



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
WHITEWATER

SCHOOL of GRADUATE STUDIES
AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

March 2015

Welcome Richard Harris, Coordinator of Student Veterans and Military Services

Over 300 veterans and children of veterans are enrolled at UW-Whitewater. They now have a new staff member to assist them with resources as they transition to college and beyond. Richard Harris started in his role as coordinator of student veterans and military services earlier this month. He is a 2014 graduate of UWW with a degree in social work with a minor in criminal justice, and has extensive experience with veterans and communities across Wisconsin. His past work included serving on the Governor's Task Force on Reducing Minority Unemployment in Milwaukee County, the Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Health, and the African American Liaison Committee to the Janesville Police Department. Harris also is a Gulf War-era veteran himself, serving for six years in the Army. He worked assisting the local veterans employment representative at the Rock County Job Center, and supported disabled veterans in finding resources to stay in their homes with Access to Independence. Harris is looking forward to working with veterans in this new capacity.



"Every veteran experiences his or her service to their country differently," Harris notes. "And, the veteran culture is complex and unique." Vets have a lifetime of experiences they bring with them to campus, and transition from service to college life can present significant challenges for these students. "Many of our student veterans are only young chronologically and on the outside - inside, they are older emotionally, psychologically, and intellectually." Being a veteran makes Harris a safe and relatable confidant for students and creating strong campus connections is key for retaining veterans. "Vets don't leave because they can't perform academically," Harris says. "They leave because they don't connect." Harris praises UWW for the support and relationships that helped him succeed on campus. "I want to embody people like Jan Nordin (Registrar's Office) and Dr. Jim Winship (Social Work) in my work

with our student vets."

Richard Harris can be reached at harrisr05@uww.edu, 262-47-5236 or in his office near the Veterans Lounge in the Andersen Library.

Upcoming Events

[New! Graphic Design Basics Workshop, April 11](#)

[InterActiv Learning Conference, June 16-17](#)

[Grandchildren's University, June 26-27](#)

Related Links

[Adult Student Outreach](#)

[Camps and Conferences](#)

[Credit Outreach](#)

[Domestic Travel Study](#)

[Education Outreach](#)

[Fairhaven Lecture Series](#)

[Graduate Studies](#)

[LEARN Center](#)

[Partners in Education](#)

[Summer Session](#)

[Winterim](#)

[Workshops and Training](#)

Students Grow Community Outreach through AmeriCorps

This fall, UW-Whitewater students Morgan Fonder, Elizabeth Keil, and Kayla Getfield were hired as [AmeriCorps](#) members with funding support from the School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education. This program is sponsored by [Wisconsin Campus Compact](#). The students began work with Rock County Historical Society, Fort HealthCare, and Jefferson County Literacy Council to help these agencies grow, promote, and sustain their outreach efforts.



Fonder serves as a volunteer coordinator and recruiter at [Rock County Historical Society](#) (RHCS). "Our primary goals are to reach out to students and locals in the Rock County/Janesville/Whitewater area and promote volunteering through RHCS," she says. "We have so many exciting opportunities available, as well as upcoming events this year."

Keil coordinates activities between the university and [Fort HealthCare](#)'s many community health coalitions to organize and promote sustainability efforts. Additionally, Keil is creating a Fort HealthCare Toolkit. "Once completed, [this] will be a resource that the coalitions can reference for information about resources in the community, best ways to stay connected with the community residents, and more."

Getfield works to recruit volunteers to serve as tutors for the [Jefferson County Literacy Center](#), which reaches 200 adults each year in literacy and professional development, as well as to create a survey for Spanish speakers to help JCLC understand their reading preferences. "The data we collect will be used to inform the Jefferson Library on how to maximize the funds they have allocated to improve their section of Spanish materials," she explains. "I believe the work the JCLC is doing is very important to the future of our community."

For more information about these agencies and volunteer opportunities, contact Fonder, Keil, and Getfield at KeilER08@uww.edu, MartensKC05@uww.edu, and FonderML17@uww.edu.

-- Written by Melissa Kennedy



New Service for Community Organizations

UW-Whitewater's Office of Continuing Education is excited to announce a new service for the community. The [UW-Whitewater Speakers Bureau](#) provides information on booking faculty speakers who are available to speak to community groups, organizations, schools or other groups

in the region. Speakers offer presentations on a wide range of topics from politics and history to technology and literature.

A sample of UW-Whitewater speakers, their topic areas, and videos of previous presentations are available on the UW-Whitewater Speakers Bureau website at <http://www.uww.edu/ce/speakersbureau>. This service, and speakers' presentations, are offered presentations free of charge. Additional videos of public lectures given by UW-Whitewater faculty can be found at <http://www.uww.edu/ce/fairhaven/all-lectures>. Check it out!

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Early Childhood Educators "Stick Together"

Next month, over 800 early childhood educators from across the Midwest will come to UW-Whitewater for the [Early Childhood Conference](#) (ECC). In its 37th year, the ECC will offer workshops, performances, and presentations for educators working with young children. The conference is co-sponsored by the College of Education and Professional Studies and Continuing Education Services, and will celebrate the work of these educators through the theme "Let's Stick Together." Featured presenters this year include author and radio host Holly Elissa Bruno, infant and toddler specialist Cheryl Hovey, and Eric Litwin, the New York Times best-selling author of the first four Pete the Cat picture books. Litwin will also perform at the Children's Concert on April 10. Tickets for the concert can be ordered by calling 262-472-3165.



Robin Fox, ECC Conference Director and Associate Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, encourages professionals in this field to attend the conference to connect with colleagues and learn something new. "In the field of early education," Fox says, "we need to continue to 'stick together' as we advocate for the highest quality care for our children."



Increasing Student Engagement through Collaborations on Public Health

On Friday, February 13th the [School of Graduate Studies & Continuing Education](#) hosted the Partners in Public Health Community Breakfast, providing an opportunity for faculty and representatives from local public health agencies to sit down and discuss future collaborative partnerships. The campus welcomed 17 individuals from non-profit and public health agencies in Rock, Jefferson and Walworth counties as well as 18 faculty members from departments all over the campus.

The community breakfast is one facet of UW-Whitewater's initiative to increase student engagement in the community, particularly while further developing their classroom knowledge through service learning and community based research. This initiative has been welcomed by regional agencies. At the community breakfast, public health agency representatives were given the opportunity to share their mission and suggest ways in which UW-Whitewater students could partner with them to deepen the impact they have on their community.

UW-Whitewater faculty also reviewed the range of courses they teach, their areas of research they have or will be conducting and the types of projects they hope their students will participate in. This networking event was a first big step in forming partnerships that will last and will strengthen both UW-Whitewater students and our surrounding communities. A follow up Community Breakfast is planned for June 2015.

-- Written by Jessica Van Rens



