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Living the Arts in the Libraries to take place in April

contact: Deanne Puca
March 29, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Poetry readings, music, faculty talks, dance set to poetry, poetry translations, new books, choral works and more will be highlighted during Living the Arts in the Libraries events at Western Michigan University during the month of April.

For the third year, University Libraries will showcase the arts for three weeks, April 1-21, in events and exhibits during regular open hours at Waldo Library and the Zhang Legacy Collections Center. A collaboration with WMU arts and humanities groups across campus, many are short pop-up events that may last from five to 15 minutes.

Hours

Waldo Library

- Monday through Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 2 a.m.
- Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sunday: noon to 2 a.m.

Zhang Legacy Collections Center

- Monday: closed
- Tuesday through Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Sunday: closed
Michigan State Geographic Bee to return to WMU's Fetzer Center

contact: Mark Schwerin
March 28, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO—For the 10th straight year, just over 100 young geography buffs from across the state will descend on Western Michigan University for the Michigan State Geographic Bee, testing their knowledge of the world while vying for a trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the National Geographic Bee championship at National Geographic Society headquarters.

This year's event is **Friday, March 31**, and will bring the young semi-finalists from schools across the state and their families to the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium. This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, now in its 29th year.

Bees held statewide

Bees were held in schools with fourth- through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school's winner. School-level winners then took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. The society invited students with the top 100 scores in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete at the state level.

The state competition begins with preliminary rounds at 12:30 p.m., followed by the **competition finals at about 2:15 p.m.**, says Dr. Lisa DeChano-Cook, WMU associate professor of geography and coordinator of the Michigan bee. The top geography student in Michigan will be selected from a field of 10 students who make it to the final round. The public is invited to attend the competition's finals portion only. **State Rep. Aaron Miller**, a WMU graduate, will serve as final round moderator.

The state champ will receive $100, the National Geographic Concise Atlas of the World, a medal and a trip to Washington to represent Michigan at the National Geographic Bee Championship May 14-17 at National Geographic Society headquarters. The final round will be moderated by journalist and humorist **Mo Rocca** and will air on the National Geographic channel at 8 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time Friday, May 19. The national champion will receive a $50,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society, including a subscription...
to National Geographic magazine, and an all-expense-paid Lindblad expedition to the Galápagos Islands aboard the new National Geographic Endeavor II. Travel for the trip is provided by Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic. Second- and third-place finishers will receive $25,000 and $10,000 college scholarships, respectively.

Each year, thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the society. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject and increase public awareness about geography.

About the society

Founded in 1888, the National Geographic Society is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. With a mission to inspire people to care about the planet, the member-supported society offers a community for members to get closer to explorers, connect with other members and help make a difference.

Annual Clark Lecture, two other political talks offered at WMU

contact: Mark Schwerin
March 27, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—A nationally recognized University of Florida scholar will visit the Western Michigan University campus this week as part of the Samuel I. Clark Lecture Series, while two other noted political scientists will deliver talks this week and next.

Dr. Ido Oren, chair and associate professor of political science at the University of Florida, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 30, in 157-158 Bernhard Center. His presentation, titled "WMD, WMD, WMD: How the Incantation of Ambiguous Phrases Creates Foreign Threats," is free and open to the public.

Creating a perception

In his talk, Oren will discuss how political leaders create the perception of threats in the international arena. Oren will develop the idea that the repetition of ambiguous phrases, such as "weapons of mass destruction," "rogue states" and "ethnic cleansing," creates a perception of
reality that rivals the actual reality. As public audiences accept and join in the repetition, they actively participate in the construction of the conditions the ambiguous phrase is meant to describe. Specific examples in politics are frequent, and Oren specifically will address the way the phrase "weapons of mass destruction" helped build support for the war against Iraq.

Oren received his doctoral degree from the University of Chicago. His intellectual and research interests range from international relations theory, international security affairs and U.S. foreign policy through the history and politics of American political science, to imperative methods of political research. His book, "Our Enemies and US: America's Rivalries and the Making of Political Science," has been translated into Chinese and Japanese. A former vice president of the International Studies Association, Oren in 2010 was a Fulbright lecturer at China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing.

The Clark Lecture is an annual event honoring Dr. Samuel L. Clark, WMU professor emeritus of political science and the founding dean of the Lee Honors College.

**Also on tap**

Two other nationally known scholars also will speak this week and next on political topics.

- **March 31:** Dr. Darren Davis, University of Notre Dame, will discuss "Roman Catholic African-American Politics" at 2 p.m. in the Political Science Library on the third floor of Friedmann Hall.

- **April 4:** Dr. Man Bahadur Bishwakarma, Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Brandeis University, will talk about "Micro-finance and Social Inclusion: A Bottom-up Approach in Nepal" at 3:30 p.m. in the Political Science Library on the third floor of Friedmann Hall.

**Take advantage of global engagement opportunities in April**

contact: Korey Force
March 27, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University and the Kalamazoo community will offer numerous global engagement opportunities during the month of April. Highlights include the 28th annual International Festival, Japanese language courses for teens and a wide scope of globally focused lectures.
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

WMU International Festival

The music, dance, food and fashions of nearly two dozen cultures will be showcased during WMU’s 28th annual International Festival from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, April 2, on the second floor of the Bernhard Center.

First hosted in 1989, the popular event features cultural display tables, performances and a fashion show. Admission is free, and for a nominal fee, attendees may sample traditional foods prepared by international students in campus kitchens under the supervision of WMU Dining Services employees.

April 2017 Opportunities

Saturday, April 1

- "Worshipping at Lenin's Mausoleum" book reading—1 to 2:30 p.m. at Kazoo Books, 2413 Parkview Ave., Kalamazoo. Join Dr. Judith Rypma, master faculty specialist of English, as she reads from her latest collection "Worshipping at Lenin's Mausoleum." Free and open to the public.
- "Celebrating the Legacy of César E. Chávez" fundraising and awards dinner—5 p.m. at the Fetzer Center, hosted by the Division of Multicultural Affairs and the Southwest Michigan César E. Chávez Committee. The event will celebrate the life and work of civil rights leader César E. Chávez during an annual scholarship fundraising dinner that includes the presentation of regional awards and scholarships for 2017. Tickets are $25 for students and $40 for general admission; open to the public.

Sunday, April 2

- International Festival—4 to 8 p.m. in the Bernhard Center second-floor facilities at Western Michigan University. The music, dance, food and fashions of over 18 cultures will be showcased during Western Michigan University's 28th annual International Festival. Admission is free; nominal fee for traditional foods prepared by international students. Open to the public.
Monday, April 3

- "Shifts in the Sand: U.S.-Saudi Relations" Great Decisions Global Discussion Series—6 to 7:15 p.m. at the Aquinas Performing Arts Center, 1703 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, hosted by the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan. The discussion will feature Simon Henderson, director of the Gulf and Energy Policy Program at the Washington Institute for Near East Politics. Tickets are free with a Bronco Card; $10 general admission. Open to the public.
- "The Marriage of Figaro" opera—7:30 p.m. in the Dalton Recital Hall, hosted by the School of Music. The "Marriage of Figaro" is an opera buffa (comedy) in four acts composed in 1786 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, April 4

- "The Marriage of Figaro" opera—7:30 p.m. in the Dalton Recital Hall, hosted by the School of Music. The "Marriage of Figaro" is an opera buffa (comedy) in four acts composed in 1786 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, April 5

- "On the Implications of a Piecemeal Approach to Immigration Policy and Enforcement" lecture—noon to 1:15 p.m. in 2028 Brown Hall, hosted by the Department of Economics Werner Sichel Lecture Series. The lecture will be given by Dr. Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes, professor and chair of economics at San Diego State University. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, April 6

- "Urbanization and Social Change in Early 20th-Century Xikang (in Tibet), China" talk—noon in 204 Bernhard Center, hosted by the Haenicke Institute for Global Education. The talk will be given by Yang Liu, assistant research fellow and PhD candidate at the Institute of Urban Studies at Sichuan University, China. Free and open to the public.
- Board games with CELCIS students—2 to 3 p.m. in the fourth-floor CELCIS Lobby of Ellsworth Hall, hosted by the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students. Join CELCIS students as they learn to play U.S. American card and board games, chat with friends, hang out and meet new people. Free and open to the public.
- "Again Toward Perpetual Peace: World Government by Lottocracy" lecture—6 p.m. in 213 Bernhard Center, hosted by the Center for Ethics in Society. The lecture will be given by Dr. Alexander Guerrero, professor of philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania. Free and open to the public.

Friday, April 7

- Japanese language lessons for teens—4 to 4:45 p.m. in 2045 Brown Hall, hosted by the Soga Japan Center. A series of three beginner Japanese language sessions are available to middle and high school students. Registration is $30; open to the public.
Saturday, April 8

- **Walk for Water Kalamazoo 5k**—1 p.m. by the fountains by Miller Auditorium, sponsored by the WMU Nonprofit Leadership Student Association, Kappa Phi Christian Women's Club and St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish. The walk aims to increase awareness of the worldwide lack of access to clean water and to raise funds to help Clean Water for the World in its efforts to provide water purification units to communities in developing countries without potable water. Registration starts at $10; open to the public.

Sunday, April 9

- **Los Lobos at the Kalamazoo State Theatre**—7:30 p.m. at the Kalamazoo State Theatre, 404 South Burdick St., Kalamazoo. Los Lobos are a multiple Grammy Award-winning rock band from East Los Angeles whose music is influenced by rock and roll, Tex-Mex, country, R&B, blues, and traditional music from Latin America. Tickets start at $55; open to the public.

Monday, April 10

- "**Social Turmoil in Hong Kong: Challenging Chinese Sovereignty**" lecture—4 p.m. in 1740 Sangren Hall, hosted by the Timothy Light Lecture Series on China. The lecture will be given by Dr. Helen Siu, professor of anthropology at Yale University. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, April 12

- "**Respecting Differences: Gender Inclusion**" talk—9:30 a.m. in Miller Auditorium, hosted by Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, Discover Kalamazoo, the City of Portage and the Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The talk will be given by Scott Schofield, diversity educator on transgender issues. Free and open to the public.
- "**Voices of First Generation Latino Immigrant Fathers: Migration and the Dual Frame of Reference**" lecture—noon to 1 p.m. in the Lee Honors College Lounge, hosted by the Lee Honor's College Spring 2017 Lyceum Lecture Series. The lecture will be given by Dr. Angel Gullon-Rivera, assistant professor of family consumer sciences. Free and open to the public.
- "**Respecting Differences: Gender Inclusion**" talk—1:30 p.m. in the Miller Auditorium, hosted by Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, Discover Kalamazoo, the City of Portage and the Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The talk will be given by Scott Schofield, diversity educator on transgender issues. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, April 13

- "**Cultural Competence for Health Professionals**" talk—12:30 to 1 p.m. at the WMU Beltline campus, 2333 E. Beltline Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, hosted by the WMU-Grand
Rapids Open House. The talk will be given by Dr. Dee Sherwood, faculty specialist in the School of Social Work. Free and open to the public.

- "Hungary and the New Financial Nationalism in Europe" lecture—3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Friedmann Hall third-floor library, hosted by the Department of Political Science George Klein Lecture Series. The lecture will be given by Dr. Juliet Johnson, professor of political science at McGill University. Free and open to the public.

- "Refugee Health: Concerns, Considerations and Photos from Congolese Refugee Women" talk—4 to 4:30 p.m. at the WMU Beltline campus, 2333 E. Beltline Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, hosted by the WMU-Grand Rapids Open House. The talk will be given by Dr. Shannon McMorrow, assistant professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs. Free and open to the public.

- "Monumental Politics in the Post-Communist World" lecture—7 to 9 p.m. in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium, hosted by the Department of Political Science George Klein Lecture Series. The lecture will be given by Dr. Juliet Johnson, professor of political science at McGill University. Free and open to the public.

Friday, April 14

- Japanese language lessons for teens—4 to 4:45 p.m. in 2045 Brown Hall, hosted by the Soga Japan Center. A series of three beginner Japanese language sessions are available to middle and high school students. Registration is $30; open to the public.

- International Ball—7 to 11 p.m. in the Student Center of the Bernhard Center, hosted by International Student Activities and the Western Student Association. The International Ball is a fun formal event where domestic and international students can end the semester with dinner, dancing and the comedian Danish Maqbool. Tickets start at $5; purchase tickets in 3516, 3521, or 3530 Ellsworth Hall or by emailing intl-specialprojects@wmich.edu.

Monday, April 17

- "Recycling in Early Modern Europe: Paper Manufacture in Brandenburg" lecture—noon to 1:30 p.m. in 2302 Friedmann Hall, hosted by the Department of History. The lecture will be given by Dr. Marion (Buddy) Gray, professor of history and gender and women's studies. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, April 19

- Local Global Market—10 to 2 p.m. in front of Sangren Hall, hosted by International Student Activities. Area farmers will bring fresh fruits and produce to campus for purchase. Email wayne.l.bond@wmich.edu for additional information. Free and open to the public.

- "The Great Economic Potential of Immigration to the U.S." lecture—noon to 1:15 p.m. in 2028 Brown Hall, hosted by the Department of Economics Werner Sichel Lecture Series. The lecture will be given by Dr. Giovanni Peri, professor and chair of economics at the University of California, Davis. Free and open to the public.
Some 700 to participate in 2017 César Chávez March

contact: Jeanne Baron
March 27, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Some 700 students and members of the public are expected to participate in Kalamazoo's 23rd annual César Chávez March and program Thursday, March 30, from downtown Kalamazoo to the Bernhard Center on the Western Michigan University campus.

The march will begin at 9:30 a.m. with participants gathering at Bronson Park for a brief organizing session before marching to WMU. The public portion of the event will end with the march at about 10:30 a.m. This year's after-march program is by invitation only.

The César E. Chávez March is the largest such march in southwest Michigan. The 2017 event is being organized by the Kalamazoo Central High School Bilingual Club and Kalamazoo César E. Chávez March Committee with support from the Kalamazoo Public Schools and WMU's Division of Multicultural Affairs and Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

See the world on a budget at 28th International Festival

contact: Jeanne Baron
March 23, 2017 | WMU News
KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The music, dance, food and fashions of nearly two dozen cultures will be showcased during Western Michigan University's 28th annual International Festival from **4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, April 2**, on campus on the second floor of the Bernhard Center.

First hosted in 1989, the popular event features cultural display tables, performances and a fashion show. Admission is free, and for a nominal fee, attendees may sample traditional foods prepared by international students in campus kitchens under the supervision of WMU Dining Services employees.

The International Festival annually attracts about 7,000 students and community members. Attendees are able to “travel” around the world in a single evening while gaining an appreciation for the diversity of cultures prevalent on campus.

**Festival hosts for 2017**

The University enrolls more than 1,800 international students from 100 countries and has many international student groups.

The groups hosting this year's event are:

- Association of Chinese Students and Scholars
- Association of Filipino-American Students
- Brazilian Students Association
- Bronco African Student Association
- Dominican Student Organization
- Fulbright Student Organization
- German Club
- Helping One Person Everyday
- Indian Student Association
- Indonesian Student Association
- Iraqi Student Union
- Japan Club
- Jamaican Association for Graduate and Undergraduate Students
- Korean Student Association
- Latino Student Alliance
- Malaysian Student Association
- Omani Student Association
- Pakistani Student Association
- Persian Student Association
- Russian Club
- Saudi Student Association
- Taiwanese Student Association
Vietnamese Student Association

Additional information

WMU’s International Festival is organized by the International Programs Council and Campus Activities Board and co-sponsored by the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, Graduate Student Association, University Cultural Events Committee and Western Student Association.

5K walk to raise funds for clean water initiatives

contact: Deanne Puca
March 23, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Registration is open for Walk for Water Kalamazoo 5K at Western Michigan University Saturday, April 8. The event at 1 p.m. by the fountains by Miller Auditorium aims to increase awareness of the worldwide lack of access to clean water and to raise funds to help Clean Water for the World in its efforts to provide water purification units to communities in developing countries without potable water.

Sponsored by WMU’s Nonprofit Leadership Student Association, Alpha Lambda Delta and Kappa Phi Christian Women’s Club as well as St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish, registration and donations can be made prior to the event online at firstgiving.com/cw4w/walk-for-water-kalamazoo-2017. The pre-registration fee is $10 for students and $15 for non-students. Registration fees on the day of the event are $13 for students and $18 for non-students.
Walkers are encouraged to carry water jugs to simulate the work women and children do in developing countries by carrying water from streams and ponds to their homes for use in cooking, drinking and bathing. Water jugs will be provided. A water carrying competition will take place during the walk.

The World Health Organization estimates that 4,400 children die each day from diarrheal diseases including cholera. For children under age five, water-related diseases are the leading cause of death.

Clean Water for the World, a nonprofit organization, provides families in 17 countries including India, Haiti, Kenya, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras with clean water by building and distributing water purification units to communities without access to potable water. The purification unit is designed to purify the water for a village of 300 families and with proper installation and use significantly lowers the reported intestinal illnesses.

**British author, adventurer to take WMU audience on a journey**

contact: Mark Schwerin  
March 20, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—British author and world traveler Victoria Finlay will take a local audience on an unusual journey to faraway places when she speaks later this month as part of the University Center for the Humanities spring series at Western Michigan University.

**Victoria Finlay**, the author of three popular non-fiction books, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 30, in 1910 Sangren Hall. Her presentation, titled "How to Travel Through the World's Paintbox," is free and open to the public.

Finlay

From the ultramarine mountains of Afghanistan to the sacred ocher mines of Australia, via cochineal bugs in South America, poisoned wallpaper in England, and the trail of a strange Indian watercolor supposedly made "from the urine of cows fed with mango leaves," Finlay talks about some of her adventures to discover the secret histories of paint and dyes.
Finlay's book "Color: A Natural History of the Palette" involved visiting some of the amazing places historical colors came from, including Afghanistan, to find the rocks that were once ground into massively expensive ultramarine paint. "Jewels: A Secret History" involved other adventures, including crawling, alone, down Cleopatra's almost lost emerald mines and finding a tiny, flawed, but superbly green crystal. "The Brilliant History of Color in Art," published by the Getty Museum in November 2014, was named the Huffington Post's top art book for that year.

A journalist, Finlay spent 12 years in Hong Kong during the handover, first as news reporter, then as arts editor of the South China Morning Post. For the past decade, she has worked for the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, started by Prince Philip 20 years ago to encourage religions around the world to be leaders in environmental action. She has a master's in social anthropology from St. Andrews, and more recently a master's in creative writing from Bath Spa University.

WMU's Ming Li among national diversity award honorees

contact: Cheryl Roland
March 17, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Dr. Ming Li, dean of the Western Michigan University College of Education and Human Development, is among 39 national higher education leaders honored this week by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education.

Li and his fellow recipients were honored with the magazine's 2017 Giving Back Award. The annual award program honors college and university administrators who go above and beyond their everyday leadership duties and "give back" to their campuses and communities. Li is featured, along with 38 other recipients, in the April 2017 Leadership Support and Giving Back issue of INSIGHT Into Diversity.

According to magazine staff, Giving Back Award recipients were nominated by their colleagues and selected by INSIGHT Into Diversity based on their outstanding demonstration of social responsibility; involvement with students, faculty, staff and the community; and commitment to serving underrepresented populations. Each honoree is recognized for his or her passion, dedication, and support for diversity and inclusion.
Li, who has served as education dean at WMU since 2013, was specifically honored because he has focused his career on diversifying the K-12 teacher workforce by making teacher preparation programs more accessible to underrepresented students.

Li is the only honoree this year from a Michigan public university. The only other Michigan award winner is Linda Logan, vice president and dean of students at Olivet College. Other honorees from around the nation include leaders from the universities of Boston, Cincinnati, Georgia and Louisville as well as Penn State and Southern Illinois universities.

WMU President John M. Dunn was a recipient of the 2016 Giving Back Award and was featured in the April 2016 issue of INSIGHT into Diversity magazine.

WMU to launch Collegiate Pathways program with Forest Hills Public Schools

contact: Tyler Lecceadone
March 13, 2017 | WMU News

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—On Thursday, March 2, Western Michigan University Extended University Programs entered into an agreement with Forest Hills Public Schools to launch the first-of-its-kind “Collegiate Pathways” program.

The dual enrollment program, set to launch in fall 2017 at Forest Hills Northern High School, allows students to earn the full Chinese language minor offered by WMU while still enrolled in high school. Dr. Edwin Martini, WMU associate dean for Extended University Programs, met with district officials at the WMU-Grand Rapids Beltline regional location to sign the contract and begin the rollout of logistics for next fall.

Model program

While this is the first program being offered through WMU’s new Collegiate Pathways initiative, the University is in discussions with other districts to provide dual enrollment programs for additional foreign languages and other academic programs, says Dr. Dawn Gaymer, associate provost for Extended University Programs.
“This partnership with Forest Hills provides a model we hope will be used to deliver similar programs for other districts,” says Gaymer. “We are confident Collegiate Pathways will provide students with a rich learning experience that will streamline their path to earning a college degree.”

WMU EUP in partnership with the University’s Haenicke Institute for Global Education and its Department of World Languages and Literature in the College of Arts and Sciences will deliver the program on-site at Forest Hills Northern High School.

“We are very excited about this opportunity for our students and are grateful for the time and diligence on the part of WMU’s EUP and its Department of World Languages and Literature staff to collaborate on this partnership,” said Margaret Fellinger, Forest Hills Public Schools assistant superintendent for instruction. “We have experienced an ardent and earnest team effort in terms of the planning that has been necessary to bring this opportunity to fruition.”

**Fall startup**

All classes will be taught by WMU instructors beginning this fall. To accommodate the combined schedules of the high school and university, each class will be delivered over the course of the academic year, spanning fall and spring semesters, but with an equivalent number of contact hours to the standard university course.

“Forest Hills is very proud of the high-quality immersion language programs we provide to our students,” Fellinger said. “Partnering with WMU to provide expert Mandarin language instruction and engaging courses at the high school level provides our students not only with a wonderful learning opportunity, but also valuable college credit.”

**Welcoming messages going up around campus**

Contact: Mackenzie Adams and Jeanne Baron
March 8, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—”Be proud,” ”Mi casa es su casa” and ”You belong here” are just some of the messages people have been posting on select bulletin boards around Western Michigan University's campus for their fellow Broncos to see.

The messages are part of an initiative University Libraries kicked off Feb. 27 that encourages welcoming messages going up around campus.
students, faculty and staff to leave welcoming Post-it notes for members of WMU’s diverse community.

"I think we all benefit from having a very diverse campus community," says Michele Behr, a professor of University Libraries and a librarian at WMU’s Swain Education Library. "We learn so much from each other and each other's experiences."

Behr adds that it makes sense for the University’s four libraries to be involved in a welcoming effort.

"If anyone feels threatened or unsafe or marginalized," she says, "the library is a place where they can find a comfortable and welcoming environment, staffed by helpful and accepting people."

**Behind the initiative**

The initiative arose from welcoming efforts discussed during a town hall meeting held Feb. 22 by WMU’s Haenicke Institute for Global Education. The town hall created a space for open dialogue between WMU students as well as employees and the Kalamazoo community about what can be done to make sure everyone feels safe and welcome.

Those attending the event participated in an interactive brainstorming session to discuss joining current welcome efforts and finding new ways to be welcoming in the wake of the divisive 2016 election campaign and President Donald Trump’s executive orders in January related to immigration and undocumented workers.

WMU President John M. Dunn was on hand for the town hall and commented on a statement he made to the campus community Jan. 30 about Trump’s immigration-related executive order. That statement said in part, "In the coming days, weeks and months, I am asking you to join me in taking every proactive step possible to reach all international students, particularly those from the nations outlined in the executive order, to let them know that we as a university community welcome and support them."

During the town hall, Dunn echoed that as well as other previous comments.

"If we do not agree with where we are at the top in our country, then we need to lead from the bottom," he told the assembled crowd. "We need to come together in settings like this to reaffirm who we are and what we are as a university and a community."

**The message boards**
The welcoming Post-it initiative is an ongoing activity. Welcoming message boards can be found near each entrance to WMU’s four libraries: Waldo Library, Maybee Music and Dance Library, Swain Education Library and Zhang Legacy Collections Center.

"I like the idea of seeing the support from the community and that people are taking the time out of their days to write welcoming messages for us here," says Joshua Lim, an international student from Malaysia and a sales and business marketing major.

"There is a lot going on in the U.S. with immigration, and I know a lot of my international friends are worried. So it's good to see all of the support that WMU is providing for us."

**Stanford names two WMU students as University Innovation Fellows**

**contact:** Mark Schwerin  
**March 1, 2017 | WMU News**

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Two Western Michigan University students are among 224 nationally and internationally named University Innovation Fellows, a global program run by Stanford University that empowers student leaders to increase campus engagement with innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity and design thinking.

**Jill Puckett**, a student majoring in advertising and promotion, with minors in general business and gender and women's studies, is from Marshall, while **Nathan LaWarre**, a student majoring in electrical engineering with a minor in environmental studies and sustainability, is from Saranac. They have just completed training to join the program.
Empowering students

Students chosen for the program, which is run by Stanford University's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design, represent 58 higher education institutions in seven countries. The program empowers students to become agents of change at their schools. Fellows work to ensure that their peers gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to compete in the economy of the future and make a positive impact on the world.

Fellows advocate for lasting institutional change and create opportunities for students to engage with innovation, entrepreneurship, design thinking and creativity. They design innovation spaces, start entrepreneurship organizations, host experiential learning events and work with faculty to develop new courses.

Puckett hopes to better connect students from different areas in interdisciplinary projects and research.

"I believe that to truly foster innovation and entrepreneurship on campus, we need to have students from all areas working and learning together," Puckett says. "So far, working with Nathan and other students through the Innovation Club, I have learned so much from students outside my major. Because of this experience, I think differently, with more creativity, because I see things from a different perspective."
LaWarre also credits the Innovation Club and other opportunities for entrepreneurship on the WMU campus, including Starting Gate, student project labs at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, WMU's entrepreneurship minor and student research grants.

"I am looking forward to the road ahead of me," LaWarre says. "Learning doesn't stop at the ending of our UIF training. Hopefully, we will be able to make an impact on WMU's campus and fuel the entrepreneurial spirit."

LaWarre

LaWarre, an active member of the Sunseeker solar race car team at WMU, works as a tutor at Kalamazoo high schools and as an intern with an architectural engineering firm. He hopes to one day work in the renewable energy field, researching and creating more efficient sources of energy.

Puckett

Puckett works as an office assistant in WMU's Office of the Vice President for Research. Starting this summer, she will take on the marketing capabilities and strategies intern position at Amway in Grand Rapids. After graduating in spring 2018, she plans to move on to grad school and earn a master's degree in market research before starting her career.

University Innovation Fellows program

With the addition of this year's fellows, the University Innovation Fellows program has trained 1,000 students at 185 schools since its creation. Fellows are sponsored by faculty and administrators as individuals or teams of students and selected through an application process twice annually. Following acceptance into the program, schools fund the students to go through six weeks of online training and travel to the annual University Innovation Fellows Silicon Valley Meetup. Throughout the year, they take part in events and conferences and have opportunities to learn from each other, Stanford mentors, and leaders in academia and industry.

"During their training, fellows learn how to analyze their campus innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems and understand the needs of stakeholders with the goal of uncovering opportunities to enrich the education opportunities for peers," says Leticia Britos Cavagnararo, program co-director.