UW-W Students Make a Difference in Yellowstone

Graduates of travel study program help to eradicate invasive species in the country’s first national park.

Since 1995, Dr. George Clokey (Biological Sciences) has led groups of students on travel study courses to Yellowstone National Park. Though travel was cancelled for 2020, graduates of past programs continue to use what they learned in internships and employment opportunities.

Several graduates have worked in the Park helping to eradicate invasive species to improve the habitat for native fish. For example, Yellowstone Lake has only a few fish species and one of concern is the cutthroat trout. This species weighs only about one pound and is 10-20 inches long. Cutthroat breed in streams during the spring so are available to birds and bears as a food source. The lake trout species was introduced years ago and get to be 40 pounds and 2-4 feet long. An adult lake trout can eat 40 cutthroat every year. “Removing the lake trout is so important because they have decreased the cutthroat by 90% so bears, eagles, osprey, and all sorts of animals start preying on other sources of food” Clokey says. “The work these students are doing is helping to get the ecosystem back in balance.”

Two trips to Yellowstone are currently planned for summer 2021. Visit our website for more details and contact Kari Borne for information on other travel programs in the U.S.
Program for Language Educators Nominated for National Guide

Each state nominates an entry among K-12, higher education and community-based programs. Wisconsin’s nomination comes from UW-W.

Congratulations to the Heritage Language Education program for its nomination as Wisconsin’s sole entry into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences’ National Commission on Language Learning’s Guide to Exemplary Programs and Practices in U.S. Language Education. The Guide’s list of programs with exemplary practices illustrate the accomplishments as well as the aspirations of the language education profession: broader and more equitable access, excellence in programming and instruction, and a more diverse portfolio of languages representative of America’s languages. Users of the guide include legislators, funding agencies, and administrators.

The Heritage Language Education program is only possible because of UW-W’s unique partnership between the College of Education and Professional Studies and Continuing Education and their commitment to innovative use of technologies and new program designs, which bring together students/teachers from all over the country,” says Dr. Jenna Cushing-Leubner, program coordinator. “Recognition of this program is also recognition of UW-W’s combined comprehensive Bilingual/Bicultural/ESL program, our interdisciplinary race and ethnic studies minors, and our commitment to grow the offerings for Spanish for heritage/native speakers and Spanish for the professions courses.”
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.

Winterim Registration is Now Open

Help students graduate on time by encouraging them to enroll in this special session.

Check this out – UW-W students who enroll in Winterim courses are 21% more likely to graduate within four years. Let’s help our students achieve their academic goals! Dozens of courses, from American Jazz to Dinosaurs, are offered online in this three-week term. Not a UW-W student? No problem! Winterim courses are open to students from other universities and credit can be transferred back to their home institution. For more information, visit the Winterim page.
Comings and Goings

Graduate Studies and Continuing Education welcomes new staff members, bids farewell to graduating student employees.

After serving as limited term employees, Graduate Studies and Continuing Education are pleased to announce Ruth Peterson and Jose Perez are now permanent members of their professional team.

Ruth Peterson is the student status examiner for the School of Graduate Studies, where she processes applications for admissions, clears students for graduation, assists with registration issues, and oversees the Graduate Assistantship hiring process. Ruth moved to Whitewater to attend college after high school and has made the community her home. “One of the things I love most about UW-Whitewater is all of the wonderful staff, faculty, and students,” Peterson says. “I am happy to be back on campus serving students and really looking forward to working with everyone!”

Jose Perez is the associate information processing consultant for the unit. He provides technology support for camps, conferences, non-credit and graduate programs, Winterim and summer session. Before coming to UW-W, Jose worked for five years at UW-Rock County, starting as an intern in the distance education department and working with all kinds of different technology. “I enjoy being able to work with technology that sparks my interest and challenges me,” Perez says. In his free time, Jose enjoys playing and watching a variety of sports along with traveling to new places.

The end of the semester is also a time for us to say farewell to student employees who have provided priceless behind-the-scenes work during their time at UW-W. Communication majors Faith O'Reilly and Brenna Steed supported the marketing team with marketing campaigns, newsletters and videography. Information Technology major Teige Brannon worked as a member of the tech team, providing support for websites, registrations and video production.

Welcome Ruth and Jose, and best wishes for the future to Brenna, Faith, and Teige.
Top: Ruth Peterson, newly appointed permanent student status examiner for the School of Graduate Studies.

Below: Faith O'Reilly, graduating communication student with emphasis in public relations. Said O'Reilly, "I've gained a lot working with this team and being a Warhawk. I feel ready to take on all that I can after graduation. Thanks for everything!"
News and Upcoming Events:

Congratulations to the UW-Whitewater Sustainability Office for being named a Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Continuing Education partners with coordinator Wes Enterline, his staff and interns, and members of the grounds crew to offer tours of the UW-W prairie, landscapes, and gardens throughout the summer months. Join us next summer and learn more about why our campus continues to be recognized as a leader in sustainable practices.

Baseball in the fall and winter? You bet! Get your youth players ready for spring training in our one-day baseball clinics, led by the Warhawk Baseball coaches and players. Several dates available November through March, with risk-free registration up to two weeks before the event. Sign up today!

Rockin' Rudolph’s Secret Shop returns to the Rock County campus this holiday season! This event is a way to help student parents with a few educational gifts for their kids under 18. Donation ideas include puzzles, books, blocks, art supplies and more. To donate, contact Molly Cook or Ashley Mallu. Happy holidays!
Are you thinking of a career advancement or change? Continuing Education offers flexible, affordable online classes with start dates each month. Hundreds of classes, including A to Z Grant Writing, Project Management Fundamentals, and Speed Spanish will help you develop your skills and get ahead. Fun personal enrichment classes are available too! Next start date is December 9.

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!

Get tested. Help stop the spread.
Free, fast COVID-19 testing on campus for anyone age 5 or older.
uw.edu/warhawks-return/testing