

September 2021

New Year, Good News, and Exciting Changes.

The academic year begins with a new leader and a commitment to extending the mission beyond campus.

It was an eventful summer for the [School of Graduate Studies](#) and [Continuing Education](#), including a change in leadership. In July, Dr. Matthew Vick assumed the role of dean of the unit, which also includes the [Office of Research and Sponsored Programs](#).



Vick earned his BS from UW-Madison in chemistry and earned his MS and PhD from UW-Milwaukee in urban education/curriculum and instruction. He joined the faculty of University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 2008, advancing from lecturer to chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Vick's leadership experience continued in additional roles as the Interim Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Interim Director of the Learning Technology Center. His research interests include preparing pre-service teachers in the STEM fields, and he has played an integral role in the School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education initiatives such as several new master level degree programs and the dual enrollment Partners in Education program.

Vick reflected on his first months as dean by sharing some positive news. "It was great meeting many new graduate students at our Graduate Student Welcome events," he said. "It was exciting to see our [Continuing Education Services](#) office support over 2,500 campers this summer. Safe protocols were in place that allowed many campers to enjoy the opportunities of our programs again." Vick was pleased to note that students were once again able to [travel to Yellowstone National Park](#) with Professor George Clokey after a year of travel restrictions and two new [MSE-Professional Studies](#) cohorts have started this fall. Finally, Vick shared impressive numbers from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. "Learning about all the new projects and grants has been very engaging. The unit supports campus faculty and partners by bringing in \$6 million in external funding.

"I am honored to be able to help lead our unit forward in order to expand the educational reach of the university to youth, working professionals, returning adults, and their families. Many of our online graduate programs provide important flexibility for students. Additionally, our programs are well regarded in their fields and provide an important service to our communities. Our continuing education services extend the university's mission well beyond credit-coursework to enrich lives." Vick said. "My goal is work with our various offices to build on our existing strengths and to better serve our region and our campus community."



Gratitude for Successful Summer Camp Season

Campers at both campuses returned for academic, athletic, and music programs.

Once again, the Whitewater and Janesville campuses were buzzing with summer campers. Over 2,600 young people attended more than 60 camps clinics online and in person, enhancing their athletic skills, learning about science and technology, and getting exposure to a college environment. Many long-standing camps like tennis, football, and gymnastics returned to in-person, residential programming with extensive safety protocols in place. The popular week-long College for Kids was once again held on the Rock Campus as well. New formats like

day-long events and take and make activities were added to the mix. [Continuing Education Services](#) hired more than 400 camp directors, coaches and support staff to facilitate activities and keep kids safe and engaged.

In Whitewater, campers were able to participate in both day-long and overnight events. “We implemented new check-in procedures, dining options, free testing, and sanitizing protocols to keep everyone safe,” Eric Field, program manager for the Whitewater campus said. “It was wonderful having all the kids and families back on campus and out in the community. I’m happy to share that no campers were sent home due to COVID.”

On the Rock County campus in Janesville, STEM was the focus of several camps. “We had an AWESOME summer,” Rock County Camps Coordinator Molly Cook said. “We were lucky enough to host over 70 students and 7 camps AND we were lucky enough to have no COVID cases to report. With on-site testing, smaller class sizes, masks, social distancing, and increased sanitizing, our amazing staff on campus was able to make Rock come to life with youth this summer!!!”

John Fons, Interim Director of Continuing Education, echoed these sentiments. “I want to applaud the hard work of the camps directors and staff in closely following the protocols and keeping all our campers safe this summer,” he said. He also expressed his gratitude to the entire campus community for their support in bringing camps back this year. “We couldn’t have done it all this summer without the dedicated staff from Housing, Catering, University Health Services, the Emergency Operations Committee, Police Services, Parking Services, and many, many more.” Fons continued, “even in a typical year, it takes a village to make camps happen. This year, it took an entire city and we’re grateful for all the hard work and support.”



Science Programs for All Ages and Interests

This fall, Continuing Education is hosting science-related events for all ages in both Whitewater and Janesville.

The [Fairhaven Lecture Series](#) returns this month! The theme of the series, “Science and Society: Connecting Research to Real Life” will highlight research interests of science faculty from both campuses. From climate change to COVID-19, bird adaptations to brain function, our world faces new challenges and opportunities every day. Lectures in the series will highlight the ways scientific research make a difference in our society. Though presentations are not open to the public, lectures will be streamed live on Facebook and recordings posted to the website.

On Saturday, October 23, the Rock County Campus will be filled with science activities and exhibits for people of all ages. Now in its fifth year, [Super Science Saturday](#) will once again be an in-person event, with safety precautions in place. Participants can sign up for one of four morning time slots, and come to campus for a glow in the dark room, insects, DIY trebuchets, bones, renewable energy and much, much more! Families can sign up for this free event through October 21.

Are you interested in solar and wind power? Join us on Saturday, November 6 for a [hands-on workshop](#) where you can create and test your own unique solar-powered electric fan. Use safe, time-tested materials and take your creation home with you. Explore the UW-Whitewater at Rock County grid-tied solar arrays and get answers to FAQs about solar electricity for homes. This event is for families or kids attending solo ages 8+.



Graduate Students Ready for a Successful Semester

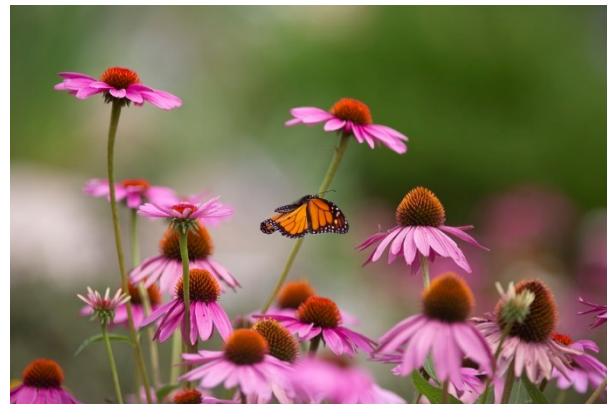
Current and incoming students were welcomed with a variety of indoor and outdoor events sponsored by the School of Graduate Studies.

On two very hot days this August, new and current graduate students came together to network. On August 26, graduate students from [Counselor Education](#), [Social Work](#), and [Cybersecurity](#) were greeted by Provost John Chenoweth, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Kristen Plessel, and Dean Matt Vick and coordinators from the Social Work Program. On August 30, many students from [School Psychology](#), [Higher Education Leadership](#), and the [College of Business and Economics](#) met their fellow students, along with Chancellor Henderson and coordinators from their programs. Students appreciated the opportunity to meet faculty classmates in person, learn more about their programs, and pick up some UW-Whitewater swag. They gave positive feedback overall. Look for this event to return each fall!



News and Upcoming Events:

Local expert gardener and landscape consultant Mark Dwyer returns this fall with his popular [online gardening workshops](#). Topics include conifers, sustainable landscaping, and new spring plants. Master Gardener CEUs available for each workshop. Register today!





Coming to a Warhawk Football Game? Need parking? Continuing Education Services can help! Guarantee your parking spot and beat the long lines by pre-purchasing your parking pass before arriving at the game. Check out lot maps, pick your spot, and get your pass ahead of time on our [website](#). Go Warhawks!

Help students graduate sooner! [Winterim](#) is right around the corner. Students can take up to one course during this three-week term. Classes are fully online and registration opens November 1.



Whether you're looking to change your career, help your child enhance their skills, or want to support the work of our faculty and students, our staff can help. [Meet the team](#) behind the work of the School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education.

Are you thinking of a career advancement or change? Continuing Education offers [advanced career training programs](#) that lead to professional positions in high demand fields like [certified pharmacy technician](#) and [freight broker/agent](#). Hundreds of flexible, affordable [online classes](#) with start dates each month, with titles like [Marketing Your Business on the Internet](#) and [Speed Spanish](#) will help you develop your skills and get ahead.



UW-Whitewater cares deeply about the health and safety of our community. [FREE COVID-19 testing](#) is available to anyone over 5 years old. For more information on testing, reported cases, additional resources, and more, please visit the [Warhawks Return](#) webpage. Stay informed and stay safe!



University of Wisconsin
Whitewater

School of Graduate Studies
and Continuing Education