



University of Wisconsin
Whitewater

CONNECTIONS: The Wisconsin Idea

Stories and News from The School
of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education

MARCH 2024 In This Issue:

Learn and Play (and Stay Safe) the Warhawk Way

Student Spotlight: Lindsay Plummer

Summer Session Registration Now Open

Upcoming Events

What's Up with No Mow May?

Forgiving in an Unforgiving World

UWW LIFE Tour



Early Childhood Conference Returns to Campus

Educators and practitioners will convene in Whitewater next month.

Now in its 46th year, the UW-Whitewater [Early Childhood Conference](#) (ECC) is scheduled for April 5-6, and will be held fully in-person for the first time since 2019. The theme for this year's conference is "Building for the Future."

The ECC is a high-quality professional development program for students, researchers and practitioners with opportunities to gather, learn, network, and collaborate. Thanks to the generous sponsorship from the [Wisconsin Early Childhood Association](#) and [Educators Credit Union](#), the ECC continues to be an affordable way to gain knowledge and develop skills.

This year's keynote speaker is Holly Elissa Bruno. Bruno, a best-selling and award winning author, will discuss redefining genius and discovering everyone's unique originality, and how it can build a better future. Additional breakout session topics include resilience in social media, understanding inclusion, and music, art, literature and STEM in the early childhood classroom. Breakout session presenters are practitioners in PK-12 school districts, universities, consulting groups and other youth-serving organizations.



Registration for the 46th annual conference closes on March 31. Follow ECC on [Facebook](#) for more news and updates.

**University of
Wisconsin-Whitewater
Continuing Education**

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Learn and Play (and Stay Safe) the Warhawk Way

As parents make summer plans for their children, camps staff prepare.

Summer camps are a vital part of UW-Whitewater's history. For more than 50 years, [Continuing Education Services](#) (CES) has offered athletic, arts, academic and enrichment programs for youth. Campus comes to life in summer with thousands of campers, learning new skills and developing their talents. Parents know their child will make friends and memories, but how do they know they will be safe?

In spring 2023, the Universities of Wisconsin established a Youth Protection and Compliance Policy to ensure the safety of youth participants in activities on all campuses. Since then, UW-Whitewater has onboarded more than 670 employees and volunteers with nearly 1,500 trainings and 600 background checks. Trainings focus on illness and injury, severe weather events, emergency situation, medication and dietary restrictions, communication channels, and youth mental health.

CES takes great pride in establishing and maintaining an environment in which every camper will thrive and have a memorable experience. Parents and guardians can feel confident that no matter what camp their child enrolls in, they will be safe and cared for while on our campus.



Visit our [website](#) to learn more about #WarhawkCamps and find the right one for the youth in your life.



Student Spotlight: Lindsay Plummer

Recent grad applies her learning in real time.

When the time came for Lindsay Plummer to identify a project for her capstone course, she nearly missed an opportunity sitting right in front of her. In her final semester as a graduate student in the [Instructional Design and Learning Technology](#) (IDLT) program, Lindsay was challenged with finding a project that related to the Leadership certificate portion, and almost decided to create something from scratch. Instead, she recognized a technology change her company was about to implement. She seized the real-life opportunity to apply her knowledge while in the program, which continues to evolve after she has graduated.



As a Customer Service Supervisor and Product Owner at Kohler Co., Lindsay was able to provide leadership through the implementation of a new customer relationship management (CRM) tool for the customer service teams. "The beauty with this project was that it challenged me to think through how to apply my learning to something right in front of me." In her case, the work was implementing a new technology, but the concepts could be applied in situations like onboarding a new team member or rolling out a new system or workflow.

Now that she has graduated, Lindsay plans to continue her work at Kohler Co. Learn more about Lindsay, her capstone project and future plans working in IDLT [here](#).

Summer Session Registration Now Open

Help students keep up the momentum and graduate on time!

Did you know that students who complete at least one summer session class are 21% more likely to graduate in four years? Did you also know that students from any college or university can enroll in UWW's [summer session](#) courses and transfer the credits back to their home institution? Nearly all of the more than 400 summer class sections are online, so students can complete their coursework from anywhere, and still hold a summer job or take a vacation. Courses are available from most academic departments that fulfill general education and major/minor requirements. Class offerings include Everyday Chemistry, The International Economy, Adolescent Literature, and Digital Photography. Classes are offered at the undergraduate and graduate level, and many fill very fast. Help students stay on track and even get ahead. Learn more at the summer session [website](#).



“I was able to have less of a course load during other semesters by taking a class in the summer.”



News and Upcoming Events:

“No Mow May” has become a catchy phrase in Wisconsin, encouraging homeowners to allow their lawns to grow during May. But does this practice actually support pollinators? Join us for a [workshop on April 6](#) to learn about how an unmowed lawn impacts (or may impact) pollinators and how you can support pollinators all year long.

A lack of availability and access to early childhood education has been seen as a crisis for years. [Recent graduates of the new Early Childhood Education Policy](#) master’s program are poised to address it head-on.

Have you ever stopped and considered the images and pressures we go through every day? We may feel them pressing in, overwhelmed. We can find another way. Forgiveness. We can live a forgiving life, but we have to choose to start. Develop your forgiveness skills in our [Forgiving in an Unforgiving World](#) workshop, beginning April 3.



UW-Whitewater proudly licenses more teachers than any other university or college in Wisconsin, and thanks to [approval of an upcoming renovation project](#), future educators will have a significantly upgraded home to earn their teaching licenses.

Join the [UWW LIFE](#) (Learning is for Everyone) program for a tour on April 19! Visit with current students and ask questions about their experiences, then tour the campus and facilities. Register for the tour [here](#).

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 [medical billing and coding](#), [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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