James Boulter, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, had his letter "[Effects of climate change to accelerate](#)" published in the Dec. 16 Leader-Telegram.

Quincy Chapman, director of Housing and Residence Life, was interviewed for the Dec. 18 WQOW story "[As semester ends, UWEC eyes January return](#)."

Dr. Selika Ducksworth-Lawton, professor of history, was quoted in the Dec. 20 Milwaukee Independent article "[The Madison Method: Former police chief suggests alternative to military tactics and escalation](#)." She also was interviewed for the Dec. 26 WQOW story "[First night of Kwanzaa begins Saturday](#)" and the Dec. 31 WQOW story "[What is Watch Night and why Black Americans celebrate it on New Year's Eve](#)."

Dr. Thomas Kemp, professor and chair of the economics department, was interviewed for the Dec. 28 WQOW story "[How to get your next stimulus check](#)."

Research by **Dr. Justin Patchin**, professor of criminal justice and co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center, was cited in the Dec. 18 District Administration article "[Digital self-harm: What is it and could it be on rise?](#)"

Dr. Dale Taylor, professor emeritus of music and theatre arts, was quoted in the article "[Music that Heals](#)," which appeared in the December 2020 issue of Curb Magazine, published by students in the UW-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Dr. Paul Thomas, professor of physics and astronomy, was interviewed for the Dec. 15 WQOW story "['Christmas Star' visible Monday: Rare conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn.](#)"

Dr. Tom Wineinger, professor emeritus of mathematics, was featured in the Dec. 27 Chippewa Valley Post article "[UW-EC math professor concludes half century of teaching here.](#)"

Dang Yang, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, was quoted in the Dec. 28 Volume One article "[Forum Aims To Connect Community on Healthcare.](#)"

Nobuyoshi Yasuda, professor of music, was quoted in the Dec. 17 Leader-Telegram article "[Gift of music: Chippewa Valley Symphony presents video of virtual concert featuring holiday selections.](#)"

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

[Submit news item](#)

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](#)

Campus news and features

- [Math instructor leaving after 50 years at UW-Eau Claire](#)
- [Chancellor: UW-Eau Claire graduates excelled in challenging 2020](#)
- [Blugold's story gives hope to others facing chronic illness: Erica Nerbonne](#)
- [Virtual Civil Rights Pilgrimage set for Jan. 11-15](#)
- [Continuing Education announces January program offerings](#)
- [School and college experiences help Blugold find future career path](#)
- [December grad connecting her culture, passions and skills: Monique Morales Briand](#)

- [Dreams fulfilled for UW-Eau Claire nursing graduate](#)
- [Nursing student partners with local agency to support seniors during pandemic](#)

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

Professional development

CETL professional development

CETL staff are available throughout January. Please email cetl@uwec.edu or call 715-836-2385 for consultations or with any questions.

- **Virtual sessions.** Join Q&A sessions and a variety of sessions on academic integrity, student engagement, universal design, creating videos, Zoom vs. Collaborate Ultra and more. [View sessions](#).
- **Professional development at your convenience:** [View session recordings and resources](#).
- **Request HoverCams (streaming document cameras) and microphones for spring courses.** View the [Instructional Technology](#) KB article to learn how to request microphones and document cameras that can be streamed or recorded for the spring semester.
- **Request spring midterm student evaluation, March 8-19.** [Learn more](#).

EDI professional development for faculty and staff

Faculty and staff are invited to participate in professional development opportunities this January to increase understanding of equity, diversity and inclusion, and help UW-Eau Claire do better as a campus. [View and register for sessions and groups](#).

Coming up:

- [Civil Rights Pilgrimage](#): The Civil Rights Pilgrimage is a unique opportunity to travel the path of the Civil Rights Movement and experience these pivotal places and stories in our history. This year's Civil Rights Pilgrimage will take place virtually in Canvas. The Canvas site will open on Jan. 4 with asynchronous activities, such as film viewings and discussions, that can be completed at any time. Speakers are scheduled to present live throughout the week of Jan. 11-15. Faculty and staff can earn up to five Tier 2 credits by completing the asynchronous activities and attending presentations.
- Spring sessions coming soon!

[Submit professional development item](#)

Meeting notices

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Blugold FYI: Jan. 12, 2021

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Important announcements

Join Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Celebration Jan. 18

A day of virtual programming to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is planned for **Monday, Jan. 18**. A collaboration among Uniting Bridges, Pablo Center, Converge Radio, UW-Eau Claire, Chippewa Valley Technical College, UW-Stout and the cities of Eau Claire and Altoona, the day will include readings from several of King's works, live panels and discussions on a variety of historical and present-day issues and topics, multimedia and art presentations as well as musical performances. [Learn more about the day's events](#).

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their entire student stipend. The application deadline is **Wednesday, Jan. 13**. For more information, email orsp@uwec.edu or call 715-836-3405.

Updates to service-learning administration

Upon the departure of Benita Wagner, responsibility for service-learning is being moved to the division of Academic Affairs. Storm Jacko and Jackson Schmidtke (temporarily reassigned part time from the Center for International Education) will be managing service-learning during spring semester 2021. Questions regarding student projects, mentoring and supervision may be directed to srvlearn@uwec.edu. Larger questions concerning program focus, requirements and related topics may be addressed to [Dr. Mary Hoffman](#). Many thanks to Benita Wagner for her work in coordinating community service work for so many students and community partners over the years.

Campus Harvest Food Pantry to be open Jan. 13

The Campus Harvest Food Pantry will be open from **2-5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13**. Students seeking support are invited to pick up resources in the pantry. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [Dr. Demetrius Smith](#).

Consider applying for WiSys Spark grants

The [WiSys Spark Grant Program](#) is designed to help faculty, academic staff and students advance their knowledge and technology to commercialization. The fund provides awards of \$500-\$10,000 per project toward implementation and completion of short-term projects. Please visit the website for additional details and to watch an informative on-demand webinar. Applications are due **Friday, Jan. 22**. Questions? Contact [Dr. Catherine Chan](#), executive director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

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Call for Nominations: 11th Annual Provost's Honors Symposium

Faculty and staff are invited to nominate outstanding student research, scholarship or creative activity **by March 1** for presentation at the [11th Annual Provost's Honors Symposium for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity](#) on April 23. PHS is a professional-style conference where selected students from any major on campus have the chance to present exceptional work. In 2021, PHS will be a synchronous, virtual event. Visit the Provost's Honors Symposium website for updates and [submit a nomination via eform](#). For more information, contact [Heather Fielding](#) in [University Honors](#).

Check out this month's wellness newsletter

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UW-Eau Claire updates regarding COVID-19

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[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

Dr. Paul Hoff, professor of Spanish in the languages department, has been recertified as an ACTFL OPI tester of Spanish by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. In this capacity he regularly conducts oral proficiency interviews for Language Testing

International (the ACTFL testing office) to assess the Spanish language ability of individuals in academia, business, health care and government.

Dr. Matt Waters, professor of classics and ancient history, and chair of the languages department, had his chapter, titled “The Achaemenid Persian Empire: From the Medes to Alexander,” published in The Oxford History of World Empire, edited by P.F. Bang, C.F. Bayly and W. Scheidel, 2020, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pages 111-136.

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In memoriam

Condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Adam Bors. Bors, a member of the UW-Eau Claire foreign languages faculty from 1967 until his retirement in 1998, passed away Dec. 30. [View full obituary.](#)

Condolences to Diane Hunter, environmental health and safety manager, whose husband, Ronald Hunter, passed away Dec. 3 in Eau Claire. [View full obituary.](#)

In the news

Dr. Selika Ducksworth-Lawton, professor of history, and **Dr. Geoff Peterson**, professor and chair of political science, were quoted in the Jan. 7 Leader-Telegram article “[Police, president face local criticism in riots' wake.](#)” Ducksworth-Lawton also was quoted in the Jan. 11 Leader-Telegram article “[Chippewa Valley's virtual MLK Day to tackle racism.](#)”

Dr. Bob Nowlan, professor of English, is featured in an interview, titled “[Exploring Critical Theory Outside Of Academia: An Interview With Bob Nowlan,](#)” which was published on the Chippewa Valley Writers Guild site Dec. 4. The interview discussed Nowlan's ongoing work writing two books focused on critical studies in popular culture: “Ian Curtis, Joy Division, and Critical Theory” and “21st Century British TV Crime Drama: a Critical Guide.” The interview was conducted by UW-Eau Claire English major **Krisany Blount**, under the supervision of **B.J. Hollars**, associate professor of English.

Dr. Geoff Peterson, professor and chair of the political science department, was interviewed for the Jan. 4 WQOW story “[Significance of electoral vote objections.](#)”

A series of workshops led by **Patti See**, academic advisor in the Advising, Retention and Career Center/senior lecturer in women’s gender and sexuality studies, were featured in the story “[Workshop focuses on Preserving Family Stories,](#)” published in the Jan. 7 issue of The Chronotype.

UW-Eau Claire students **Destini Wilson** and **Ethan Ming Fing Teow** as well as **Jodi Thesing-Ritter**, executive director for diversity and inclusion, and **B.J. Hollars**, associate professor of English, were quoted in the Jan. 8 Chippewa Valley Post article “[UW-EC Civil Rights Pilgrimage moves online and offers access for the general community.](#)”

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- [Community COVID-19 testing extended through mid-January](#)

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University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

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Important announcements

NCUR 2023 Idea Exchange planned for Jan. 22

UW-Eau Claire has been selected to host the spring 2023 National Conference on Undergraduate Research, a three-day event with more than 4,000 students, faculty and mentors from across the country expected to attend. NCUR 2023, which will be unlike any other event the university has hosted in the past, will require an “all-hands-on-deck” approach from faculty, staff and students from both the Eau Claire and Rice Lake campuses. To kick off the planning, the leadership team will host a virtual **Idea Exchange from 1-2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22**, which will allow faculty and instructional staff to swap ideas with colleagues who are passionate about undergraduate research. The interactive exchange will focus on the academics and programming of the event. [RSVP here to receive a calendar invitation](#). The Idea Exchange will be recorded for viewing at a later date. A survey also will be launched for individuals to provide anonymous feedback. Please contact [Corry Mahnke](#) with any questions.

Consider applying for WiSys Spark grants

The [WiSys Spark Grant Program](#) is designed to help faculty, academic staff and students advance their knowledge and technology to commercialization. The fund provides awards of \$500-\$10,000 per project toward implementation and completion of short-term projects. Please visit the website for additional details and to watch an informative on-demand webinar. Applications are due **Friday, Jan. 22**. Questions? Contact [Dr. Catherine Chan](#), executive director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Explore the Blugold Employee Tuition Program

All employees who work half time or more are eligible to take undergraduate courses at UW-Eau Claire or UW-Eau Claire – Barron County at no cost, where space is available. Visit the [Blugold Employee Tuition Program](#) webpage to find out more about the program, key deadlines and to complete the e-form that is the first step to enrolling. For employees interested in registering for a spring 2021 course, registration opens on **Wednesday, Jan. 27**. Eligible employees need their supervisor’s approval to take part in the program.

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[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

Tyler Baumgart, conference coordinator for Student Organizations, completed Continuing Education's Supervisory Management Certificate Program on Dec. 4, 2020. Participants are required to complete three core classes and three electives in order to receive the certificate.

Dr. Brandon Bretl, visiting assistant professor of psychology, had his research article "[Neural and Linguistic Considerations for Assessing Moral Intuitions Using Text-based Stimuli](#)" published in the *Journal of Psychology*. Following is the full citation: Bretl, B.L., (2020). Neural and Linguistic Considerations for Assessing Moral Intuitions Using Text-Based Stimuli, *The Journal of Psychology*, DOI: 10.1080/00223980.2020.1832034.

Dr. Eric Kasper, professor of political science and director of the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies, had his article "[Ink Blog: Our Constitutional Union](#)" published in the Jan. 13 issue of The Chronotype.

Dr. Dorothy Ka-Ying Chan, assistant professor of English, has had two new triple sonnets published in the January issue of Poetry Magazine: "[Triple Sonnet for Celebrities with Three Names](#)" and "[Triple Sonnet Because Boy, You're Starstruck and I'm a Wonder.](#)" Chan also has had [two more triple sonnets](#) published in Vox Viola Magazine: "A Triple Sonnet About Queer Girl x Straight Girl Friendships" and "Triple Sonnet for Being a Queer in a Family of Straights." In addition, Chan's literary magazine, Honey Literary, debuted its new online artist spotlight: "Sticky Fingers" with an [interview with K-Ming Chang](#) on her new novel, "Bestiary." The interview was conducted by Chan and her co-founder, Rita Mookerjee.

Dr. Thomas Kemp, professor and chair of the economics department, and UW-Eau Claire economics student **Megan Roehl** presented their paper "Identifying Opportunities for Wisconsin to Participate in Advanced Manufacturing: An Investigation into the State's Real Capacity for Green Manufacturing" at the Allied Social Science Association Annual Meeting, held virtually Jan. 4.

Dr. Kaishan Kong, associate professor of Chinese in the languages department, was invited to present at a webinar about study abroad in the U.S. offered by Taylor's University in Malaysia on Jan. 15. She shared her views and some examples of the learning opportunities in liberal education and holistic education, with a focus on academic excellence and global citizenship.

Congratulations to **Dr. Damir Kovacevic**, assistant professor of political science, on completing the EDI Tier 3 professional development program. Kovacevic has completed 10 or more Tier 2 sessions and a reflection piece, titled "What Does It Mean to Be A Global Citizen?" to help improve EDI on campus. [Learn more](#) about Tier 3.

Bruce Taylor, professor emeritus of English, has had a number of poems published in the following magazine, journals and anthologies during 2020: American Journal of Poetry, Vol. 8: "Passing It On"; Ekphrastic Review: "Evening Wind"; The Poeming Pigeon: Pop Culture: "Finale Got you Down?" "Ravens Perch Her At The Window," "Women In Yellow Grass," "The Christmas James Brown Died," "Today's Poem Already," "My Old Feet," "Lovers Sometimes Wait," "This, On Time," "Upriver," "Another Storm Warning," "Winter 2020"; Unlikely Stories: "One of the Guys"; Wild Gods, The Ecstatic in Contemporary American Poetry and Prose. New Rivers Press, Peckham and Vivian, editors: "Here to the top of the tower," "See how everything is passing by."

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In memoriam

Condolences to Melissa Boellaard, clinical agency coordinator for pre-licensure programs in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, whose father, Leon Provost, passed away Jan. 9. [View full obituary.](#)

Condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Barbara MacBriar. MacBriar, associate professor emerita of family health nursing, passed away Jan. 7 in Lansing, Michigan, as a result of COVID-19. She was a member of the UW-Eau Claire faculty from 1990-2006. [View full obituary.](#)

In the news

Dr. Kimberly Frodl, medical director for UW-Eau Claire Student Health Service, **Grace Crickette**, vice chancellor for finance and administration, and **Quincy Chapman**, director of Housing and Residence Life were quoted in the Jan. 14 Leader-Telegram article "[UW-Eau Claire expands virus testing to off-campus students.](#)"

Research by **Dr. Justin Patchin**, professor of criminal justice and co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center, was referenced in the Jan. 12 University Business article "[Digital self-harm: What is it and could it be on rise?](#)"

Blugold women's hockey head coach **Erik Strand** and student **Bree Osborne** were interviewed for the following stories: Jan. 12 WQOW story "[Blugolds back on the ice, motivated for March](#)", Jan. 12 Leader-Telegram story "[College athletics: UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout begin winter practices with return looming](#)" and Jan. 12 WEAU story "[UWEC women's hockey team returns to the ice feeling stronger and faster.](#)"

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- [Research in Yellowstone brings Blugold national attention](#)
- [COVID-19 testing expands to all UW-Eau Claire students](#)
- [Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Celebration to be held virtually Jan. 18](#)

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

Professional development

UW System professional development opportunities

- **Call for applications: Wisconsin Teaching Fellow and Scholars (WTFS) Co-Director.** UW System is seeking a co-director for spring 2021. The WTFS program is one of the keystone professional development opportunities for faculty and instructors within the UW System. [Learn more](#) about this program. Applications are due **Feb. 17**.
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CETL professional development

CETL staff are available throughout January. Please email cetl@uwec.edu or call 715-836-2385 for consultations or with any questions.

- **Virtual sessions.** Join Q&A sessions and a variety of sessions on academic integrity, student engagement, universal design, creating videos, Zoom vs. Collaborate Ultra and more. [View sessions](#).
- **Professional development at your convenience.** [View session recordings and resources](#).
- **Request HoverCams (streaming document cameras) and microphones for spring courses.** View the [Instructional Technology](#) KB article to learn how to request microphones and document cameras that can be streamed or recorded for the spring semester.
- **Request spring midterm student evaluations, March 8-19.** [Learn more](#).

EDI professional development for faculty and staff

Faculty and staff are invited to participate in professional development opportunities to increase understanding of equity, diversity and inclusion, and help UW-Eau Claire do better as a campus. [View and register for sessions and groups](#).

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 - [“Juliet Takes a Breath”](#) Reading Group, begins April 22, noon-1 p.m.

[Submit professional development item](#)

Meeting notices

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

Blugold FYI: Jan. 26, 2021

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

Billy Felz named interim vice chancellor for enrollment management

Felz has worked as executive director for enrollment management, special assistant for the vice chancellor of enrollment management and executive director of the Advising, Retention and Career Center prior to taking on his current role. [Read the full announcement.](#)

Statement on class participation, spring 2021

Students have the greatest level of success when they participate in classes in the format in which they were designed. The expectation for spring semester is that any student who is not ill, in quarantine or does not have a university-approved absence will attend class in the format directed by the instructor. It is important that students and instructors distinguish between *attendance* (simply being present in person or online) and *participation* (actively completing learning activities in person or online). Instructors will not factor simple attendance into the grading formula. However, they may factor in points for participation in activities or discussions in class. Students who are ill or in quarantine will be provided with opportunities to make up those points. Instructors will contact students this week to share information on when students are assigned to participate in hybrid classes in person. See the  [complete statement on class participation.](#)

Holocaust event highlights UW-Eau Claire faculty, student research

UW-Eau Claire faculty and student research will be highlighted in film and on a panel tomorrow, **Wednesday, Jan. 27**, to recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event, “Finding Matilda: Uncovering the Life & Death of a Jewish Lithuanian Poet,” recalls the search for a little-known Holocaust victim, Matilda Olkin, and her family in Lithuania. Dr. Harry Jol, professor of geography, will be part of a 6 p.m. panel to discuss how and why scientists sought to reclaim Matilda’s story and discover her grave. Four UW-Eau Claire students are featured throughout a 20-minute documentary film working at sites searching for the mass grave. People are asked to [register for the discussion](#) and a link to the documentary will be emailed prior to the event. The documentary will not be shown during the discussion.

University Staff Council needs you!

The [University Staff Nominating Committee](#) has been asked by the [University Staff Council](#) to solicit nominations for an open seat on the council and on five committees. These are interim seats through the end of the academic year, **June 30, 2021**. After that time, university staff members would be welcome to self-nominate to remain on the council and/or committee for a full term. Please email the [University Staff Nominating Committee](#) for more information.

NCUR 2023 Idea Exchange: Academics and programming recording available

On Jan. 22, a virtual Idea Exchange was held, where attendees focused on academics and programming, learned about the framework of the national event, and shared their ideas about undergraduate research. You can [access the recording here](#). Please consider sharing your ideas via the [anonymous survey](#). Contact [Corry Mahnke](#) with any questions.

New Program Inventory Management system to replace program change forms

The Program Inventory Management (PIM) system will replace the program change paper form **starting Monday, Feb. 1**, for program changes such as majors, minors, certificates, degrees, major emphases and pre-professional programs. PIM will be used to initiate, approve and implement program curricular revisions that need to go through governance. To see the current program proposals, please [visit the Program Inventory Management page](#).

- PIM training sessions will be offered during the following dates and times: **Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2-3 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 8, 10-11 a.m.; and Wednesday, Feb. 17, noon-1 p.m.** Join the training via Teams ([Click here](#) to join the meeting) or call in (audio only) at +1 414-435-2332,321028335#, U.S., Milwaukee Phone Conference ID: 321 028 335#.

Unravel your (in-person and virtual) travel

Even with COVID-19, much is happening behind the scenes in the world of travel and virtual events. The Firstsource Support Team offers 30-minute live virtual training. The training is department-specific and covers physical travel and virtual event participation. The training includes: current campus restrictions, required prior authorization, best practices for booking and reporting, reimbursement, student and guest/candidate travel, the top TER- and PT-log send-back reasons for your department and how to avoid them, policy updates, tips and tools. Time is provided for questions and discussion. Contact UW-Eau Claire travel manager [Shawn Seuferer](#) with two potential meeting dates/times you wish to have the Firstsource Support Team provide this live virtual presentation to your department or unit.

Explore the Blugold Employee Tuition Program

All employees who work half time or more are eligible to take undergraduate courses at UW-Eau Claire or UW-Eau Claire – Barron County at no cost, where space is available. Visit the [Blugold Employee Tuition Program](#) webpage to find out more about the program, key deadlines and to complete the e-form that is the first step to enrolling. For employees interested in registering for a spring 2021 course, registration opens on **Wednesday, Jan. 27**. Eligible employees need their supervisor's approval to take part in the program.

Physical Plant Planning Committee to host listening session this week

The University Senate Physical Plant Planning Committee will host a virtual listening session from **1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28**, about its draft proposal "[Supporting Cessation and Prevention: Toward a Commercial Tobacco-Free Campus](#)." All campus community members are invited to [join the Zoom session](#) (Phone: 312-626-6799; Meeting ID: 744 452 3769; Passcode: 109377).

Join 'Eau These Blugold Nights!'

Tune in to the [UW-Eau Claire Alumni Facebook page](#) at 6 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 3**, for the Facebook Live series "Eau These Blugold Nights!" We're pleased to feature **Blugold graduate Meghan Keyes '10, house manager for the Dubbel Dutch boutique hotel in Milwaukee**, who will present "History, Community and Hospitality in the New Normal." The series, hosted by the

UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association, brings Blugolds to you the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. to share an art, craft, knowledge or talent.

Teach abroad deadline extended to February

Deadlines for the following opportunities have been extended to **Friday, Feb. 5**: China: Changshu Institute of Technology, Summer 2021; and England: Harlaxton College, Fall 2022 or Spring 2023. Interested faculty and instructional academic staff can [learn more about the opportunities and application process](#) online. Questions are welcome; please contact [Colleen Marchwick](#).

CETL offers summer scholarship of teaching and learning grants

The Summer Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Grant program, offered through the [Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#), supports educator/student collaborative projects for development and assessment of new curriculum, including courses and other educational experiences. [Learn more](#) about this program. Applications are due **Wednesday, Feb. 10**.

Call for Nominations: 11th Annual Provost's Honors Symposium

Faculty and staff are invited to nominate outstanding student research, scholarship or creative activity **by March 1** for presentation at the [11th Annual Provost's Honors Symposium for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity](#) on April 23. PHS is a professional-style conference where selected students from any major on campus have the chance to present exceptional work. In 2021, PHS will be a synchronous, virtual event. Visit the Provost's Honors Symposium website for updates and [submit a nomination via eform](#). For more information, contact [Heather Fielding](#) in [University Honors](#).

Save the date: Virtual Shamrock Shuffle is March 13-20

Join Recreation and Sport Operations for its annual **Shamrock Shuffle 5K**. This year the event will be virtual, with participants able to complete the race anytime during the week of March 13-20. [Learn more about the event online](#).

UW-Eau Claire updates regarding COVID-19

A running account of information regarding COVID-19 and its impact on the campus and community continues to be maintained on the [COVID-19 Updates page](#). Check the link regularly to find resources and updates, including emails sent to faculty, staff and students, regarding UW-Eau Claire's response to the pandemic.

[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: **Dr. Kaishan Kong**, languages, "Engaging International Students in Academic Research"; **Dr. Nora Mitchell**, biology, "Student Perceptions of the Identity and Diversity of Scientists"; **Kelly Murray**, biology, "Using Group Roles for Inclusive Learning"; **Kerri Patton**, College of Business, "MBA 701 Modification to Improve Student Learning of Diversity and Inclusion Concepts"; and **Dr. Jonathan Rylander**, English, "Writing Across the Curriculum and High-Impact Practices-CETL EDI Tier 2 Workshop." [Learn more](#) about Tier 3.

Dr. Jonathan J. Rylander, assistant professor of English and director of the Center for Writing Excellence, had his article "[Embracing the 'Always-Already': Toward Queer Assemblages for Writing Across the Curriculum Administration](#)" published in College Composition and Communication.

Dr. Katherine Schneider, psychologist emerita in Counseling Services, participated in the crowd-sourced poem "For My People," which was curated by 19th U.S. poet laureate Natasha Trethewey in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Schneider appears at the 28-second mark in the [video](#), which can be found on the PBS American Portrait website.

Patti See, academic advisor in the Advising, Retention and Career Center/senior lecturer in women's gender and sexuality studies, had her story "[Changing lives daily](#)," about UW-Eau Claire graduate and former staff member **Dennis Beale** published in the Jan. 22 Leader-Telegram.

Dr. Christine Vriesema, assistant professor of psychology, was awarded an Early Career Research Grant through Division 15 of the American Psychological Association. The title of the project is "Mitigating Unmet Expectations: Leveraging School-Level Achievement Goals to Enhance Teacher Satisfaction and Retention." The funds support research activities and student stipends during the 2020-21 academic year.

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In the news

Dr. Selika Duckworth-Lawton, professor of history was interviewed for the following stories: "[MLK Day event targets racism](#)," Leader-Telegram, Jan. 18; "[Chippewa Valley celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day virtually](#)," Chippewa Herald, Jan. 18; and "[Martin Luther King Jr. remembered through virtual Eau Claire events](#)," WQOW, Jan. 18.

Tonja Englund, Blugold women's basketball head coach, and team member **Katie Essen** were quoted in the Jan. 25 Leader-Telegram article "[Women's college basketball: Blugolds motivated after tough end to WIAC tournament run.](#)"

Dr. Angela Jones, assistant professor of special education, was interviewed for the Jan. 20 WQOW story "[Eau Claire women wearing pearls in support of Kamala Harris on Inauguration Day.](#)"

Dr. Eric Kasper, professor of political science and director of the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies, and **Teresa O'Halloran**, interim vice chancellor for equity, diversity, inclusion and student affairs, were part of a panel on race, civility and the First Amendment during the Chippewa Valley's Martin Luther King Jr. program Jan. 18. Excerpts from the panel were featured on Wisconsin Public Radio's "The West Side" Jan. 20. [Learn more and listen.](#)

Dr. Geoff Peterson, professor of political science, was interviewed for the Jan. 20 WQOW story "[Inauguration Analysis: Local political science expert weighs in.](#)" Peterson also was interviewed for the Jan. 17 WQOW story "[Breaking down Biden's plans for first days in office.](#)"

Patti See, academic advisor in the Advising, Retention and Career Center/senior lecturer in women's gender and sexuality studies, was a guest on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Spectrum West" Jan. 21 to discuss the "Preserving Family Stories" workshop she leads through UW-Eau Claire Continuing Education. [Learn more and listen.](#)

Dr. Frank Watkins, associate professor of music, **Dang Yang**, director, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and **Dr. Rod Jones**, assistant professor of special education, were quoted in the Jan. 19 Chippewa Valley Post article "[Panelists note impacts of race and racism in celebrating Martin Luther King's legacy.](#)"

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

[Submit news item](#)

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](#)

Campus news and features

- [Chancellor: University working to address racial disparities in education](#)
- [COVID-19 tests available to community at UW-Eau Claire beginning Feb. 2](#)
- [UW-Eau Claire expert says suicide is not just a behavioral health issue](#)
- [Nursing research team educates teens and young adults about dangers of vaping](#)
- [UW-Eau Claire nursing students are part of mobile COVID-19 vaccine teams](#)
- ['Clear Water' exhibit opens Feb. 1 in Foster Gallery](#)

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

Professional development

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- **“Teaching About Race and Racism in the College Classroom” Reading Group:** Feb. 10, 17 and 24, 3-4 p.m.
- **“Whistling Vivaldi” Reading Group:** March 1, 15 and 29, 3-3:50 p.m.
- **Faculty Fridays Open Write:** Begins Feb. 12, weekly Friday meetings, 9 a.m.-noon. To join, email rylandjj@uwec.edu.
- **Podcast Professional Development Group:** April 6, 13 and 20 from 1-2 p.m.
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 - “Picture a Scientist” Film Viewing and Discussion: View film at your convenience between March 13-15; join discussion March 22 from 4-5 p.m.
[RSVP by March 10](#) to get access to the film and the link to the Zoom discussion
NOTE: Participants must watch the film and attend the virtual discussion for Tier 2 credit.
Questions? Please email WomeninSTEM@uwec.edu.

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