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May, 2017 Global News

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May, 2017 Global News

Three WMU students receive Gilman Scholarships to study abroad

contact: Korey Force
May 3, 2017 | WMU News

Hanoks, traditional Korean houses, are a main feature of Bukchon Hanok Village in Seoul, South Korea.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Three Western Michigan University students are using a prestigious national scholarship to study overseas during the 2017 summer sessions through the Gilman International Scholarship Program.

Justin Black, of Detroit; Devin Moyer, of Constantine; and Marcos Santiago, of Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico, are among about 1,000 American undergraduate students to receive the Gilman Scholarship to study abroad.

WMU summer 2017 Scholars
Justin Black received a $3,500 Gilman Scholarship. Black is majoring in public relations and minoring in journalism and will be studying in South Korea. He chose to go to South Korea for its political and media history as well as its culture and environment.

Devin Moyer received a $4,000 Gilman Scholarship. Moyer is majoring in recreation management and minoring in Spanish and will be studying in Ecuador. He chose a short program offered in that country that allows him to study abroad and still meet his personal and family commitments.

Marcos Santiago received a $3,000 Gilman Scholarship. Santiago is double majoring in biochemistry and biomedical sciences and will be studying in England. He chose England because he has been inexplicably interested in that country since childhood and now as a science student, is interested in exploring the advanced scientific programs offered there.

**Gilman program**

The congressionally funded Gilman program supports study abroad by defraying such costs as tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance, and international airfare. It offers grants to students from across the United States; Washington, D.C.; and Puerto Rico. To be eligible, those American citizens must demonstrate high financial need.

The program has been successful in supporting students who are historically underrepresented in education abroad, including first-generation college students, ethnic minority students and students who have disabilities. It also supports students from U.S. states with weak study abroad participation and those studying in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—STEM—fields.

**Gilman at WMU**

Applying for a Gilman Scholarship is a competitive process that requires some advising. **Dr. Michelle Metro-Roland**, WMU director of faculty and global program development, serves as the University's advisor for the Gilman International Scholarship Program and most other federal study abroad scholarship programs.

"The Gilman Scholarship is for students who never thought that studying abroad was within their reach," Metro-Roland says.

Those interested in applying for the scholarship must be federal Pell Grant recipients and should make contacting Metro-Roland their first step. She can be reached at michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu.
New medieval book series could captivate public, scholars alike

contact: Jeanne Baron
May 30, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—For those who agree with Shakespeare that "What's past is prologue," Western Michigan University has a new book series that may become popular with the public as well as academics.

WMU's Medieval Institute Publications has launched Past Imperfect, a new series of short-form books that focus on the Middle Ages, are written in scholarly yet edgy and accessible language, and are garnering broad acclaim.

Multiple audiences

More than 40 volumes have been commissioned from scholars across North and South America, Europe and Australasia, says Dr. Simon Forde, director and editor-in-chief of Medieval Institute Publications.

"Short-form publications meet an increasing scholarly need to publish concise summaries of research—35,000 words and 100-plus printed pages—that are aimed at engaging more broadly with the public while also serving the needs of college curricula as well as undergraduate students, graduate students and scholars who want an introduction to specific topics," Forde says.

"Across the world, people remain fascinated by the Middle Ages, whether it's 'The Hobbit' or 'Game of Thrones.' It was the period of the Islamic Golden Age and when civilizations in India, China, across Africa and in Central America were often more advanced than the West. Past Imperfect offers an affordable overview of a full range of subjects spanning the time period, and proves that the era still retains a powerful resonance and impact throughout the world today."

Wide range of topics
The series' first three volumes were published in January 2017. They include:

- "Medievalism: A Manifesto," by Dr. Richard Utz, chair and professor of literature, media and communication at the Georgia Institute of Technology, covers the history of the medieval studies discipline. Utz is a former English professor and department chair at WMU.
- "The Scholastic Project," by Dr. Clare Monagle, senior lecturer in modern history, politics and international relations at Macquarie University, focuses on scholasticism.
- "Today's Medieval University," by Dr. Jane Toswell, professor of English at Western University, Canada, is about the history and impact today of medieval university structures.

Three more Past Imperfect books will soon be published on Alfred the Great; the Kingdom of Rus', which was a state in what is now the Ukraine; and medieval demons. Many of the series' future volumes focus on Islamic and Middle Eastern history, non-Western subjects and the social impact of medieval studies today, including a volume on medieval parallels to Twitter.

**Engaging the public**

Forde notes that Utz's "Medievalism: A Manifesto" already has been enthusiastically reviewed. The Public Medievalist in April indicates how this and other small volumes should have wide impact within and beyond the walls of academe.

"[Medievalism: A Manifesto'] offers an affordable, much-needed call-to-arms to those medievalists still on the fence about working for, among and with the public," the review wrote. "This book—especially its final chapter, which comprises the real 'manifesto' of the volume—should be required reading for every medieval studies Ph.D., and taped to the door of many a public history professor."

Physician to discuss how inequities impact health care

contact: Jeanne Baron
May 30, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich—A physician, advocate and author will connect racism and income inequality to health and well-being during a free, public talk at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, in downtown Kalamazoo.

The talk will be given by Dr. David A. Ansell, senior vice president of community health equity and associate provost for clinical affairs at the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

It will be held in the auditorium of the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. Free parking will be available in the adjacent Bronson Methodist Hospital lot at Portage and Lovell streets.

Unequal life chances

Ansell will discuss the often unseen root causes of unequal life chances in the U.S. and advocate for sweeping changes in policy and practices to create a health care system and society that are more just, according to Tim Ready, director of WMU’s Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations, which is co-sponsoring the event.

Drawing on his 40 years as a physician caring for patients from Chicago’s South Side, Ready says Ansell will illustrate through his patients’ stories how he came to diagnose structural violence as the ultimate cause of the unnecessary suffering he addressed on a daily basis.
"That suffering went hand-in-hand with a decreased life expectancy for many of Ansell's patients compared to people who were living in other areas of Chicago," Ready says. "This difference in life expectancy reflects differential exposure to environmental stressors and other social determinants of health related to racism and economic insecurity—what Ansell calls structural violence."

**Structural violence**

Ansel has written two books that call attention to structural violence, with his newest one, "The Death Gap: How Inequality Kills," being released this spring. The book contends that structural disparities are the reason the average life expectancy in the U.S. is only 79, despite America being the world's leader in high-tech medicine.

As an example, "The Death Gap" addresses why the life expectancy of residents of Chicago's South Side neighborhoods is only 69 years—equal to that of countries such as India and the Philippines. But only a few miles away, residents of Chicago's Gold Coast neighborhoods are likely to live to at least 85, equal to the average life expectancy of Singapore and Japan—the two countries with the longest life expectancies in the world.

"Similar disparities can be seen in Kalamazoo County," Ready says, citing statistics from the federal Centers for Disease Control. "White residents, on average, live five years longer than their African-American neighbors, and the richest 25 percent of area residents live about eight years longer than the poorest 25 percent."

He adds that he agrees with Ansell that unquestioning acceptance of inequality in health and in other indicators of well-being by race, place and class creates an empathy gap that perpetuates the kind of structural violence Ansell describes in his books.

**Additional details**

In addition to the WMU Walker Institute, Ansell's talk is being co-sponsored by the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo, YWCA Kalamazoo, Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community, and Organize West Michigan.

For more information about the talk, visit [wmich.edu/walkerinstitute](http://wmich.edu/walkerinstitute) or contact Ready at [timothy.ready@wmich.edu](mailto:timothy.ready@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-2142.

For more news, arts and events, visit [wmich.edu/news](http://wmich.edu/news).
Take advantage of global engagement opportunities in June

contact: Korey Force
May 25, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University and the Kalamazoo community will offer a number of global engagement opportunities during the month of June. Highlights include opportunities to help teach international students about local culture and attend globally focused art exhibits.

Opportunities to get globally engaged are published weekly at wmich.edu/global/events by WMU's Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Sign Up for Weekly Update

June 2017 Opportunities

Thursday, June 1

- **Volunteering with international students**—12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency West Campus, 4606 Croyden Ave., Kalamazoo, hosted by International Student Activities. Join international students in reading stories from different cultures to local school children. Registration required by visiting 3516, 3521 or 3530 Ellsworth Hall or emailing intl-outreach@wmich.edu. Free and open to the public.
- "**Impressions: Modern Printmaking in Japan**" exhibit—April 1 to July 23 at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, hosted by the Kalamazoo Institute of the Arts. The exhibit features traditional Japanese woodblock prints that fascinated Western artists in the 19th century. Admission is $5; open to the public.
- "**Pressed for Time: History of Printmaking**" exhibit—March 13 to July 2 at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, hosted by the Kalamazoo Institute of the Arts. The exhibit features a historical survey of the four major processes of printmaking in the Western world and includes works by artists such as Rembrandt van Rijn, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Pablo Picasso. Admission is $5; open to the public.
- "**And Still We Rise: Race, Culture and Visual Conversations**" exhibit—Jan. 21 to June 4 at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, 230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo, hosted by the Kalamazoo Institute of the Arts. The exhibit features quilts from more than 50 contemporary artists that reflect on moments in history that have contributed to transformations of social justice in the United States and across the globe. Free and open to the public.
- "**Journey Through the Pacific**" exhibit—During the month of June at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, 272 Pearl St. NW, Grand Rapids, hosted by the citizens of Kent County. The exhibit
features the islands and cultures of the Pacific Ocean. General museum admission for adults is $10, $5 for students with a valid ID; open to the public.

Friday, June 2

- **International Night with the Kalamazoo Growlers**—6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Homer Stryker Field, 251 Mills St., Kalamazoo, hosted by International Student Activities. Join international students at the fourth annual International Night with the Kalamazoo Growlers. Tickets are $5 and include bus transportation, entrance and all you can eat food and soft drinks; open to the public.

Tuesday, June 6

- **“1,000 Years of Karakami Art” ARTbreak documentary**—noon in the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Auditorium, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, hosted by the Fountains at Bronson Place. The documentary explores Karakami, a decorative Japanese paper art, and the work of a family in Kyoto that has preserved this traditional art form for nearly 400 years. Free and open to the public; coffee provided.

Wednesday, June 7

- **International Ladies' Sports Club**—1:15 to 2:15 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center, hosted by International Student Activities. Bond with women from all over the world through sports and exercise. Free and open to all women in the community.
- **Cultivate Community Through Cooking series**—5 to 7 p.m. at the Arcus Center for Social Justice, 205 Monroe St., Kalamazoo, hosted by the Thrive Refugee Support Center and Refugee Outreach Kalamazoo. Each class will be taught by an individual who has recently resettled in the Kalamazoo community as a refugee. Registration is $15; open to the public.

Sunday, June 11

- **“Impressions: Modern Printmaking in Japan” Sunday tour**—2 to 3 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, hosted by the Kalamazoo Institute of the Arts. The museum offers a docent-guided tour of the "Impressions: Modern Printmaking in Japan" exhibit. Included in museum admission; open to the public.

Thursday, June 15

- **Garba dancing night**—7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rootead Dance Studio, 1501 Fulford Ave., Kalamazoo, hosted by the Kalamazoo Garba Club. Join the Kalamazoo Garba Club for a pop-up dance night to learn and practice the traditional folk dance from India. Entrance is $3; open to the public.

Monday, June 19

- **BINGO night with CELCIS students**—6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at The Fountains at Bronson Place, 1700 Bronson Way, Kalamazoo, hosted by the Center for English Language and Culture for
International Students. Join CELCIS in teaching international students how to play the popular U.S. game of luck, BINGO. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, June 20

- "Lasansky: Inside the Image" ARTbreak talk—noon at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Auditorium, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, hosted by The Fountains at Bronson Place. The talk discusses the work of Mauricio Lasansky, an Argentine artist and educator known for his advanced techniques in printmaking. Free and open to the public; coffee provided.

Wednesday, June 21

- International Ladies' Sports Club—1:15 to 2:15 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center, hosted by International Student Activities. Bond with women from all over the world through sports and exercise. Free and open to all women in the community.

Saturday, June 24

- Kal-Haven biking with CELCIS students—9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Kal-Haven Trail State Park, 4143 10th St. N., Kalamazoo, hosted by the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students. Join CELCIS in showing international students local culture by riding the famous Kal-Haven bike trail. Free and open to the public; bike rental is $10.

Faculty Senate approves design for general education revision

contact: Cheryl Roland
May 24, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Acting at its final meeting for the 2016-17 academic year, the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate approved a memorandum of action May 11, adopting a model for the new curriculum, setting the stage for implementation of the first significant change to WMU’s general education offerings in 33 years. The new curriculum, named WMU Essential Studies at an earlier Senate meeting, is scheduled for use in the classroom for fall 2018.
Approval of the memorandum of action OKs the design plan for the new curriculum, completing the second of three steps in the Senate process which already reflects four years of work. That work began with assessment of the current general education curriculum and the decision to revise it. The next step was to design a model to guide the revision. With that second step now complete, the third step—implementation—will begin immediately. Working over the summer, a Senate Logistics Committee will begin the work of determining key elements requiring faculty/staff and administration consideration. This work will enable the development of a timeline and implementation plan to be presented to senators for approval as a recommendation for administrative approval and resourcing by the end of the 2017-18 academic year.

"This was a definitive action on the design document that has been under development since September," said Dr. Suzan F. Ayers, president of the Faculty Senate in announcing the vote outcome. "This is essentially a blueprint for moving forward with a new curriculum."

The model approved, according to the memorandum of action background, provides "a learner-centered approach to general education that balances acquisition of essential skills and content with prioritizing student-learning outcomes that prepare WMU students to succeed in an ever-changing world."

The design model features a "scaffolding of skills throughout the curriculum" and will strengthen writing across the curriculum. All of the areas taught in WMU's existing general education curriculum can be encompassed, and new skills and content areas will be added. Five areas that will be built into the new curriculum are:

- Diversity and inclusion
- Global Awareness
- Critical thinking
- Sustainability
- Real-world problem solving

The WMU Essential Studies' design calls for students to take one course in each of 12 categories, and is focused on supporting student retention and success as well as greater flexibility in teaching approaches and learner experiences.

"I really want to acknowledge the work of the group who did this heavy lifting as well as those who have begun working on the logistics," says Ayers. "They deserve our gratitude."

**Design Committee members**

Chair Mervyn Elliott, aviation

Vice Chair Molly Lynde-Recchia, world languages and literature
Administration Representative Dave Reinhold
Faculty Senate Board Member Bill Rantz
Dan Jacobsen, music
Kevin Knutson, arts and sciences advising
Staci Perryman-Clark, English
Elke Schoffers, chemistry
Sarah Summy, special education and literacy studies
Kristina Wirtz, Spanish

**Logistics Committee members**

Chair Mervyn Elliott, aviation
Vice Chair Leigh Ford, communications
Staci Perryman-Clark, English
Elke Schoffers, chemistry
Sarah Summy, special education and literacy studies
Bill Warren, history

**Advisory members**

Ed Martini, associate dean of Extended University Programs
Terrell Hodge, director of Student Financial Aid
Sharon Van Dyken, director of aviation advising

**Administration representatives**

Carrie Cumming, registrar
Dave Reinhold
KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University faculty members across disciplines are encouraged to apply for a fully funded curriculum training in India as well as a $2,500 honorarium to develop course material with a South Asia focus.

The awards are part of the Southwest Michigan Education Initiative on the East Indian Ocean being funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant.

They will allow four faculty recipients to travel to India Dec. 8-22 and receive curriculum training on South Asia in order to develop future course materials. The deadline to apply is May 31. To apply, visit wmic.edu/global/uisfl.

About the awards

**Dr. Nathan L.M. Tabor**, a visiting assistant professor in the departments of History and Comparative Religion, serves as the East Indian Ocean initiative's manager as well as a facilitator of curriculum development and will lead the trips to India.

"There are many courses at WMU that deal with themes relevant to the academic study of South Asia—world history, multiple languages and literatures, expanding global markets, comparative politics—just to name a few arenas that come up across disciplines," Tabor says.

"The Southwest Michigan Education Initiative on the East Indian Ocean's focus on faculty development will strengthen these themes and more by giving professors the space and time to deepen knowledge through study and travel."
Course development will widely encompass the topics of travel and trade governance, postcolonialism, capitalist expansion, religion and sovereignty, and Hindu and Sufi textual practices.

**About Applying**

Successful applicants will be required to attend three mandatory meetings during fall 2017 at a mutually agreeable time, read two assigned texts, and obtain permission from their chair and college dean to be absent for finals week.

To apply, faculty members must complete a Southwest Michigan Education Initiative on the East Indian Ocean application form and submit a two-page letter of interest detailing present and developing courses and how they could benefit from a greater understanding of the academic study of South Asia. Applicants should be sure to detail their goals, background and research interests.

*For more information* about the East Indian Ocean initiative, visit wmic.edu/global/uisfl or contact Tabor at nathan.tabor@wmich.edu.

*For more WMU news, arts and events*, visit wmic.edu/news.

**WMU congress puts focus of world's medieval scholars on Kalamazoo**

contact: Cheryl Roland
May 5, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—For four days in May, some 3,000 of the world's leading scholars on all topics medieval will converge on the Western Michigan University campus for an annual meeting that has become the largest international gathering of its kind.

WMU's 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies will take place **Thursday, May 11, through Sunday, May 14.** The event will feature more than 570 sessions in locations across the WMU campus. Presenters will be scholars from 47 states, the District of Columbia and 34 nations. They include faculty members, museum curators and independent scholars, ranging from faculty members at the U.S. Military Academy and Harvard to academics at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of World History.
Hundreds of the visitors will live in campus residence halls during the congress, and others will fill hotels throughout the area. For the four days of the event, they'll eat in dining facilities on the campus and in the wider community.

Congress sessions will focus on topics that range from medieval architecture and coins from the Middle Ages to the way the Middle Ages are portrayed in children's literature. Sessions also will be held on such perennially favorite topics as the epic poem "Beowulf," the Crusades and the King Arthur legends. And many sessions focus on the impact of the Middle Ages on modern life and popular culture. One session, for instance, looks at medieval sidekicks and examines sidekick characters in the 1990s films "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" and "Robin Hood: Men in Tights."

Papers on and discussions of many topics that have a contemporary ring to them can be found at the International Congress on Medieval Studies.

"Matters such as religious tolerance, race, criminality, sexuality and gendered behavior may not all have begun during the long span of the Middle Ages--many ancient peoples had to wrestle with these issues—but medievalists in all disciplines today continue to explore these topics," says Jana K. Schulman, director of WMU's Medieval Institute, which organizes the annual congress. "We continue to develop methodologies for inclusivity and diversity and seek to communicate a knowledge base about the period that will inform contemporary discourse on these important issues."

New this year, a performance festival

Running concurrently with the congress this year will be the new Mostly Medieval Theatre Festival, which will feature four different theatrical presentations in the Gilmore Theatre Complex. Intended to be offered biennially at the congress, presentations are designed to showcase and invigorate the global heritage of drama, music, dance and performance styles. This year's offerings include presentations focusing on comic dance, a Tolkien short story, French farce, middle Dutch plays and a 10th-century tragicomedy.

Special plenary sessions

Special plenary lectures are scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom.

- On Friday, the title is "Artifacts of the Infidel: Medieval and Modern Interpretations of the the Sacred Law of Islam" by Dr. Leor Halevi, associate professor of history at Vanderbilt University, who specializes in the history of Islam.
- On Saturday, the talk is titled "The Donkey and the Boat: Rethinking Mediterranean Economic Expansion in the Eleventh Century," presented by Dr. Chris Wickham, the emeritus Chichele Professor of Medieval History at the University of Oxford.

Workshops and exhibits
A workshop will focus on the skills involved in metal casting using soapstone to craft pewter ware. The exhibits hall, which is a favorite venue for both visiting medievalists and Kalamazoo residents, will feature the wares of more than 70 vendors, including publishers, used and rare book dealers, and purveyors of various medieval sundries.

**Attendance directions for local community members**

Kalamazoo County residents and those with a valid WMU ID may attend the WMU International Congress on Medieval Studies at no cost. Local attendees may register on site in the lobby of Goldsworth Valley's Eldridge-Fox Halls if they have not pre-registered.

**WMU's Medieval Institute and annual congress**

The Medieval Institute is a center for instruction and research in the history and culture of the Middle Ages and ranks among the top 10 North American institutes, centers and programs that focus on medieval studies. Its pioneering function was to introduce the first Master of Arts in medieval studies offered at a state-supported university in the United States.

The medieval congress began as a biennial conference in 1962. Sponsored by WMU's Medieval Institute, also established in 1962, it grew to become an annual event in 1970 and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012.

For complete details on all congress events, visit [wmich.edu/medievalcongress](http://wmich.edu/medievalcongress).

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit [wmich.edu/news](http://wmich.edu/news).

**Four finalists for associate provost to make public presentations**

contact: Deanne Puca  
May 4, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Public presentations by four candidates for the post of Western Michigan University associate provost for the Haenicke Institute for Global Education begin **Monday, May 8**. The candidates will speak on the topic, "What is your vision for comprehensive global engagement at a large research university and WMU in particular?"

All presentations will be held at **10 a.m.** in the Putney Auditorium of the Fetzer Center. The campus community is encouraged to attend to hear the following candidates on these days and dates.
• **Dr. Paulo Zagalo-Melo**, provost for Global Century Education at the University of Montana, Monday, May 8.

• **Dr. Nick J. Gozik**, director of the Office of International Programs, director of the McGillicuddy-Logue Center for Undergraduate Global Studies, lecturer in the Lynch School of Education and lecturer in International Studies at Boston College; Tuesday, May 9.

• **Dr. Sharon Nagy**, vice provost for Global Engagement at Clemson University, Monday, May 15.

• **Dr. Martyn J. Miller**, interim assistant vice president for International Affairs and director for International Services at Temple University, Wednesday, May 17.

For a complete copy of each candidate's vita, visit [wmich.edu/provost/administrative-search](http://wmich.edu/provost/administrative-search).

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit [wmich.edu/news](http://wmich.edu/news).