



Summer 2014

Connections, Issue 2

College of Health and Human Services

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College of Health and Human Services

CONNECTIONS

E-News issue #2

WMU international magazine features college

The Spring 2014 issue of the WMU International News, published by Western Michigan University's Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education, showcased College of Health and Human Services international initiatives, featuring stories about students, faculty, staff and alumni who are contributing to WMU's global engagement in Kalamazoo and around the world.



Read about OT student Akol Abol in [Sudanese "Lost Boy" finds home in WMU occupational therapy program](#).

"When I left my family, it was not something that I would be able to come back to. I was six years old when government troops and government-sponsored militias attacked my village in southern Sudan. I awoke to the sound of automatic weapon fire blasting through my small hut."



Read about alumna Lili Wang in [Alumna helps China advance services for people with vision disabilities](#).

"Lili Wang, an alumna of Western Michigan University's blindness and low vision studies program, was a 'ground breaker' for the teaching of orientation and mobility for the visually impaired in China. She has become a national resource for her field as a specialist at the Beijing School for the Blind."

Access the [entire newsletter](#) or go directly to each of these features:

- [International researcher honored by American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](#)
- [WMU, Fetzer Institute collaboration responds to Latino demographics](#)
- [Sabbatical work in Bangladesh widens perspectives for OT professor](#)
- [Nigerian nursing major finds way to Kalamazoo through WMU TNE program](#)

Academic centers make news

- [New book about World War II memories grows out of class project](#)
 - The book is available online by going to wmich.edu/disabilitycenter and clicking on **Online Store** and then **Center for Gerontology Book**.
- [Public health data, strategies focus of new research and training center](#)

- [Empowerment center takes action to reduce poverty](#)

WMU BRAIN Lab: Music, Mind and Medicine

Department of Occupational Therapy Chair Dr. Ben Atchison and Assistant Professor Michelle Suarez are studying the underlying neurobiology of human behavior and disorders with the WMU Brain Research and Interdisciplinary Neurosciences Lab or BRAIN Lab. Along with researchers from several other fields and music therapy professor and BRAIN Lab Director Ed Roth, these OT faculty members are working to find specific treatments for neurological disorders.



This work was covered in the Spring 2014 edition of the Western Michigan University Magazine.

- [BRAIN Lab article](#)
- [Entire WMU Magazine](#)

Center for Disability Services

- [Artists express creative abilities and earn income](#)

Alumni in action

- [Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology forms alumni board](#)
- [School supporters come together to celebrate social work](#)

Faculty accolades

- [Dr. Helen Sharp elected president of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association](#)
- [Dr. Richard Long selected as Peer Reviewers of the Year for the Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness](#)
- [Dr. Barbara Barton selected by the Michigan Campus Compact to receive Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award](#)
- [Dr. Maureen Mickus appointed to serve as an ambassador by the National Alzheimer's Association](#)
- [Jennipher Wiebold appointed to the Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services](#)

Recent retirements

Best wishes and thanks to our retiring faculty and staff.

- [Jeanine Bartholomew, College of Health and Human Services](#)
- [Peter Judd, School of Social Work](#)
- [Gary D. Lawson, Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology](#)

Spotlight on interdisciplinary health sciences doctoral students

The WMU College of Health and Human Services developed the Ph.D. in interdisciplinary health sciences in response to the findings of the Pew Health Professions Commission and National Commission on Allied Health regarding the need for doctoral prepared research faculty educated in an interdisciplinary framework. Find out more about this unique program [online](#) and review some recent IHS Ph.D. student accomplishments below.



Laura Froeschke



Lolly Bargerstock-Oyler



Theresa Lynn



Josh Scott