

Blugold FYI Archive: August 2021

Blugold FYI: Aug. 3, 2021

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- **Have content for an upcoming edition?** Send it via the [Blugold FYI submission form](#).
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-

Important announcements

Remember to upload your vaccination documentation

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'Leveraging Your Vulnerabilities' webinar offered Aug. 11

Kepro, the UW System's Employee Assistance Program, will offer a webinar titled "Leveraging Your Vulnerabilities" from **12:30-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 11**, for all UW System employees. [Learn more about the webinar](#) and [register here](#).

Save the date: Blugold Breakfast, opening meeting set for Aug. 24

We look forward to joining together as a campus community for the Blugold Breakfast and academic year opening meeting on **Tuesday, Aug. 24**. The meeting will **begin at 8 a.m. in Zorn Arena**, followed by a hot breakfast to go. This reflects guidance from the Eau Claire City-County Health Department to provide space for people to socially distance in group meetings. Please save the date and look for more details and an invitation soon.

Consider volunteering for McIntyre Library's 'After Dark' party

Do you have a favorite game you'd like to run? Are you a magician? McIntyre Library is seeking faculty and staff members to help with its annual back-to-school party, "After Dark." The event will be from **6-10 p.m. Sept. 2** in the library. If you are interested in volunteering while meeting students, please contact [Helena Sumbulla](#), assistant professor and student engagement librarian.

Campus parking updates

Permit hours changing. Beginning Aug. 2, faculty/staff/student commuter and Priority permits (“F,” “G,” “S,” and “RS”) will be valid and required 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday across all campus parking lots. Starting Aug. 2, Aspenson Mogensen Hall permits (“W”) will be valid and required 6 a.m. Monday through 4 p.m. Friday. Starting Sept. 2, resident hall permits (“R,” “A” and “B”) will be valid and required 6 a.m. Monday through 4 p.m. Friday. Please pay attention to parking lot signage.

- **AMP timed parking enforcement update.** Starting Aug. 2, all AMP zones (with the exception of Zones 2 and 11) will require payment 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Sunday. AMP is short-term, timed parking ranging from 15 minutes to four hours, purchased in 15-minute increments at an hourly rate of \$1. Here is a [map of AMP parking locations](#).
- **Violation charge increase.** Beginning Aug. 2, parking without the proper university permit will result in a \$25 citation, an increase from \$20.
- **2021-22 faculty/staff parking permit sales start at 10 a.m. Aug. 12.** Check your university email Aug. 5 for communication regarding faculty/staff parking permit options, details and purchasing instructions.
- **2021-22 parking permits to be virtual.** Your license plate will be your permit. License plate recognition (LPR) is an advanced parking technology that uses a vehicle-mounted camera to read license plates as virtual permits instead of paper/plastic permits. More details will be included in emails about permit purchasing.

For more parking details, visit uwec.ly/parking.

Sales tax exemption update

UW-Eau Claire is exempt from paying sales tax on travel and purchases within the state of Wisconsin. The certificate and exemption number have recently changed and the previous certificate and wallet card have been discontinued. Updated Wisconsin sales tax exemption documents and information concerning sales tax exemption from other states can be found on the [UW System Travel Policies webpage](#). New Department of Revenue-approved tax exemption wallet cards are available through the [Firstsource Support Team](#) in the ASK Center upon request. Please carry these cards with you when you travel. Questions? Contact the Firstsource Support Team at 715-836-3131 or askcenter@uwec.edu.

Resources to facilitate smooth return to travel

As university travel is starting to pick up again, here are some resources to help facilitate a smooth return to travel:

- [Travel program](#): Changes from July 2020-now.
- [Travel FAQs](#): UATP cards (payment method that will be automatically applied to most airfare bookings), travel agency transition, policy updates and general booking.
- [Register for upcoming UW travel webinars](#) and listen to past webinars.
- [Updated TravelWise website](#): Please take time to browse through the site.
- As always, the [Firstsource Support Team](#) is available to assist with all things travel and reimbursement. Call 715-836-3131, or email askcenter@uwec.edu.

International travel news

The Center for International Education has shared that the U.S. State Department is experiencing significantly longer than usual passport processing times. Currently, standard passport processing time is 18 weeks; expedited processing of 12 weeks is available at additional cost. Any U.S. passport holder aspiring to international travel during 2021-22 should check their passport expiration date and apply early for renewal or a first-time passport. Passport timing should be planned around visa application submission requirements rather than travel departure date. For additional information and updates, visit the [U.S. State Department website](#).

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.

[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

Dr. Dorothy Chan, assistant professor of English, is pleased to share the news that her BIPOC-focused literary journal/501(c)(3) literary arts organization, *Honey Literary*, has released its [second issue](#).

Dr. Matthew Haffner, assistant professor of geography and anthropology, has had the following paper published: Haffner, M., "[A framework for place-based survey implementation](#)," Spatial Cognition XII, Spatial Cognition 2020, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Vol. 12162, edited by J. Škilters, N.S. Newcombe and D. Uttal, pages 88-94, August 2020.

Joshua Potter-Efron, clinical assistant professor/field director in the social work department, and Lisa Alexander have co-edited the book "Project Bloom: Diverse Reflections on Surviving the Pandemic," which was published in July on the 31st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. [Learn more about the book](#).

Patti See, academic advisor in the Advising, Retention and Career Center/senior lecturer in women's gender and sexuality studies, had her story "['Progress' on Lake Hallie](#)" published in the July 29 Leader-Telegram.

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In the news

Dr. Ali Abootalebi, professor of political science, was a guest on Wisconsin Public Radio's "[Central Time](#)" July 29 to discuss the U.S./Iraq/Afghanistan situation.

Dr. James Boulter, professor of chemistry and biochemistry in the public health and environmental studies department, was interviewed for the July 27 WEAU story "[Warmer weather, poor air quality to blame for severe allergy season](#)" and was quoted in the July 28 Leader-Telegram story "[UW-EC prof: Air quality, flooding signs of a changing climate.](#)"

Grace Crickette, vice chancellor for finance and administration, was quoted in the July 26 WEAU story "[Students can expect a 'very normal' return to UWEC this fall,](#)" the July 26 Leader-Telegram article "[UW-EC, Stout offer prizes and scholarships to vaccinated students](#)" and the July 30 WTAQ-WLUK story "[Colleges Getting Creative on Incentivizing Vaccines.](#)" Crickette also was interviewed for the July 26 WQOW story "[UW System schools offer extra incentives to get students vaccinated.](#)"

Rob Mattison, a videographer in Learning and Technology Services, was quoted in the July 29 Input article "[It's the 50th anniversary of the most horrific kids' toys ever.](#)" Mattison's work also was featured in the article.

Chancellor James Schmidt was among the guests on Wisconsin Public Radio's "[The West Side](#)" July 30 to discuss updates on western Wisconsin's three UW System campuses.

Dr. Lloyd Turtinen, professor emeritus of biology, was quoted in the July 28 WEAU story "[How new CDC recommendations affect western Wisconsin.](#)"

UW-Eau Claire was featured in a July 29 Leader-Telegram editorial "[Our View: Vaccination incentives the right move as COVID persists.](#)"

[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.

Jackson Schmidtke has been promoted to study abroad coordinator after five years as the program associate in the Center for International Education.

[Submit position update item](#)

Campus news and features

- [Continuing Education announces August program offerings](#)
- [Summer research experiences at Mayo Clinic shape Blugolds' future career plans](#)
- [Geology major embraces variety of opportunities after transferring to UW-Eau Claire](#)

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

Professional development

CETL professional development

- **August and September Virtual Q&A and Zoom learning sessions:** [View sessions](#).
- **One-on-One Consultations:** CETL offers one-on-one consultations for faculty and staff who are seeking a change or who are interested in learning more about a teaching/learning topic. Please email CETL@uwec.edu.
- **"Promoting Student and Faculty Well-Being," Aug. 23:** "[Promoting Student and Faculty Well-Being Outside the Classroom](#)," 9 a.m.-noon, with Dr. Jennifer Muehlenkamp; and "[Promoting Student and Faculty Well-Being in the Classroom](#)," 1-4 p.m., with Dr. Mary Beth Leibham.
- **Fall Midterm Student Evaluations,** Oct. 11-22: Collect midterm feedback from students this fall to help you and your students be successful. [Request a midterm student evaluation](#).

EDI professional development for faculty and staff

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Coming up:

- Independent film viewing and reflection options:
 - ["Call Her Ganda"](#)
 - ["Milwaukee 53206"](#)
 - ["Where Justice Ends"](#)
 - ["Picture a Scientist"](#)
 - ["Educating Peter"](#)
 - ["Including Samuel"](#)
 - ["Race"](#) (2016)
 - Fall sessions and groups coming soon!

[Submit professional development item](#)

Meeting notices

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Important announcements

Campus mask guidelines updated

Effective Monday, Aug. 9, face coverings are expected indoors for all UW-Eau Claire employees, students and guests, regardless of vaccination status. [View additional details](#).

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LTS has switched to new client ticketing system

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[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

Dr. Christopher Davis, associate professor of mathematics, co-authored a paper, titled “[Moves relating C-complexes: A correction to Cimasoni’s ‘A geometric construction of the Conway potential function,’](#)” with Dr. Taylor Martin (Sam Houston State University) and **Dr. Carolyn Otto**, associate professor of mathematics, which has been published in the *Journal of Topology and its Applications*.

Dr. Rahul Gomes, assistant professor in computer science, **Dr. Papia F. Rozario**, lecturer in geography and anthropology, and Nishan Adhikari co-authored a research paper, titled “[Deep learning optimization in remote sensing image segmentation using dilated convolutions and ShuffleNet,](#)” which was published in the 2021 IEEE International Conference on Electro Information Technology (EIT), 2021, pages 244-249, doi: 10.1109/EIT51626.2021.9491910. Rozario and Gomes also co-authored the paper “[Comparison of data mining algorithms in remote sensing using Lidar data fusion and feature selection,](#)” which was published in the 2021 IEEE International Conference on Electro Information Technology (EIT), 2021, pages 236-243, doi: 10.1109/EIT51626.2021.9491878.

Dr. Frances Hawes, assistant professor of health care administration, presented findings of her paper, titled “Technology preparedness and the impact on a high-quality remote learning experience: Lessons from COVID-19” at the 2021 Distance Teaching & Learning Conference, held online Aug. 2-5.

Dr. Kong Pheng Pha, assistant professor of women’s, gender and sexuality studies, had his opinion piece “[It Seems to Me: How to teach history after Sunisa Lee](#)” published in the Aug. 5 Leader-Telegram.

College of Education and Human Sciences faculty members **Dr. Karsten Powell** and **Dr. Roderick Jones**, assistant professors of special education and inclusive practices; and **Dr. Kyle Whipple** and **Dr. Emily Freeman**, assistant professors of education for equity and justice, presented a paper titled “Collaborating for Student Success: Preservice Teacher Preparation for Collaboration” at the Association of Teacher Educators virtual conference, held Aug. 1-3.

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In the news

Dr. Sean Hartnett, professor of geography, was featured in the Aug. 5 Leader-Telegram article “[UW-Eau Claire prof maps elevation for Olympics marathon course](#)” and was quoted in the Aug. 6 WUWM story “[Waukesha County’s Molly Seidel Takes Bronze In Women’s Marathon, As Wisconsin-Made Map Guides Runners.](#)”

Dr. Tom Sather, associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, **Dr. CeCelia Zorn**, professor emerita of nursing, and her husband, Wayne, a couple coping with primary progressive aphasia, were guests on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Spectrum West" Aug. 5 to discuss the "Aphasia Creative Arts" display currently featured at The Goat Coffee House in Eau Claire. In addition, **Dr. Rahul Gomes**, assistant professor of computer science, and **Dr. Nora Mitchell**, assistant professor of biology, discussed UW-Eau Claire's new bioinformatics major during the show. [Learn more and listen.](#)

Dr. Kent Syverson, professor of geology, was quoted in the Aug. 4 WAOW story "[Solar energy debate continues in Wood County.](#)"

Charles Vue, associate director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and student **Amber Yang** were interviewed for the Aug. 2 WQOW story "[What Olympian Sunisa Lee means to the Hmong community in Eau Claire.](#)"

UW-Eau Claire's campus mask guidelines were highlighted in the following Aug. 5 media stories: "[Support for COVID measures builds as UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, UW-La Crosse now 'expect' masks](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel; "[UW-EC, UW-Stout reinstate mask requirements starting Monday](#)," Leader-Telegram; "[UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout to encourage indoor mask wearing beginning Monday](#)," WSAW; and "[Masks will be 'expected' indoors at UWEC & Stout](#)," WQOW.

[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.

Caroline Kernan has joined the Admissions Office in the role of multicultural admissions counselor.

Nevada LaPointe has joined the Admissions team as the application and evaluation specialist, working primarily with new-student applications. In addition to being an alumna of UW-Eau Claire, [LaPointe](#) previously served in the ASK Center as an operations program associate-Firstsource professional.

Shawn Larson has joined the Admissions Office and UW-Eau Claire – Barron County team as an admissions counselor with a focus on Northwest Wisconsin and UW-Eau Claire – Barron County.

Corey Meyer has joined the Admissions Office in the role of transfer admissions counselor.

[Submit position update item](#)

Campus news and features

- [Midwest Artist Academy leaves magical impression on participants](#)
- [UW-Eau Claire professor maps elevation for Olympics marathon course](#)

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

Professional development

CETL professional development

- **August and September virtual Q&A and Zoom learning sessions:** [View sessions](#).
- **One-on-One Consultations:** CETL offers one-on-one consultations for faculty and staff who are seeking a change or who are interested in learning more about a teaching/learning topic. Please email CETL@uwec.edu.
- **“Promoting Student and Faculty Well-Being,” Monday, Aug. 23:** [“Promoting Student and Faculty Well-Being Outside the Classroom,”](#) 9 a.m.-noon, with Dr. Jennifer Muehlenkamp; and [“Promoting Student and Faculty Well-Being in the Classroom,”](#) 1-4 p.m., with Dr. Mary Beth Leibham.
- **Interprofessional Education Community of Practice:** Join a community of practice that will explore possible collaborations in simulations, assignments and learning outcomes. This group hopes to collaborate on programming for campus professional development related to health equity issues. [Join the Tuesday group](#) that will begin meeting Sept. 21 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. or [join the Wednesday group](#) that will begin meeting Sept. 29 from 2-2:50 p.m.
- **Fall Midterm Student Evaluations,** Oct. 11-22: Collect midterm feedback from students this fall to help you and your students be successful. [Request a midterm student evaluation](#).

EDI professional development for faculty and staff

[View and register for sessions and groups](#).

- [Reading Group: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks](#): Fridays, Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Oct. 15 and Oct. 29, noon-12:50 p.m.
- [Excluded Reading Group Series](#): Thursdays, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21 and Nov. 4, 3-4 p.m.
- [Inclusive Recruitment and Hiring Discussion Group](#): Thursdays, Sept. 30, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18, 2-3 p.m.

More fall sessions and groups coming soon!

[Submit professional development item](#)

Meeting notices

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UW-Eau Claire Zoom account consolidation set for Aug. 19

On **Thursday, Aug. 19**, UW-Eau Claire's Enterprise Zoom account will be consolidated into the UW System's overall Zoom account. While your Zoom experience will remain mostly the same, there will be a few changes that you should take action on and be aware of:

- **Domain change.** The Zoom company domain will change from "uwec-edu" to "Wisconsin-edu." This means that when logging into the Zoom application, you will need to click on "Sign in with SSO" and enter "Wisconsin-edu" when prompted for the company domain.
 - Please see the [Zoom KB article](#) for assistance on this change and for more information on SSOs.

- Alternatively, you can sign in through <https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us> and enter your UWEC credentials.
- **Required single sign on (SSO).** Authentication through SSO will be required for using your UWEC Zoom account. Use the above method to log in, and the above Zoom KB article above for assistance.
- **Scheduled meetings and recordings.** Your scheduled meetings and recordings will stay with your account. Meetings scheduled under the old “uwec-edu” domain may give you a pop-up saying that it is from outside your company, but the meeting link will still work.
- **Meeting Reports.** Meeting reports will *not* be transferred with the account. If you would like old attendance reports from meetings, you should download them before the changeover on Aug. 19, or we will have saved reports available.

More information on Zoom can be found at <https://uwec.ly/zoom>. If you have any questions about this change, please contact the LTS Help Desk at helpdesk@uwec.edu or 715-836-5711.

Welcome to the Welcome Center

Faculty, staff and students are invited to explore the Flesch Family Welcome Center during a campus open house from **4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25**. The Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce will recognize the building’s opening with a ribbon-cutting and brief remarks at 4 p.m. near the building’s west entry (facing the campus mall). Following the ribbon-cutting, all are invited inside to explore the new home for Admissions, Foundation and Alumni Relations, and see for yourself the first stop for campus visitors.

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New bioinformatics major approved

The UW System Board of Regents has approved a new [bioinformatics major](#) to begin in fall 2022. It will be the only bioinformatics program of its kind in the UW System. Housed in the mathematics department, the bioinformatics major will draw on expertise from the university’s biology, computer science and mathematics programs. The program was developed in response to a projected increase in the need for computer and information research scientists, data scientists and software developers in the area of bioinformatics, and a shortage of bioinformatics programs nationwide.

Davies Marketplace to be closed Sept. 1

Davies Marketplace will be closed **Wednesday, Sept. 1**, for our [Blugold Welcome](#) new student lunch. We ask that faculty, staff and other students make alternative plans for breakfast and lunch that day. Thank you for your understanding.

Jamf founder Zach Halmstad to speak on campus Sept. 9

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- **Hibbard parking lot reopening week of Aug. 23.** Hibbard parking lot will reopen during the week of Aug. 23. The specific date will be communicated once the project is complete. “F” and “G” permits will be valid and required 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. AMP timed parking has been added to a portion of this parking lot and will require payment 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Sunday. AMP is short-term, timed parking ranging from

15 minutes to four hours, purchased in 15-minute increments at an hourly rate of \$1. Please pay attention to parking lot signage.

- **Permit hours have changed.** As of Aug. 2, faculty/staff/student commuter and Priority permits (“F,” “G,” “S,” and “RS”) are valid and required 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday across all campus parking lots. As of Aug. 2, Aspenson Mogensen Hall permits (“W”) are valid and required 6 a.m. Monday through 4 p.m. Friday. Starting Sept. 2, residence hall permits (“R,” “A” and “B”) will be valid and required 6 a.m. Monday through 4 p.m. Friday. Please pay attention to parking lot signage.
- **AMP timed parking enforcement update.** As of Aug. 2, all AMP zones (with the exception of Zones 2 and 11) require payment 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Sunday. AMP is short-term, timed parking ranging from 15 minutes to four hours, purchased in 15-minute increments at an hourly rate of \$1. Here is a [map of AMP parking locations](#).
- **Violation charge increase.** Effective Aug. 2, parking without the proper university permit will result in a \$25 citation, an increase from \$20.
- **2021-22 faculty/staff parking permit sales began Aug. 12.** An email regarding faculty/staff parking permit options, details and purchasing instructions was sent Aug. 4.
- **2021-22 parking permits to be virtual.** Your license plate will be your permit. License plate recognition (LPR) is an advanced parking technology that uses a vehicle-mounted camera to read license plates as virtual permits instead of paper/plastic permits. More details will be included in emails about permit purchasing.

For more parking details, visit uwec.ly/parking.

Sales tax exemption update

UW-Eau Claire is exempt from paying sales tax on travel and purchases within the state of Wisconsin. The certificate and exemption number have recently changed and the previous certificate and wallet card have been discontinued. Updated Wisconsin sales tax exemption documents and information concerning sales tax exemption from other states can be found on the [UW System Travel Policies webpage](#). New Department of Revenue-approved tax exemption wallet cards are available through the [Firstsource Support Team](#) in the ASK Center upon request. Please carry these cards with you when you travel. Questions? Contact the Firstsource Support Team at 715-836-3131 or askcenter@uwec.edu.

International travel news

The Center for International Education has shared that the U.S. State Department is experiencing significantly longer than usual passport processing times. Currently, standard passport processing time is 18 weeks; expedited processing of 12 weeks is available at additional cost. Any U.S. passport holder aspiring to international travel during 2021-22 should check their passport expiration date and apply early for renewal or a first-time passport. Passport timing should be planned around visa application submission requirements rather than travel departure date. For additional information and updates, visit the [U.S. State Department website](#).

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.

[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

Dr. Dorothy Chan, assistant professor of English, had her poem “A Poem About Killing Off Your Homophobic Characters” highlighted on [Verse Daily’s Web Weekly Features](#) for the week of Aug. 2. Read the [full poem](#) in the *Diode Poetry Journal*.

Dr. Peter Hart-Brinson, associate professor of sociology and communication and journalism, gave two conference presentations at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, held online Aug. 6-10: “Temporality, Valence, and Metaphor in the Imagination of Possible Futures: Imagining Society After Same-Sex Marriage” and “Eau Claire Longitudinal Student Survey: Institutionalizing High-Impact Experiential Learning in Sociological Research Methods.”

Dr. Nora Mitchell, assistant professor of biology, and her co-author had their article “[Limited evidence for a positive relationship between hybridization and diversification across seed plant families](#)” published in the August 2021 issue of *Evolution*. Following is the full citation: Mitchell, N. and Whitney, K.D. Limited evidence for a positive relationship between hybridization and diversification across seed plant families. *Evolution*. 75(8):1966-1982.

Dr. Nicholas Phillips, professor of piano in the music and theatre arts department, will present two recitals for the San Francisco International Piano Festival on Aug. 20 and 22. One features music of Charles Griffes, and the other is a program of piano music by a diverse array of contemporary composers that includes the world premiere of Quinn Mason’s “Piano Sonata '21,” commissioned with funds from UW-Eau Claire’s Visiting Minority Scholars and Artists program. Both recitals can be accessed [via livestream](#).

Dr. Jonathan J. Rylander, assistant professor of English and director of the Center for Writing Excellence, had his column “[A Need to Escape Leads Us to Our Authentic Selves: Listening, Finding Peace Helps Deepen Our Roots with Our Community](#)” published in the July 20 issue of Volume One. He also had his essay “[Carnal](#)” published in *Thimble Literary Magazine*.

Dr. Jason Spraitz, associate professor of criminal justice, co-edited the book “[Institutional Sexual Abuse in the #MeToo Era](#)” with Dr. Kendra Bowen (Texas Christian University). Spraitz and Bowen wrote three of the 12 chapters, including the introduction, conclusion and the chapter “Sexual Abuse in Religious Institutions.” **Mia Gilliam**, assistant professor of criminal justice, contributed the chapter “Sexual Abuse in Higher Education and the Impact of #MeToo”

with co-author Dr. Shelly Clevenger (Sam Houston State University). **Dr. Pam Forman**, professor of sociology, co-authored the chapter “Sexual Abuse in Sport: Hegemonic Masculinity and Institutional Failures” with UW-Eau Claire graduate **Lake Montie** and Dr. Anne Nurse (College of Wooster).

Dr. Jerry Young, professor emeritus of music, was principal tubist for the [Baroque on Beaver](#) music festival in early August. The 2021 festival marked the 20th anniversary of the event, which features daily performances by chamber ensembles and a chamber orchestra.

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In the news

Dr. Eric T. Kasper, professor of political science and director of the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies, was interviewed for the Aug. 13 WEAU story “[Constitutional law professor says vaccine mandates historically hold up in court.](#)”

Dr. Geoffrey Peterson, professor and chair of political science, was interviewed for the Aug. 11 WQOW story “[Predicted implications of Rep. Kind ending 26-year career in Congress.](#)”

Dr. Ryan Weichelt, professor of geography, was quoted in the Aug. 12 Leader-Telegram article “[Eau Claire County growing faster than state](#)” and the Aug. 13 WEAU story “[Eau Claire County grows in 2020 Census, may impact redistricting.](#)” He also was interviewed on WOGO radio, 680 AM/103.1 FM, Aug. 13 about the U.S. Census data.

[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.

Housing and Residence Life recently welcomed three new residence hall directors: **Lawrence Blaser**, Murray Hall director; **Bryn Mulroy Bowden**, Governors Hall director; and **Courtney Eddy**, Towers South hall director.

Joel Insteness has joined the heating plant as a power plant operator I.

[Submit position update item](#)

Campus news and features

- [‘Thursdays at the U’ returns Sept. 2 with discussion of barn quilts in Wisconsin](#)
- [Blugold geographers and CVTC collaborate for Farm Technology Days event](#)

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

Professional development

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) professional development

- **August and September virtual Q&A and Zoom learning sessions:** [View sessions](#).
- **One-on-One Consultations:** CETL offers one-on-one consultations for faculty and staff who are seeking a change or who are interested in learning more about a teaching/learning topic. Please email CETL@uwec.edu.
- **“Promoting Student and Faculty Well-Being,” Monday, Aug. 23:** [“Promoting Student and Faculty Well-Being Outside the Classroom,”](#) 9 a.m.-noon, with Dr. Jennifer Muehlenkamp; and [“Promoting Student and Faculty Well-Being in the Classroom,”](#) 1-4 p.m., with Dr. Mary Beth Leibham.
- **“Distracted: Why Students Can’t Focus and What You Can Do About It” Reading Group Series:** Sept. 15, Sept. 29, Oct. 13 and Oct. 27, 10-11 a.m. [Register](#).
- **Interprofessional Education Community of Practice:** Join a community of practice that will explore possible collaborations in simulations, assignments and learning outcomes. This group hopes to collaborate on programming for campus professional development related to health equity issues. [Join the Tuesday group](#) that will begin meeting Sept. 21 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. or [join the Wednesday group](#) that will begin meeting Sept. 29 from 2-2:50 p.m.
- **Fall Midterm Student Evaluations,** Oct. 11-22: Collect midterm feedback from students this fall to help you and your students be successful. [Request a midterm student evaluation](#).

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) professional development for faculty and staff

[View and register for sessions and groups](#).

- [Reading Group: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks:](#) Fridays, Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Oct. 15 and Oct. 29, noon-12:50 p.m.
- [Excluded Reading Group Series:](#) Thursdays, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21 and Nov. 4, 3-4 p.m.
- [Inclusive Recruitment and Hiring Discussion Group:](#) Thursdays, Sept. 30, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18, 2-3 p.m.

More fall sessions and groups coming soon!

[Submit professional development item](#)

Meeting notices

- [See all meetings and agendas.](#)
 - [Submit your meeting notice.](#)
-

Blugold FYI: Aug. 24, 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

Blugold Breakfast, opening meeting at 8 a.m. today

We look forward to joining together as a campus community for the Blugold Breakfast and academic year opening meeting at **8 a.m. today in Zorn Arena**. To ensure a safe environment for all, masks will be required and breakfast will be available for pickup after the program outside Zorn Arena (Rice Lake breakfast pickup: Blue Hills Lecture Hall). If you are unable to join in Zorn Arena, the program will be livestreamed at <http://uwec.ly/live>.

Remember to upload your vaccination documentation

Nearly \$100,000 in scholarships could be awarded to UW-Eau Claire students if the student body is able to hit the 70% vaccination threshold by Oct. 15. Employees are also encouraged to get vaccinated and to upload their vaccine documentation (vaccine card, immunization record) through [MyUWPortal](#). Follow the directions on this [tip sheet](#) to ensure your profile is updated.

Welcome to the Welcome Center!

Faculty, staff and students are invited to explore the Flesch Family Welcome Center during a campus open house from **4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25**. The Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce will recognize the building's opening with a ribbon-cutting and brief remarks at 4 p.m. near the building's west entry (facing the campus mall). Following the ribbon-cutting, all

are invited inside to explore the new home for Admissions, Foundation and Alumni Relations, and see for yourself the first stop for campus visitors.

Campus parking updates

- **Hibbard parking to reopen today, Tuesday, Aug. 24.** “F” and “G” permits are valid and required 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. AMP timed parking has been added to a portion of this parking lot and will require payment 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Sunday. AMP is short-term, timed parking ranging from 15 minutes to four hours, purchased in 15-minute increments at an hourly rate of \$1. Please pay attention to parking lot signage.
- **Permit hours have changed.** As of Aug. 2, faculty/staff/student commuter and Priority permits (“F,” “G,” “S,” and “RS”) are valid and required 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday across all campus parking lots.
- **AMP timed parking enforcement update.** As of Aug. 2, all AMP zones (with the exception of Zones 2 and 11) require payment 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Sunday. AMP is short-term, timed parking ranging from 15 minutes to four hours, purchased in 15-minute increments at an hourly rate of \$1. Here is a [map of AMP parking locations](#).
- **2021-22 parking permits to be virtual.** Your license plate will be your permit. It is your responsibility as the permit holder/purchaser to maintain an accurate vehicle record.

For more parking details, visit uwec.ly/parking.

New requirements for youth activities and programs

Are you organizing an activity or program that will bring youth to campus? UW System and UW-Eau Claire have established youth-specific COVID-19 mitigation guidance and protocols. To ensure your activity or program is compliant, please contact [Kyran Hamill](#), camps and conferences manager. Please note: This does not include events that are open to the general public, such as UW-Eau Claire athletic competitions, concerts and films.

Have you ever thought about advising a student organization?

We need your help! Every year our students establish some creative and innovative student organizations, but sometimes struggle finding an organization advisor. The Student Organizations and Leadership Center is aiming to create an “advisor bank” for new and existing registered student orgs (RSOs) to us as a reference to find a UW-Eau Claire faculty/staff advisor for their organizations. [Click here](#) for more information about student organization advisor roles and responsibilities. If you are interested in serving as an RSO advisor, please fill out our [advisor interest form](#) on Blugold Connect. Questions? Contact [Sara Thommesen](#), senior coordinator of engagement.

Speakers available to discuss study abroad

Study abroad returnees are available to visit classes to discuss their experiences abroad. Email studyabroad@uwec.edu with dates and times that would work best for your class. Staff members in the Center for International Education will do their best to accommodate your request. Questions? Contact Jackson Schmidtke, study abroad coordinator, at schmidjh@uwec.edu.

Order a welcome kit, support Campus Ambassadors

The [Campus Ambassadors](#) lead an annual fundraiser where they create and deliver welcome kits to Blugold students in the residence halls at the start of the fall semester. If you know a student who lives on campus, consider sending them a special surprise of snacks and encouragement to kick off fall 2021. You may [order a welcome kit online](#) for \$25. If you'd like to order a welcome kit for a student who lives off campus, please submit your address with your order so the kit can be delivered to you. Contact [Susan Vang](#) in Admissions with any questions. Thank you for helping support this organization's efforts to provide a great experience for our campus visitors!

Davies Marketplace to be closed Sept. 1

Davies Marketplace will be closed **Wednesday, Sept. 1**, for our [Blugold Welcome](#) new student lunch. We ask that faculty, staff and other students make alternative plans for breakfast and lunch that day. Thank you for your understanding.

Jamf founder Zach Halmstad to speak on campus Sept. 9

Blugold alum and Jamf founder Zach Halmstad will present "How to Start a Business While at UWEC" from **4-5 p.m. Sept. 9** in the Ojibwe Room (330C) of Davies Center. Students, faculty, staff and community members are welcome to attend this event, which is co-sponsored by WiSys VentureHome Eau Claire. [Learn more about this exciting event.](#)

UW-Eau Claire travel updates

As university travel starts to pick up, these resources may help to facilitate a smooth return to travel:

- The [UW-Eau Claire Firstsource Support Team](#) is here to assist with travel and reimbursement. **Call 715-836-3131, or email askcenter@uwec.edu to schedule an appointment.**
- Updated [UW System Travel](#) website.
- [Travel Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- [UW System Travel Webinars](#).

Approved travel payment methods

As you begin to make business-related travel plans, please consider obtaining a university-issued charge card. Per [UW System guidance](#), approved methods of payment for travel expenses are university corporate travel cards and university procurement travel cards. Credit card applications are available through the ASK Center purchasing webpage, [Credit Cards \(Procurement + Travel Cards\)](#).

Sales tax exemption update

UW-Eau Claire is exempt from paying sales tax on travel and purchases within the state of Wisconsin. The certificate and exemption number have recently changed. Updated Wisconsin sales tax exemption documents and the link to information concerning sales tax exemption from other states can be found on the [Firstsource +Travel](#) webpage. New Department of Revenue-approved tax exemption wallet cards are available through the [Firstsource Support Team](#) in the ASK Center upon request. Please carry this card with you when you travel.

LTS has switched to new client ticketing system

Learning and Technology Services has joined the UW System in switching to a new client ticketing solution. As a result, if you contact the LTS Help Desk for technology-related issues, you will receive an email notification from IT-helpdesk@wisconsin.edu instead of helpdesk@uwec.edu. You can still contact the LTS Help Desk as you have before by emailing helpdesk@uwec.edu, calling 715-836-5711 or stopping in person at VLL 1106. Contact the LTS Help Desk if you have questions about this change or legitimacy of suspicious emails.

Consider volunteering for McIntyre Library's 'After Dark' party

Do you have a favorite game you'd like to run? Are you a magician? McIntyre Library is seeking faculty and staff members to help with its annual back-to-school party, "After Dark." The event will be from **6-10 p.m. Sept. 2** in the library. If you are interested in volunteering while meeting students, please contact [Helena Sumbulla](#), assistant professor and student engagement librarian.

International travel news

The Center for International Education has shared that the U.S. State Department is experiencing significantly longer than usual passport processing times. Currently, standard passport processing time is 18 weeks; expedited processing of 12 weeks is available at additional cost. Any U.S. passport holder aspiring to international travel during 2021-22 should check their passport expiration date and apply early for renewal or a first-time passport. Passport timing should be planned around visa application submission requirements rather than travel departure date. For additional information and updates, visit the [U.S. State Department website](#).

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.

[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

Matt Haller, inventory control coordinator in Facilities would like to recognize the "[Move Crew](#)" team for its outstanding work this summer putting the campus back to "normal." Team members were **Ron Roubal**, inventory control assistant, and students **Ty Kauppinen**, **Chase Schmidt**, **Jace Bartz** and **Andrew Jenders**. The crew started the job in May and finished last week. Thanks for your hard work and dedication this summer!

Dr. Ming-Li Hsieh, assistant professor of criminal justice, co-authored with Dr. Shun-Yung Wang the research monograph “[Digital Robbery](#)” for the “[SpringerBriefs in Cybersecurity](#)” series.

Dr. Jeanette Olsen, assistant professor of nursing and director of assessment and evaluation; **Dr. Pam Guthman**, assistant professor of nursing; and **Elizabeth Galloway**, a May 2021 nursing graduate, had their article “Exploring women’s perspectives on prenatal screening for adverse childhood experiences” published in *Public Health Nursing*. View the [advance online publication](#).

Dr. Jonathan Rylander, director of the Center for Writing Excellence, and **Dr. Catherine Chan**, executive director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, have co-authored a presentation, titled “[Re-Thinking Relations Among Writing Centers and Offices for Research and Sponsored Programs: Assessing the Effectiveness of Writing Center Methods to Integrate High-Impact Practices](#),” which can be viewed online and will be featured at the 2021 Assessment Institute Conference, to be held virtually Oct. 24-27. This conference is hosted annually by Indiana University — Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In the news

Dr. Ali Abootalebi, professor of political science, was interviewed for the Aug. 22 WKOW story “[Where it went bad in Afghanistan](#)” and the Aug. 17 WQOW story “[UWEC professor explains what Taliban control of Afghanistan means for us](#).” He also was quoted in the Aug. 18 Leader-Telegram article “[Afghanistan collapse a ‘gut punch’ for area veterans](#).”

Chancellor James Schmidt was quoted in the Aug. 22 Leader-Telegram article “[Area higher education institutions require masks indoors for start of classes](#).”

Dan Schumacher, director of athletics, football coach **Wesley Beschorner**, soccer coach **Casey Holm** and UW-Eau Claire student-athletes were quoted in the Aug. 19 Leader-Telegram article “[UW-Eau Claire AD: Football team up to 85% vaccination rate](#).”

[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

- [UW-Eau Claire to require masks indoors starting Aug. 30](#)
- [How to pivot for a pandemic: Geography field studies 2020-21](#)

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

Professional development

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) professional development

- **August and September virtual Q&A and Zoom learning sessions:** [View sessions](#).
- **One-on-One Consultations:** CETL offers one-on-one consultations for faculty and staff who are seeking a change or who are interested in learning more about a teaching/learning topic. Please email CETL@uwec.edu.
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- **Fall Midterm Student Evaluations,** Oct. 11-22: Collect midterm feedback from students this fall to help you and your students be successful. [Request a midterm student evaluation](#).

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) professional development for faculty and staff

[View and register for sessions and groups](#).

- Identity, Privilege and Oppression: [Sept. 16, 9-10:30 a.m.](#); [Sept. 22, noon-1:30 p.m.](#); or [Oct. 12, 10-11:30 a.m.](#)
- [Reading Group: “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks”](#): Fridays, Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Oct. 15 and Oct. 29, noon-12:50 p.m.

- Recognizing and Responding to Microaggressions in the Classroom: [Sept. 20, 1-3 p.m.](#) or [Oct. 22, 1-3 p.m.](#)
- [Reading Group: “Excluded: Making Feminist and Queer Movements More Inclusive”](#): Thursdays, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21 and Nov. 4, 3-4 p.m.
- Recognizing and Responding to Microaggressions in the Workplace: [Sept. 28, 10 a.m.-noon](#) or [Nov. 19, 9-11 a.m.](#)
- [Inclusive Recruitment and Hiring Discussion Group](#): Thursdays, Sept. 30, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18, 2-3 p.m.
- [Reading and Video Clip Dialogue Group: Whiteness, Allyship and Taking Action](#): Tuesdays, Oct. 12, 19 and 26, noon-1 p.m.

More fall sessions and groups are coming soon!

[Submit professional development item](#)

Meeting notices

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-

Blugold FYI: Aug. 31, 2021

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- **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

Contact tracers are needed

UW-Eau Claire once again is in need of contact tracers to notify and advise students who may have had close contact with people with COVID-19. Contact tracing continues to be an important part of the university returning to face-to-face engagement and involvement. Contact tracers are needed from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., during the week and on weekends. Anyone interested in working as a contact tracer should email Dean of Students [LaRue Pierce](#).

Blugold athletics announces spectator policy, vaccination and testing details for fall sports

Effective Monday, Aug. 30, spectators and employees attending Blugold regular season fall sports events are required to wear masks at all indoor events. Masks are not required at outdoor events. Student-athletes and staff actively participating in indoor contests are not required to wear masks. Student-athletes and coaching staff members either have been vaccinated or are being tested three times per week if they are unvaccinated. Unvaccinated student-athletes and staff are being tested on game day or within 24 hours of game day. [View full policy announcement.](#)

Remember to upload your vaccination documentation

Nearly \$100,000 in scholarships could be awarded to UW-Eau Claire students if the student body is able to hit the 70% vaccination threshold by Oct. 15. Employees also are encouraged to get vaccinated and to upload their vaccine documentation (vaccine card, immunization record) through [MyUWPortal](#). Follow the directions on this [tip sheet](#) to ensure your profile is updated. If you are not vaccinated or have not uploaded your record, you will be required to take a weekly antigen test beginning this week. Thanks to the hundreds of employees who have taken the time to get vaccinated and to upload their records.

Davies Marketplace to be closed Sept. 1

Davies Marketplace will be closed **Wednesday, Sept. 1**, for our [Blugold Welcome](#) new student lunch. We ask that faculty, staff and other students make alternative plans for breakfast and lunch that day. Thank you for your understanding.

'Caring for your Loved Ones at Home' webinar offered Sept. 8

Kepro, the UW System's Employee Assistance Program, will offer a webinar titled "[Caring for your Loved Ones at Home](#)" from **12:30-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8**, for all UW System employees. [Learn more](#) about caring for loved ones at home and [register here](#).

Update your web profile for the new academic year

With the fall semester underway, now is a great time to [update your profile on the UW-Eau Claire website](#). All profiles are displayed in the [online Profiles Directory](#) and will eventually be displayed on department staff pages (if they are not already). These profiles greatly help our students, as well as your colleagues, to learn more about you and how to reach you. All employees have access to edit their own profiles. For step-by-step directions on how to update your profile, [click here](#). Please do not forget to update your in-person and/or virtual office hours for the 2021-22 academic year. If you do not have a profile and would like one created, or you have additional questions about your profile, please [email the LTS Help Desk](#).

McIntyre Library now offers Overdrive

McIntyre Library now has a collection of fiction and non-fiction e-books and audiobooks available to all staff and students through Overdrive. If you've been wanting to read "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich or learn about redlining from Richard Rothstein's "The Color of Law," these are among the 200-plus titles available at your fingertips. [Learn about this service](#) and the mobile app or simply [start browsing](#) now.

Department names have changed

The following department name changes are now in effect:

- The Watershed Institute has been renamed the [public health and environmental studies](#) department.
- The education studies department has been renamed the [education for equity and justice](#) department.

Parking for campus visitors

If you are welcoming visitors to campus for a meeting or event, help them have a positive experience on campus and [organize parking for them](#) ahead of their visit.

Well Wisconsin to offer flu shot clinics

Flu shots are free and voluntary for UW-Eau Claire employees and spouses who are enrolled in the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program. Registration is available through the [Well Wisconsin website](#) for the following flu shot clinics:

- Thursday, Sept. 9, 7 a.m.-noon, Zorn parking lot (drive-thru clinic).
- Thursday, Sept. 16, noon-5 p.m., Zorn parking lot (drive-thru clinic).
- Wednesday, Sept. 22, 7 a.m.-noon, lower campus (walk-up clinic).
- Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2-3 p.m., Cedarside Conference Room (SCO452), Student Center, UWEC-Barron County.

New requirements for youth activities and programs

Are you organizing an activity or program that will bring youth to campus? UW System and UW-Eau Claire have established youth-specific COVID-19 mitigation guidance and protocols. To ensure your activity or program is compliant, please contact [Kyrin Hamill](#), camps and conferences manager. Please note: This does not include events that are open to the general public, such as UW-Eau Claire athletic competitions, concerts and films.

Have you ever thought about advising a student organization?

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Speakers available to discuss study abroad

Study abroad returnees are available to visit classes to discuss their experiences abroad. Email studyabroad@uwec.edu with dates and times that would work best for your class. Staff members in the Center for International Education will do their best to accommodate your request. Questions? Contact Jackson Schmidtke, study abroad coordinator, at schmidjh@uwec.edu.

Study Abroad Fair is Sept. 22

The annual Study Abroad Fair is set for 11 a.m.-3 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 22**, in the Ojibwe Ballroom of Davies Center. Student returnees, visiting partners, program leaders, faculty and staff will be on hand to promote their programs and answer questions. Back by popular demand: Take a walk through some host cities with virtual reality! Faculty and staff also are encouraged to attend the fair. For more information, call the Center for International Education at 715-836-4411.

Order a welcome kit, support Campus Ambassadors

The [Campus Ambassadors](#) lead an annual fundraiser where they create and deliver welcome kits to Blugold students in the residence halls at the start of the fall semester. If you know a student who lives on campus, consider sending them a special surprise of snacks and encouragement to kick off fall 2021. You may [order a welcome kit online](#) for \$25. If you'd like to order a welcome kit for a student who lives off campus, please submit your address with your order so the kit can be delivered to you. Contact [Susan Vang](#) in Admissions with any questions. Thank you for helping support this organization's efforts to provide a great experience for our campus visitors!

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UW-Eau Claire travel updates

As university travel starts to pick up, these resources may help to facilitate a smooth return to travel:

- The [UW-Eau Claire Firstsource Support Team](#) is here to assist with travel and reimbursement. **Call 715-836-3131, or email askcenter@uwec.edu to schedule an appointment.**
- Updated [UW System Travel](#) website.
- [Travel Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- [UW System Travel Webinars](#).

Approved travel payment methods

As you begin to make business-related travel plans, please consider obtaining a university-issued charge card. Per [UW System guidance](#), approved methods of payment for travel expenses are university corporate travel cards and university procurement travel cards. Credit card applications are available through the ASK Center purchasing webpage, [Credit Cards \(Procurement + Travel Cards\)](#).

Sales tax exemption update

UW-Eau Claire is exempt from paying sales tax on travel and purchases within the state of Wisconsin. The certificate and exemption number have recently changed. Updated Wisconsin

sales tax exemption documents and the link to information concerning sales tax exemption from other states can be found on the [Firstsource +Travel](#) webpage. New Department of Revenue-approved tax exemption wallet cards are available through the [Firstsource Support Team](#) in the ASK Center upon request. Please carry this card with you when you travel.

LTS has switched to new client ticketing system

Learning and Technology Services has joined the UW System in switching to a new client ticketing solution. As a result, if you contact the LTS Help Desk for technology-related issues, you will receive an email notification from IT-helpdesk@wisconsin.edu instead of helpdesk@uwec.edu. You can still contact the LTS Help Desk as you have before by emailing helpdesk@uwec.edu, calling 715-836-5711 or stopping in person at VLL 1106. Contact the LTS Help Desk if you have questions about this change or legitimacy of suspicious emails.

International travel news

The Center for International Education has shared that the U.S. State Department is experiencing significantly longer than usual passport processing times. Currently, standard passport processing time is 18 weeks; expedited processing of 12 weeks is available at additional cost. Any U.S. passport holder aspiring to international travel during 2021-22 should check their passport expiration date and apply early for renewal or a first-time passport. Passport timing should be planned around visa application submission requirements rather than travel departure date. For additional information and updates, visit the [U.S. State Department website](#).

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.

[Submit announcement](#)

Awards and achievements

Dr. Catherine Chan, executive director for the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and her co-authors had their article, titled "[An Online Training Program to Enhance Novice Researchers' Knowledge and Skills](#)," published in the summer 2021 issue of *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research*. Full citation: Lynn Gilbertson, Jeannine Rowe, Yeongmin Kim, Catherine W.M. Chan, Naomi Schemm and Michael Unhoch. An Online Training Program to Enhance Novice Researchers' Knowledge and Skills. *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research*. Summer 2021, Vol. 4 (4): 33-41. doi: 10.18833/spur/4/4/4.

Dr. Dorothy Chan, assistant professor of English, interviewed [Muriel Leung](#) about her book “Imagine Us, The Swarm” (Nightboat Books) and [Divya Victor](#) about her book “CURB” (Nightboat Books) for Honey Literary's special artist spotlight, “Sticky Fingers.”

Dr. Jessica S. Miller, professor of French in the languages department, contributed a chapter, titled “Diversifying the Curriculum: From Structural Changes to Classroom Lessons,” to the edited volume [“Teaching Diversity and Inclusion: Examples from a French-Speaking Classroom,”](#) edited by N. Meyer and E. Hoft-March and published by Routledge.

Patti See, academic advisor in the Advising, Retention and Career Center/senior lecturer in women’s, gender and sexuality studies, had her column [“So What if We are Our Parents”](#) published in the Aug. 20 Leader-Telegram and the Aug. 24 issue of The Country Today.

[Submit award/achievement item](#)

In memoriam

Condolences to Sue Ayres, technology lead in the Advising, Retention and Career Center, whose sister, Jeanne Skoug, passed away Aug. 17 in Eau Claire. Skoug, a UW-Eau Claire alumna, served as director of Career Services at UW-Eau Claire for many years until her retirement in 2011. [View full obituary.](#)

Condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Robert Barganz, professor emeritus of curriculum and instruction. Barganz, who passed away Aug. 12 in Madison, was a member of the UW-Eau Claire faculty from 1971 until his retirement in 2002. [View full obituary.](#)

In the news

Dr. Ali Abootalebi, professor of political science, was quoted in the Aug. 23 Spectrum News 1 article [“In Focus: Political scientist weighs in on U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.”](#)

Dr. Jim Boulter, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and public health and environmental studies; **Dr. Crispin Pierce**, professor of public health and environmental studies; student **Danielle Zahn**; and **Mike Knuth**, public information officer and associate director of Integrated Marketing and Communications, were quoted in the Aug. 25 Leader-Telegram article [“UW-EC students, profs test classroom ventilation before semester starts.”](#)

Quincy Chapman, director of Housing and Residence Life, was interviewed for the Aug. 23 WQOW story [“UW-Eau Claire move-in day COVID protocols.”](#) Chapman and **Grace Crickette**,

vice chancellor for finance and administration, also were interviewed for the Aug. 27 WQOW, story "[UW-Eau Claire's COVID protocols for the fall semester.](#)"

Dr. Randal Dickerson, professor of music and Blugold Marching Band director, and BMB members were interviewed for the Aug. 23 WQOW story "[Blugold Marching Band prepares for upcoming season.](#)"

Kate Hinnant, associate professor in McIntyre Library, was interviewed for the Aug. 26 WEAU story "[COVID cases growing, misinformation and other barriers to vaccination.](#)"

Dr. Riley McGrath, director of Counseling Services, was interviewed for the Aug. 24 WQOW story "[COVID-19 and college students' mental health.](#)"

Dr. Crispin Pierce, professor of public health and environmental studies, was interviewed for the Aug. 26 WQOW story "[UWEC professors and students examine ventilation rates in classrooms.](#)"

Chancellor James Schmidt was quoted in the Aug. 24 Leader-Telegram article "[Chancellor: UW-EC plays key role in public health.](#)"

Dan Schumacher, director of athletics, was quoted in the Aug. 25 WEAU story "[Mayo named sports medicine provider at UWEC.](#)"

UW-Eau Claire – Barron County's "**Thursdays at the U**" series was featured in the Aug. 22 Leader-Telegram article "[Thursdays at the U returns with talk on barn quilts.](#)"

Isabel Walters, interim director of Admissions, was interviewed for the Aug. 25 WEAU story "[Open house held for UW-Eau Claire's Flesch Family Welcome Center.](#)"

Dr. Ryan Weichelt, professor of geography, was a guest on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Spectrum West" Aug. 26 to discuss 2020 census data and how it could affect political redistricting. [Learn more and listen.](#)

Dr. Linda Young, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, was quoted in the Aug. 27 Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel article "[Facing widespread burnout, Wisconsin hospitals are scrambling to hire nurses as COVID surges again.](#)" Young also was interviewed for the Aug. 24 WEAU story "[Unvaccinated nursing students face concern over meeting graduation requirements.](#)"

Dr. Ezra Zeitler, professor and chair of the geography and anthropology department; **Dr. Cyril Wilson**, associate professor; **Dr. Doug Faulkner**, professor; and **Dr. Paul Kaldjian**, professor, as well as students and alumni were quoted in the Aug. 29 Leader-Telegram article "[Travel restrictions prompt UW-EC geography faculty to look in 'own backyard' for lessons.](#)"

[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.

The University Honors Program welcomes **Allison Fine** as program associate.

[Submit position update item](#)

Campus news and features

- [Eau Claire ranked No. 2 'Most Livable College Town' in U.S.](#)
- [UW-Eau Claire testing classroom air quality in preparation for fall](#)
- [Chancellor: UW-Eau Claire's public good mission in action during pandemic](#)
- [Eight receive excellence awards as academic year opens](#)
- [Students use new state-of-the-art instruments in summer research project](#)

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

Professional development

(EC)² supports early-career faculty, instructional academic staff

Early Career Eau Claire, or (EC)², is a peer-mentoring group of junior faculty and instructional academic staff who are affiliated with UW-Eau Claire, UWEC-Barron County and UWEC-Marshfield. Virtual meetings in fall 2021 will be at **4 p.m. on the second Friday of every month (first meeting is Sept. 10)**. These meetings are for early-career faculty and instructional academic staff to support each other in their work through sharing experiences together, raising awareness of resources and opportunities that may be helpful and promoting collaboration and connections across campus. Each meeting will include: 1) time for a meet-and-greet and informal conversation; and 2) brief presentations and Q&A with colleagues. For colleagues interested in participating and receiving updates, subscribe to the group's email list by sending a message to ec-squared-request@lists.uwec.edu and typing "Subscribe" in the body of the message.

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) professional development

- **Virtual Q&A and learning sessions:** [View sessions](#).
- **One-on-One Consultations:** CETL offers one-on-one consultations for faculty and staff who are seeking a change or who are interested in learning more about a teaching/learning topic. Please email CETL@uwec.edu.
- **Faculty Fridays Open Write:** Every Friday, starting Sept. 10 from 10 a.m.-noon. Looking to start or finish an article? An essay? A book? Protect your time to do so. Block Friday mornings and write (in person OR online) with the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE). To join, RSVP to Jonathan Rylander at rylandjj@uwec.edu
- **“Distracted: Why Students Can’t Focus and What You Can Do About It” Reading Group Series:** Sept. 15, Sept. 29, Oct. 13 and Oct. 27, 10-11 a.m. [Register](#).
- **Interprofessional Education Community of Practice:** Join a community of practice that will explore possible collaborations in simulations, assignments and learning outcomes. This group hopes to collaborate on programming for campus professional development related to health equity issues. [Join the Tuesday group](#) that will begin meeting Sept. 21 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. or [join the Wednesday group](#) that will begin meeting Sept. 29 from 2-2:50 p.m.
- **Fall Midterm Student Evaluations,** Oct. 11-22: Collect midterm feedback from students this fall to help you and your students be successful. [Request a midterm student evaluation](#).

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) professional development for faculty and staff

[View and register for sessions and groups](#).

- Identity, Privilege and Oppression: [Sept. 16, 9-10:30 a.m.](#); [Sept. 22, noon-1:30 p.m.](#); or [Oct. 12, 10-11:30 a.m.](#)
- [Reading Group: “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks”](#): Fridays, Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Oct. 15 and Oct. 29, noon-12:50 p.m.
- Recognizing and Responding to Microaggressions in the Classroom: [Sept. 20, 1-3 p.m.](#) or [Oct. 22, 1-3 p.m.](#)
- [Reading Group: “Excluded: Making Feminist and Queer Movements More Inclusive”](#): Thursdays, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21 and Nov. 4, 3-4 p.m.
- Recognizing and Responding to Microaggressions in the Workplace: [Sept. 28, 10 a.m.-noon](#) or [Nov. 19, 9-11 a.m.](#)
- [Reading Group: “White Fragility”](#): Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism: Wednesdays from 11-11:50 a.m.: Sept. 29, Oct. 6, Oct. 13, and Oct. 20
- [Inclusive Recruitment and Hiring Discussion Group](#): Thursdays, Sept. 30, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18, 2-3 p.m.
- [Reading Group: “Man Enough: Undefined My Masculinity”](#): Mondays, Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25, noon-1 p.m.
- [Reading and Video Clip Dialogue Group: “Whiteness, Allyship and Taking Action”](#): Tuesdays, Oct. 12, 19 and 26, noon-1 p.m.
- [Reading Group: “How to Be an Antiracist”](#): Tuesdays, Nov. 2, 9, 16 and 23, noon-1 p.m.

- [Reading Group: “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?”](#): Fridays, Nov. 5, 12 and 19, and Dec. 3, noon-1 p.m.

More fall sessions and groups are coming soon!

[Submit professional development item](#)

Meeting notices

- [See all meetings and agendas.](#)
 - [Submit your meeting notice.](#)
-

[Blugold FYI archive](#)

Blugold FYI compiles many bits of information and announcements about the business of working at UW-Eau Claire into one single email for your convenience. Reply to give us your feedback, or [head to the form](#) to submit items for a future issue.

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire