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Students and alumni garner honors and awards



Ariel Tate-Gordon receives first memorial scholarship award

Scholarship honors Alexandra Burgett who was awarded a degree posthumously in December 2012 and was eulogized by Dr. Dori Ravotas. The Burgett family initiated the scholarship in December 2013 to honor and continue their loved one's legacy and to assist an interdisciplinary health services undergraduate student in need of support to continue in the program.



SLP alumna receives association's highest honor

Dr. Maureen Staskowski '87 (B.S.); '88 (M.A.), recently received the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association Honors of the Association, the highest award the association can bestow. Currently the consultant for speech, language and literacy at Macomb Intermediate School District, Staskowski is known to be one of the truly influential speech-language pathology professionals in the state.



PA student honored to advocate

Physician assistant student Bryn Cartmill was one of only two physician assistant students from Michigan selected by the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants to attend the Academy of Physician Assistants Leadership and Advocacy Summit in Washington D.C., March 5-7, 2015 where she learned valuable leadership skills and how to advocate for the PA program.



SLP grad student awarded foundation grant

This past March at the annual meeting of the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Lansing, graduate student Tess Donner was awarded one of the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation scholarships, distinguishing her as one of "Michigan's brightest and best graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology programs."



SLP grad student receives state association award

Speech pathology and audiology graduate student Arica Altobello was selected as a 2015 Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association Scholarship recipient and accepted the award at a luncheon in Lansing this past March. Born and raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Ms. Altobello is the first in her family to graduate from college and to attend graduate school.



Social work names master's alumna Field Instructor of the Year

Social work alumna Kim Rychener '94 was selected to receive the inaugural School of Social Work M.S.W. Field Instructor of the Year Award. She was honored with the award at the School of Social Work Hooding and Pinning Ceremony on Thursday, April 30, and her name will be engraved on a plaque to be displayed in the School of Social Work.



New social work grad Courtney Dunsmore honored for making a difference

As the Graduate Student Make a Difference Award recipient, Dunsmore was the student selected to represent the College of Health and Human Services for her commitment and outstanding service to making a difference at WMU and in the community.

College researchers bring in more than \$1 million



Several College of Health and Human Services faculty researchers were among those recognized during the first WMU Excellence in Discovery luncheon held Feb. 10 and hosted by WMU President John M. Dunn and Provost Timothy J. Greene. During the event, Dr. Daniel M. Litynski, vice president for research, praised WMU faculty members as a whole, and singled out 35 principal investigators for their outstanding work and for bringing in over \$1 million each cumulatively in external funding awards over the past five years.

Faculty noted for honors and advocacy



Social work Professor Linda Reeser wins lifetime award from state association

Dr. Linda Reeser was presented the award during the National Association of Social Workers-Michigan annual conference. The award is the most prestigious award given annually by the organization to the social workers who have spent a career advocating for the profession and their clients.



Social work faculty specialist II and coordinator of field education wins Teaching Excellence Award

Jennifer Harrison receive the 2014-15 College of Health and Human Services Teaching Excellence Award based on her teaching skills in classroom teaching; creative and innovative work as regards teaching, fieldwork or supervision; and teaching that involves interdisciplinary or collaborative activity.



Mickus advocates for Alzheimers

Occupational therapy associate professor Dr. Maureen Mickus is a board member with the Alzheimers Association of Michigan and serves as an Alzheimers Ambassador. Mickus attended the annual Alzheimer's Advocacy Forum in Washington D.C., joining over 1,000 other advocates from every state in the union with the common purpose of ending Alzheimers.



Social work professor honored with education award

Dr. Barbara Barton, associate professor of social work, received the prestigious 2015 Education/Public Awareness Award from the The Brain Injury Association of Michigan. "Through her work as a social worker and educator, Barb has brought brain injury awareness to the general public with her unique perspective," said BIAMI President Michael Dabbs, in presenting the award.

CHHS on the grow with new and expanded programs

Hybrid Bachelor of Social Work degree completion available in Benton Harbor

Scheduled to launch in the fall of 2015, the new Bachelor of Social Work degree-completion program at Western's regional location in Benton Harbor is designed to meet the need for highly trained social workers in southwest Michigan. Community college graduates and students with an associate degree or equivalent credit hours can complete the final two years of the BSW degree at WMU-Southwest.

Master's in public health great for working professionals

Starting in fall 2016, the College of Health and Human Services will offer a Master of Public Health, a generalist degree that will prepare students in the five core areas of public health in order to develop them as public health leaders who will serve a critical role in shaping the future of public health.