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College of **Health and Human Services**

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



Six CHHS grad programs ranked in top 100 in country



The latest annual U.S. News & World Report ranking of the top graduate programs in the nation shows WMU with seven programs ranked among the top 100 in their disciplines, four in the top 50 and two programs assessed as the best of their kind in Michigan. **Six of those top 100 programs are housed right here in the College of Health and Human Services.**

In the latest round of rankings released March 16, WMU's **occupational therapy** program based in Kalamazoo was ranked at No. 32 nationally, making it the state's highest ranking program in that discipline. The University's **speech language pathology** program, at No. 46 nationally, is tied for recognition as that discipline's best such program in Michigan.

Department of Physical Therapy founding chair finalist presentations

A search committee has selected two finalists from a pool of highly qualified applicants. The public is invited to presentations from the two finalists, April 19 and 22. A short reception with a chance to meet the candidates will follow both presentations.



HDReAM building a reuseable resource and health mapping system

The Health Data Research, Analysis and Mapping (HDReAM) Center at WMU, along with Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties is working to develop a template for an interactive resource and health mapping website to aid in the dissemination of health and education-related information and improve health outcomes across Michigan.



Fence Row Artist Collective exhibit on display

Paintings from the Fence Row Artist Collective are currently on display in the second floor art gallery at the College of Health and Human Services. The collective, led by Conrad Kaufman, is a group of artists of all levels who have been creating art off and on for years at Kaufman's studio in Comstock.



WMU faculty panel discusses Zika virus

A group of WMU faculty experts met on Wednesday, Feb. 17 to discuss the Zika virus. This program was hosted by WMU's Haenicke Institute for Global Education and is part of an occasional lecture series which has also met to discuss other topical matters, such as the Syrian refugee movement and ISIS.

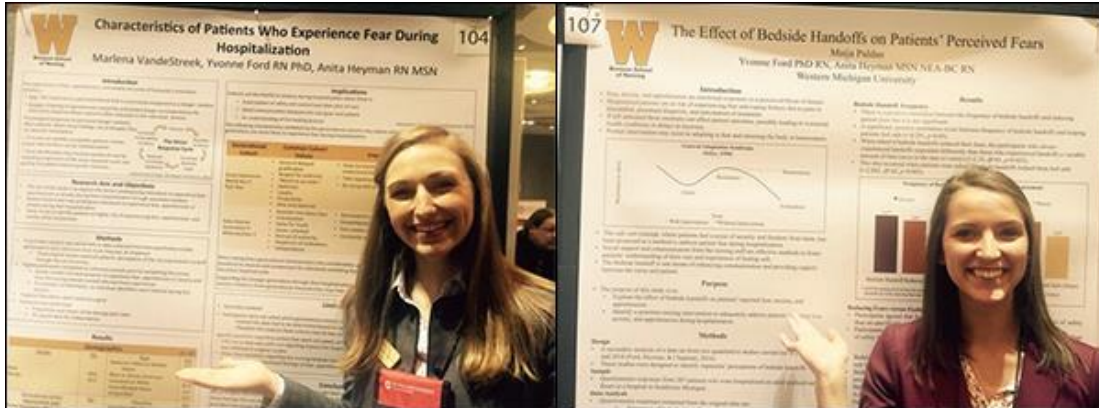


Occupational therapy faculty member brings sabbatical research to CDS, Unified Clinics

Berit G. Miller, master faculty specialist-professional specialist of occupational therapy, was granted sabbatical during the fall 2015 academic semester to engage in research regarding the Beckman Oral Motor Intervention techniques.



CHHS in social media



At the Midwest Nursing Research Society conference.
[Bronson School of Nursing](#) - via [Twitter](#) - March 19, 2016

In other news

Here are some other WMU news articles you might be interested in:

- [Dunn honored with national 'Giving Back' diversity award](#)
- [WMU Food Marketing Conference to draw over 700 industry leaders](#)
- [Community book read, public discussion takes aim at climate change](#)

New Facebook page

The College of Health and Human Services has a Facebook page. Please take a moment to "like" our page to stay in the loop.



More information

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[Update Alumni information](#)
[Giving to CHHS](#)

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Six CHHS grad programs ranked in top 100 in country



The latest U.S. News & World Report ranking of the top graduate programs in the nation shows Western Michigan University with [seven programs ranked among the top 100](#) in their disciplines, with four in the top 50 and two programs assessed as the best of their kind in Michigan.

Six of the programs appearing in the top 100 are housed in the College of Health and Human Services.

In the rankings released March 16, WMU's [occupational therapy](#) program based in Kalamazoo was ranked at No. 32 nationally, making it the state's highest ranking program in that discipline. The University's [speech language pathology](#) program, at No. 46 nationally, is tied for recognition as that discipline's best such program in Michigan.

Other CHHS graduate programs in the top 100 are [audiology](#) (48), [physician assistant](#) (57) and [social work](#) (71). The seventh WMU program appearing in the top 100, [rehabilitation counseling](#) (37), is a program offered by the College of Education and Human Development in cooperation with the College of Health and Human Services.

"The rankings of these programs show that WMU is a leader in these fields, both in Michigan and across the country," said **Dr. Earlie M. Washington**, dean of the college. "I'm pleased about the accomplishments of our faculty and the successes of our graduate students which consistently bring recognition to our graduate programs."

"I know that all the faculty and staff in our department are doing excellent teaching and research as well as meeting a critical need for therapeutic services through our many teaching clinics," said **Dr. Ben Atchison**, chair of the occupational therapy department. "I'm incredibly proud of the work we're doing and it's nice to see this sort of recognition." The OT program in Grand Rapids shares a curriculum and is taught by the same faculty, but it is viewed separately by the magazine. It's also in the top 100 at no. 58.

Dr. Linda Shuster, interim chair of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, said, "I am gratified to see that, once again, the high quality of our programs is being recognized at a national level."

Another eight WMU graduate programs also were highly ranked among graduate programs at the nation's more than 650 colleges and universities that confer master's and doctoral degrees. The additional ranked WMU programs are in: earth sciences/geosciences (113), public affairs (115), English (125), history (125), education (126), Art (131), clinical psychology (135) and psychology (141).

Founding Chair, Physical Therapy and Director, DPT Search

Western Michigan University seeks to fill the position of founding chair, Department of Physical Therapy. The chair of the department will also be the director of the new Doctor of Physical Therapy program, which will accept its first cohort in 2018. A search committee has selected two finalists from a pool of highly qualified applicants.

Public presentations

The public is invited to presentations from the two finalists. There will be a short reception following both presentations.

- **Dr. John Nyland** - [view CV](#)
Tuesday, April 19 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
4010 CHHS Building
- **Dr. Stacie Fruth** - [view CV](#)
Friday, April 22 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
4010 CHHS Building

They will address these points in their presentations:

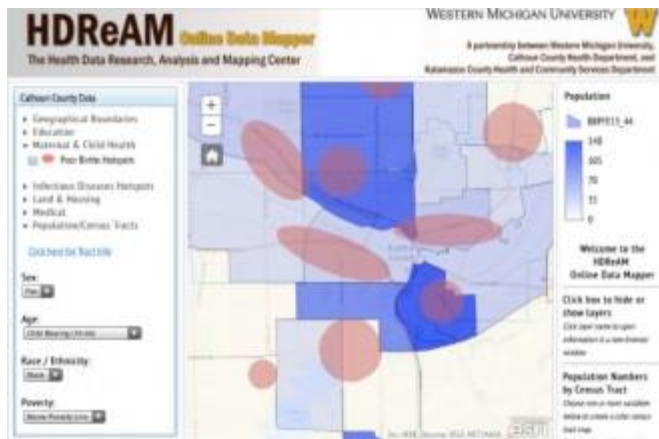
- Our three pillars - learner centered, discovery driven, globally engaged
- Leading a DPT program for the future
- Interprofessional education

About the department

The Department of Physical Therapy and the Doctor of Physical Therapy program were established and approved in 2015, after the completion of a comprehensive feasibility study and planning document. The curriculum has received initial approval, and on-going budget funding has been identified. The founding chair will have significant impact on the facility development, composition of faculty and staff, initial accreditation, and further development of the curriculum and overall department and DPT program.

HDRReAM building a reusable resource and health mapping system

The [Health Data Research, Analysis and Mapping \(HDRReAM\) Center](#) at WMU, along with the Calhoun County Health Department and Kalamazoo County Health and Human Services Department is working on a project to develop a reusable template for an interactive resource and health mapping website used to aid in the dissemination of health and education-related, neighborhood-level information and improve health outcomes across Michigan.



Screen shot from the HDRReAM mapping website

The project, funded by a grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, is enabling HDRReAM [to finalize their website](#) that helps health workers and educators from Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties to efficiently analyze and share health and community resource information in order to target and evaluate health interventions and improve health outcomes.

While the website is currently focused around Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties, the goal of the project is to offer a fully translatable and scalable web project to serve communities throughout Michigan and beyond, according to **Dr. Amy Curtis**, director of HDRReAM and professor in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program.

"Once we've built a fully actualized website and related protocols," said Curtis, "we'll meet with stakeholders and develop template for replicating this project at other locations, as well as outlining how to build the community-university collaboration necessary for this to be successful."

These publicly-available websites will be used for sharing and analyzing available data from a variety of sources that can inform community-based efforts to target populations for interventions and help evaluate programming and better inform communities of health needs and resources.

"This kind of mapping and analysis is what the HDRReAM Center is all about," said Curtis. "But it was very exciting to receive funding from BCBS to help take this incredibly beneficial functionality beyond the reach of western Michigan."

This project uses a collaborative approach involving health departments; medical, social and educational community service providers; and university faculty and students, all informed by an advisory board to

create a website that allows users to layer different health, economic, educational, risk factor, and service provision data on the same map to inform intervention, programming and evaluation of current efforts.

Fence Row Artist Collective exhibit on display



Morning Light on a Snowy Tree - Conrad Kaufman

Paintings from the [Fence Row Artist Collective](#) are currently on display in the second floor art gallery at the College of Health and Human Services. The collective, led by Conrad Kaufman, is a group of artists of all levels who have been creating art off and on for years at Kaufman's studio in Comstock.

Artists from the collective whose work comprises the exhibit include:

- Anne Anderson
- Sharon Colella-Strazdas
- Susan Holman
- Conrad Kaufman
- Eric Klein
- Susan McBain
- Gay Walker
- Brian Walters



(excerpt from) Two - Susan McBain

An **artist reception** will take place from 4 to 6 p.m., Thursday, March 31. This is an opportunity to view the artwork and meet the artists. Light refreshments will be served. The event, and parking in lot 104, are free to the public.

The exhibit will remain on display in the second floor art gallery of the College of Health and Human Services through May 2016. The exhibit is open during normal building hours - Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

For more information, contact Gay Walker [by email](#) or at (269) 387- 3839.

About Conrad Kaufman

Kaufman's work is already prominently displayed throughout the CHHS building. He is responsible for the mural in the Wellness Lab, the sunset triptych on the first floor (exhibited at Art Prize in 2012) and a large sky painting in the dean's conference room. His work is also on display in several other buildings on campus and he has murals on and in buildings all over Kalamazoo.

WMU faculty panel discusses Zika virus



Dr. Kieran Fogarty presents as part of the panel discussion

A group of WMU faculty experts met on Wednesday, Feb. 17 to discuss the Zika virus. This program was hosted by the WMU's [Haenicke Institute for Global Education](#) and is part of an occasional lecture series which has also met to discuss other topical matters, such as the Syrian refugee movement and ISIS.

This panel, entitled "Zika Virus: A Discussion on the Current Outbreak," discussed the biological origins and global and national implications of the present outbreak. Members of the panel were **Dr. Kieran Fogarty**, professor of interdisciplinary health sciences; **Dr. Karim Essani**, professor of biological sciences; and **Dr. Stephen Cameron**, instructor of geography.

The virus, which was named for the Zika forest in Uganda, where it was first discovered, is transmitted primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito. The illness is usually mild, with about only one out of five people developing symptoms, which rarely require any form of hospitalization or intensive treatment. However, the recent link between serious birth defects in babies of mothers infected with the Zika virus has become a cause of concern.

As of Feb 10, in the United States, there have been no reports of locally acquired cases of the Zika virus and only 52 travel-reported cases. According to Dr. Kieran Fogarty, of the College of Health and Human Services, the Zika virus "demonstrates the risks posed by this and other exotic viruses in the United States."

Experts expect to see limited local transmission in some of the US southern states in the spring and summer months, with potential implications for pregnant women and infants. As of now, there is no vaccine available for the Zika virus.

Occupational therapy faculty member brings sabbatical research to CDS, Unified Clinics



Miller demonstrates lesson.

Berit G. Miller, master faculty specialist-professional specialist of [occupational therapy](#), was granted sabbatical during the fall 2015 academic semester to engage in research regarding the Beckman Oral Motor Intervention techniques.

Since returning this semester, Miller has brought these techniques into her classroom and to the Adults Doing Life Skills teaching clinic at the [Center for Disability Services](#) at WMU. Students observe and utilize lessons demonstrated by Miller with consumers at CDS who have difficulty with oral secretions and feeding issues.

The Beckman oral motor interventions focus on individuals gaining strength and range of motion in the oral structures of the lips, cheeks, tongue, and jaw in order to gain ability to chew, manipulate food in the mouth and formulate a swallow. It is particularly helpful for individuals who cannot follow directions, including infants, and individuals with developmental disabilities.

Eight students in occupational therapy are assigned to CDS each semester at the Adults Doing Life Skills clinic. Each student is assigned consumers to work with during the semester. Student clinicians focus on areas such as range of motion; functional skills such as grooming, feeding, leisure activities, cognitive activities, socialization, vocational activities; functional balance in standing and sitting; and strength and endurance. It is important for the students to learn about the Beckman oral motor skills in order to apply them with clients they may have in the future.