



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

College of Arts and Sciences news

College of Arts and Sciences

5-2013

College of Arts and Sciences E-News Issue 1: May 2013

College of Arts and Sciences

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cas_news



Part of the Education Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation

College of Arts and Sciences, "College of Arts and Sciences E-News Issue 1: May 2013" (2013). *College of Arts and Sciences news*. 15.

https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cas_news/15

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Arts and Sciences at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in College of Arts and Sciences news by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



College of Arts and Sciences

W

E-News Issue 1: May 2013



Nonprofit Leadership class gives nearly \$15,000 to four local nonprofit organizations.

CAS News

2013 Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards
Strategic planning at the College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Features

Two College of Arts and Sciences professors named top 25 women professors in Michigan
One of the year's most notable translations completed by WMU's Jeffrey Angles

Alumni Profiles

Lloyd Dean '72 '78, a leader in dignity
James Olson '85 uses scorpion venom to fight cancer

Student Stories

School of Public Affairs and Administration class gives \$14,000 to local nonprofit organizations
Journalism 3100 meets the real world

Stay in touch!



Update your
information



2013 Faculty and Staff Achievement Award Winners

The College of Arts and Sciences is delighted to announce this year's winners of the 2013 Faculty and Staff Achievement Awards. All honorees are extremely deserving for their dedication, innovation and wonderful ways that they serve WMU.



Staff Excellence Awards

Laura Decker, Department of English
Lauretta Eisenbach, Department of Anthropology
Andrew Phelps, Information Technology
Sue Simons, Department of Mathematics
Yumi Takahashi-Ede, CAS Advising Office
Kathy Wright, Department of Geosciences

Drs. Gene Freudenburg and Alex Enyedi awarding Sue Simons

Faculty Achievement Awards

Diversity and Inclusion Recognition Award

Dr. Mariam Konaté, Gender and Women's Studies

Dr. Timothy Ready, Department of Sociology and Director of Lewis Walker Institute

Gender Scholar Award

Dr. Ann Miles, Department of Sociology

Global Engagement

Dr. Sisay Asefa, Department of Economics

Dr. Nora Berrah, Department of Physics

Dr. Mercedes Tasende, Department of Spanish



Professional and Community Service

Dr. Dwayne Channell, Department of Mathematics

Dr. Lisa DeChano-Cook, Department of Geography

Dr. Alan Kehew, Department of Geosciences

Research and Creative Activity

Dr. Steven Lipkin, School of Communication

Dr. Susan Pozo, Department of Economics

Dr. Allen Webb, Department of English

Drs. Alex Enyedi and Irma López awarding Dr. Mercedes Tasende

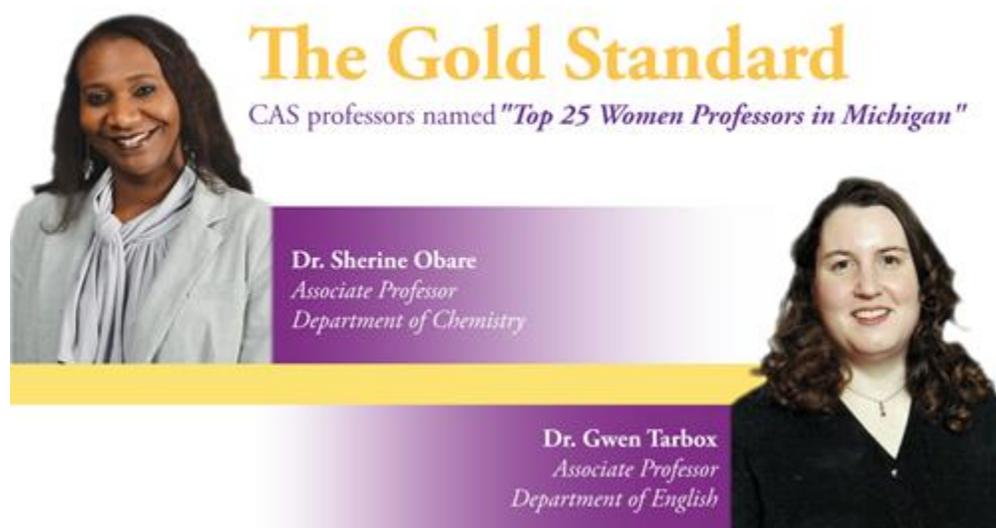
Teaching

Dr. Lynne Heasley, Environmental Studies Program and Department of History

Dr. Carla Koretsky, Department of Geosciences, Environmental Studies Program and Lee Honors College

Dr. Gwen Tarbox, Department of English

CAS Professors Named Top 25 Women Professors in Michigan



Top 25 Women Professors in Michigan, Drs. Obare and Tarbox

Two of Western Michigan University's College of Arts and Sciences professors have been named Top 25 Women Professors in Michigan.

[Dr. Sherine Obare](#), associate professor of inorganic chemistry, has been named one of WMU's Emerging Scholars for 2012. She earned her doctorate from the University of South Carolina in 2002 and now teaches and serves as the director of Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program.

[Dr. Gwen Tarbox](#), who teaches Gender and Women Studies in the WMU's English department, has been awarded the 2012-13 College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching. Her research focuses on the effects of children's literature on the lives of readers, with an emphasis on females.

For a full listing of the Top 25 Women Professors in Michigan visit the [Online Schools Michigan](#) site.

One of the Year's Most Notable Translations Published by WMU's Jeffrey Angles



Jeffrey Angles, an associate professor of Japanese in the WMU Department of World Languages and Literatures and director of the Soga Japan Center, recently published "Twelve Views from the Distance," a translation of the memoirs of Mr. Mutsuo Takahashi, one of Japan's most important contemporary poets and writers. "World Literature Today" named Angles' work as one of the year's 75 notable translations and it is also a finalist for the 2013 Lambda Literary Award in the Gay Memoir/Biography category.

"Twelve Views from the Distance" is the story of a boy in a poor, rural family in southwestern Japan living through the worst years of the Japanese empire, World War II, and the postwar era. Angles commented that when he read Takahashi's memoirs for the first time as a graduate student, they haunted him. "Not only is the book populated by beautiful and tragic characters, the descriptions of life in the countryside are so rich and vivid that it feels like the scenes are unrolling right before the reader's eyes."

Angles is planning to bring Takahashi to WMU in September 2013 as part of a larger book tour to promote the new translation. He said, "I am excited to bring such a dynamic and brilliant writer to Michigan. I promise that readers who hear his stories of war, depravation, and self-discovery will find them utterly unforgettable."

[Read a short excerpt](#) from Angles' translation of "Twelve Views from the Distance."

A Leader in Dignity

1/24/2013



Lloyd Dean (*BS '72, Sociology; MA '78, Educational Leadership*) is CEO of San Francisco-based Dignity Health. He's friendly with the President of the United States—and with the President of the San Francisco Giants. He is responsible for a complete fiscal turnaround of his company, sits on the board of Wells Fargo—and he's a Bronco.

Although he says he has no interest in it—there were rumors of Dean becoming one of Obama's second term Cabinet members. It wasn't always like

that. Growing up, Dean and his family didn't have much. He visited a doctor for the first time in junior high because he needed a physical to play football. He excelled at WMU and became a teacher when he graduated, junior high and an occasional communication course at WMU. He even filled in on WOTV Battle Creek as a 5 a.m. news anchor for a couple of months.

It was at a WMU event that Dean mingled with corporate America and met a top executive at Upjohn. His decision to leave teaching was difficult, but he left to become an assistant regional manager at Upjohn and eventually rose to Executive Vice President for the entire company. Eight years later he took an opportunity to turn around a failing health care system—and succeeded.

Dean was recently featured in Fortune Magazine, a link to the online version of the article can be found below. Follow it to read more about Dean, his successes, and his perspective on a changing healthcare system.

[CNN MONEY — LLOYD DEAN: THE MEDICINE MAN OF DIGNITY HEALTH](#)

Photo from Fortune magazine/ Cody Pickens

Bringing Light

12/5/2012



A three-minute film about a tiny molecule that lights up brain tumors so neurosurgeons can better distinguish cancer from normal tissue has a chance to get its own moment in the spotlight as one of 20 finalists for the Sundance Film Festival in January.

Bringing Light, which focuses on the “Tumor Paint” research led by no other than Bronco James Olson, M.D., Ph.D. (*BS '84, Biomedical Sciences*) a clinical researcher at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and a pediatric oncologist at Seattle Children’s Hospital, is available online for viewing and voting (directions and a link to the video can be found below). The filmmakers' goal is to receive at least 50,000 votes by the December 20 deadline.

The film is part of a filmmaker competition called “Short Films, Big Ideas” sponsored by Focus Forward Films. Out of 30 total entries, a jury will select five finalists to be screened at Sundance 2013. The grand-prize winner will receive \$100,000.

Olson’s team developed Tumor Paint by re-engineering scorpion venom (chlorotoxin), which naturally targets brain cancer cells, by tagging it with a molecule that acts like a flashlight, causing brain tumors to “light up” during surgery so the margins can be seen more easily. The goal is to help surgeons remove as much cancer as possible while safely leaving normal brain tissue intact— ultimately saving lives while also reducing problems caused by surgical removal of normal tissue in critical areas.

Tumor Paint is not yet in human use but is being developed by Blaze Bioscience, a Seattle biotech founded by Olson and Heather Franklin, president and CEO.

The potential of Tumor Paint is not limited to brain tumors; it has been found in preclinical studies to light up prostate,

colon, breast and other cancers. It is anticipated that human trials in cancer patients will begin next year.

Another potential use for Tumor Paint is early detection of various forms of skin cancer. Olson and colleagues have demonstrated that it can light up non-pigmented skin cancers, which are sometimes difficult to detect and pose a greater threat to the patient if they are not detected early.

To learn more about the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Dr. Olson, and his research please follow the link below:

[FRED HUTCHINSON CANCER RESEARCH CENTER — TUMOR PAINT RESEARCH FEATURED IN SHORT FILM](#)

[Click here to view the film.](#) A "Vote" button can be found on the top right corner of the video player.

Students Give More Than \$14,000 to Local Nonprofits



Nonprofit Leadership class gives nearly \$15,000 to four local nonprofit organizations.

On April 15, Western Michigan University's School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) held their yearly Nonprofit Banquet. Nearly 200 students, faculty, staff, and members of the community gathered as grant funding was presented to worthy nonprofit organizations in the Kalamazoo area. After months of research, site visits and deliberations, twenty-one WMU students selected four organizations to award more than \$14,000 in grant funding. While giving is rewarding, deciding which organizations to award funding to was more challenging than anticipated.



PADM 4000 class deliberations.

The spring 2013 PADM 4000 Seminar in Nonprofit Leadership class knew what they were facing. They knew that by the end of the semester they would be able to give real financial support to organizations in need and were excited to use all of the skills they'd learned in their previous classes to review proposals and impact lives of Kalamazoo citizens. From the start, the class determined its priorities utilizing a consensus method. They wanted to support organizations with a focus on education and arts for children and help individuals and/or families get or sustain housing. The remainder of their decision-making stemmed from their established priorities while building upon their leadership readings and assignments.

Led by Janice Maatman, the class went through the tedious and sometimes emotionally charged process of reviewing grant proposals and financial statements in order to determine which organizations should receive the limited amount of funds that were available. Twenty-five organizations made requests totaling \$117,000 and students grappled because they saw great potential in all of them. Even when trying to reduce the number of qualified organizations based on their established priorities, the class struggled with issues like the age group the organizations served and which programs would impact the most individuals.

Using a ranking system, the class narrowed down their list to six organizations based on criteria and prioritization established earlier in the semester. The deliberations that took place between the last six organizations resulted in visceral reactions. As a class, though, they showed maturity and understood the importance of building consensus throughout the process. Maatman stated, "After five years of teaching this class, this was the first year of no tears. This class had a good sense of when they needed to let go." In order for the class to reach a consensus, all had to release a personal bias or initial favorite.



PADM 4000 students ranking the remaining nonprofit organizations.

When asked what is the most influential part of teaching such a unique class, Maatman replied, "I've had these students in the intro class and in this seminar class. Seeing the growth, the maturity, the ability to use non-profit language and their internship experience as they do their analysis is rewarding." Another benefit of leading students in a seminar is seeing the students' "development in analysis, writing, and the ability to work with others critical to a career in non-profit management. They are able to give away real money and not deal in a hypothetical situation. It's a culmination of their work." Maatman said, "When they read the proposals it feel like an exercise, but after site visits it connects to real life and real people, especially if they can see programs in action. It becomes really motivating. Different things in different proposals resonate with individuals."

Maatman's impression of the class is shared by those directly influenced by her leadership. While attending a national education conference WMU recent graduate Kierstin Nall shared her experiences in PADM 4000 with students from institutions across the country and received the same response—students from other institutions were fascinated. Nall's appreciation for the class stems from "diving into an organization's records will help my life following graduation. I feel prepared to enter the working field. Consensus building is tough and challenging, but it is a vital life skill in the nonprofit leadership field."

In addition to students who completed the most recent semester, former students were also a part of the Nonprofit Banquet. Elisse Rivert completed PADM 4000 during the spring semester of 2012 and remains appreciative of the lessons learned. Rivert states, "I had never heard of or been in a class like [PADM] 4000. It teaches prioritization and you learn what you believe in. Initially, we look at the numbers, but eventually, you are led by a desire to give to kids. You learn so much about yourself that you don't intend to." The impact was so great on Rivert that she recently applied for a job that would enable her to facilitate grant decision-making much like she did during her class experience for high school programs. Rivert went on to say, "A lot of kids can get through college. Not everyone can get this [Nonprofit Leadership Alliance] certificate and get life skills."



Janice Maatman addressing attendees during the 2013 Nonprofit Banquet

This year's seminar awarded grants to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Community Homeworks, Crescendo Academy of Music, and the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival. PADM 4000 could be one of the most impactful educational experiences in a nonprofit leadership student's career at Western Michigan University. Having the opportunity to evaluate actual grant proposals, provide tangible resources to Kalamazoo organizations and follow-up with the organizations and individuals their decisions directly benefit, SPAA students are left with a permanent sense of accomplishment and a lesson in philanthropy that far exceeds their time at WMU.

[WMU's School of Public Affairs and Administration](#)
[Nonprofit Leadership Student Association](#)

Journalism 3100 Meets Real World



Students from WMU's Journalism 3100 class with alumnus Chris Killian

Presidential elections provide countless opportunities to engage in meaningful classroom discussions. WMU journalism associate professor Sue Ellen Christian took a unique approach to providing real-world experience to her Journalism 3100: News reporting using new media class by reaching out to WMU alumnus, Chris Killian. Freelance writer Killian made it his mission to show the election from the perspective of those who matter most—the people impacted by the results. Killian wanted to tell people's stories in hopes that we'd learn from one another. Knowing that he couldn't visit all 50 states, he decided to focus on stories from the swing states, places deemed equally divided in the political debate. He wanted to give everyone, from every side, a voice.

Killian's plan to travel to swing states and use social media to share stories gave Christian the unique opportunity to provide her students with a memorable, real-life experience. As Killian traveled thousands of miles to nine swing states, students in Christian's class used social media to connect with him. Christian noted that Killian "showed the entrepreneurship that I try to teach in my classes. In class, we talked about how in the current digital media landscape students have to think creatively and market their skills using social media. [Killian] was a wonderful example of that."

When Killian's adventure ended, he returned to WMU to meet the students he'd been contacting via Skype during his travels. "It made the textbooks and teaching come alive for students to see journalism in action—especially by someone young and from WMU," said Christian. Journalism student, Elisia Alonso says that her interactions with Killian "gave me reassurance that the journalism field is where I'd like to be. His ambition to take on the world, one story at a time, encouraged me to never stop pursuing my dreams."