

September 2019

## Veteran Alum Receives Keys to Progress Award

When Richard Harris was asked for a name of a local veteran for the [Keys to Progress](#) award, William Breyman came to mind right away. Harris, UW-Whitewater's coordinator of student veterans and military services, worked with Breyman throughout his time at UW-W and continues to keep in contact with the recent social work graduate. Every year, Progressive Insurance honors veterans through its nationwide vehicle giveaway program. This year, Breyman will be the deserving recipient of a 2016 Mazda CX-5, which will be presented to him in November.

Breyman came to UW-W to begin his career path in social work. His ultimate goal is to work at the Veterans Administration to give back to other veterans. "I want to continue to support my brothers- and sisters-in-arms," he says. "Veterans, as a group, can be difficult to connect with—to open up, to share. Being with them, one of them, makes bridging that gap a little less difficult."

It's that same supportive connection that Breyman found at UW-W's Veteran's Lounge and throughout campus. "This place is welcoming. There are always people like me here to talk to," he says. "UW-W has built this community where you have that military connection. But it goes beyond that, too. I can bring my girls here and they can hang out while I have a chance to talk to other vets. We bond, and support each other. There is no pressure and it makes a difference." Breyman and Harris invite the campus community to the lounge to meet some of the many vets on campus. "I'd love to see more people there," Breyman shares.

Breyman is a single father of four daughters and is now pursuing a master's degree at George Williams College. "Leaving this micro community will be hard. I am going to miss this family that we've established. But I know I won't really be gone. In the military we move on; we move forward. I know that I can move forward from here and that the good work will continue."

He continues to serve others in the community, especially veterans. "He's overcome barriers that are nearly impossible," Harris says. "He is inspiring. He wants everyone to be successful, all the time, no matter what." Harris was excited to learn Breyman was chosen to receive a car. "What he does is above and beyond," Harris says. Keys to Progress program takes 'thank you for your service' to a whole other level. It really says, 'we've got your six' and William deserves that."

"It hasn't hit me yet. It still feels so surreal," Breyman says. "Until I get the keys in my hand, I won't believe it. I can't wait to share this with my family."



William Breyman (top) Richard Harris (above)

## Join Us for Discussions on Religion, Spirituality

Religion and spirituality play central roles in one's identity. Tenants of faith guide our traditions, our family structures and our laws. This fall, the [Fairhaven Lecture Series](#) will explore religion, spirituality, and cultural traditions across the globe. These lectures are led by faculty from the Whitewater and Rock campuses and are free and open to the public – no registration required. Eight lectures in the [fall series](#) will examine topics from the Mormon experience in America to cultural and cosmological beliefs in the Hmong community. Islam, human evolution and religion and religious movements in medieval India are just some of the other themes for lectures in this series.

The series, one of the University's most well-known and service traditions, will kick off its 36<sup>th</sup> year on September 30. Join us, won't you?



## **Yellowstone National Park – Outdoor Classroom for Students**

Continuing Education partners with academic departments to provide hands-on learning experiences throughout the U.S. This summer, forty students and faculty traveled from Whitewater through the Upper Great Plains and throughout Yellowstone National Park to visit sites and conduct fieldwork. Students engaged in experiments in biology, ecology, geology and environmental science, learned the natural history of the region, and participated in a service-learning exercise, all while visiting our country's first national park among others.

For over thirty years, Dr. George Clokey (Biological Sciences) has been leading students on this travel study program, and has seen the life-changing effects that this high impact practice has. "What the students take away from this course are not the facts of geology and ecology, that's important of course, but more so, that they become passionate about wild places," Clokey says. "Many already are, but the course feeds that passion." Clokey stays in touch with many of the hundreds of students who have traveled with him to Yellowstone. "I have students write back years after they took the course and tell me that they are working in a park or museum or environmental education center with kids. They thank me and say the course changed their lives. All I did was show them the Park, the Park changed their lives."

More information on the Yellowstone Travel Study Courses can be found [here](#).





## News from ECE4U

It was an eventful summer for the [Early Childhood Education For You](#) (ECE4U) program. The program is designed for professionals in early childhood who want to earn a bachelor's degree while continuing to work in the field. The program uses a cohort model and offers classes online and in person on the weekends. This summer, the 2019 Cohort began their studies with 37 students representing 13 different transfer institutions. The majority of students transferred into the program from Blackhawk Technical College, Southwest Technical College, Madison College and Milwaukee Area Technical College. Almost 90% of these students work full time.

The program is also excited to announce that they received a grant from the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association to prepare an application for accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Program representatives are working through a self-study process currently, along with several other universities and technical colleges in Wisconsin. UW-W will receive technical support and professional development opportunities as a cohort member of applicants through the Higher Education Accreditation System.

For more information on the ECE4U program, contact [Anne Tillett](#), program coordinator.



## Athletic Programs Focus on Coaches Too

[Continuing Education Services](#) hosts many camps, clinics and events for youth athletes, but this summer, it also hosted its first clinic for some of the people who support soccer players during the season – coaches. Head men's soccer coach Tony Guinn held the first [UW-Whitewater Soccer Coaches Clinic](#) for coaches wanting to take their programs to the next level. "I felt this was a good way to bridge relationships with other soccer coaches who had a passion for making a difference," Guinn says. Nearly forty coaches and coaching teams attended this year's clinic. "Tony's clinic was a huge success for a first year program," said John Fons, Interim Director of Continuing Education. Guinn hopes to grow the program in the coming years, with next year's coaches clinic scheduled for August 15, 2020.

The coaches who attended the event were pleased with all they learned. "They thanked us for giving teaching tools, drills, concepts and ideas that they can incorporate into their high school programs," Guinn shared. "They also said thanks for reaffirming that we coach to make a difference in young peoples' lives."





UW-WHITWATER PHOTO/CRAIG SCHREINER

## Continuing Education Welcomes Laura Montez

Continuing Education is pleased to welcome Laura Montez as its new Educational Pathways Coordinator. In this role, Laura will develop PK-12 partnerships with public school districts, private schools and homeschool groups. Laura coordinates with school administrators and teachers to extend opportunities for Partners in Education (PIE) concurrent and dual enrollment classes for high school students, for professional development for PK-12 educators (credit and non-credit options), and to facilitate communication of needs and interest from PK-12 education to the UW-Whitewater faculty and staff. Laura works from both the main campus and Rock County campus.

Prior to her work at UW-W, Laura served in PK-12 school districts as both a teacher and administrator for the last 15 years. In previous roles, Laura enjoyed facilitating professional development and curriculum writing with PK-12 teachers as well as working directly with middle and high school students. In addition, she served as adjunct faculty for Wisconsin Lutheran College's Adult and Graduate Studies program, teaching a graduate-level course on early adolescent development and middle school instructional strategies.

In her free time, Laura enjoys spending time with her husband, Marc, and their two children, Lilly and Noah. The Montez family is a big sports family with her husband coaching multiple sports including high school baseball, so they spend a lot of time at both youth and high school athletic practices and events. Laura used to coach cheerleading and softball, but no longer coaches in order to attend her own kids' events. Laura says, "after being a school administrator for the last 6 years, I will enjoy the additional time that I will get back with my family in this new role." Welcome, Laura!



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## News and Upcoming Events:



Adult student Adam Brabender advocates for rights for people with disabilities in Wisconsin's political process and was featured in an [article](#) in the Isthmus and a [Q&A](#) in The Cap Times. Keep up the good work, Adam!

PHOTO BY MICHELLE STOCKER for  
*The Cap Times* - 2019

You are not alone! Have you experienced a suicide loss or want to bring awareness to suicide prevention? All are welcome to join an [educational program and healing gathering of support](#) on November 8 at the Rock County campus.



High school students – improve your score! [ACT Prep Classes](#) are held at our Rock County Campus throughout the year. The next session begins October 5. Sign up today!



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After a successful inaugural run in summer 2019, the [UW-Whitewater Fencing Coach Camp](#) is slated to return to campus in summer 2020.

The camp provides high-level training for fencing coaches and their students, under the instruction of five-time Olympian Michael Marx.



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The [UW-W Learning is for Everyone \(LIFE\)](#) program provides a complete college experience for young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 who have an intellectual disability. LIFE is designed to facilitate independent living and employment success for people with significant cognitive limitations. Join us for an open house on October 4<sup>th</sup>. More information and registration [here](#).

UW-Whitewater continues to provide access to programs that meet the ever-changing needs of area professionals and industries with a new online [Master of Science in Applied Biotechnology](#) (ABT). Created for professionals working in biotech fields, the ABT program is offered through an innovative online collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Extended Campus and seven other University of Wisconsin System partners. The new program will fill a growing need for skilled biotechnology professionals who know the science, understand the industry, and have the business insight to help their organization achieve success.



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