In October, the MIA Project scouting team visited Poland to speak with local experts and a number of sites from World War II. The team plans to return to Poland in the summer to follow-up on leads and advance the mission in this region.

FROM THE MIA RECOVERY & IDENTIFICATION TEAM LEAD

Dear reader,

The UW MIA Recovery and Identification Team performed its first successful scouting mission of a Wisconsin MIA case this past October in Poland! This could not have been accomplished without your support. Thank you! The Team and I were very pleased with the outcome, we are in the process of planning the next phase. As Winter is fast approaching, we continue to investigate cases here at the Center. We are on-boarding new students expanding our investigations further. Let’s keep moving Wisconsin in the right direction! Signing off for 2022. Have a wonderful and safe Happy Holidays!

- Charles Konsitzke

THE UW MIA PROJECT: CASE ADVANCEMENTS LEAD TO SCOUTING MISSION IN POLAND

In October, the MIA Project scouting team visited Poland to speak with local experts and a number of sites from World War II. The team plans to return to Poland in the summer to follow-up on leads and advance the mission in this region.

IN THIS ISSUE

• The UW MIA Project: Case Advancements Lead To Scouting Mission In Poland
• Upcoming Events from the UW MIA Project
• Student Profile: Lia Devereux
• Our Volunteers: The Lifeblood of the UW MIA Project
• Out and About with the UW MIA Project
• The UW MIA Project in the News
• Coming Home Live: A Night of Music and Awareness
MILITARY MISSING IN ACTION RESEARCH METHODS
A 1-Day Course Taught by UW MIA Project Lead Historian, Vaneesa Cook

ABOUT THE MILITARY MIA RESEARCH METHODS COURSE
This 1-day course (6-hour session) will introduce participants to the methods of military missing in action research, such as using online sources, searching databases, obtaining and interpreting government documents, identifying crash locations, and tracking unknowns to national cemeteries.

Dr. Vaneesa Cook received her PhD in US history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2015 and has taught a variety of history courses at UW-Whitewater, Queen’s University (Ontario), and UW-Madison, including US Foreign Policy, the Cold War, and the Military Experience. She currently teaches a course on Missing in Action Historical Research at UW. She oversees the historical and archival research team for the UW MIA-RIP.

Questions? Contact mia@biotech.wisc.edu

On Saturday, January 7, 2023, the MIA Project’s Lead Historian will offer a 1-day virtual course on missing in action research methods. Click the button below or visit https://go.wisc.edu/60g2q5 to register. The cost of the course is $70. All proceeds benefit the UW MIA Project.

REGISTER NOW NOW LEARN MORE

THE INAUGURAL RECOVERY INNOVATION TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT

The inaugural Recovery Innovation Technology Summit (RITS) aims to convene a diverse assembly of academics, independent scholars, and non-profit recovery and scientific groups devoted to researching cold cases and advancing technologies that contribute to the recovery of the missing.

UPDATE NOW!

NON-STUDENT
STUDENT
VIRTUAL
OUR VOLUNTEERS: THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE UW MIA PROJECT

Our volunteers are the heart of our research team. They work hard and have fun. Learn more about our volunteers and how you can join the team on our website at https://mia.biotech.wisc.edu/volunteers/

STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROFILE
LIA DEVEREUX

In this issue, we are proud to introduce you to one of our volunteers, Lia Devereux, who served as the MIA Project’s student lead researcher 2021-22. Lia is a mechanical engineering and premed student at UW Madison, and she is also a cadet with the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC). Upon graduation in December 2023, she plans to commission into the Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant logistics officer. As the student lead researcher for the MIA Project, Lia participated in outreach activities, addressing veterans and the general public, and she helped oversee the research cases of multiple volunteers in our group. “What keeps drawing me to this project is the people and the stories,” Lia states. “Everyone contributing to this project is all in – all in on bringing our brothers and sisters home. It has been an honor to learn about those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and invest in them.” We thank Lia for her past leadership role and her continued involvement in the Project.
OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE
UW MIA RECOVERY AND IDENTIFICATION PROJECT

Top left: Matt Kempainen and Dr. Gregg Jamison from our field team participated in a Veterans Day event at UWM at Waukesha (November 9); Top right: Team Lead, Charles Konsitzke at the Fireball Run with owners of J & J Fireball Lanes in Portage (September 17); Center: Charles Konsitzke and UW MIA Project volunteers at the UW Veterans Day Breakfast event (November 11); Bottom: UW MIA Project Lead Historian, Vaneesa Cook accepting a contribution from the Green Bay chapter of Rolling Thunder (September 11),

THE UW MIA PROJECT
IN THE NEWS

Recent advancements in the use of eDNA technology for MIA recovery has landed the UW MIA Project in some prominent newspapers and scientific journals. Read more about the groundbreaking research.

‘A SOMBER SEARCH’
SCIENCE | Science, Vol 377, Issue 6610

HOW ‘eDNA’ MIGHT TRANSFORM THE SEARCH FOR MISSING SERVICE MEMBERS
WALL STREET JOURNAL | 10.05.22
COMING HOME LIVE:
A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND AWARENESS

Friday, September 16 was National POW-MIA Recognition Day, an annual day recognizing this country’s missing. To mark that day and raise awareness for MIA service members and their families, the UW MIA Project put together a follow up to our virtual event in March, COMING HOME: A Concert for Our Missing Heroes.

Held at Madison’s VFW Post 7591, the night brought together VFW members, veterans, state and national VFW and American Legion leaders and many more to share our efforts to bring home Wisconsin’s 1,500+ MIA service members going back to WWII.

With the support of VFW Post 7591, the UW MIA Project is looking to make this an annual event, so add Friday, September 15, 2023 to your calendars now!

Photos (from top left): (1) Wisconsin VFW Commander, Michele Rathke, VFW National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Alfred J. “Al” Lipphardt, UW MIA Project Team Lead, Chuck Konsitzke and UW MIA Project Development Manager, Jeff Leibow; (2) Jeff Leibow receives a contribution for the UW MIA Project from American Legion Post 157; (3) Marcy and the Highlights rocking out; (4) Everybody on the dance floor, including Wisconsin VFW Commander, Michele Rathke; (5) Two of the many members that joined us at the event and on the dance floor; (6) UW MIA Project Historical Student Lead Researcher Mae Hurtado-Thiele

UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project
425 Henry Mall, Suite 3130
Madison, WI 53706
Email: MIA@biotech.wisc.edu
Phone: (608) 890-4889