

# center for 21st century studies

a newsletter from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee ■ spring/summer 2009

## C21 Celebrates Forty Years

The Center for 21st Century Studies commemorated its fortieth anniversary on April 3 with an interdisciplinary celebration that reunited a wide array of scholars who have made a lasting impact on the humanities. More than one hundred current and past Center fellows, UWM faculty, graduate students, and community members attended the event, C21: Celebrating Forty Years, which featured talks by both former Center director Kathleen Woodward (Director of the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities at the University of Washington) and Herbert Blau (Byron W. and Alice L. Lockwood Professor of the Humanities at the University of Washington).

The celebration kicked off with a slideshow created by Center project assistant D. Scott Canevit that documented the Center's forty-year history at the forefront of the humanities, and included dozens of photographs of past Center conferences, performances, and workshops. Next, Provost Rita Cheng welcomed guests, calling



*Kathleen Woodward and Herbert Blau*

the Center "a pocket of excellence...that epitomizes the academic values we hold dear" and gave a special thanks to Center interim director, Merry Wiesner-Hanks (Distinguished Professor, History), whom she credited for the recent "resurgence of energy" at the Center. G. Richard Meadows, Dean of the College of Letters and Science, then described the "tumultuous years" leading up to the Center's founding, the "absolute furor" over its establishment, and the forethought of the Center's charter members in establishing an enduring community of scholars in the humanities.

In the spirit of academic inquiry that has become a hallmark of the Center, the afternoon featured lectures by prominent scholars working across disciplines. Anne Basting (Theatre, and Director, Center on Age and Community) introduced Kathleen Woodward, crediting both her "unbounded professional generosity" for

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### From the Director

For a historian, any anniversary becomes an excuse for mucking around in archives, not because we imagine Truth to reside there, but because we always find something surprising. Michelle Caswell—the Center’s Editor—and I were not disappointed by what the UWM archives yielded about the founding of the Center. What first jumped off the typewritten mimeographed pages was the amazing frankness with which administrators forty years ago were willing to put their opinions of other administrators down on paper. These were not scribbled records of phone conversations, but formal memos and letters, in which fellow administrators were described with words such as “unpredictable,” “wild,” “self-seeking.” Clearly 1968 was not as burdened by worries about lawsuits as we are forty years hence.

A more significant revelation, however, is how integral the Center was to the idea that UWM should develop into an institution with, as the phrase went, “major university status,” that is, with PhD programs and a strong commitment to research. In 1965, UWM appointed Frederick J. Hoffman as Distinguished Professor of English, part of the administration’s “intention of developing the humanities, as well as the social sciences and sciences,” as the *UWM Post* reported at the time. (This article appeared next to one inviting all to attend the Chancellor’s review of the UWM military science department in front of Bolton Hall, which would feature an army band concert and exhibition by the UWM military drill team—the “Blackjacks”—displaying their “championship form.” The 1960s really were a different time, although not always in the ways we imagine.) A leading critic of modern literature who by the time he came to UWM had published twenty books, Hoffman was expected to be central to the English Department’s transformation into a PhD-granting program. He appears to have been (here the archives do not provide clear evidence) the first to propose the Center, or at least the one to give it its name. Hoffman died two years after coming to UWM, but plans for what he had envisioned continued, with then Dean of Letters and Science Roy Francis becoming the Center’s most vocal advocate. Francis tirelessly—and judging by the sources, sometimes tiresomely—argued for the Center, as did a number of faculty, and it was formally approved in 1969, with Robert F. Roeming, a professor of French and Italian, as its first director. Not all was fanfare, however. Hoffman had earlier been a member of the UW-Madison English department, and had left in a fight over the place of modern literature, so his appointment at UWM and the establishment of a Center that was distinctly modernist was a direct challenge to Madison. Roeming continued that pattern, angrily resigning from the board of the UW-Madison Center for Research in the Humanities about the time the Center was founded here, noting that his participation was not taken seriously. Meanwhile at UWM plans for the Center were regarded with suspicion on the part of some faculty, who had to be calmed with deanly assurances that “their scholarly work will continue to receive support whether or not it is formally associated with the Center.” Ah, fights with corresponding programs at UW-Madison, and skepticism about non-departmental units at UWM. How things have changed.

—Merry Wiesner-Hanks, *History*, Interim Director

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*Merry Wiesner-Hanks (background) and Provost Rita Cheng (foreground), Friday, April 3, in Curtin 175.*

## **New Provost's Fellow**

The Center is pleased to announce that Matthew Burtner has been named its first ever Provost's Fellow.

Burtner is currently Associate Professor of composition and computer music at the University of Virginia, where he also serves as Associate Director of the Virginia Center for Computer Music. A native of Alaska, he holds a PhD in Music from Stanford University.

His work explores environmental systems (ecoacoustics), technological embodiment, and extended polyrhythmic and noise-based musical systems and often combines instrumental ensembles, computer technology, interactive acoustics, and multimedia.

The Center is grateful for the generosity of Provost Rita Cheng, who made the fellowship possible.

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*Audience at Roberta Mazza's lecture "A Rosy Lotus for Antinoos," Friday, February 13, in Mitchell 195.*

# FEATURE

## C21 Celebrates Forty Years

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launching countless careers and her trailblazing work for “inspiring the development of entirely new academic fields,” such as the study of aging.

Calling the Center “her intellectual home,” Woodward delivered a talk entitled, “Inexhaustible Feelings: Cultural Politics and Poetics of the Emotions,” that built on her ongoing investigation of grief, first undertaken during her tenure as director of the Center (1981-2000). Describing how her personal life has been bound intimately with her scholarly work, Woodward posited that reason and emotion have been constructed as false and gendered dichotomies in Western thought, and claimed that interior states can provide a fruitful backdrop for theoretical considerations.

After a provocative question and answer session, Jane Gallop (Distinguished Professor, English), introduced Herb Blau. Calling Blau’s signature style of speaking and writing “high theory with rhythm,” Gallop recalled how a 1979 encounter with Blau forever changed her thinking by opening up serious, complicated thought to the possibility of poetry and performance. Blau then delivered his talk, “The Free Trade of Appearance: Historicizing, Hybridizing, and Decentering the Real,” which, in the words of Center student blogger Willy Dintenfass, “moved from the personal to two very different realms: the cosmological and the subatomic... ultimately arguing for the pursuit of history as an art.” In the engaging question and answer session that followed, Gregory S. Jay (English, Cultures & Communities, UWM) asked Blau about the role of the imagination in history, while Margo Anderson (History, Urban Studies, UWM) inquired about Blau’s take on the nature of reality.

The day was capped by a reprise of the history of the Center by Victor Greene (Professor Emeritus, History, UWM), who sketched out a timeline of the Center’s contentious creation. Comparing the early years of the Center with “birth pangs,” Greene detailed how the Center’s founding both represented a seismic shift in the academic study of modernity and helped to establish UW-Milwaukee as an independent force within the UW System. The discussion continued at a well-attended reception in the Center’s conference room. The Center would like to thank the Office of the Provost and the College of Letters and Science for co-sponsoring this event. Please visit the online archive at <http://www4.uwm.edu/21st/archivepage/timeline/index.html>.



*Dick Blau and Jane Gallop (foreground)*



*Victor Greene*



*Susan Frost (foreground); Margaret Atherton and Stacey Oliker (center); Kristin Pitt (background, left); Modern Studies graduate students and Carl Bogner (background, right)*

## EVENTS

### William Weege Gallery Talk

Renowned printmaker William Weege (Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison) visited the Center on February 6 to give a gallery talk entitled, "Every Way You Look At It You Lose," to an enthusiastic crowd of forty people, including Center fellows, faculty, and students. The talk was presented in conjunction with the Center's art exhibition SINCE 1968: Selections from the UW-Whitewater Crossman Gallery and UWM Art Collection, which ran from January 29 to February 12 in the Art History Gallery and featured several of Weege's works.

Lane Hall (English, UWM) introduced Weege as "a great artist and a force behind printmaking," calling him both a friend and a mentor. Standing in front of his iconic print *Long Live Life*, Weege discussed the influence of both the 1968 riots in Madison and his previous career as an urban planner. The piece, which was submitted as part of Weege's MFA portfolio, recalls a civic map in its grid-like divisions, spanned by an upside down nude woman. Weege described this central figure as a reaction to the violence of the era, saying, "The times were so bad, I inverted da Vinci's Vitruvian Man." He added, "There is no right or wrong to my work. You can draw your own conclusions."

Weege is the founder and artistic director of Tandem Press and works predominantly with silkscreen because of its immediacy and directness. An influential printmaker who embraced emerging photo-based technologies, Weege is particularly



interested in adapting graphic arts techniques for fine arts applications and is best known for his large abstract handmade paper projects. His work is included in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum, Kansas City Museum, Museum of Modern Art (New York), Philadelphia Museum of Art, and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. On his visit to the Center, Weege was joined by his wife, horticulturalist Sue Steinmann.

In addition to Weege's prints, the SINCE 1968 exhibition featured works by Leonard Baskin, David Hockney, Lester Johnson, Ellsworth Kelly, Donald Judd, Robert Rauschenberg, and Ben Shahn. The exhibition, curated by Center deputy director Kate Kramer, presented a survey of works on paper that range from the psychedelic to the minimalist and resonate with the year 1968 and its aftermath, a period marked

by explosive protest movements around the world, cultural experimentation in multiple domains, and the articulation of new visions of society. SINCE 1968 continued the Center for 21st Century Studies' year-long celebration of its fortieth anniversary.



### **Roberta Mazza Presents “A Rosy Lotus for Antinoos”**

Italian scholar Roberta Mazza (History and Classics, UC-Santa Barbara) visited the Center on February 13 to present a paper entitled, “A Rosy Lotus for Antinoos: Hadrian, Egypt and Roman Religions,” to an attentive ninety-person audience of Center fellows, UWM faculty, and undergraduate students from a classics program course on Egyptian history.

After an introduction by Carlos R. Galvao-Sobrinho (History, UWM), Mazza described how the classical period still poses relevant questions to the twenty-first century, despite our “schizophrenic” relationship with antiquity. She then honed in on the years 117 to 138 CE, during Hadrian’s rule of the Roman Empire. Hadrian had a young lover, Antinoos, who was widely admired for his athleticism and beauty. Mazza jokingly called him “the James Dean of his time.” After helping Hadrian slay a lion on a hunting expedition to Egypt, Antinoos drowned in the Nile and was declared a god by Hadrian, whose authoritarian rule widely influenced the religious practices of his subjects. Antinoos soon became the focal point of a religious cult that spanned centuries and geographic boundaries; sculptors often depicted him as the Egyptian god Osiris and associated him with rebirth and the Nile’s annual flooding, while poets expounded his virtues on papyri. “The cult was absolutely successful in its capacity to take different shapes in different contexts,” said Mazza.

The growth of the cult of Antinoos also reflected a political strategy for Hadrian; it consolidated diverse religious groups throughout the empire into a single system with a uniform iconography. This was a particularly important political tactic in light of recent Judean revolts. As Mazza explained in a lively question and answer session, “Hadrian used the cult of Antinoos to build a political theology that pushed the idea of the Emperor and his associates as living gods.”

This event was co-sponsored by the Milwaukee Area Biblical Archaeology Society (MABAS) and Carthage College and presented in conjunction with the Center for 21st Century Studies’ research workshop on Ancient Mediterranean Studies/Classical Tradition. The Center’s research workshops bring together faculty, staff, and independent scholars from UWM and other local institutions to discuss common interests across disciplinary lines. For more information on taking part in a research workshop, visit the Center’s site at <http://www.21st.uwm.edu>.

*Antinoos was the James Dean of his time.*

*—Roberta Mazza*

## EVENTS

### Frieder Schnock and Renata Stih: "Memory, Art and Social Sculpture"

The Center welcomed Berlin-based artists Frieder Schnock and Renata Stih on Friday, February 20 to give a lecture and slideshow presentation entitled, "Memory, Art and Social Sculpture." More than sixty people attended the event, the keynote presentation for the fourth annual Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference.

Schnock and Stih are currently artists-in-residence in the art history department of the Maryland Institute College of Art. Through large-scale public art projects that can be seen in cities throughout Germany, they explore how memory functions in the social sphere and how it is reflected symbolically in urban spaces. They are best known for site-specific works that memorialize victims of the Holocaust, such as their 1992-93 work *Places of Remembrance*, which reproduced anti-Semitic Nazi-era laws on street signs throughout Berlin's Bavarian Quarter. Like much of Schnock and Stih's work, the signs attracted a great deal of controversy. Stih advised, "Start with a scandal. Make it uncomfortable in the public space. You have to be unpleasant on every level, otherwise people don't pay attention." Stih also offered her critique of Peter Eisenman's controversial public art piece, *Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe*. "When you shape mass murder into cubes it doesn't function," she said. "You can't just look at the Holocaust in a formal manner."

Stih has taught art and technology, film and media at the University of Applied Sciences in Berlin for many years. Schnock received a PhD in art history and is a former curator at the Museum Fridericianum in Kassel.

This year's Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, "Faking It! Production, Knowledge, Authenticity," called upon scholars to interpret the provocation of "Faking It!" Beyond the obvious copulatory connotations of the theme, the conference explored the broad ramifications of labeling an act or object a "fake." The conference was organized by graduate students in the Modern Studies program in the English Department at UWM and is a venue for graduate students from an array of disciplines to share their research in a supportive and critical environment.

In addition to participants from the Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, faculty and graduate students from architecture, art history, English, and history as well as members of the local Jewish community, attended the event. The Center would like to thank the conference organizers and the UWM College of Letters and Science, Graduate School, and Center for Jewish Studies, as well as the UW-Madison Mosse-Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, for their contributions to the event.



Renata Stih (top) and Frieder Schnock (bottom)



### Charles Bosk Uncovers Forbidden Knowledge

On November 21, the Center welcomed Charles Bosk (Sociology and Medical Ethics, University of Pennsylvania) for a brown bag discussion on his paper, "Forbidden Knowledge: The Phenomenology of Scientific Inaction." After an introduction by Paul Brodwin (Anthropology, UWM and Bioethics, Medical College of Wisconsin) and a brief summary of the pre-circulated paper, Bosk, an expert in bio-medical ethics, engaged in a lively conversation about contested topics of research within the fields of microbiology, neuroscience, sociology, computer science, industrial/ organizational psychology, and drug and alcohol studies.

Claiming that external considerations such as Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, funding opportunities, career advancement, and public opinion shape both the kinds of knowledge that get produced and the boundaries within disciplines, Bosk detailed the "strategies of containment" that determine the nonproduction of knowledge. While the boundaries between permissible and forbidden knowledge are shifting, contested, and permeable, Bosk's research focused on how the absences of knowledge on particular topics were the result of active decisions on the part of researchers not to pursue controversial issues. Bosk also offered his critique of the "industrialization of knowledge," claiming that the shift from government funding of scientific research to industry funding is transforming science into "a branch of commerce and not part of the intellectual commons."

The discussion drew an interdisciplinary crowd of approximately twenty people, which included a wide range of faculty and undergraduates from UWM, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and Center fellows.

The event followed a November 20 lecture, "Round Pegs and Square Holes: System Error and Professional Responsibility," at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The lecture, organized by the Medical College's Medical Humanities Program, was co-sponsored by the Center. At that lecture, Bosk discussed the role of medical error in the training process of new physicians and described how recent trends to industrialize and streamline medical diagnosis are altering patient care. Speaking to an audience of roughly fifty Medical College students and faculty, Center staff, and local area physicians, Bosk described the shift in physician attitudes about and institutional guidelines for medical error over the past thirty years. He posited, "We are in the midst of a policy revolution that seeks to revise our view of failure from the property of individuals to the property of an imperfectly designed system." During the ensuing question and answer session, Bosk fielded queries from medical ethicists, physicians, and risk management staff about the future of patient care and medical education.

**Current Center Fellows & Staff**

**Aneesh Aneesh** (Sociology, 2008-09) gave two conference papers: "From Social to System Identities," at the Society for Social Studies of Science in Rotterdam in August 2008 and "Coding Identity: Clashes of the Future in India's Call Centers," at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting in Chicago in March 2009.

Through the Center's inaugural grant writing group, Center associate director for advancement and planning **John Blum** has successfully helped UWM faculty members obtain research support. Group member **María del Pilar Melgarejo Acosta** (Spanish and Portuguese) was awarded a grant through UWM's Graduate School Research Committee for her project, "Language of Regeneration: The Production of Political Discourse in Colombia and Mexico."

**D. Scott Canevit**, Center program assistant and Urban Studies doctoral candidate, presented for the third year in a row at UWM's annual Urban Studies Student Forum. His paper, "A Matrix Analysis of Collective Efficacy Theory: A Look Askance at a Decade of Development," addressed new developments in social disorganization theory.

Center editor **Michelle Caswell** has authored an article, "Irreparable Damage: Violence, Ownership, and Voice in an Indian Archive," in the Spring 2009 edition of *Libri: International Journal of Libraries*

and *Information Services*. The paper received the Libri Best Student Paper Award 2008. Additionally, her paper, "Instant Documentation: Cellphone-Generated Records in Archives," appears in the Spring/Summer 2009 edition of the journal *American Archivist*. Together with Center deputy director **Kate Kramer**, **Michelle** also attended the Conference on Public Humanities at UW-Madison on March 24, 2009.

**Thomas Haigh** (School of Information Studies, 2008-2009) presented a paper, "Computing the American Way," at the workshop at the Inventing Europe Eurocores European Science Foundation Workshop of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences and Arts in Amsterdam in January. Additionally, the Special Interest Group on Computers, Information & Society (SIGCIS) of the Society for the History of Technology, for which he serves as chair, announced that it would be presenting the first book prize in the history of computing.

**Michael Oldani** (Anthropology, UW-Whitewater, 2008-09) was an invited speaker in April at McGill University's Division of Social Trans-cultural Psychiatry at a workshop entitled, "Anthropologies of Addiction," which was funded through a grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Together with **Kalman Applbaum** (Anthropology, 2001-02) and **Paul Brodwin** (Anthropology, 1992-93,

1996-97), he co-authored a proposal entitled, "Adherence to pharmaceutical treatment: A clinical ethnography of mental health services in Wisconsin," that has been selected for funding through the UWM's Research Growth Initiative (RGI).

**Lisa Silverman** (History, 2008-09) published a paper, "Reconsidering the Margins: Jewishness as an Analytical Framework," in the *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*.

**Florence Vatan** (French, Italian, and Comparative Literature, 2008-2009) has published two articles: "Emma Bovary: 'poète hystérique' ou parfaite hystérique?" in *Madame Bovary et les saviors (Presses de la Sorbonne Nouvelle)* and "L'art du désenchantement? Robert Musil et Max Weber," in *Au nom de Goethe! Hommage à Gerald Stieg (L'Harmattan)*.

Center interim director **Merry Wiesner-Hanks** published *Religious Transformations in the Early Modern World: A Brief Study with Documents* in the Bedford Series in History and Culture (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Books, 2009) and also "Gender Theory and the Study of Early-Modern Europe," in Megan Cassidy-Welch and Peter Sherlock, eds., *Practices of Gender in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe* (Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2008). She also presented Women's History Month lectures at UW-Stout and Alverno College, and was the keynote at a world history workshop at Stanford.



The Center's student blog currently features the writing of **Willy Dintenfass**, a film major in UWM's Honors College. Willy's blog postings about Center events provide an engaging student perspective on the humanities (<http://21stcenturystudies.wordpress.com/>).

### Thank You!

We would like to express our thanks to the following people who in recent months have made financial donations to the Center:

Stephen & Barbara Becker, John Blum, Michelle Bolduc, Bruce Fetter, Carlos Galvao-Sobrihno, Peter Goldberg, Victor Greene, Jeffrey Hayes, Yoshikuni Igarashi, Kate Kramer, Thomas Malaby, Christina Maranci, Arijit Sen, Daniel J. Sherman, Robert Wolensky

### Center Friends

The Center mourns the loss of **Catherine Podolin**, who passed away in March. A generous supporter of the Center, Catherine was a well-known Milwaukee-area philanthropist.

### Fall 2009 Preliminary Calendar

#### WED SEP 16

**Robert S. Mattison** (Art, Lafayette College), a lecture  
 "Whatever Is There Is a Truth: Robert Rauschenberg's Prints"  
 co-sponsored by Haggerty Museum and UWM Department of Art History  
 7:00 pm Haggerty Museum at Marquette University

#### THU SEP 24

**Glenn Hendler** (English, Fordham University), a lecture  
 co-sponsored by UWM College of Letters & Science, Cultures & Communities Program, and Department of English  
 2:00 pm CRT 368

#### FRI SEP 25

**2008-2009 Fellows Presentations** by **Thomas Haigh** (School of Information Studies), **Lisa Silverman** (History), and **Florence Vatan** (French, Italian, and Comparative Literature) and **Introduction of Incoming Modern Studies Students**  
 2:30 pm CRT 118, followed by **CENTER OPEN HOUSE** at 4:00 pm CRT 929

#### FRI OCT 16

**Whitney Davis** (Art History, Berkeley), a lecture  
 co-sponsored by UWM Department of Art History  
 3:30 pm CRT 118

#### FRI OCT 30

**David Christian** (Modern History, Macquarie University), a lecture  
 co-sponsored by UWM Department of History and Cambridge University Press  
 3:30 pm CRT 175

#### FRI NOV 13

**Dell Upton** (Architectural History & Art History, UCLA), a lecture  
 co-sponsored by UWM School of Architecture and Urban Planning and Department of Art History  
 4:30 pm AUP 170

#### FRI NOV 20

**Bruce d'Arcus** (Geography, Miami of Ohio) and **Joseph Masco** (Anthropology, University of Chicago), a symposium  
 co-sponsored by UWM Department of Anthropology  
 3:00 pm CRT 175

#### FRI DEC 4

**Timelessness**, a symposium  
 Featuring UWM faculty members **Margaret Atherton** and **Robert Schwartz** (Philosophy), **Mitch Brauner** (Music), and **Carlos Galvao-Sobrinho** (History)  
 3:30 pm CRT 118

# EVENTS

## Center Staff

Merry Wiesner-Hanks  
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*Deputy Director*

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Newsletter design  
*Kate Kramer*

## Center Hosts Two Events on Academic Publishing

This spring the Center hosted a series of presentations that addressed academic publishing in the current technological and fiscal environments.

The first event, "Academic Publishing in the Global Age," took place on February 27 and featured Mary Francis, Music and Cinema Studies Editor at the University of California Press (pictured below). Francis addressed how publishing



scholarly books and journal articles remains crucial to a career in the humanities and explored how new developments in digital technology, teaching and studying practices, and intellectual property laws are transforming academic publishing. "The book is not going away," she asserted. "The shape of books, their length, their goals, their ability to prove theses will still come in a recognizable

form, whether they are made of wood pulp or a series of ones and zeroes."

The second event, "Academic Publishing in the Global Age II: Of Proposals and Editors," was an April 24 panel discussion featuring Center staff. First, Center interim director Merry Wiesner-Hanks (Distinguished Professor, History) laid out twelve-step processes for submitting journal articles and monograph proposals based on her prolific career as an historian and editor. Next, Center editor Michelle Caswell gave an overview of the process of publishing an article in a multi-authored edited volume, such as those in the 21st Century Studies Series that the Center produces in conjunction with Indiana University Press. Finally, John Blum, associate director of advancement and planning at the Center, addressed the many ways graduate students and faculty members can reframe their academic research to secure foundation and government grants.

Approximately forty people attended each event, which were held in conjunction with Modern Studies graduate seminar in Advanced Topics in Literary Criticism and Research taught by Lane Hall (English, UWM). Both events were followed by engaging question and answer sessions during which many people sought practical advice on writing and submitting their academic work.

*Photo credits*

*Alan Magayne-Roshak (Visual Imaging, UWM)*

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## center for 21st century studies



*Bruce Precourt (Foreign Languages and Linguistics) and Andrea Stone (Art History) consult prior to Roberta Mazza's presentation on Friday, February 13, in Mitchell 195.*