



Spring 2014

Connections, Issue 1

College of Health and Human Services

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College of Health and Human Services

CONNECTIONS

E-News issue #1

Message from the dean

Hello, WMU College of Health and Human Services alumni and friends. I hope this e-newsletter finds you well and looking forward to a healthy and productive 2014. With the momentum of a very active, dynamic 2013, we at the college are moving into this year with positive energy and pride.



Of special note is the completion and initial implementation of the College of Health and Human Services 2013-16 Strategic Plan. Through the plan, we will continue to excel and innovate with an essential focus on interdisciplinary, inter-professional experiences that begin in the classroom and move out into clinical work, research, practice and the professions. The complete plan and a summary are available for your review

at www.wmich.edu/hhs/planning.

The articles in this newsletter will update you and inform you about future events. I trust you will enjoy the reading and—as vital members of the college family—share in the pride and excitement of preparing professionals today to transform health care and human services tomorrow.

Thank you for your support, your representation of Western and the College of Health and Human Services programs, and your service and contributions. I invite you to visit any time and to update us as to your activities, accomplishments and professional wisdom using the [alumni updates form](#).

I look forward to hearing from you and wish you the best in all of your endeavors.

In the news



WMU ROTC nursing cadet one of five in nation chosen for program

Shelley Aurand received her commission as an army nurse on Friday, Dec. 13, 2013 in the WMU Bernhard Center and graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Bronson School of Nursing on Dec. 14. Unlike other commissioned graduates, however, she will not go directly into active duty. Instead, she will continue her education to become a psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner.



WMU efforts for former foster youth earn national recognition

Dr. Yvonne Unrau, WMU professor of social work, is the founding director of the University's Foster Youth and Higher Education Initiative and the current director of the WMU Center for Fostering Success. Recently, these efforts to serve and understand the

higher education needs of former foster care youth have been singled out for national recognition by a leading social policy organization.

Upcoming Burian Lectures



Eva L. Evans

Building Bridges

March 25, 2014

6 p.m. lecture, reception to follow

WMU Fetzer Center

Free and open to the public

Registration appreciated at mywmu.com/burianlectures or (269) 387-2663



Christina Puchalski

Spirituality and Health: The Foundations of Compassionate Care

April 3

4 p.m. lecture and webinar, reception to follow lecture

WMU Fetzer Center, Kirsh Auditorium

Free and open to the public. Please register at wmich.edu/online/webinar or (269) 387-4200 by March 28.

Research awards



Audiologists' research studies the middle ear and auditory injury

Speech Pathology and Audiology Associate Professors Dr. Greg Flamme and Dr. Steve Tasko have received a \$1.6 million Injury Prevention, Physiological and Environmental Health Award from the Department of Defense, Defense Health Program, Military Operational Medicine Joint Program Committee 5, led through an investigator with the US Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory. This local contract is aimed at increasing understanding of the role of the middle ear on auditory injury from impulse noise, loud sounds that are brief and banging such as gun shots. This work will apply primarily to members of the military and hunters, who are exposed to the sound of gun shots, and additionally to those who work in construction and some manufacturing environments. Dr. Flamme will serve as local PI and Dr. Tasko as Co-PI on this four-year project.



Long cane research to improve health and well-being of the visually impaired

Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies Associate Professor Dae Kim has been awarded a grant of \$421,125 from the National Institutes of Health's National Eye Institute for his research to improve health outcomes of visually impaired individuals through better long cane design and cane-use biomechanics.

Recent retirements

Best wishes and thanks to our retiring faculty.

Eva Jerome, Bronson School of Nursing



Farewell and best wishes to Eva Jerome, M.S., R.N, who retired from the faculty of the Bronson School of Nursing on Dec. 31, 2013 after 13 years of dedicated service. Student success was always at the forefront of Jerome's concerns. Through her own actions and example, she instilled in students the true meaning of professionalism, integrity, diversity, honesty and—most of all—caring.

Dave Guth, Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies



The Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies said farewell to Dr. Dave Guth, who retired at the end of 2013 as professor emeritus after 25 years of service there. Guth has researched and published extensively in his areas of interest, which include nonvisual perception, the nonvisual control of locomotion, the spatial orientation and pedestrian safety of blind persons, and intersection design as it relates to pedestrian safety and efficiency. Dave is also the former director of the department's Master's in Orientation and Mobility for Adults and taught several of that program's core courses.

Award spotlight

On Friday, Dec. 6 last year, Dean Earlie M. Washington hosted an awards ceremony followed by a celebration to recognize faculty and staff in the college. At the ceremony, awards were presented to three faculty members and a staff person. Award criteria and other information can be found on our [awards page](#). Read about the reward recipients below.



Office Associate Karen Monroe: 2013 Outstanding Customer Service Award



Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies Associate Professor Dr. Helen Lee: Teaching Excellence Award



Associate Professor of Speech Pathology and Audiology Greg Flamme: Research Excellence Award



Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. Program Director Nicki Nelson: Scholarship Excellence Award