

November 2022

Alum Strengthens Partnership with his Alma Mater

When Brian Robinson came to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 2001, his plan was to run track and major in marketing. A leg injury and a volunteer program led him in a very different direction. And now, his career has come full circle.

Robinson, is the director of leisure and transportation services at [Fairhaven Senior Services](#), one of UW-Whitewater's most dedicated community partners. When he first came to Whitewater over twenty years ago, his future goals didn't include working in the community with seniors. As an undergrad, a friend introduced him to the Nursing Home Visitation program, a volunteer service opportunity for students spearheaded by Dr. Cliff O'Beirne (Psychology). Robinson enjoyed the experience so much, he volunteered all of his four years on campus.



Ultimately, Robinson graduated in 2005 with a degree in Public Policy and Administration, with a minor in Recreation and Leisure studies. He had worked in local Parks and Recs programs with youth throughout high school and college, and even with a rewarding experience with senior citizens in college, he never thought he would end up working in a senior living community. After

returning home to the Wausau area and a couple jobs in southern Wisconsin, Robinson returned to Whitewater in 2014 to work at Fairhaven.

In his role of director of leisure services, Brian is responsible for developing programs to keep residents at Fairhaven mentally, physically and socially active. Like many other senior living facilities, Fairhaven offers bingo, movies, and book groups. But under Robinson's leadership, many new and innovative programs have been offered for residents. Robinson partners with many athletic teams to visit Fairhaven and for residents to attend UW-W athletics events. In addition, UW-W student organizations lead games and events for residents. Since 2015, Robinson, residents and student groups have been making dog treats which are donated to local shelters. He brought the [Cycling Without Age](#) program to Fairhaven, where over 200 bike rides are given annually to residents by Robinson and volunteers.



But, enriching the lives of seniors isn't the only benefit of the partnerships Robinson has cultivated between Fairhaven and UW-W. Faculty from Kinesiology, Sociology, and Social Work have worked on student projects at Fairhaven, and many students have completed internships and volunteer programs with Robinson and others. Jeannine Rowe (Social Work) offers a 3-credit class onsite for people interested in the aging and gerontology field and students in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program are learning about speech and aging from residents.

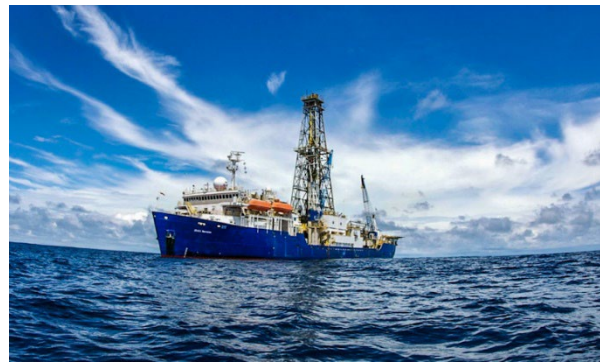
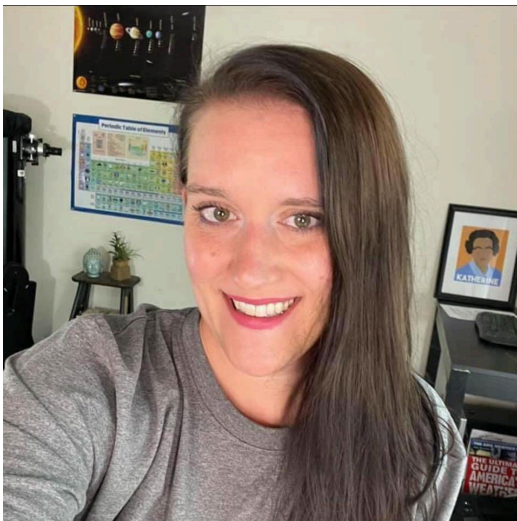
When asked whether students should consider careers in working with seniors and older adults, Robinson enthusiastically replied "absolutely! It is very fulfilling field and caring for the well-being of others is so important." He values all of the partnerships he has made with UW-W faculty, staff, students, teams and organizations, but is always open to new ideas. "Give me a call or come visit us at Fairhaven, and let's make something happen!"

Brian Robinson can be reached at robinsonb@fairhaven.org or 262-753-0010. Learn more about UW-Whitewater's many partnerships with Fairhaven and our programs for older adults and those who serve them, such as the [Fairhaven Lecture Series](#), certificate programs in [Aging and Health](#) and [Gerontology](#), and our [upcoming Healthy Aging Fair](#) on April 14, 2023. .

Searching for Earth's Secrets

Graduate student helps to bring traveling science museum exhibit to campus to share with university and PK-12 students.

In the spring of 2023, the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling ([JOIDES](#)) Expedition 399 will sail to the Lost City Hydrothermal Field and Sarah Treadwell, a graduate student in the Department of Communication, will be on board. As part of her outreach, Treadwell is helping to bring a traveling science museum exhibit called "*In Search of Earth's Secrets*" to campus. This interactive, educational exhibit is an outreach project that is a part of the International Ocean Discovery Project featuring the work of the JOIDES Resolution – a core drilling research ship funded by the National Science Foundation. Research collected by the ship impacts our understanding of climate change, the origin of life and plate tectonics, among other topics.



Treadwell has been working with Corey Davis, professor and graduate program coordinator on the project, slated to arrive on campus next month. "This exhibit will highlight the incredible amount of career and field research opportunities there are in science to students of all ages," Treadwell notes. "It will also give university students a chance to practice their science

communication skills as docent volunteers.” Local elementary, middle and high schools will be invited to view the exhibit, which will be free and open to the public.



“*In Search of Earth’s Secrets*” will be on display at the Community Engagement Center from December 12 to February 28, with portions tentatively scheduled to be displayed on the main campus. Treadwell is seeking volunteers and support for the exhibit and can be contacted at Treadwell.sarah@gmail.com. For more information on the ship and its work check out videos [here](#) and [here](#), and to learn more about Sarah, check out her [website](#).

Creative Writing Festival Returns for its 38th Year

High school students and their teachers will travel to campus for an opportunity to learn from each other.

Each year, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater welcomes hundreds of students in grades 9 to 12 and their teachers for the [Creative Writing Festival](#). The event offers students an opportunity to submit original written material, then discuss the submissions with their peers and writing professionals in a college setting. Categories for submission include children’s literature, screenplay, poetry, song lyrics, and many more.

The Festival is being led by new directors Nicholas Gulig and Barrett Swanson, both associate professors in the Department of Languages and Literatures. It will also feature a keynote presentation by New York Times bestselling author, humorist, playwright and radio show host from Wisconsin, Michael Perry.

The 38th Annual Creative Writing Festival will take place throughout campus on Wednesday, November 30. Please welcome the participants throughout their time on campus.



Something for Everyone at Rock County

Explore your creativity, take care of your mental health

Personal enrichment and professional development opportunities are scheduled for the Rock County campus in Janesville in the coming months. Take advantage of these events at this convenient location pre- and post-holiday season.



Start the holiday season with a [handmade gift workshop](#) for kids in grades 1 through 8. Four sessions of the Winter Wonderland DIY Holiday Gift Workshop are offered by grade level, and all workshops will take place on Saturday, December 3rd in the afternoon. Your kids will make memories and gifts ready for giving!

On January 6, a workshop on Mental Health in the Workplace will take place on the Rock campus. Learn the five major components of

mental health and immediately usable practices to maintain well-being and balance in the workplace. Whether you're attending for your own mental health, or to better support your team, this workshop is for you. CEUs available. [Register](#) yourself or your whole team, and ask your supervisor about using professional development funds.



News from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

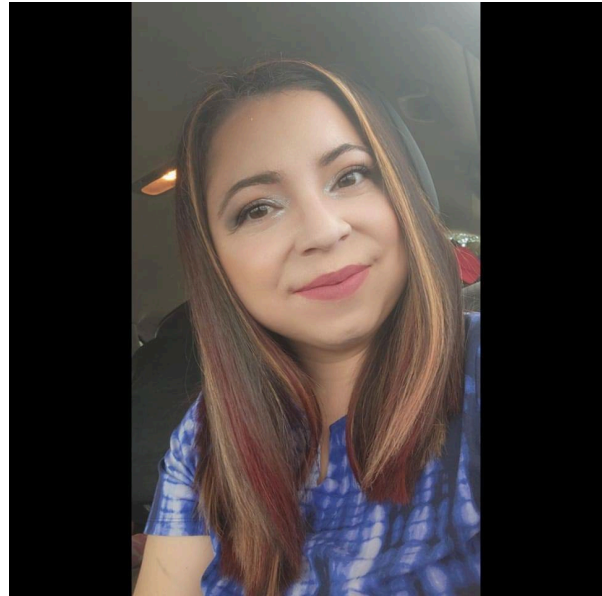
[In 2019, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs](#) created and developed the [Wisconsin Research Administrators Network](#) (WiRAN) WiRAN includes research administrators from higher education institutions across Wisconsin. The group will gather for its next symposium on December 5-6 in Wisconsin Dells. Symposium topics include research collaborating across the state and cost share tracking, along with panels on state and federal agencies, workforce and economic development, and foundations.

A Warm Welcome to New Staff Members

The [School of Graduate Studies](#) and [Continuing Education](#) is pleased to welcome several new staff members to our team.

Continuing Education Services welcomed Fabiola Aranda as its new Financial Specialist last month. She is responsible for making purchases for the various camps and events as well as processing invoices and hiring staff for those programs. Previously, Fabiola assisted in managing the HawkCard Office and coordinated the Warhawk Pantry on the UW-W campus. She currently lives in Whitewater with

her husband and three children. Fabiola loves to spend time with extended family in Sheboygan and very large extended family here in Whitewater, including eating tacos at her family's Mexican store in town.



Paul Doro began his work as Marketing Specialist in October. In this role, he is responsible for writing content for social media and other outlets. Prior to his work at UW-W, Paul recently completed a PhD program in English at UW-Milwaukee, with a dissertation on television studies. He also worked as a writer and copy editor for a media company. He lives in Fox Point with his wife and two sons, and in addition to spending time with them, he loves to travel, try new restaurants, watch baseball and football, and horror movies.



Graduate Assistants Elisa Garcia and Naveen Panditharatne came on board this fall to help in the areas of graduate admissions and IT, respectively.

Welcome Fabiola and Paul, and Elisa and Naveen!

Give the Gift of a UW-Whitewater Experience this Holiday Season

Youth clinics and camps, adult classes, and professional events are all available for gift giving.

Did you know that you can give a UW-Whitewater experience as a gift, award or for professional development? Continuing Education offers a [Sponsor a Registrant](#) program in which grandparents, friends, employers or anyone can give a gift in the form of a promo code, then receive an invoice for the fees. This is a great way for employers to recognize their staff for a job well done or family members to give a meaningful experience that will last a lifetime. Check out [our programs](#) for youth, adults, and professionals for gift ideas today.

News and Upcoming Events:

Beloit native and recent [ECE4U](#) graduate Evelyn Cortes-Rodriguez returned to her hometown to teach as part of the Grow Your Own Multicultural Scholarship program. Read more about Evelyn's story [here](#).

The Warhawk Football season is heating up. With one game left, and playoffs sure to come, Continuing Education Services is once again providing [parking permit registrations](#) for all home football games. Guarantee your spot and avoid long lines by pre-purchasing your permit. Looking for tickets for the games? We can help you there too. Purchase your [tickets](#) today and GO WARHAWKS!



Registration for [Winterim](#) is now open! Help students stay on track by encouraging them to enroll in this 3-week, 100% online term. Dozens of [classes](#), like American Jazz, Personal and Public Safety, and Dinosaurs, are available to enroll in now. Winterim is open to students on other campuses too!



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 [Microsoft Office specialist](#), [veterinary assistant](#), and [HVAC/R technician](#). Looking for individual classes? We have those too. Hundreds of flexible, affordable [online classes](#) with start dates each month, with titles like [Project Management Fundamentals](#), [Discover Sign Language](#), and [Genealogy Basics](#) will help you meet your career, educational, and lifelong learning goals.



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and Continuing Education