



# UW MIA RECOVERY & IDENTIFICATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 02 | MARCH 2022

## FROM THE MIA RECOVERY & IDENTIFICATION TEAM LEAD

Dear Reader, it has been a busy winter season and an impactful start to the new year! Wisconsin historical investigations continue to be our primary focus. We are making great headway on a number of cases. In the hopes that the COVID impact

will continue to decline, we are in the process of planning to return to Belgium this summer to complete a recovery that we started in 2019. This recovery mission has been postponed for the last two years due to travel restrictions. In other exciting news,

we have four innovative scouting objectives that we started in February and will continue through this calendar year. Thanks again for supporting this mission and driving Wisconsin forward! Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022!

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## ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CONCERT SERIES LAUNCHES

The UW MIA Project team is dedicated to recovering, identifying, and repatriating this country's missing heroes, but their passion and dedication aren't enough to bring the more than 1,500 Wisconsin MIA service members home to their families. Stepping toward the

goal of providing closure for the families of the missing requires resources and funds. A single field mission can cost as much as \$130,000 (even more in some instances). Factor in the cost of what can be two to three years of investigation and scouting  
*(story continued on page 6)*

# FIELD MISSIONS ABROAD

**UPDATE:** We are following up on our excavation efforts in Europe for Summer 2022 and beyond!

Each summer since 2016, COVID permitting, our field mission team has traveled abroad to excavate and recover the remains of U.S. MIAs in partnership with the DPAA. We plan to return to the field in June and July 2022. Check back for updates in our next newsletter.



## HELP US BRING HOME OUR MISSING HEROES

### CONTRIBUTION LEVELS

**HUEY HELICOPTER - \$25+**

**F-100 SUPER SABRE - \$100+**

**C-5 GALAXY - \$500+**

**F-16 FIGHTING FALCON - \$1,600+**

**F-35 LIGHTNING - \$3,500+**

**T-7 RED HAWK - \$7,000+**

**A-10 THUNDERBOLT - \$10,000+**

**B-25 MITCHELL - \$25,000+**

*Any contribution will bring us one step closer to returning one of our missing service members.*

*All donations (100%) go to support the UW MIA Project objectives!*

## COMING HOME

A CONCERT for OUR MISSING HEROES

SUNDAY, MARCH 27 | 2:00 PM CT

WATCH ONLINE AT  
[mia.biotech.wisc.edu](http://mia.biotech.wisc.edu)



100% of proceeds goes to the UW MIA Recover and Identification Project

For more information or to contribute, visit [mia.biotech.wisc.edu](http://mia.biotech.wisc.edu)

# STUDENT AND STAFF RESEARCH

## UNDERSTANDING THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE FOR MIA RESEARCH

Our student volunteers and staff are working together this semester to advance case research and bring us one step closer to making recoveries. Missing in Action research involves many different types of documentation, scattered across the nation and world. Here are a few common documents (and their acronyms) that we try to obtain for leads.

### WHAT IS AN IDPF?

An Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) contains all known information collected by the government on an MIA, including preservice medical records, incident details, and recovery efforts. IDPFs can be anywhere from 2-200 pages long.

### WHAT IS A MACR?

A Missing Air Crew Report (MACR) contains the details of an aircraft crash, including a list of all crew members, eyewitness reports, route maps, and plane serial numbers.

### WHAT IS AN X-FILE?

An X-file is a record of an Unknown. It contains details of the remains of an unknown individual who was not identified during or right after the war.



## MEET THE STAFF UWBC'S NEW ADVANCEMENT MANAGER

Last summer, the UW Biotechnology Center welcomed Jeff Leibow to the team as our Advancement Manager. He will initially focus on raising awareness and funds for the UW MIA Project. Leibow has more than ten years of experience fundraising and producing live and virtual events. In 2011, he founded a series of concerts inspired by his daughter called the NF Hope® Concerts

aimed at raising awareness and funding the search for a cure for Neurofibromatosis (NF). Prior to his career as a fundraising professional, he earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of California, Davis focusing his studies on molecular biology before discovering a love of theater, which has led to a professional acting career that has lasted more than two decades. Leibow's extensive acting credits include the films *The Other Guys* and *Gloria Bell* as well as professional productions of the Tony Award winning Broadway hit *Jersey Boys*, *Memphis*, *West Side Story*, *Miss Saigon*, *Aida* and many more. This experience has helped him forge connections across the entertainment industry, enabling him to recruit headliners to participate in his events. Since joining the UW MIA Project, Leibow has been cultivating corporate and private donors for the cause as well as developing a concert series to benefit the MIA Project. *COMING HOME: A Concert for our Missing Heroes* will launch virtually on Sunday, March 27 at 2 pm CT, followed by a live concert planned for POW/MIA Day in September of 2022. Please contact Jeff to welcome him to the team and inquire about gift-giving at [jleibow@wisc.edu](mailto:jleibow@wisc.edu).



## A PHOTO TOUR OF THE UW MIA SUITE



*From left to right: 1) the view of Camp Randall from the MIA Suite; 2) organizing and categorizing research materials*

## OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE UW MIA PROJECT



*The team at Everly Restaurant, Madison, for their "Generous Pour" fundraiser for the UW MIA Project*

Photo Tour: The UW MIA Project Suite (cont'): From left to right:  
 3) The War Room; 4) Certificate of Appreciation from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) for our work recovering 1LT Frank Fazekas; 5) The Wall of Honor (remembering the fallen heroes we have recovered)



Out and About (cont'): Top row, left to right: 1) WI VFW Winter Conference in Baraboo, WI, Student Dan Rosenfeld speaking; 2) Students from Omro Middle School visit the UW MIA Suite; 3) MIA Project Historian Vaneesa Cook presents at St. John's Northwestern Academy, Delafield, WI; On the next page (bottom row, left to right): 4) WI VFW Winter Conference in Baraboo, WI, UW MIA Project Team Lead, Charles Konsitzke with students Dan Rosenfeld and Lia Devereux; 5) Doughnut social with volunteers! Fall 2021 at the UW MIA Suite



# ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CONCERT SERIES LAUNCHES (CONT' FROM P.1)

missions, and the total cost for recovery can be north of a quarter million dollars per case.

In an effort to insure we are ready when the next MIA case lands on our desk, we are launching a series of fundraising concerts called COMING HOME: A Concert for Our Missing Heroes. The inaugural concert will be virtual and will stream from the UW MIA Project website, Sunday, March 27 at 2:00 PM CT. The concert will bring together a collection of artists including Six Mile

Grove, veteran Theresa Bowman (known in the music industry as Filitaliana) and more to benefit the UW MIA Project. Guests can watch and contribute to the cause by visiting <https://mia.biotech.wisc.edu/cominghome/>. For updates on COMING HOME and all upcoming events, follow the UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). While there is no charge for access, there is a suggested donation of \$25 per household.

## History 200 - Missing in Action Seminar



This semester, MIA Project Lead Historian Dr. Vaneesa Cook has been teaching a course in the history department at

UW-Madison on Missing in Action research methods. The course is scheduled to be offered again in the Fall 2022 term.

**“These service members made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. To return them home to their families and see the families get the closure they have been searching for makes this project incredibly rewarding.”**

Charles Konsitzke, Associate Director the UW-Madison Biotechnology Center and Team Lead for the UW MIA Project



UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project  
425 Henry Mall, Suite 3130  
Madison, WI 53706

Email: [MIA@biotech.wisc.edu](mailto:MIA@biotech.wisc.edu)  
Phone: (608) 890-4889

