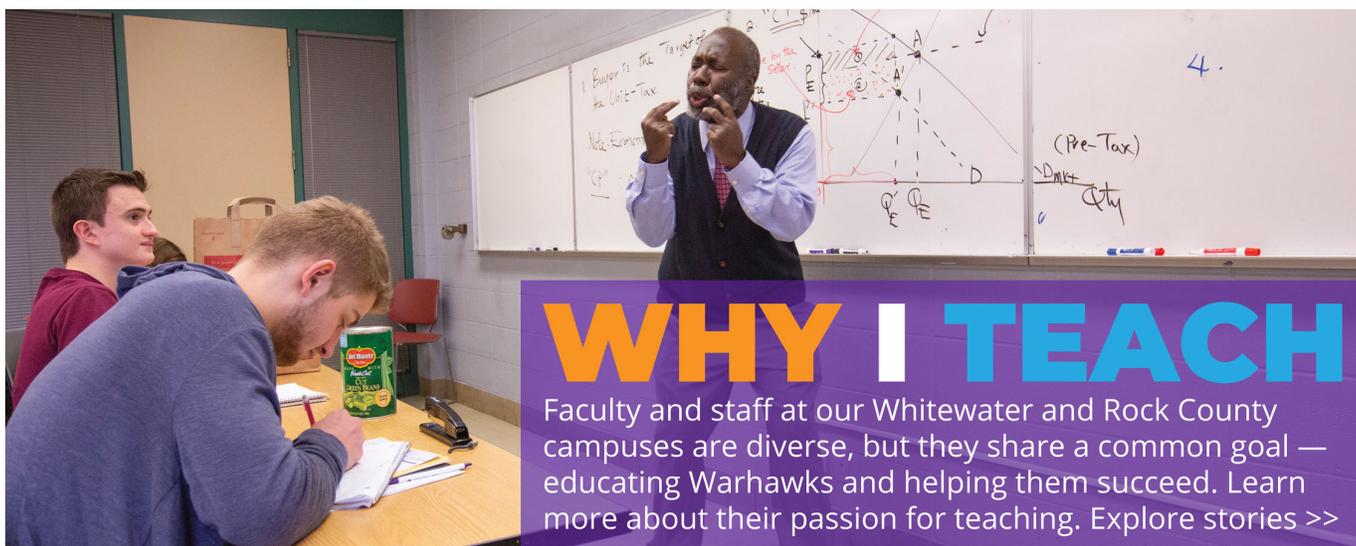


Grad School Review



School of Graduate Studies

October 2020



WHY I TEACH

Faculty and staff at our Whitewater and Rock County campuses are diverse, but they share a common goal — educating Warhawks and helping them succeed. Learn more about their passion for teaching. Explore stories >>

Why I Teach

Stories of our faculty and their passion for their profession

WHY I TEACH is a series about the dedicated faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater who make every day a teachable moment — and every place a learning place — by their expertise and example.

Faculty choose to work at the Whitewater and Rock County campuses for many reasons, but one stands out among them: they all share a passion for hands-on teaching in classrooms, laboratories and studios, ensuring student success.

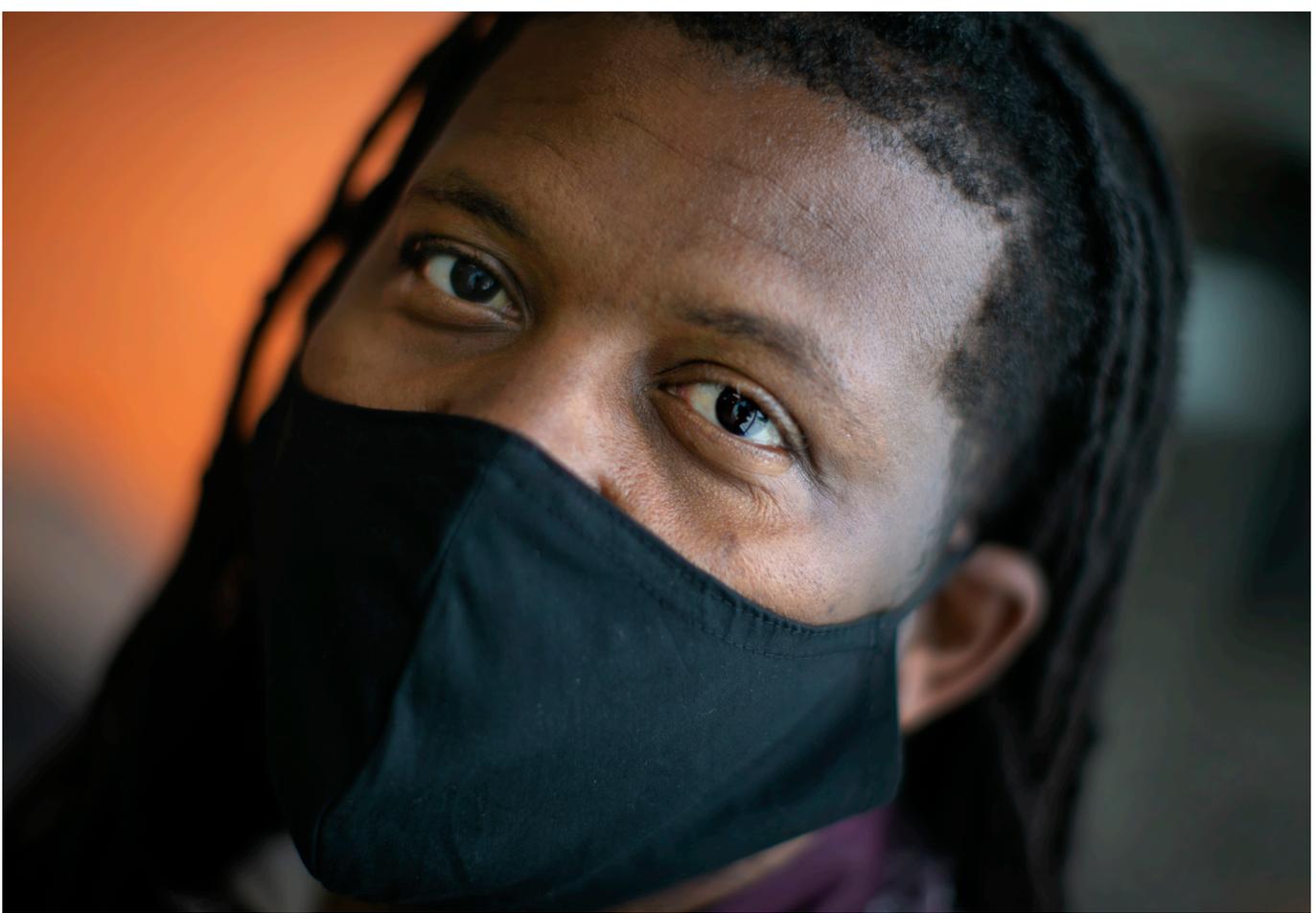
They talk less about teaching the subject and more about teaching the individual.

And because of our small class sizes, they are able to do just that.

Spring 2020 graduate Emily Barrett, from Janesville, had this to say about Assistant Professor Brian Huels: "I've had him for multiple accounting courses. He is the most kind and caring professor I had during my time at UW-Whitewater. He goes above and beyond for his students." Aubrey Strohbusch, from Watertown, said this about Professor of English Marilyn Annucci: "I'd like to recognize Marilyn Annucci for her unwavering dedication to her students, and also for helping me see the deeper depths of creative writing. Thank you, Marilyn, for all of your guidance and support!" Both Huels and Annucci are among the faculty members who shared their stories with us about why they chose this profession or what inspires them most. Pick any story [here](#) to learn more about these vital members of the Warhawk family.

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UW-Whitewater nontraditional student brings wealth of experience to Board of Regents

Written by Craig Schreiner | Photos by Craig Schreiner

Corey Saffold projects the confidence of one who walks on solid ground.

As a former Madison police officer, current head of safety and security for the Verona Area School District and a Black man who is an authority on police-community relations, Saffold — who is also a criminology major at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater — draws on a solid foundation of experience.

“I’ve always tried to bring my life experiences to add value to whatever situation I am in,” said Saffold, 41, who attends classes online as a nontraditional student at UW-Whitewater on a path to earn a Bachelor of Science.



Saffold, head of safety and security for the Verona Area School District, works at his desk at Verona Area High School. Saffold is also completing his criminology B.S. at UW-Whitewater fully online.

Now Saffold can add serving as regent on the **University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents** to his life experiences. The UW System, which appoints two student regents — one traditional and one nontraditional — to two-year terms with full duties including voting and serving on committees, selected Saffold in a competitive process.

Gov. Tony Evers appointed Saffold, who also sits on the Office of School Safety Advisory Committee at the Wisconsin Department of Justice, on June 1, 2020.

Saffold served as a City of Madison police officer for 10 years, learning about community policing and criminal justice from the inside. For six of those years, he was assigned in public schools. But his path to policing began much earlier, during an encounter with law enforcement as a youth growing up in Milwaukee.

“My influence (to become a police officer) was a detective in Milwaukee who gave me a second chance,” he said. “I realized that I can give people the same opportunity that was afforded to me, which was a second chance and an education.

“When I was a police officer in schools, I would use moments where there were disciplinary matters as an opportunity to educate students,” he explains. “Too often, teenagers can do things that they don’t fully understand the consequences of. Rather than throw the book at them, if they can receive an education about that one thing they did, that can go a long way for everybody in the society.”

That philosophy of personal policing brought Saffold to the UW-Whitewater criminology program to further his understanding of why people step outside the law.

“Was it the environment?” he asks. “Is it a problem with opportunity, joblessness, homelessness, need? Criminology answers a lot of questions for us in terms of human behavior.”

Saffold credits UW-Whitewater for making degrees accessible to nontraditional students through online learning. By anyone’s estimate, he leads a demanding life.

On a recent July afternoon, Saffold was in his office at Verona Area High School. He develops safety training and emergency procedures for weather and all manner of other incidents which might threaten his schools. As a staff member, he attends school board meetings, a recent one lasting until almost midnight. He hires security staff. At the end of his day, Saffold met with a salesperson outside the school building to discuss equipment options for the school’s utility vehicle.



Corey Saffold, left, talks with a salesperson about equipment for a utility vehicle at Verona Area High School on July 14, 2020.

He is the father of a teenage son who attends high school in Madison and a daughter, 22, who plans to attend law school. Before the pandemic hit, he traveled across the state to speak to groups on police-community relations.

As he begins his second year at Verona, Saffold and his staff will oversee a new high school building of almost 600,000 square feet and a campus that will accommodate up to 2,200 students in addition to the eight other schools they manage.

“I hope to graduate (from UW-Whitewater) next year,” he said. “And this will sound funny, but I don’t really keep track of when I’ll graduate. Working full time, I take classes as I can take them. But after I receive my B.S., I plan to apply for law school at UW-Madison.”

“Right now, I’m doing political science, the Constitution and the police,” he said. “‘Policing and the Constitution’ is the name of the class. So that’s perfect. I’m reading case law that I’ve already practiced. I’ve lived this, so it’s quite interesting.”

Saffold embraces his role as the voice of nontraditional students at UW System campuses.

“It is an honor to be on the board and it’s an honor to even be considered,” he said. “Whether it’s a nontraditional student in a rural area who works on a farm or if it’s increasing enrollment for our nontraditional students of color who come out of Milwaukee or Madison, I want to be part of that.”

Whether or not the nation’s current focus on unity, recovery and stability influenced his appointment to the Board Regents, Saffold calls himself an optimist about the future.

“Black lives do matter, and I want to move beyond just saying that, to put in place actionable items that shape that,” he said. “I want the students to feel like they have a voice in this and to feel like they are listened to. I want to empower and equip our leaders — our chief diversity officers, our student affairs folks — with the resources they need to make sure our schools are welcoming.”

And his optimism extends to the UW System’s ability to navigate the challenges ahead.

“COVID-19 has had an impact on the whole UW System — both financially and on the students. We’re very concerned about the students, faculty and staff and their welfare. Foreign exchange students should be able to stay here to attend school. I’m confident in our president, (former U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Secretary and Wisconsin Governor) Tommy Thompson. I’m confident that he will successfully navigate the UW System through these waters.”

And he has some words of advice for his colleagues and community.

“Think about your classmate or your colleague or coworker and think of ways to help them. If we all thought of someone other than ourselves to support, then we all would be supported,” he said. “Other than that — be safe.”



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MS in Instructional Design & Learning Technology

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Faculty Spotlight:



Written by Mohammed Al Khathlan

Dr. Sarah Beth Nelson

Education is developing and continuously changing, which prompted UW-Whitewater and educators such as Dr. Sarah Beth Nelson to create courses and degrees to help educators adapt to the new learning and teaching skills. Dr. Nelson is an Assistant Professor in the Educational Foundations department, and her field of teaching is Library Media.

The Library Media program focuses on access and organizes information resources, educates students and teachers to use information, and engages students' curiosities and appetites for learning. Dr. Nelson runs this program at UW-Whitewater and the University of Wisconsin System School Library Education Cooperative. Furthermore, Dr. Nelson's research is on oral information practices, specifically storytelling, which influences her teaching style.

Dr. Nelson's educational background is fascinating, with four degrees from three different states. She earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia, where she majored in Latin, joined Phi Kappa Literary and Debate Society to improve her public speaking skills, and studied abroad in Rome, Italy. Also, Dr. Nelson earned a Specialist degree from the University of Georgia while she was raising her first child. Then, she went to the University of Alabama to earn her Master's degree as a librarian. After Dr. Nelson received her Master's, she went to the University of North Carolina to get her Ph.D. During that time, Dr. Nelson researched with experts and learned a lot from them. With all of these experiences, Dr. Nelson came to UW-Whitewater and works on the Library Media program and The Master of Science in Education in Professional Studies (MSE-PS).



Dr. Nelson performing as a storyteller at the Bynum General Store in North Carolina. The attentive child in the picture is her daughter.

MSE-Professional Studies is a program focused on nurturing core educational skills, such as teaching and learning. Furthermore, this program develops knowledge in essential areas such as research, practice, and professional voice. There are ten emphases for MSE-Professional Studies to specialize and focus on an area of education. Students pursuing the MSE-Professional Studies have ten emphases from which they may choose allowing them to specialize and focus on a certain area of education.

"Our program is flexible so that we can serve students who are working and those who don't live close to Whitewater." Dr. Nelson said about the benefits of graduate school at UW-Whitewater.

With many years in the education field, Dr. Nelson believes in collaborative learning for educators and building a network to learn from one another. As technology changes, Dr. Nelson encourages students to adapt and learn new technologies. Dr. Nelson has said, "In this area especially, I want students to learn how to learn. They will need to teach themselves about new and changing technologies on the job."

When Dr. Nelson is not at work, she is a storyteller and participates in open mic shows and storytelling festivals. Also, she is a long-distance runner and runs 12 miles on most Saturdays. She does run with her daughter, and they hope to sign up for a half-marathon when it is safe again.

Student Spotlight:



Written by Brenna Steed

Kate McNamara

Coming to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater "has been life-changing in the best of ways," Kate says. She's originally from the western suburbs of Chicago and acquired a spinal cord injury in March of 2016. In early August of 2017, there was a women's wheelchair basketball camp. She was really worried about going; she used to play able-bodied basketball, and it was her passion, "I had no idea how to play in a chair, and honestly, I didn't want to have to relearn something. I used to be really good at. So I took the risk and went."

While at the wheelchair basketball camp, Kate was chatting with the woman running the camp. Unbeknownst to her, Christina Schwab (the UWW women's wheelchair basketball coach) recruited Kate to come to Whitewater to play wheelchair basketball. Within the next four weeks, Kate was admitted into the Counselor Education Program and took the leap to move to Wisconsin and start a new life. "I have never had anything so huge come together so quickly and have the pieces fall right into place before." Through both the counselor education program and being an athlete, it wasn't long before Kate knew she was part of a family. "The Warhawk family is a big one, and I'm beyond grateful to have had the experiences I have had."

The counselor education program, in particular, has truly been a life-changing experience for Kate, "I always had the desire to find a career in the helping field, but I never really had any direction or a way to achieve this." Coming into this program, getting to know peers, getting to know herself on a deeper level, and the growth Kate's experience learning to become a professional counselor is something that is preparing her for the rest of her life.

Kate then went on to say that, "One of the greatest parts of the counselor education program is the faculty. Not only are they highly educated themselves, both through academia as well as their own experiences being a counselor, it is that they truly care about each and every one of students. They push us academically, but it is the care and desire for each student to understand and be successful that puts this program at the top. They are truly preparing us to become counselors. In developing relationships with the faculty, I wish I had more words to explain how special this program is. It's powerful."

The fun thing about Kate is that when you see her around campus, you'll also see my very handsome service dog in training, Max.

Kate McNamara will be graduating from the Graduate Studies program with a degree in Counselor Education with an emphasis in clinical mental health (CMHC) in May 2021. She is proud to be a Warhawk.

Why Grad School at UW-Whitewater?

- Applied Education
- Options
- Close relationships with faculty
- Affordable
- Location, location, location

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Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Fridays at 6:30 pm, [The Association for Graduate Students of Color \(AGSC\) info](#)

Monday, October 19 [UW-Whitewater MBA Information Session](#)

Monday, October 19 [School Psychology Program information session](#)

Monday, October 26 [UW-Whitewater MS Environmental Safety & Health Information Session](#)

Tuesday, October 27 [UW-Whitewater MS Instructional Design and Learning Technology Information Session](#)

Wednesday, October 28 [UW-Whitewater MS Business Analytics Information Session](#)

Tuesday, November 3 [Doctorate Program Information session](#)

Friday, November 13 [Communication Sciences and Disorders info session](#)

Saturday, December 5 [Doctorate Program Information session](#)

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