2014

2014-15 Series Brochure - Healing Arts

University Center for the Humanities

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University Center for the Humanities

Western Michigan University

2014-15 Series
Healing Arts
Welcome

In our 2014-15 series “Healing Arts,” the University Center for the Humanities celebrates Kalamazoo’s rich history as a community dedicated to health and well-being. From W.E. Upjohn to Homer Stryker, medical scientists in our community have contributed to the health of people in our state, the nation, and indeed the world. And that commitment to health has led directly to strong support for the arts and humanities in Kalamazoo, endowing the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, as well as the Black Arts & Cultural Center, the Kalamazoo Institute of Art, the Kalamazoo Symphony, and the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, among many other organizations.

“Healing Arts” is designed to look closely at the link between medicine and art. Novelists, musicians, journalists, and scientists will consider how these fields come together and mutually support each other. The humanities are central to this exchange of ideas about how to heal the body and mind. As humanists, we ask the critical question: How can art heal?

This fall is a good time to be talking about the connection between medicine and the arts as the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine opens its doors. We hope that you will join us in a community conversation about the history and nature of human experience.
About the Center

The mission of the Center is to recognize and support the humanities at Western Michigan University. As a gathering place for dialogue, the Center acts an incubator for the exchange of ideas among faculty, emeriti, alumni, undergraduate and graduate students, and people in the wider community. Through the understanding of diverse cultural, professional, political, and intellectual landscapes, we nurture engaged academic and community life.

Visit the University Center for the Humanities online at: www.wmich.edu/humanities

All events are free and open to the public.
About the Humanities

The humanities provide fundamental intellectual resources for exploring the issues of our day. Rooted in diverse perspectives, the humanities comprise the classics, languages, literature, philosophy, ethics, history, jurisprudence, religion, archaeology, cultural studies, the social sciences, such as cultural anthropology, economics, geography, political science, and sociology, and have close links to the study of visual and performing arts, the sciences, engineering, business, and health sciences. Moreover, the humanities cross disciplinary boundaries, taking up questions about the meaning of human existence that transcend the thinking of any single field of study.

The deep wellsprings of humanities scholarship have long been honored in higher education, but are too often neglected, taken for granted, or regarded as the self-sufficient domains of academic specialists. Within the culture of the university, we all stand to gain from successful measures to encourage, encounter, and learn from the many forms of humanities scholarship that, as a learning community, we are able to share. A university culture that opens such pathways of appreciative understanding will both nurture diverse particular strands of scholarship in the humanities and enhance formation of connections across the university, with our students, and in our wider community.
Yann Martel achieved worldwide acclaim with the publication of his novel *Life of Pi*, which won the 2002 Man Booker Prize. It has been published in forty-four countries, and has become an international bestseller with over 7 million copies sold. The director Ang Lee adapted the novel in 2012 and the result was a film nominated for 11 Academy Awards.

In this talk Yann Martel details some of the events in his life that led him to write the celebrated novel *Life of Pi*, and he explores the “healing art” of storytelling and its importance in overcoming or coping with trauma. Additionally, Martel’s talk will address the question of “Why fiction matters?” and the importance of imagining stories in conducting a good, authentic life.
Michael Pollan

Nov. 6, 2014 | 7:30 p.m. | Miller Auditorium, WMU
Kalamazoo Community Foundation’s 2014 Community Meeting: “A Community Conversation about Food”

Michael Pollan has been recognized with the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers, named one of Newsweek’s “Top Ten Thought Leaders,” and is the John S. and James L. Knight Professor of Journalism at UC Berkeley’s Graduate School of Journalism.

At the Kalamazoo Community Foundation’s 2014 Community Meeting, author and food advocate Michael Pollan will talk with us about the importance of a healthy food system and healthy food. Pollan is a recipient of the California Book Award, the James Beard Award, and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. His book The Omnivore’s Dilemma was named one of the 10 best books of 2006 by both The New York Times and The Washington Post.

For more information about the Kalamazoo Community Foundation visit: www.kalfound.org
Nellie Hermann

Jan. 29, 2015 | 7 p.m. | Dalton Auditorium, WMU
“Creative Writing and the Capacity for Empathy”

Nellie Hermann is Creative Director of the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University. Her first novel, *The Cure for Grief* (Scribner: 2008), received national acclaim and was chosen as a Target “Breakout” book. Hermann’s short story, “Can We Let the Baby Go?,” won first prize in *Glimmer Train’s* 2008 “Family Matters” competition and was published in the Winter, 2010 issue. Her forthcoming novel about the early life of Vincent van Gogh, *The Season of Migration*, will be released in February 2015.

In this discussion Nellie Herman will talk about the use of creative writing and narrative to enhance our capacity for understanding and empathy in the clinical encounter.
Ed Roth, Associate Professor of Music, Western Michigan University, has published and presented widely on the topic of music therapy as treatment for trauma and anxiety disorders and the effects of music on motor functioning.

Art, science, and medicine have been intimately linked across centuries. More recently, the application of neuroscience research to music has created an entire paradigm shift in clinical music therapy.

In this talk Ed Roth will describe interdisciplinary collaborative research conducted in the laboratory for Brain Research and Interdisciplinary Neurosciences (BRAIN) here at Western Michigan University. He will discuss collaborative music therapy projects with Johns Hopkins Medicine as well as local projects in Kalamazoo. The primary aims of this research are to understand the neural substrates of creative behavior and the application of that knowledge to the delivery of clinical neurologic music therapy services.
Kleinman is professor of medical anthropology in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine and professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. In addition to numerous books on medical anthropology and psychiatry in China, he has co-authored articles on the stigma of mental illness and on the appropriate uses of culture in the practice of medicine.

Kleinman’s presentation is a call for a serious discussion about caregiving in order to reconsider its place in medical education, medical practice, and medical research, as well as to consider its significance for patients, families, and communities. Kleinman will argue that this discussion should not be restricted to matters of markets, regulations, and security but, crucially, also be open to concerns of how we can enact care as humankind’s shared project.
Become a Friend of the Humanities

Who? Friends of the Humanities form a community dedicated to strengthening the humanities in the Kalamazoo community and on the Western Michigan University campus.

How? To become a Friend of the Humanities, individuals, organizations, and companies are invited to make an annual gift to the University Center for the Humanities through the WMU Foundation by visiting www.wmich.edu/humanities/giving.

Why? Given the wide-ranging activities of the Center, private donors can have a real impact. Even smaller amounts go a long way to enhancing the opportunities for citizens, scholars, and students to do research, write books, give lectures, organize discussions, and work in the community.

What? Friends of the Humanities will receive invitations to special events, including a fall gathering of people from the community and University. At events, you will have reserved seating, opportunities to meet and talk with guest speakers and visiting scholars, and invitations to receptions. As a member, you will receive brochures, postcards, emails, and an annual report with detailed information about all of our activities so that you will see how your donation enhances the humanities at WMU and in Kalamazoo.
Series Partners:

Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership, Kalamazoo College
Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, WMU
College of Arts and Sciences, WMU
College of Fine Arts, WMU
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Kalamazoo Community Foundation
Kalamazoo Public Library
Lee Honors College, WMU
Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations, WMU
Office of Academic Affairs, WMU
Portage Public Library
Calendar

2014-15 Healing Arts

Oct. 23, 2014, 7 p.m. | Yann Martel | Miller Auditorium, WMU

Nov. 6, 2014, 7:30 p.m. | Michael Pollan | Miller Auditorium, WMU

Jan. 29, 2015, 7 p.m. | Nellie Hermann | Dalton Auditorium, WMU

March 19, 2015, 7 p.m. | Ed Roth | Dalton Auditorium, WMU

April 2, 2015, 7 p.m. | Arthur Kleinman | Shaw Theatre, WMU

All events are free and open to the public.

For more information visit: www.wmich.edu/humanities