

# THE PILLAR



A newsletter of the College of Education and Human Development



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Fall 2013  
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## A message from the Dean:

Dear CoEHD Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni and Friends,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation of all of you for welcoming and embracing me into the CoEHD community. It has been just about a month since I started my new position at Western Michigan University. Over the past few weeks, I had the opportunity to meet with you on a variety of occasions, such as the CommUniverCity tailgate, Scholarship Reception, department faculty meetings and gatherings, etc. The interactions with you reinforced my belief that the CoEHD community is the right place for me to work. I feel honored and fortunate to have such a privilege to work with you, the talented, enthusiastic and highly motivated members of the COEHD community.

Recently, I discovered that we used to have a motto or brand slogan for the college, that is, "Continuing a Tradition of Success". Let me share with you my initial take on this axiom. I really like this motto as it fits well with the brand promise of our university (our students are successful in life and in work because of our quality programs and commitment of its people. Alumni are our best evidence), and clearly captures the brand spirit of our college. It not only reminds us of our root and celebrated history, but also highlights our long lasting commitment to excellence, and our enduring desire to achieve success. During my conversations with you, I have consistently felt such spirit among you. I strongly believe that by working together, we will continue our tradition of success and be able to regain our prominence. It takes a village to achieve success.

To continue our tradition of success, we must identify a number of strategic priorities for the college and accordingly set goals to achieve them. Currently, the Strategic Planning Committee is busy in wrapping up the tasks in Phase 2 of the strategic planning process (i.e., securing input from key stakeholders and constituents groups). It is my hope that we will have a strategic plan finalized soon so that we can use the developed strategic goals as guidance principles in making future budgetary and programmatic decisions.

Thank you again for welcoming and embracing me. I look forward to working with you to better our college.

- Dr. Ming Li  
Dean



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct  
18 TOWN HALL MEETING  
9:00 am  
Sangren Hall Room 2730

Oct  
23 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS  
6:00 pm  
Fetzer Center

Oct  
24 TEACHING CIRCLE  
12:30 pm  
Sangren Hall Room TBA

Oct  
30 DEAN'S OPEN HOUSE  
4:30 pm  
Second Floor Lobby



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# ncate accreditation

In April, the College of Education and Human Development received notice of continuing accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The accreditation decision follows a November 2012 visit from the NCATE Board of Examiners who met with faculty, staff, students and our PreK-12 partners to gather information about WMU programs. Prior to visiting campus, the team examined an Institutional Report and extensive online evidence addressing program quality. The college's Field Placement program was cited as a strength, as were the close partnerships developed between WMU programs and area schools. The Professional Education Unit at WMU (including all programs preparing teachers, administrators, and school counselors) is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), [www.ncate.org](http://www.ncate.org). This accreditation covers initial teacher preparation programs and advanced educator preparation programs at the main campus and EUP sites.

- Dr. Katharine Cummings  
*Associate Dean*

## STRATEGIC PLAN

Since June 2013, the College of Education and Human Development has been engaged in a collaborative strategic planning process. Over the summer, consultants gathered data to determine the future direction of CoEHD from faculty, staff, students, administrators and community partners through focus groups and an online survey. In October, the strategic planning committee will review the report from the consultants that summarizes the main points in the data and create a first draft of the strategic plan. The draft will go out to stakeholders for feedback. The final draft of the strategic plan will be completed by January 2014.

- Dr. Regena Fails Nelson  
*Chair, TLES*



Teaching Circle  
led by Dr. Suzan Ayers &  
Dr. Gayle Thompson

What?

A monthly opportunity to engage in teaching-centric conversations with fellow teachers throughout the college and university

When?

Thursday, October 24  
12:30-1:30  
(Room TBA)

Topic: Group Work &  
Accountability



## College of Education and Human Development hosts the 2013 Scholarship Reception

On September 20th, 2013 the College of Education and Human Development along with President Dr. John Dunn, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Timothy Greene, celebrated two hundred and twelve students who were carefully selected to receive scholarships for the Fall and Spring semesters from our many generous donors.

Awards were presented to students who hold majors throughout the college's six departments, both graduate and undergraduate, by the College of Education and Human Development's Associate Dean, Dr. Katharine Cummings as well as the college's Dean, Dr. Ming Li.

Fellow students, family members and donors watched as the students were honored and given their certificates. Photographs from the event can be found to the right.



## Two College of Education and Human Development faculty members are awarded high honors at this year's Academic Convocation



Dr. Chris Coryn and Dr. Sarah Summy showcase their awards.



Dr. Sarah Summy's students show their support.

## Tate Center Seminar Series (2013-14)

The Tate Center is pleased to announce the Tate Center 2013-14 Seminar Series to promote research, innovation and grant writing in the College of Education and Human Development. Please see the four seminars below. We look forward to seeing you at the seminars. Please feel free to share with others, including graduate students.

Time & Place: 12:00 to 1:30pm, October 21, 2013 in Room 3120, Sangren Hall  
Topic: Support for Research and Grant Writing at Western Michigan University  
By: Dr. John Risley (OVPR) & Dr. Jianping Shen (ELRT)

Time & Place: 12:00 to 1:30pm, November 19, 2013 in Room 3120, Sangren Hall  
Topic: Publishing Articles: What We Can Learn from an Editor's Experience  
By: Dr. Yuanlong Liu (HPHE)

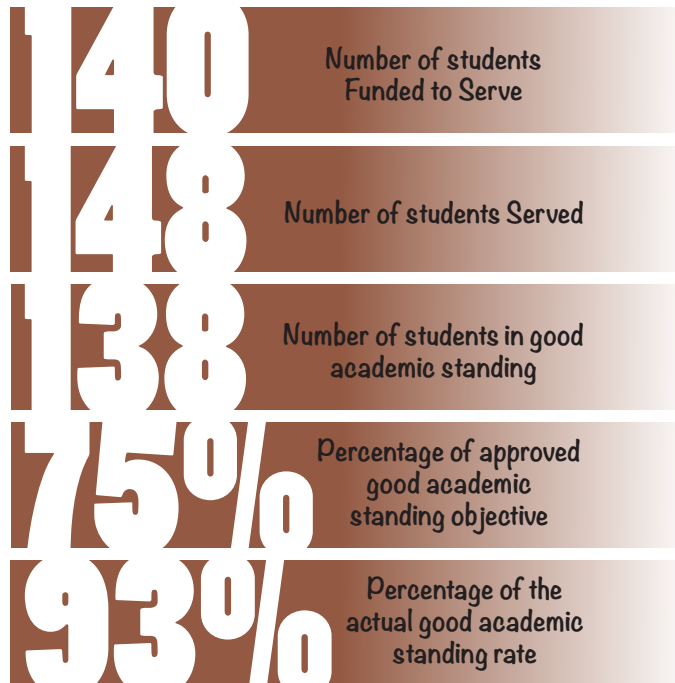
Time & Place: 12:00 to 1:30pm, February 4, 2014 in Room (to be announced), Sangren Hall  
Topic: Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis  
By: Dr. Jeffrey Jones (TLES)

Time & Place: 12:00 to 1:30pm, March 10, 2014 in Room (TBA), Sangren Hall  
Topic: Structural Equation Modeling: A Conceptual Introduction  
By: Dr. Brooks Applegate (ELRT)

**Dr. Chris Coryn**, associate professor of Evaluation, Measurement, and Research in the Educational Leadership, Research and Technology Department received the WMU Emerging Faculty Scholar Award.

**Dr. Sarah Summy**, associate professor of special education and literacy, was recognized as a recipient of the WMU Distinguished Teaching Award.

The awards were given at the 2013 Annual Academic Convocation, and presented by Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Timothy Greene, as well as President Dr. John Dunn. These awards are the highest honor a faculty member can receive at WMU. Congratulations!



# TRiO

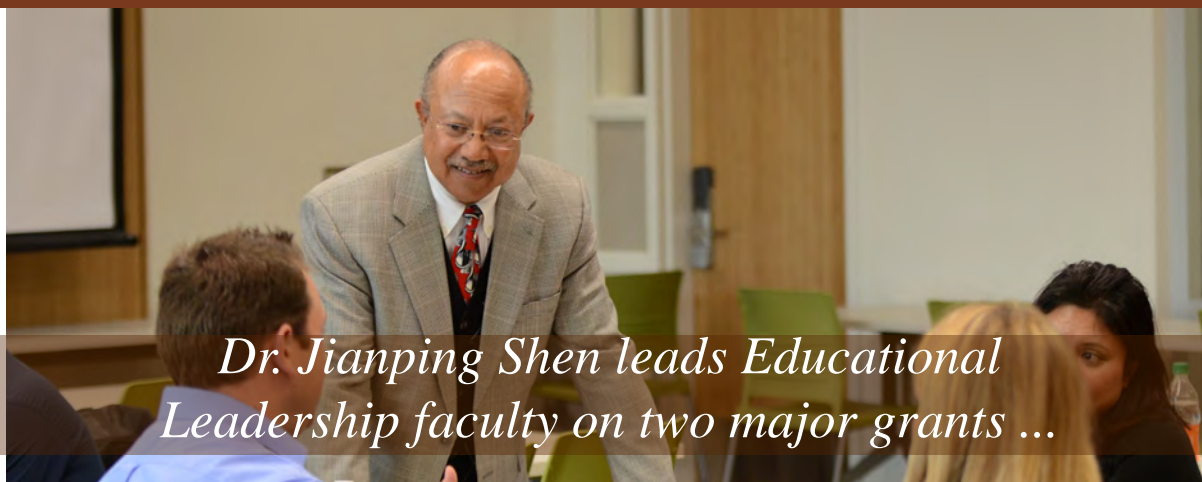
Future Educator Success Program



- ★ TRiO staff and students have recently taken part in workshops that allow them to build upon their leadership abilities. Among these workshops, a handful of the TRiO staff and students were able to travel to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. and meet Senator Debbie Stabenow (pictured above). While on Capitol Hill, the students were able to participate in a variety of activities helping them to grow and learn. With that, TRiO also was able to travel to the MI-CAPP Adult Student Leadership Conference in Kalamazo where members of TRiO presented.
- ★ Also in TRiO news, members participated in a yearly teambuilding and leadership activity at YMCA's Camp Eberhart, and participated with social justice leaders and participants of the Institute for New Leadership.
- ★ TRiO FESP has extended computer lab evening hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays along with Advising and Main Office evening hours on Tuesdays.







*Dr. Jianping Shen leads Educational Leadership faculty on two major grants ...*

## Current Grant

Dr. Jianping Shen, Dr. Walter Burt, and the educational leadership faculty team have been working on a \$3.5 million federal school leadership grant with 100 practicing and aspiring principals in more than a dozen high-need school districts in Michigan. The project, entitled Learning-Centered Leadership Development Program, is research-based, job-embedded and results-oriented. The project focuses on training practicing and aspiring principals on seven dimensions of school leadership empirically associated with student achievement. Participants then engage in renewal activities to improve their schools. Preliminary data indicate that the project has made a significant positive impact on principals' leadership. The grant, awarded by the US Department of Education School Leadership Grant Program, is from 2010 to 2015.

## New Grant

On September 27, 2013, the US Department of Education announced a new, nearly \$5 million grant to Western Michigan University's educational leadership team to continue to improve the line of work with school principals, with even a sharper focus on student achievement. The new project will be led by Dr. Jianping Shen, Dr. Nancy Mansberger, and Dr. Walter Burt, joined by other faculty members and consultants. The project, supported by the US Department of Education School Leadership Grant Program, will be from 2013 to 2018.

- Dr. Jianping Shen  
*ELRT*



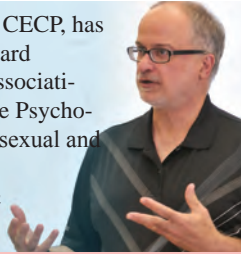
**Dr. Jianping Shen**



**Dr. Walter Burt & Dr. Nancy Mansberger**

## Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology

**Dr. James Croteau**, professor of CECP, has been appointed to the editorial board of the American Psychological Association Division 44, the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, new journal *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*.



**Dr. Jennifer Foster**, Assistant Professor of CECP, has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the journal *Counseling and Values*. This is the official journal of the Association of Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC).

**Dr. Patrick Munley**, Professor and Chair of CECP, has been elected Chairperson of the Michigan Board of Counseling.



**Dr. Eric Sauer** recently traveled to Brisbane, Australia to present his research paper titled, *A dyadic examination of client and therapist attachment, working alliance, session evaluation and response to psychotherapy: A university counseling center study*.



**Dr. Lonnie Duncan** has been appointed to the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education and will serve on the board through 2014.



## Educational Leadership, Research & Technology

**Dr. Louann Bierlein Palmer** has once again been selected by the U.S. Department of Education to serve as a peer reviewer for the second round of the "District Race To The Top" competition. She had also previously served in this role for both rounds of the "State Race To The Top" competition.



**Dr. Jessaca Spybrook** is a leading national expert on the design of group randomized trials in education. She provides workshops across the country in how to design adequately powered group randomized trials using the Optimal Design Software, a program she co-developed with collaborators from the University of Chicago.



Professor **Dr. Gary Miron** has been recognized as one of the nation's most influential education scholars, based on the scope, quality, and relevance of his body of scholarship. Dr. Miron has extensive experience evaluating school reforms and education policies in the United States and abroad.



**Dr. Robert Leneway** became the first Michigan postsecondary educator to be invited to become an Adobe Educational Leader. Today, he continues to be the only Michigan postsecondary educator to be designated as an Adobe Educational Leader, one of 140 of the top educational technology educators in the world.



**Dr. Ramona Lewis** was awarded an internally funded grant for \$1,875 for her research on Experiences of African American older adult learners.



## Family & Consumer Sciences

New Assistant Professor **Sherria Taylor** co-wrote an article, "The roles of social support and family resilience in accessing health care and employment resources among families living in traditional public housing communities" that has been published in scholarly journal: *Child & Family Social Work*.



Family Studies faculty members **Dr. Karen Blaisure** (left), **Dr. Angel Gullon-Rivera** (right), and **Sherria Taylor** are presenting at the annual conference of the National Council on Family Relations in San Antonio in November.



Assistant Professor **Dr. Adam Manley** was appointed to a National Committee to review national Career and Technical Education standards and was also a recipient of a Michigan Department of Education grant for CTE teacher development.



Faculty member **Nicole Eckerson** created a garment that has been accepted for the International Textile and Apparel Association conference in New Orleans.



**Kelly Weathers** and **Dr. Barb Frazier** are also presenting at the event.



Family and Consumer Sciences Enrollment for Fall 2013 is up 5% from what it was in 2012!



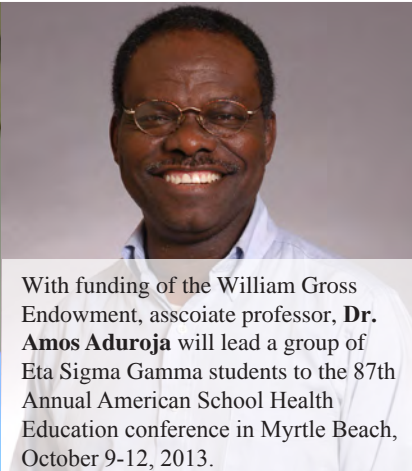
# Throughout the Departments

## Human Performance & Health Education

Professor **Dr. Robert Bensley** traveled to London in September to present data from his eHealth Behavior Management Model at the Medicine 2.0 conference. The conference is a mix of traditional academic research, practice and business presentations, keynote presentations, and panel discussions to discuss emerging technologies in health and medicine, with an emphasis on Internet-based, social media, and mobile technologies.



With funding of the William Gross Endowment, associate professor, **Dr. Amos Aduroja** will lead a group of Eta Sigma Gamma students to the 87th Annual American School Health Education conference in Myrtle Beach, October 9-12, 2013.



New faculty specialist, **Justin De Sousa**, in exercise science for the 2013-14 academic year has been hired. Justin is currently seeking a Doctorate of Philosophy in Biology here at WMU.

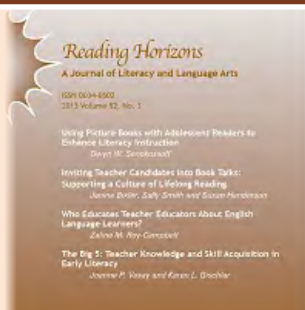


**Julie Ford**, office coordinator in HPHE, is an accomplished freelance writer and has three articles and an essay published in the Fall 2013 edition of Michigan HOME and Lifestyle magazine.

## Special Education & Literacy Studies

### Reading Horizons

Look out for the international literacy journal edited and published through the Dorothy J. McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic. Current editor, **Dr. Karen Thomas**. The Literacy Studies faculty within the SPLS department will take over the editorial duties as of January 2014.

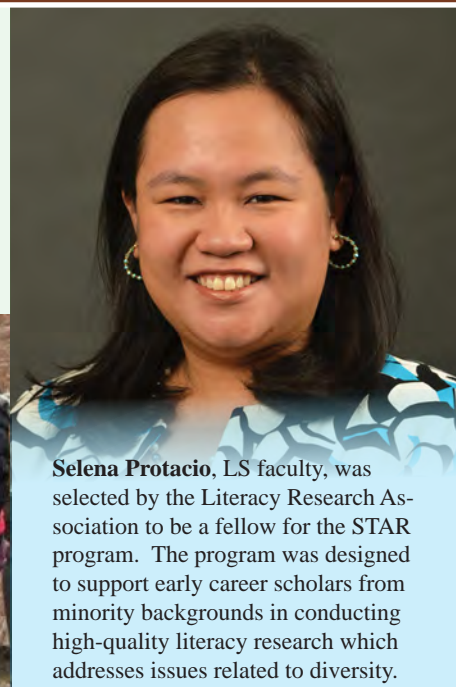


Almost 90% of all Special Education graduates from its Bachelor's degree program over the last 3 years have been hired as teachers!



This semester 42 students are being tutored through literacy instruction sessions given by LS students along with state certified Reading Specialists.

The Special Education department offers the only education program offering special education internship abroad in collaboration with the Department of Defense Schools. This year we have 15 students completing their internship in England and Germany. The students are housed on the military base and teach in the military schools.



**Selena Protacio**, LS faculty, was selected by the Literacy Research Association to be a fellow for the STAR program. The program was designed to support early career scholars from minority backgrounds in conducting high-quality literacy research which addresses issues related to diversity.

## Teaching, Learning & Educational Studies

Assistant professors **Dr. Jeffrey Jones** (right) and **Dr. Dini Metro-Roland** (left), were awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities: Enduring Questions Grant. This grant allows them to develop and teach a course titled, "What is Human Flourishing?" This course will introduce students to the philosophical conceptions, literary visions and grounded conditions of human flourishing, its changing nature across many periods of Western history, and its manifold expressions in contemporary life.



"The Living Room," a one hour Michigan Radio show, created and hosted by associate professor **Allison Downey**, recently won the Excellence in Broadcasting Award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters for the Special Interest and Cultural Programming category.

TLES launched a successful MTTC test support program, coordinated by **Tracy DeMars**, that provided course-embedded testing strategies in 3000 level education courses, pizza study sessions and financial support to cover fees for taking the practice test online to over **100 education majors**.



Program Director, **Dr. Marcia Feters**, will lead an impressive 2013 cohort for the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellows program. Members include peace corp veterans, a doctor of economics and an ornithologist.





COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The College of Education and Human Development Newsletter is published for alumni, emeriti and friends of the College of Education and Human Development at Western Michigan University. If you would like more information about the programs in the CoEHD, have questions or suggestions, or if you have a submission for the newsletter, please contact:

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Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5229  
Telephone: (269) 387-2971

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