In March, we launched a new concert series called COMING HOME: A Concert for Our Missing Heroes. Our first event was virtual and featured local bands Horseshoes and Hand Grenades, Armchair Boogie and Six Mile Grove. The event not only raised awareness for the UW MIA Project and its mission, but it also raised funds to support the project’s efforts to bring home our country’s missing heroes.

The inaugural event not only included memorable performances, but also stories from members of the UW MIA Project’s Board of Advisors and past volunteers as (continued on page 5)
We would like to extend our appreciation to all of the volunteers who graduated in May 2022! Please keep in touch with updates about your academic, job, career, or military service plans.

**STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROFILE**

**FIRST LIEUTENANT DANIEL ROSENFELD**

We have the opportunity to work with talented undergraduate and graduate student volunteers, such as First Lieutenant Daniel Rosenfeld, who graduated with a Master’s in Business Administration from UW-Madison in May after volunteering with us as a researcher and administrator for two years. Rosenfeld grew up near San Antonio, Texas and has been a member of the US Air Force. Since graduating from UW with the MBA, Rosenfeld has been attending the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program (ENJJPT) at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas to become a fighter pilot. It is the world’s only multi-nationally manned and managed flying training program chartered to produce combat pilots for NATO. As for his time with the UW MIA Project, Rosenfeld says: “The MIA project gave me the opportunity and privilege to stay connected to my brothers and sisters in arms while completing graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin.” Rosenfeld added that “It was very humbling researching specific individuals, becoming invested in them, learning about their families, and having the potential of finding a piece of evidence that could help bring this soldier home.” We are very proud of First Lieutenant Rosenfeld’s academic and military achievements, and we appreciate the two years he devoted to us while completing his studies at UW-Madison.

**HIS 200: MISSING IN ACTION COURSE AT UW-MADISON**

During spring semester 2022, the UW MIA Project’s Lead Historian, Dr. Vaneesa Cook, taught a seminar for the history department on Missing in Action Research Methods. Throughout the term, students in the class learned about historical research techniques and the challenges of MIA recovery work through lectures, academic readings, primary documents, and practical application via their research and writing assignments. Below is a photo of the class visiting the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. The course is scheduled to be offered again this fall.

**CONGRATS GRADS!**

We would like to extend our appreciation to all of the volunteers who graduated in May 2022! Please keep in touch with updates about your academic, job, career, or military service plans.
THE UW MIA PROJECT - BACK IN THE FIELD

After three long years, the UW MIA Project headed back into the field for a recovery mission this summer outside of Bastogne in Belgium. During their excavation, the field team moved and sifted through over 360 cubic meters of dirt (roughly the size of a football field). This mission was an important step forward after COVID caused the cancellation of our missions in 2020 and 2021. The team is already working toward our next field missions in the hopes of recovering more MIA service members and bringing closure to families that have been waiting decades to get it.

Photos (clockwise from top right): lead archaeologist, Gregg Jameson, briefs the field team; team lead, Charles Konsitzke, helping unearth a .50-caliber machine gun from the wreckage; an important find displayed by Gregg Jameson and Charles Konsitzke; lead archaeologist for the project preparing to sift through dirt from excavation; the team working together at the sifters searching for artifacts and potential osseous remains.

DNA - DID YOU KNOW?

- DNA analysis and identification has only been available since the 1990s.
- Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is often preferred in MIA identifications since it is easier to recover from remains that have not been well preserved; mtDNA is inherited from the mother, so family DNA matches on the MIA’s maternal line are most important when analyzing mtDNA samples.
- The MIA Project is headquartered within the Biotechnology Center on UW-Madison’s campus. We not only research and recover MIAs, we can also run DNA identification analyses as well.
- The MIA Project actually began after Associate Director, Charles Konsitzke and DNA Sequencing Core Director, Dr. Joshua Hyman, were approached to perform the DNA identification of an MIA WWII service member.
- The MIA Project and Biotechnology Center have recently conducted an analysis mission in Saipan to obtain sediment samples for Environmental DNA or eDNA analysis that is ongoing in our labs. eDNA samples will help indicate whether or not human remains are located in sediment.
IT WAS ANOTHER BUSY FEW MONTHS FOR THE UW MIA PROJECT. Team members not only shared the work we do with organizations across the state, like Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the WI Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the VFW Auxiliary, we were also the recipient of generous contributions.

Top left: In March, we were honored to meet the outstanding team of MIA researchers with Project Recover. Please check out their documentary entitled: To What Remains: Keeping America’s Promise, which highlights their underwater recoveries in the Pacific, available on Amazon Prime and other streaming venues.

Top center: We attended and spoke at the Wisconsin Disabled American Veterans Conference (DAV) in Green Bay in May. We want to thank them for their ongoing support!

Top right: Dr. Vaneesa Cook attended the WI VFW’s 100th Anniversary Convention in Milwaukee. She had fun getting into the spirit of their 1920s-themed gala!

Bottom left: We want to thank the Elks Lodge No 675 for their fundraising efforts towards our mission, as well as all the VFW posts, auxiliaries, and American Legions which have pledged their support this past year!

Bottom right: During the WI VFW’s 100th Anniversary Convention in Milwaukee, Team Lead Charles Konsitzke accepted a generous donation from the WI VFW and VFW Auxiliary, which will help fund future recovery missions.
well as the premiere of a mini-documentary about the UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project. At its completion, we raised more than $10,000 for the cause.

Now, we are excited to announce the next event, where we are striving to do even more...

On September 16th, in honor of National POW-MIA Recognition Day, we’re excited to present the first live edition of COMING HOME: A Concert for Our Missing Heroes. The event will be held at VFW Post 7591 at 301 Cottage Grove Road in Madison from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. There will be live music from local bands as well as a raffle sponsored by the VFW that will include a Downtown Madison staycation and other prizes. The event is sponsored in part by TDS Telecom.