Blugold FYI Archive: January 2022

Blugold FYI: Jan. 11, 2022

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

Jan. 17 events planned to honor Dr. Martin Luther King
The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Remembrance Celebration will take place virtually at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17. This year’s event, which will include speakers, musical artists and videos from local residents, will be streamed from Pablo Center at the Confluence. The event is a collaboration among UW-Eau Claire, Uniting Bridges, Pablo Center and Converge Radio. For more information, email event organizer Dr. Selika Ducksworth-Lawton, professor of history. Learn more and register.

UW-Eau Claire mask requirement extended through Jan. 30
Chancellor James Schmidt says the requirement to wear masks indoors in all campus buildings in Eau Claire, Rice Lake and Marshfield could be extended again before the spring semester begins. Read more details.

Blugold FYI to be published twice per week
Beginning Tuesday, Feb. 1, Blugold FYI will be published on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with different content shared each day. The Tuesday newsletter will feature announcements, professional development opportunities and meeting notices, and the Thursday version will highlight faculty/staff awards and achievements, media mentions, condolences, new employee/retirement updates and campus news and features. Beginning Feb. 1, we ask that content for the Tuesday edition be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, and updates for the Thursday newsletter be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. Submission requests should be sent
via the Blugold FYI submission form. If you have questions or comments about these changes or the newsletter in general, feel free to email the Blugold FYI team.

**Reminders: vaccination documentation and testing requirements**
Employees 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. **Through Jan. 21**, testing will be offered in the Hilltop Lounge from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Expanded testing will be available starting Jan. 22 to accommodate increased testing around the start of the spring semester. Blugolds can schedule a test online through uwec.vivi.healthcare and should remember to bring their Blugold ID to the appointment. Access the clinic through the west entrance of Hilltop and follow the signage. People who utilize off-campus antigen testing need to upload test results using this [online form](#).

**Free employee self-defense class set for Jan. 18**
A free self-defense class exclusively for UW-Eau Claire employees will be offered from 6-8 p.m. **Tuesday, Jan. 18**, in Room 101 on the lower level of the McPhee Center. This hands-on session engages participants in practical applications of self-defense techniques and tactics, including controlling distance, blocking and striking, and escaping grabs. These techniques involve concepts of leverage, timing and body mechanics. This training is designed for small group and partner training to provide positive encouragement and build confidence. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable workout apparel and to bring a water bottle. To register, [follow this link](#), log in using UWEC credentials, click “Wellness Classes” and select “Employee Self-Defense.”

**Furniture purchase deadline is Jan. 28**
Due to long lead times, all furniture purchases for 2021-22 need to be submitted to Jennifer Lonsdorf by Jan. 28.

**New resource for youth activities and programs**
The Youth Protection Program is a new, central resource for anyone offering activities to youth under 18 years of age. Staff can help you register your activity with Risk Management; understand UW System and university expectations, policies and compliance; and implement best practices for youth protection. Learn more and register your youth activity at [uwec.ly/youth](http://uwec.ly/youth).

**Call for nominations for Provost’s Honors Symposium**
Faculty and staff are invited to nominate outstanding student research, scholarship or creative activity by **Friday, Feb. 25**, for presentation at the 12th Annual Provost’s Honors Symposium on **Friday, April 29**. PHS is a professional-style conference where selected students from any major on campus have the chance to present exceptional work. In 2022, PHS will return to a live, face-to-face format. Visit the [Provost’s Honors Symposium website](#) for updates, and submit a nomination via [e-form](#).
Blugold Dining news
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- **Marketplace**: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Blu Flame Grill**: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Professional Development Committee seeks proposals for 2022 conference
The 2022 University Staff Professional Development Conference will be **Wednesday, June 8**, which will be virtual, and **Thursday, June 9**, which will be in person at the UW-Eau Claire campus. This annual event is open to all UWEC employees, as well as external attendees from other UW System campuses, Wisconsin technical colleges and community partners. It is designed as a collaborative environment of networking and ongoing learning opportunities for employees who work outside the classroom. Sessions are selected to promote both professional and personal development for achieving work-life balance through enhanced skills, inspiring innovation/creative thinking and establishing goals to continuously improve the workplace. The committee appreciates your help in building a meaningful event with a variety of opportunities, and is seeking session proposals for a diverse body of topics between the two days. Visit the [Professional Development Conference](https://uwec.edu/prodev) website for more information, and contact LIST.USC.PRODEV@uwec.edu with questions or suggestions.

Administrative Professionals Collaboration Group (formerly the Administrative Support Collaboration Group) supports administrative professionals on campus
The Administrative Professionals Collaboration Group is for administrative professionals on campus (academic department associates, assistants, associates, coordinators, office managers and specialists). This group was created to increase communication and share information; discuss policies, procedures, ideas and changes; and share tips and tricks that relate to our positions. Meetings are scheduled monthly during the academic year. **How to join:** Go to [teams.uwec.edu](https://teams.uwec.edu) to download the application. Once you are logged in, click on Join or Create Team in the upper right. Use the search bar to look for UWEC-Administrative-Support. Coordinators will be notified once you have submitted a request to join, and we'll get you added!

Save the date: CERCA 2022
[CERCA 2022](https://uwec.edu/cerca) will be **April 25-29** on the third floor of Davies Center. We are pleased to return to an in-person format. Please keep your eyes open for more information from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs about the application process.

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](https://uwec.edu/covid-19). Check the link regularly to find resources and updates.

[Submit announcement](https://uwec.edu/submit)
Awards and achievements

Dr. Michael Carney, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and assistant chancellor for strategic partnerships and program development, has had a manuscript published in the Journal of Applied Polymer Science in collaboration with UW-Eau Claire alumnus Dr. Nick Robertson, professor of chemistry at Northland College. The manuscript, titled “Isocyanate-free synthesis of ureas and polyureas via ruthenium catalyzed dehydrogenation of amines and formamides,” also involved three UWEC undergraduate collaborators: Blake Bowmann, Shanzay Suhail and Connor Dolan.

Congratulations to Roberta Christensen, associate director of finance for University Centers; Becky Dienger, director of Integrated Marketing and Communications; Tracy Drier, director of Budget and Resource Planning; Dr. Doug Dunham, professor/chair of materials science and biomedical engineering and director, Materials Science and Engineering Center; Dr. Abby Hemmerich, assistant professor and chair of the communications sciences and disorders department; Kelly Micolichek, associate director of the Children’s Nature Academy; Angela Milas, registered nurse in Student Health Service; Teresa O’Halloran, diversity and inclusion director in the Affirmative Action Office; Dr. Jill Prushiek, associate dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences; Jenni Sterling, administrative training coordinator in University Centers; and Dr. Angie Stombaugh, director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, for completing the Growth Mindset for Leaders program and earning the Chancellor’s Certificate.

Dr. David E. Lewis, professor emeritus of chemistry and biochemistry, presented a paper titled “Correcting the historical record: An Australian American in Russia,” Dec. 20, 2021, in the symposium “Hands Across the Pacific: History of Collaborations and Exchange Programs Between Countries of the Pacific Rim” at Pacifichem 2021, the International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies.

Submit award/achievement item

In the news

Dr. April Bleske-Rechek, professor of psychology, was quoted in the Dec. 22 Wausau Pilot and Review article “Wausau Policing Task Force leans on increasing cultural competencies, endorses mental health training.”
Dr. James Boulter, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and public health and environmental studies, was interviewed for the Dec. 20 WQOW-TV story “Professor: Climate change responsible for recent severe weather.”

Dr. Patricia Cleary, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, was quoted in the Jan. 6 GreatLakesNow article “Breeze Boost: What’s the connection between breezy Lake Michigan days and high ozone levels?”

Grace Crickette, vice chancellor for finance and administration, was interviewed for the Jan. 10 WQOW-TV story “UWEC taking extra coronavirus precautions before spring semester” and was quoted in the Jan. 6 Leader-Telegram article “Student travelers will take part in COVID-19 testing kit study.”

Dr. Selika Ducksworth-Lawton, professor of history, was quoted in the Jan. 10 Leader-Telegram article “Videos seek to bring personal touch to MLK Day celebration in Eau Claire” and was interviewed for the Dec. 26 WQOW-TV story “First night of Kwanzaa begins Sunday.”

Max Garland, professor emeritus of English, was among the guests on a special year-end episode of Wisconsin Public Radio’s “Spectrum West” that looked back at 2021 and ahead to 2022 through the eyes and voices of eight western Wisconsin artists. Learn more and listen.

B.J. Hollars, associate professor of English and Midwest Artist Academy founder/director, was quoted in the Jan. 1 Volume One article “Create Magic at This Year’s Midwest Artist Academy.”

Dr. Chia-Yu Hsu, associate professor of music-composition, was featured in the Jan. 3 Volume One article “HEAR THAT? UWEC Prof Wins International Women Composer Competition.” Hsu also was a guest on Wisconsin Public Radio’s “Spectrum West” Jan. 6 to discuss her international honor. Learn more and listen.

Dr. Angela Jones, assistant professor of special education and inclusive practices, was interviewed for the Jan. 4 WEAU-TV story “New task force looks to address childcare issues in Chippewa Valley.”

Dr. Eric Kasper, professor of political science and director of the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies, was interviewed for the Dec. 31 WQOW-TV story “Why Wisconsin is seeing more pardons since 2011.”

Dr. Donald Mowry, professor emeritus of social work, was interviewed for the Jan. 5 WQOW-TV story “Eau Claire County announces digital literacy coaches & navigator program” and the Jan. 7 WEAU-TV story “Program aims to improve digital literacy in Eau Claire County.”

UW-Eau Claire alumni Dr. Tim Nelson, director of research and innovation for Mayo Clinic Health System-Northwest Wisconsin; and Dr. Michael Carney, assistant chancellor for strategic partnerships and program development, were interviewed for the story “New grant to tackle
staffing shortages in health care, education in northwest Wisconsin” that aired Dec. 22 on Wisconsin Public Radio’s “The Morning Show.”

Dr. Geoff Peterson, professor and chair of the political science department, was interviewed for the Jan. 6 WEAU-TV story “Rep. Kind, UWEC professor look back at Jan. 6 a year later.”

Dr. Crispin Pierce, professor of public health and environmental studies; Dr. James Boulter, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and public health and environmental studies; and student researchers Danielle Zahn and Alisyn Stevens were interviewed for Dec. 23 NBC26-TV, Green Bay, story “Students teaching young children to build air filters to stop COVID-19,” which also aired on many other TV stations.

Chancellor James Schmidt was quoted in the Dec. 21 Leader-Telegram article “UW-Eau Claire extends mask requirement to Jan. 30.”

Dr. Kent Syverson, professor of geology, was quoted in the Jan. 6 Leader-Telegram article “Analysts: Wisconsin's volatile frac sand industry has stabilized.”

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.

Lori Jahnke retired from her position as academic department associate for several departments on Dec. 21, 2021. Congratulations, Lori!

Jake Serwe has joined the University Centers team as the business services/ticket manager. Ashley Wolterstorff has joined as the new financial specialist for Blugold Card Services within University Centers. We are pleased to have both Jake and Ashley join the team.

Campus news and features

- UW-Eau Claire Civil Rights Pilgrimage to take part in NIH research
- Winterim courses to begin on Jan. 3, 2022, at UW-Eau Claire
- Blugolds come together to provide hearing screening to young children in Arcadia
- Continuing Education announces January 2022 program offerings
Professional development

‘ASK Us Anything!’ forum set for Jan. 19
The Firstsource Support Team of the Administrative Support + Knowledge (ASK) Center will lead virtual discussion forums on topics of administrative interest and to address your administrative questions. The first “ASK Us Anything!” forum will be **Wednesday, Jan. 19**, from 11 a.m.-noon on Teams. [Click here](#) to join the meeting or call 414-435-2332 and enter conference ID 359 373 414#. The forum will feature an overview of university business travel planning, procurement and reimbursement. The forums will be recorded and saved on the Firstsource + Travel webpage. You are welcome to submit your questions and topics of interest in advance by emailing [ASKCenter@uwec.edu](mailto:ASKCenter@uwec.edu).

Excel and Qualtrics training offered during Winterim
LTS Training will offer Excel and Qualtrics training workshops for faculty and staff during Winterim. [Click here](#) to see dates and times of sessions and to register.

January Professional and Personal Development for Faculty and Staff

- **Winterim Learning Camp**: Did you miss a course during fall, or would you like to join a previously offered course? Join us for the Winterim Learning Camp. All employees are welcome to take as many classes as they’d like during this weeklong event. Be sure to register for each course. This week’s remaining courses are:
  - **Tuesday, Jan. 11**: 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (FranklinCovey), 8 a.m.-4 p.m. via Zoom.
  - **Wednesday, Jan. 12**: Employee Performance Management, 9 a.m.-noon; and Policies, Benefits and Careers, 1-4 p.m. via MS Teams.
  - **Thursday, Jan. 13**: 6 Critical Practices for Leadership (FranklinCovey), 8 a.m.-4 p.m. via Zoom.
  - **Friday, Jan. 14**: Communication, Budget and Working with Others, 9 a.m.-noon. via MS Teams.
  MS Teams or Zoom links will be sent to registered participants one day prior to the course. Be sure to [register for each course](#) and reserve your seat.

- **Still Time to Register! Spring Book Club**: “Remote Leadership: Successfully Leading Work-From-Anywhere and Hybrid Teams”: This book provides leaders with the critical tools to meet the leadership imperative for the new era of remote work. What was previously an occasional, temporary or limited aspect of the workplace, with limited impact on leaders, is now an increasingly likely reality of organizational life for the future. Smart leaders will stay ahead of this curve, anticipate ways to adapt and ensure they are prepared to meet the demands of leadership effectiveness in the new world of
work, where teams must work well together from wherever they are and however they engage in teamwork. View information about the book club, and register by Thursday, Jan. 13.

- **Leadership in the New Normal**: This self-paced, 30-minute, Canvas course is available for all management levels as an exploration of the new normal. From the perspective of UW-Eau Claire and the UW System, it shares ways to support the well-being of all employees. Click here to access the course.

**WiSys grant-writing webinar series continues**

WiSys encourages UW System grant seekers to cultivate their grant-writing skills, connect with experts and create opportunities through the organization’s latest grant-writing webinar series. The live and on-demand virtual series, hosted by WiSys grant-writing experts Deborah Lundin and Gina Jahn, will include the following webinars this semester:

- **Wednesday, Feb. 2**, 2-2:45 p.m.: Common Grant Writing Pitfalls.
- **Thursday, Feb. 10**, noon-12:45 p.m.: Finding Funding: Spotlight on the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.
- **Wednesday, March 2**, 2-2:45 p.m.: Finding Funding: Spotlight on the National Science Foundation.
- **Thursday, March 10**, noon-12:45 p.m.: Collaborative Grantseeking
- **Wednesday, April 6**, 2-2:45 p.m.: Finding Funding for Your Scholarship and Creative Endeavors.
- **Thursday, April 14**, noon-12:45 p.m.: Funding for New and Early-Stage Investigators.

In addition to the scheduled webinars, the follow on-demand webinars also are available: Getting Started! An Introduction to PIVOT/Grants Resource Center; Improving Your Odds for Success BEFORE the Writing Begins; Finding Funding: Spotlight on the NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award; Planning for Grants Success; Accelerate and Diversify Your Funding Search Results with Pivot-RP; Finding Funding: Spotlight on the National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program; Exploring Administrator Tools for Maximizing Benefits from Pivot-RP Functionality; and Budget Building Fundamentals. The webinar series is part of WiSys’ commitment to providing research development services to the UW System’s regional campuses. To register and read full descriptions of the webinars, visit [wisys.org/grants/webinars](http://wisys.org/grants/webinars).

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

- **Canvas, UDOIT Accessibility Checker and Kaltura Video Captioning learning sessions** (virtual): View sessions.
- **Transparent Design Framework Q&A sessions (virtual) and workshops (in person and virtual)**: View sessions, View workshops.
- **Summer Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grant**: This program supports educator/student collaborative projects for development and assessment of new curriculum (courses or other educational experiences). Development of curriculum will occur during the summer in collaboration with one to two students, and the implementation and assessment will occur during the following academic year. Awards
include an educator stipend ($2,300), up to two student stipends ($2,300 each) and up to $600 for materials. Applications are due *Wednesday, Feb. 16*. [Learn more.]

- **New: Teaching Boost Short-Course Series:** Want to make a change in your teaching or course but need some flexibility to commit to the process? Our new series of asynchronous courses are open for five weeks and take about two to four hours to complete. Select one or more of the following courses to work on this semester: *Academic Integrity: Feb. 7-March 11; Having Better Discussions: March 7-April 8*; and *Facilitating Learning Online: April 4-May 6.*

- **CETL Certificate Program:** Fridays, Feb. 11, 18 and 25; and March 4, 11 and 18, 10-10:50 a.m. This program is designed for early-career educators who are interested in expanding their knowledge about teaching, learning and instructional technology. Certificates are awarded upon completion of a small teaching project. [Learn more and register.]

- **Reading Group Series: White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism (EDI Tier 2):** Tuesdays, March 1, 8, 15 and 29, 11-11:50 a.m. Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. Author Robin DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality and what we can do to engage more constructively. [Learn more and register.]

- **Reading Group Series: Small Teaching Online: Applying Learning Science in Online Classes:** Tuesdays, March 1, 15 and 29, and April 12, 11 a.m.-noon. We will explore how small changes in course design, online engagement strategies and motivational techniques can make a big impact on the student (and instructor) experience. [Learn more and register.]

- **Rescheduled (Two EDI Tier 2 opportunities):**
  - Including Race and Racism in Your Courses: Why It Matters and How to Do It: Wednesday, May 25, 9 a.m.-noon. [Learn more and register.]
  - Inclusive Dialogues: Building Capacity to Respond: Wednesday, May 25, 1-3 p.m. [Learn more and register.]
  - Lunch provided if you attend one or both sessions.

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

[View and register for sessions and groups.]

**Coming up:**

- **Identity, Privilege and Oppression:** Tuesday, Jan. 18, 1-2:30 p.m.
- **EDI Reading and Video Clip Dialogue Group: Whiteness, Allyship, and Taking Action:** Fridays, Jan. 21 and 28, and Feb. 4, 10-11 a.m.
- **Harry Potter and the Sacred Text-Book 1: Themes of Inclusion, Prejudice,Privilege, and Justice:** Fridays, Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25, noon-1 p.m.
- **Sexual Assault Bystander Intervention Training:** Tuesday, Feb. 8, 1-3 p.m.
- **Safe Space Training:** Wednesday, Feb. 9, 10 a.m.-noon.
- **Identity, Privilege and Oppression:** Tuesday, Feb. 15, 3-4:30 p.m.
• **Identifying and Responding to the Mental Health Needs of UWEC Students: A Comprehensive Guide for Faculty and Staff**: Wednesday, Feb. 16, 1:30-3 p.m.
• **Trans 101**: Monday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m.-noon.
• **Campus Connect: Suicide Awareness and Intervention**: Tuesday, Feb. 22, 1-3 p.m.
• **The Gender Gap: What is it and what can we do?**: Wednesday, Feb. 23, noon-1 p.m.
• **Allow Me to Translate**: Wednesday, Feb. 23, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
• **Recognizing and Responding to Microaggressions in the Classroom**: Friday, Feb. 25, 9-11 a.m.
• **Reading Group: “Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do”**
  • **Group 1**: Fridays, Feb. 25, March 4 and March 11, noon-1 p.m.
  • **Group 2**: Mondays, March 14, March 28 and April 4, 3-4 p.m.
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**Important announcements**

**Chancellor Schmidt a finalist for UW System presidency**
The UW System announced Jan. 14 that UW-Eau Claire Chancellor James Schmidt is one of two finalists for the UW System presidential search. He will meet with regents, chancellors and members of UW System and shared governance leadership this week. Regent President Ed Manydeeds has indicated he hopes to have a decision on the next UW System president by early February. Read the UW System announcement.

**Dr. Linda Young resigns as dean to focus on advocacy, research**
Dr. Linda Young, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, has resigned as dean, effective Jan. 28, to devote her time and energy to state advocacy and to her research on nurse
Young will teach as a faculty member at UW-Eau Claire starting in the fall. Dr. Sonja Meiers, the Jane W. and James E. Moore nursing research professor, will serve as acting dean beginning Jan. 28.

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**Open house for new Test Center set for Jan. 28**
All members of the UW-Eau Claire community are invited to an open house for a new Test Center that will serve students who need testing accommodations. The open house will be from 2-4 p.m. **Friday, Jan. 28, in Room 5029 of McIntyre Library** — the location of the new center. The center will be open for spring semester, and details and instructions will be sent to departments. [Learn more](#).

**Furniture purchase deadline is Jan. 28**
Due to long lead times, all furniture purchases for 2021-22 need to be submitted to [Jennifer Lonsdorf](#) by Jan. 28.

**Join CIE in celebrating Lunar New Year Feb. 1**
The Center for International Education invites the university community to celebrate the 2022 Lunar New Year with our international students. The CIE has worked with Marketplace in Davies Center for a special meal on **Tuesday, Feb. 1**, the day of the Lunar New Year. International
students from Asian countries such as China, South Korea and Malaysia celebrate this holiday. [Learn more about the celebration and menu.]

**Grant funds to assist university staff available**

There is still time for university staff members to apply for tuition reimbursement for courses taken in fall 2021. Complete the [application](#) online by **Sunday, Feb. 13**. For details, visit the [University Staff grants and scholarships webpage](#).

**Administrative Professionals Collaboration Group (formerly Administrative Support Collaboration Group) supports administrative professionals on campus**

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- Marketplace: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Blu Flame Grill: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**The schedule for Jan. 24-28 will be:**

- Marketplace: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Blu Flame Grill: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; The Cabin: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

**The schedule for individual stations in Marketplace will be:**

- Jan. 25: Erbert & Gerbert’s, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and D’Italia pizza, 1-2 p.m.
- Jan. 26: Erbert & Gerbert’s, D’Italia pizza and Sushi Do, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Jan. 27-28: Erbert & Gerbert’s, D’Italia pizza, Sushi Do and Mongolian Grill, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Riverview Café in Hilltop Center will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Jan. 25-28 and 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Jan. 29.**

**Join the Couch to 5K Challenge and Shamrock Shuffle 5K!**

Get yourself ready for the Shamrock Shuffle 5K! Here’s how to participate: 1) Join the free, five-week Couch to 5K Challenge and view the easy-to-follow training schedule, which begins Monday, Feb. 7. The goal is to ready yourself to walk or run the Shamrock Shuffle on Saturday, March 12; 2) Sign up for the Shamrock Shuffle 5K by Thursday, Feb. 17, to guarantee yourself a race shirt at raceentry.com; 3) All Couch to 5K participants will receive a retro Shamrock Shuffle 5K T-shirt!; 4) Once you register, you will be sent the training schedule and will be contacted for your T-shirt size. [Learn more about the challenge and race](#).
New resource for youth activities and programs
The Youth Protection Program is a new, central resource for anyone offering activities to youth under 18 years of age. Staff can help you register your activity with Risk Management; understand UW System and university expectations, policies and compliance; and implement best practices for youth protection. Learn more and register your youth activity at uwec.ly/youth.

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Submit announcement

Awards and achievements
Dr. April Bleske-Rechek, professor of psychology, had her article “Equal, Not Identical: In Sharing Family Tasks, Consider the Preferences of Men and Women” published Jan. 11 on the Institute for Family Studies website.

Dr. Dorothy Chan, assistant professor of English, had two of her poems, “You Might Change Your Mind about Kids” and “Triple Sonnet for Batman Villains and Whatever This Is,” published in the fall/winter 2021 edition of Colorado Review. The poems were reviewed in the Jan. 9 New Pages article “Delectable Poetry by Dorothy Chan.”


Dr. Katherine Schneider, senior psychologist emerita in Counseling Services, had her column “Public service takes a team approach” published in the Jan. 14 issue of Volume One.

Dr. Frank Watkins, associate professor of music and director of choral studies, was selected as the conductor of the 2022 Wisconsin Choral Directors Association All-State High School Treble Choir. The choir performed at the state conference in Milwaukee on Jan. 15. Learn more.

Submit award/achievement item

In memoriam

Condolences to the family and friends of Dr. John Woodruff, professor emeritus of biology. Woodruff, a member of the UW-Eau Claire faculty from 1964 until his retirement in 1996, passed away Dec. 28, 2021. View full obituary.

In the news

Dr. Selika Ducksworth-Lawton, professor of history; B.J. Hollars, associate professor of English; and Dr. Frank Watkins, associate professor of music and director of choral studies, were quoted in the Jan. 13 Volume One story “Chippewa Valley Celebration of MLK Day Slated for Jan. 17.”

Dr. Geoff Peterson, professor and chair of the political science department, was interviewed for the Jan. 12 WQOW-TV story “Political expert: Money doesn’t always determine election winners.”
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.

Event Services, within University Centers, welcomes Tyler Baumgart as the building services manager, Nicole Rindone as the major events and conferences manager, and Michael St. Ores as an event coordinator.

Campus news and features

- Continuing Education announces February program offerings
- Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance event to be held virtually Jan. 17

Read/view more campus news and features

Professional development

‘ASK Us Anything!’ forum set for Jan. 19
The Firstsource Support Team of the Administrative Support + Knowledge (ASK) Center will lead virtual discussion forums on topics of administrative interest and to address your administrative questions. The first “ASK Us Anything!” forum will be Wednesday, Jan. 19, from 11 a.m.-noon on Teams. Click here to join the meeting or call 414-435-2332 and enter conference ID 359 373 414#. The forum will feature an overview of university business travel planning, procurement and reimbursement. The forums will be recorded and saved on the Firstsource + Travel webpage. You are welcome to submit your questions and topics of interest in advance by emailing ASKCenter@uwec.edu.

Excel and Qualtrics training offered during Winterim
LTS Training will offer Excel and Qualtrics training workshops for faculty and staff during Winterim. Click here to see dates and times of sessions and to register.

Professional development for faculty and staff

- Leadership in the New Normal: This self-paced, 30-minute, Canvas course is available for all management levels as an exploration of the new normal. From the perspective of
UW-Eau Claire and the UW System, it shares ways to support the well-being of all employees. Click here to access the course.

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Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) professional development
- **Canvas, UDOIT Accessibility Checker and Kaltura Video Captioning learning sessions (virtual)**: View sessions.
- **Transparent Design Framework Q&A sessions (virtual) and workshops (in person and virtual)**: View sessions, View workshops.
- **Summer Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grant**: This program supports educator/student collaborative projects for development and assessment of new curriculum (courses or other educational experiences). Development of curriculum will occur during the summer in collaboration with one to two students, and the implementation and assessment will occur during the following academic year. Awards include an educator stipend ($2,300), up to two student stipends ($2,300 each) and up to $600 for materials. Applications are due Wednesday, Feb. 16. Learn more.
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  - Including Race and Racism in Your Courses: Why It Matters and How to Do It: Wednesday, May 25, 9 a.m.-noon. Learn more and register.
  - Inclusive Dialogues: Building Capacity to Respond: Wednesday, May 25, 1-3 p.m. Learn more and register.
  - Lunch provided if you attend one or both sessions.

**Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) professional development for faculty and staff**  
**View and register for sessions and groups.**

Coming up:

- **Identity, Privilege and Oppression:** Tuesday, Jan. 18, 1-2:30 p.m.
- **EDI Reading and Video Clip Dialogue Group: Whiteness, Allyship, and Taking Action:** Fridays, Jan. 21 and 28, and Feb. 4, 10-11 a.m.
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• Reading Group: “Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do”
  
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Submit professional development item

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**Meeting notices**

• [See all meetings and agendas](#).

• [Submit your meeting notice](#).

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**Blugold FYI: Jan. 25, 2022**

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.

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**Announcements**

**UW-Eau Claire extends indoor mask requirement to March 18**

Chancellor James Schmidt made the announcement Monday that applies to all campus buildings in Eau Claire, Rice Lake and Marshfield after discussion with the university’s pandemic emergency response team. [Read more details](#).

**Plan to attend ‘The Bias Inside Us’ exhibit this semester**

As you finalize your syllabus for spring semester, consider incorporating the Smithsonian traveling exhibit “[The Bias Inside Us](#),” on display at Pablo Center at the Confluence [Feb. 26-March 27](#). Admission is free. Daily hours for the exhibit will be Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with additional evening hours when Pablo Center is open for performances. “The Bias Inside Us” is an interactive learning experience about the science and consequences of implicit
bias, and how all of us can disrupt bias. Instructors may choose to incorporate a class field trip to Pablo Center or encourage students to attend independently or for credit. Making time for discussion and reflection is encouraged. Robin Miller and Manny Fernandez are available to answer questions about the exhibit. Please note that Pablo Center’s COVID-19 safety policy applies to all UW-Eau Claire students and employees. Students unable to visit Pablo Center can view the exhibit virtually and complete a tutorial to demonstrate participation. Check the Center for EDI Training, Development and Education’s website for updates about UWEC’s involvement in “The Bias Inside Us.”

Blugold FYI to be published twice per week
Beginning Tuesday, Feb. 1, Blugold FYI will be published on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with different content shared each day. The Tuesday newsletter will feature announcements, professional development opportunities and meeting notices, and the Thursday version will highlight faculty/staff awards and achievements, media mentions, condolences, new employee/retirement updates and campus news and features. Beginning Feb. 1, we ask that content for the Tuesday edition be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, and updates for the Thursday newsletter be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. Submission requests should be sent via the Blugold FYI submission form. If you have questions or comments about these changes or the newsletter in general, feel free to email the Blugold FYI team.

Fundraiser planned for staff member’s daughter
Kiana Killinger, a general ledger accountant in University Accounting, has shared that her daughter, Adilynn, born in October 2019, has been diagnosed with a severe brain malformation, bilateral polymicrogyria, as well as epilepsy, hypotonia, scoliosis, cerebral visual impairment, infantile spasms and hypotonic cerebral palsy. Each year the Das Loop Foundation of Eau Claire selects one recipient for their annual fundraiser, and this year Adilynn was chosen. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to her. For details about the fundraiser and how to join, please email Kiana Killinger.

Reminders: vaccination documentation, testing requirements and availability
Employees 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. Through Feb. 6, testing will be offered in Hilltop Lounge from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Blugolds can schedule a test online through uwec.vivi.healthcare and should remember to bring their Blugold ID to the appointment. Access the clinic through the west entrance of Hilltop and follow the signage. People who utilize off-campus antigen testing to satisfy their required weekly antigen testing need to upload test results using this online form. See more details and testing information for the Rice Lake and Marshfield campuses on the university’s antigen testing protocols webpage.

Open house for new Test Center set for Jan. 28
All members of the UW-Eau Claire community are invited to an open house for a new Test Center that will serve students who need testing accommodations. The open house will be from 2-4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, in Room 5029 of McIntyre Library — the location of the new center. The center will be open for spring semester, and details and instructions will be sent to departments. Learn more.

Furniture purchase deadline is Jan. 28
Due to long lead times, all furniture purchases for 2021-22 need to be submitted to Jennifer Lonsdorf by Friday, Jan. 28.

Join CIE in celebrating Lunar New Year Feb. 1
The Center for International Education invites the university community to celebrate the 2022 Lunar New Year with our international students. The CIE has worked with Marketplace in Davies Center for a special meal on Tuesday, Feb. 1, the day of the Lunar New Year. International students from Asian countries such as China, South Korea and Malaysia celebrate this holiday. Learn more about the celebration and menu.

Grant funds to assist university staff available
There is still time for university staff members to apply for tuition reimbursement for courses taken in fall 2021. Complete the application online by Sunday, Feb. 13. For details, visit the University Staff grants and scholarships webpage.

Administrative Professionals Collaboration Group (formerly Administrative Support Collaboration Group) supports administrative professionals on campus
The Administrative Professionals Collaboration Group is for administrative professionals on campus (academic department associates, assistants, associates, coordinators, office managers and specialists). This group was created to increase communication and share information; discuss policies, procedures, ideas and changes; and share tips and tricks that relate to our positions. Meetings are scheduled monthly during the academic year. How to join: Go to teams.uwec.edu to download Microsoft Teams, a collaboration tool the group uses for communication and resource sharing. Once you are logged in, click on Join or Create Team in the upper right. Use the search bar to look for UWEC-Administrative-Support. Coordinators will be notified once you have submitted a request to join, and we'll get you added!

Blugold Dining news
The Davies Center dining schedule through Friday, Jan. 28, will be:
- Marketplace: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Blu Flame Grill: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; The Cabin: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

The schedule for individual stations in Marketplace will be:
- Tuesday, Jan. 25: Erbert & Gerbert’s, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and D’Italia pizza, 1-2 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 26: Erbert & Gerbert’s, D’Italia pizza and Sushi Do, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Thursday-Friday, Jan. 27-28: Erbert & Gerbert’s, D’Italia pizza, Sushi Do and Mongolian Grill, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Riverview Café in Hilltop Center will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. through Friday, Jan. 28, and 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29.
Join the Couch to 5K Challenge and Shamrock Shuffle 5K!
Get yourself ready for the Shamrock Shuffle 5K! Here’s how to participate: 1) Join the free, five-week Couch to 5K Challenge and view the easy-to-follow training schedule, which begins Monday, Feb. 7. The goal is to ready yourself to walk or run the Shamrock Shuffle on Saturday, March 12; 2) Sign up for the Shamrock Shuffle 5K by Thursday, Feb. 17, to guarantee yourself a race shirt at raceentry.com; 3) All Couch to 5K participants will receive a retro Shamrock Shuffle 5K T-shirt! 4) Once you register, you will be sent the training schedule and will be contacted for your T-shirt size. Learn more about the challenge and race.

New resource for youth activities and programs
The Youth Protection Program is a new, central resource for anyone offering activities to youth under 18 years of age. Staff can help you register your activity with Risk Management; understand UW System and university expectations, policies and compliance; and implement best practices for youth protection. Learn more and register your youth activity at uwec.ly/youth.

Call for nominations for Provost’s Honors Symposium
Faculty and staff are invited to nominate outstanding student research, scholarship or creative activity by Friday, Feb. 25, for presentation at the 12th Annual Provost’s Honors Symposium on Friday, April 29. PHS is a professional-style conference where selected students from any major on campus have the chance to present exceptional work. In 2022, PHS will return to a live, face-to-face format. Visit the Provost’s Honors Symposium website for updates, and submit a nomination via e-form.

Save the date: CERCA 2022
CERCA 2022 will be April 25-29 on the third floor of Davies Center. We are pleased to return to an in-person format. Please keep your eyes open for more information from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs about the application process.

Professional Development Committee seeks proposals for 2022 conference
The 2022 University Staff Professional Development Conference will be Wednesday, June 8, which will be virtual, and Thursday, June 9, which will be in person at the UW-Eau Claire campus. This annual event is open to all UWEC employees, as well as external attendees from other UW System campuses, Wisconsin technical colleges and community partners. It is designed as a collaborative environment of networking and ongoing learning opportunities for employees who work outside the classroom. Sessions are selected to promote both professional and personal development for achieving work-life balance through enhanced skills, inspiring innovation/creative thinking and establishing goals to continuously improve the workplace. The committee appreciates your help in building a meaningful event with a variety of opportunities, and is seeking session proposals for a diverse body of topics between the two days. Visit the Professional Development Conference website for more information, and contact LIST.USC.PRODEV@uwec.edu with questions or suggestions.
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

B.J. Hollars, associate professor of English, had his essay “Perfect place to untangle the line” published in the Jan. 6 Leader-Telegram and the Jan. 9 issue of The Country Today.

Congratulations to Jackie Kriesel, controller in University Accounting; Kathy Binder, associate director of Integrated Marketing and Communications; and Barb Ritzinger, outreach specialist at UW-Eau Claire – Barron County, for completing the Growth Mindset for Leaders program and earning the Chancellor’s Certificate.

Dr. Peter Myers, professor of political science, had his article “Rediscovering America: A quiz for Martin Luther King Jr. Day” published in the Jan. 17 Litchfield Park (Arizona) Independent and on many other media websites.


Dr. Kyle S. Whipple, assistant professor of education for equity and justice, facilitated a webinar titled “LGBTQ+ Teacher Mentors: Providing a Social Safety Net” Jan. 18 for the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators. The UWEC LGBTQ+ Teacher Mentors group was started by Whipple in spring 2019 as a means of providing support for teachers who identify as LGBTQ+ as they transition from pre-service to in-service teachers. Currently, the membership of the group is 10 in-service teachers and 32 pre-service teachers.

Submit award/achievement item

In memoriam

Condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Keith Leitner, professor emeritus of economics. Leitner, who served on the UW-Eau Claire faculty from 1974 until his retirement in 1999, passed away Jan. 10 in Williams Bay. View full obituary.
In the news

Dr. Harry Jol, professor of geography and anthropology, was quoted in the article “U.S. Academics Use Radar to Help Seek Missing in Split Cyprus,” which was published in the Jan. 24 issue of The National Herald.

Chancellor James Schmidt was mentioned in many articles last week, including UW System names 2 finalists in presidential search, Wisconsin Technology Council/Madison.com, Jan. 15; Attorney, chancellor named as UW System president finalists, WUWM, Radio, Jan. 18; Professors surprised, disappointed by lack of public interviews for two finalists to lead UW System, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Jan. 20; UW Board of Regents set to pick next UW System president Friday, Wisconsin Public Radio, Jan. 20; and Business attorney to be University of Wisconsin’s president, Associated Press, Jan. 21.

Jodi Thesing-Ritter, executive director for diversity and inclusion, and UW-Eau Claire students Elyjah Johnson and FranChesca Riley were quoted in the Jan. 17 Leader-Telegram article “Civil Rights Pilgrimage opens students’ eyes to struggle for racial justice.” Thesing-Ritter and Riley also were interviewed for the Jan. 18 WEAU-TV story “UWEC students return from Civil Rights Pilgrimage” and the Jan. 19 WLAX-TV story “UWEC students embark on civil rights pilgrimage.”

Dr. Frank Watkins, associate professor of music and director of choral studies, was quoted in the Jan. 20 Leader-Telegram article “Cabaret returns to UW-EC campus after pandemic hiatus.”

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.

Congratulations to Peggy Erickson, university services program associate in Housing and Residence Life, who retired during the fall semester.

Campus news and features

- UW MBA Consortium remains top Upper Midwest program in U.S. News & World Report’s 2022 rankings
• UW-Eau Claire extends indoor mask requirement to March 18
• Men, women often divide child care and house care tasks by attitudes rather than expectations, researcher says
• Making the move to UW-Eau Claire pays off for women’s basketball players
• COVID-19 antigen tests available for the community at UW-Eau Claire for three straight weekends
• Multiple internships help new grad launch career in graphic communications
• Cabaret returns to UW-Eau Claire on Jan. 27
• Foster Gallery ‘Body Parts’ exhibit: Exploring the body through the lens of art

Read/view more campus news and features

Professional development

Professional development for faculty and staff
• New! Tuesday TED Talks: Feb. 15: How to Speak so People want to Listen; and March 15: Inside the Mind of a Procrastinator.
• New! Personal development podcasts: Feb. 24: How To Have Better Conversations (relationships); and March 24: Celebrate the Opportunities (viewing disappointment positively).
• 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Learn the habits that can help you be an effective person at work, at home and in your community. Join this three-session MS Teams course from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 1, 8 and 15. Learn more and register.
• 6 Critical Practices for Leadership: Explore six skills and tools to get things done with and through others. Join this three-session MS Teams course from 1-4 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 3, 10 and 17. Learn more and register.
• Hire to Retire: Learn about the employee career cycle at UWEC. This class will concentrate on the hiring process, goal setting and strategic plan alignment, onboarding, benefits and retirement. Join this MS Teams course from 8-11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9. Learn more and register.
• Policies, Benefits & Career: Discover and gain an understanding of the making of policies at UWEC, meet ALEX and discuss the importance of career paths and learning plans. The course will be from 9 a.m.-noon Wednesday, Feb. 16. Learn more and register.
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  • **Group 1**: Fridays, Feb. 25, March 4 and March 11, noon-1 p.m.
  • **Group 2**: Mondays, March 14, March 28 and April 4, 3-4 p.m.
• **Including Race and Racism in Your Courses: Why It Matters and How to Do It**: Wednesday, May 25, 9 a.m.-noon
• **Inclusive Dialogues: Building Capacity to Respond**: Wednesday, May 25, 1-3 p.m.

Submit professional development item

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**Meeting notices**

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

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**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.*