Collaborating with Communities for Learning Opportunities

This month, the School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education held their third community breakfast. Since spring 2015, the breakfasts brought UW-Whitewater faculty and staff together with local agencies to discuss potential ways that they can partner to create new community based learning opportunities for UW-Whitewater students. This breakfast helps faculty and staff to learn about needs in the community and for community agencies to find about the ways in which the university can support their ongoing projects, initiatives, or research.

On average, 50 people attend each semester. Some of this month's attendants included the Watertown Department of Public Health, the Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, and the Curriculum and Instruction Department. Amber Buxton, a graduate assistant who helped organize the event says, "These breakfasts help strengthen UW-Whitewater's relationship with the surrounding community by providing opportunities for all participants to discuss pressing needs and work collaboratively on course-based opportunities and research projects that will enhance student learning while also meeting current needs." These breakfasts help demonstrate UW-Whitewater's commitment to community-based learning and foster stronger ties to Southeastern Wisconsin communities.

Scholarship Helps Support Nontraditional Students in Need
Each year, nearly $20,000 in scholarship funds are awarded women returning to school at UW-Whitewater. The scholarship was made possible by Dr. Ernella S. Hunziker, who worked as a professor of Art and Education from 1963 to 1990. Dr. Hunziker endowed funds for female students who are at least 24 years old and in need of financial assistance. Recipients of the annual scholarship must be women working towards their first undergraduate degree, have a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and have completed 45 or more credits toward their degree, with at least 12 credits at UW-Whitewater. Last year, ten women were awarded this scholarship.

This year's recipients will be announced in late March and will be recognized at an awards ceremony on April 5th. This year's speaker at the ceremony, Michelle Zampino, received the scholarship for two years during her time at UW-Whitewater. When her youngest daughter started kindergarten, Michelle returned to college after 20 years to pursue a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, graduating in 2014. Thanks in part to the Hunziker scholarship, she is now fulfilling her dream of being an educator, as she now teaches music to over 500 kids in two Catholic schools in Milwaukee.

Get Ready for Summer with Gardening Workshops

It's time to start planning for summer! Next month, three workshops are being offered to help gardeners learn to grow plants from seed, choose sustainable plants, and make the most of their small spaces. The spring gardening series starts off with "Sustainable Landscaping: Little Changes that Make Big Differences" and "Growing Vegetables and Flowers from Seed" on April 9, followed by "Small Space, Straw Bale, and Container Gardening" wrapping up the series of workshops on April 16. There is a minimal fee for each workshop, and registration is required for any or all of the sessions. Learn some new tricks before your gardens wake up for the summer!
You're also invited to check out the Upham Greenhouse with us during Earth Week. On April 18 at 6 p.m., take a guided tour of the greenhouse and learn more about plants in desert and rainforest environments, and the seedlings preparing to be planted in the campus vegetable garden. This is a free event, but registration is required. Space is limited. Hope to see you there!

Celebrating Shakespeare

2016 will be celebrated as "Shakespeare in Wisconsin" in commemoration of the 400th year since the Bard's death. Four free events for adults and teens in the "Celebrating Shakespeare" series will be offered in Whitewater, Janesville and Milton, and the month of celebration will commence with a week-long production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" presented by the UW-Whitewater's Theater/Dance Department at the Hicklin Studio Theater on campus.

UW-Whitewater is one of many organizations and institutions across the state, partnering to offer programming as part of "Shakespeare in Wisconsin 2016." Programs will be offered throughout 2016, culminating with the First Folio! exhibit at UW-Madison in November. More information on this program and events across the state can be found at https://shakespeare.library.wisc.edu/.

Events "Celebrating Shakespeare" on campus and in the community include:

- **Travels with Shakespeare** presented by Elena Levy-Navarro (Languages & Literatures) on Tuesday, March 29 at 6 p.m. at the Hedberg Public Library, Janesville
- **Bard by the Book and Shakes on Screen - for Teens!** presented by the Whitewater Film Society and Theta Alpha Phi - Wisconsin Delta Chapter on Saturday, April 2 at 1 p.m. at the Milton School District Building, Milton
- **Midsummer Night's Dream on Film** presented by Donald Jellerson (Languages & Literatures) on Monday, April 18 at 3 p.m. at Fairhaven Senior Services, Whitewater
- **A Midsummer Night's Dream: Pick a Role, Any Role** presented by Lenny Banovez (Theatre/Dance) on Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m. at the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, Whitewater
Theatre/Dance production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on Monday, April 25 through Saturday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hicklin Studio Theatre, UW-Whitewater.

Early Childhood Educators: Our Words are Important

In April, early childhood educators from across the Midwest will attend UW-Whitewater's 38th Annual Early Childhood Conference. The Conference is presented by the College of Education and Professional Studies and Continuing Education Services. The theme this year is "Our Words are Important: Nuestras Palabras son Importantes."

The Conference this year will offer presentations on topics such as dual language learning, how to use children's books for children who are gender fluid, and working with children and families in poverty. Fourteen presentations this year will be in Spanish -- an acknowledgement that not all children speak English at home and that it is important to encourage dual language learning rather than assimilation. "It's not just our words that are important," says conference coordinator Robin Fox, "but also how we say them. The language and tone that we use shape children. We need to be careful that we are shaping them for the better."

Featured presenters include author Monica Brown, Terrie Schmoldt, Jayanti Tambe and Shelly Gonzales, and musician Joe Mailander of the Grammy-winning Okee Dokee Brothers. There will be an Okee Dokee Brothers concert Friday morning, and a Fun for all Concert with Gemini Friday night. You can call (800)622-0350 for tickets. Register here until the day of the conference.

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