



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

College of Arts and Sciences news

College of Arts and Sciences

7-2013

College of Arts and Sciences E-News Issue 3: July 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 3: July 2013" (2013). *College of Arts and Sciences news*. 16.

https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cas_news/16

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 3: July 2013



CAS News

Myanmar scholar comes to study political science at WMU
Haenicke Institute for Global Education names new associate provost

Faculty Feature

Chemistry professor leads EPA research effort after receiving \$387,000 grant

Alumni Profiles

English alumna named Gateway Community Health's board chairman
Political science grad named municipal marketing and government affairs manager

Student Stories

CAS students earn prestigious Gilman Scholarships
Anthropology in the Community students dig up artifacts on Apple Island

Stay in touch!



Update your
information



Interest in political science brought Myanmar scholar to WMU

by Ian Magnuson

June 24, 2013 | WMU News



KALAMAZOO—Dramatic efforts to forge democratic reform in Myanmar inspired **Zaw Thein** to earn a master's degree in political science at Western Michigan University in hopes of more fully participating in the movement to democratize his homeland.

"There are few political scientists in Myanmar," said Thein, who earned his bachelor's degree in geology in 1974 from the University of Yangon. "My country has been under the official rule of a military junta since 1962 and one of the many things the military did upon seizing power was to outlaw the study of political science. The justification for that was that government officials believed Burmese Socialism was the only system to study, so why bother studying anything else?"

Thein (left) visiting Chicago with a fellow Fulbright scholar.

Political protests inform scholarly interests

His interest in politics was piqued by student demonstrations he witnessed in 1988 from his apartment window in Yangon during a pro-democracy uprising. Thein said the military junta suppressed everything that could have developed from the protests, so he settled into a career at a family-owned printing press.



In 2005, Thein heard about an opportunity to advance his English skills and to learn more about democracy and how other countries manage their affairs at the American Center in the Embassy of the United States in Yangon. In addition to ESL classes, Thein enrolled in courses in history, public speaking, American culture and creative writing. "I am a strong supporter of my country's National League for Democracy party and General Secretary Daw Aung San Suu Kye," he said. "This group will provide my country with its best chance to make a peaceful transition to democracy."

Thein cooks food on an outdoor grill.

Through his involvement at the American Center, Thein learned about the United States' Fulbright program and a merit-based award they offer to support international education exchange for students, scholars, teachers, professionals, scientists and artists. Thein's Fulbright award covered tuition for his master's program at WMU and provided a stipend to cover living expenses and some travel within the United States.

"As a non-traditionally-aged graduate student, I didn't expect to receive an award," he said. "The Institute for International Education, which administers the Fulbright program, selected WMU as my host university. I am grateful to all the people who have helped make it possible for me to study in the United States and for the strong support that WMU provides to Fulbrighters. I especially appreciate that Dr. Metro Roland [WMU Fulbright advisor] and Sonnie Farmer [support staff] host lunch meetings for us regularly and other social activities, like picnics and trips to Chicago."

Life in the U.S.

One of the biggest cultural changes Thein experienced settling into life in the U.S. for his two-year program was learning how to operate U.S. automated teller machines and adjusting to a climate that requires wearing shoes instead of sandals.

"It took me a while to get used to the cooler weather and wearing mainly shoes," he said. "In Myanmar, people wear sandals for everything, including official meetings. We have dressy sandals and casual sandals, much like the shoe culture in the United States."

At WMU, Thein lived in Spindler Hall, a dormitory adjacent to campus, which is also home to other international students. "I enjoy living at Spindler because you can access the Internet there 24 hours a day and it is a relatively quiet hall, so it is a good place to work," he said. "I also like that I feel part of a community there because everyone is friendly and helpful—we often have potluck meals together. However, I don't have that much free time because I spend a lot of time studying."



Thein with article author Ian Magnuson, a WMU undergraduate, who served as Thein's "cultural ambassador"

After completing his master's degree in political science, Thein had planned to return to Myanmar and translate political science books, write and publish articles, and teach basic political science courses. He predicted that graduation from WMU would not be the end of his academic journey: "Seven credits in political science does not make one a political scientist—getting the degree is a baby step on a longer journey."

Thein graduated in April 2013.

University of Illinois scholar will take reins of WMU international efforts

[More Sharing Services](#)[Share](#) | [Share on email](#)[Share on print](#)[Share on facebook](#)[Share on twitter](#)

by Cheryl Roland
June 27, 2013 | WMU News



KALAMAZOO—**Dr. Wolfgang F. Schlör**, a longtime international education professional now serving at the University of Illinois, has been named Western Michigan University's new associate provost for the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, **effective Oct. 1**.

Schlör is currently the interim associate provost for international affairs and interim director of international programs and studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His appointment was made pending approval by the WMU Board of Trustees. He replaces **Dr. Bassam Harik**, who has served in the position on an interim basis since mid-2012.

"We're delighted to have found someone with the depth and breadth of experience in international higher education that Dr. Schlör brings to this position," said WMU Provost Timothy J. Greene in announcing the appointment. "Our commitment to and strong track record in global engagement makes this a critical position, and I'm confident that Dr. Schlör will be an enormous asset as we move forward."

Wolfgang F. Schlör

Schlör has been at Illinois since 2007, serving first as associate director of the Office of International Programs and Studies and then moving to the interim associate provost and director role in 2009. In his current role, he oversees a department with 16 component units and international studies centers and some 80 employees. Among his other accomplishments in that role, he:

- established a new Office of Illinois Strategic International Partnerships to solidify campus efforts to create intentional institutional partnerships around the globe,
- initiated a robust program of reaching out to international alumni and raising funds for international education,
- enhanced engagement with the international diplomatic community stationed in Chicago, and
- created a Learning Abroad Policy Committee to address structural obstacles to broader study abroad participation.

Prior to his position at Illinois, Schlör held international and academic affairs roles at the University of Pittsburgh, beginning in 1994. During his time there, he served as associate director and then interim director of the University Center for International Studies.

Schlör spent a year at Duke University as an exchange student and earned master's and doctoral degrees in political science from the Free University of Berlin. He was a visiting scholar in Russia at the Siberian International Center for Regional Studies and in the United States at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies. He also was a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government as well as a research associate at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

"I am excited to join an institution with such a clear commitment to campus internationalization as Western Michigan University," said Schlör. "During my visits, I had the pleasure to meet many faculty and professionals with a deep dedication to global engagement. I look forward to becoming a part of the team."

WMU is part of 13-university EPA research effort on climate, air quality

[More Sharing Services](#)[Share](#)[Share on email](#)[Share on print](#)[Share on facebook](#)[Share on twitter](#)

by Cheryl Roland
June 10, 2013 | WMU News



KALAMAZOO, MI—Western Michigan University is one of 13 top research universities around the nation tapped to conduct a multiyear \$4.3 million **research effort aimed at determining the impact of organic aerosol materials on climate and air quality.**

The 13 grants announced June 5 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be pursued in conjunction with other efforts funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration and with additional support from the Southern Co. and Electric Power Research Institute.

For WMU, the grant amount is \$387,483 to be used through late 2014 for research focused on the southeastern United States to investigate the regional climate implications of organic aerosol formation. The goal is to better understand how atmospheric gases interact with and affect the production of aerosols—tiny particles that form and are suspended in the atmosphere and, in large quantities, are visible as haze. Aerosols impact climate because they affect the amount of radiation from the sun that reaches the earth.

The WMU segment of the research is being led by **Dr. Steven Bertman**, professor of chemistry. He is the principal investigator on the project involving a team of researchers and students from WMU and collaborators at Oakland and Purdue universities and West Chester University of Pennsylvania. The team has been in the field since late May, conducting a set of measurements of ambient concentrations of a wide array of atmospheric volatile organic compounds. Their work is part of an umbrella effort known as the Southern Oxidant & Aerosol Study—SOAS.

Study focusing on southeast U.S.

"This is an unprecedented study in terms of scope," Bertman said from his field location near Centreville, Ala. "I've been involved in a lot of atmospheric field research, but never anything of this magnitude. Right now there are two large aircraft flying out of Tennessee collecting samples, two smaller research aircraft, 60-foot research towers from which data is being collected and several ground sites where measurements are being taken."

Bertman says the Alabama site was selected because it is in an area of the country in which current methods of controlling smog have not worked well, despite their success in other regions. The site is between two national forests and, because of population and building levels in the region, Bertman calls it "an urban forest." He likens the research to trying to get a photograph of what is happening in the atmosphere.

"How these particles form is very complex. We're just now beginning to understand all the elements," he says. "We have dozens of different instruments in the air, on towers and on the ground, each capable of capturing a few pixels—a portion—of the overall picture."

Research data from all the teams at work on the project are being loaded onto a common website so the data can be seen by all of the scientists involved. That data will be examined in detail long after the teams leave the field in late July, Bertman says.

Ultimately, results of the work are expected to help the federal government improve its air quality management systems and climate change models as well as continue to protect both people's health and the environment.

In addition to Bertman's WMU-based team, the other 12 EPA-funded teams are led by researchers from:

- Carnegie Mellon University
- Georgia Institute of Technology

- Reed College
- Research Triangle Institute in Durham, N.C.
- Rutgers University
- State University of New York, Stony Brook
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Iowa
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Washington University, St. Louis

Bertman says the southeastern United State is the worldwide focal point this summer for such atmospheric research. In addition to the EPA-funded projects, there are teams in the area funded by the NSF and NOAA, by private entities and some European organizations.

"This is where the most sophisticated scientific equipment has been gathered this year," he says.

Community Health Chair

5/13/2013



Rev. Dr. Michael C.R. Nabors (*BS '82, English*), senior pastor of Detroit's New Calvary Baptist Church since 1997, has been appointed Gateway Community Health's (GCH) Board Chairman.

Nabors has served more than 25 religious and community leadership boards in Michigan and New Jersey including the Board of the Detroit Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and former president of the Trenton, New Jersey, and Princeton; New Jersey chapters of the NAACP.

The Kalamazoo native is also a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary where he earned both the Masters of Divinity and the Masters of Theology degrees. Rev. Dr. Nabors earned the Doctorate of Ministry degree

as a Samuel DeWitt Proctor Fellow from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Gateway Community Health is a non-profit organization that ensures access to an integrated, contracted, and owned network that provides high quality, comprehensive, culturally competent mental health and substance use services for children, adults, and their families, which support recovery, independence, collaboration, and empowerment within the home and community. Gateway sponsors numerous events and activities throughout the year to aid in the recovery process.

Advancing Service

6/11/2013



John Taddonio (*BS '77, Political Science*) has spent much of his career working in environmental services, and now he's stepping into a new role. As the Municipal Marketing and Government Affairs Manager for Advanced Disposal, Taddonio is responsible for positioning the company as the preferred provider throughout parts of Michigan and Indiana— he'll do this by building and maintaining relationships with elected and government officials. He'll also ensure Advanced Disposal provides exceptional service.

While incredibly important, waste disposal may not seem like most interesting job out there, but Taddonio has the distinct opportunity to use his skills to help Advanced Disposal expand and strengthen as a business. At Casella Waste Systems, he did just that— turning the tide for the poorest performing area. Additionally, Taddonio has held the role of president and COO for Environmental Field Services, has held several positions with Allied Waste Services, and owned his own environmental industry

recruitment firm.

Three students earn prestigious Gilman Scholarships

[More Sharing Services](#)[Share](#) | [Share on email](#)[Share on print](#)[Share on facebook](#)[Share on twitter](#)

by Margaret von Steinen
June 17, 2013 | WMU News



Scholarship money will help fund study abroad trips.

KALAMAZOO—Three Western Michigan University students have won a total of \$13,500 in scholarships to study foreign languages overseas during the 2013-14 academic year.

Stephanie Stanfield of Bellevue, Mich.; **Jared Sipes** of Kalamazoo; and **Matthew Dziepak** of Mattawan, Mich., were among 800 outstanding undergraduate students selected from a nationwide pool of nearly 2,000 applicants to receive awards from the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program.

Since its inception in 2001, more than 13,000 students from across the nation have received the prestigious Gilman Scholarship, which provides up to \$5,000 for American students to pursue overseas study for college credit. To date, 12 WMU students have received the award.

The scholarship program helps diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go. It is administered by the Institute of International Education and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

University's newest Gilman Scholars

Stephanie Stanfield

Stanfield received a \$3,500 Gilman Scholarship. A graduate of Bellevue High School, she is a junior majoring in social work and minoring in nonprofit leadership. She plans to take Latin American studies and Spanish courses in the Dominican Republic at Pontifical Catholic University Madre y Maestra in Santiago de los Caballeros. Stanfield sits on the executive board of WMU's Dominican Student Organization and was awarded the Michigan Campus Compact Heart and Soul Award earlier this year.

Jared Sipes

Sipes received a \$5,000 Gilman Scholarship. A graduate of Bangor (Mich.) High School, he is a senior majoring in global and international studies and minoring in Russian. He plans to continue his Russian language studies at Saratov State University in Saratov, Russia.

Matthew Dziepak

Dziepak received a \$5,000 Gilman Scholarship. A graduate of Heritage Christian Academy in Kalamazoo, he is a senior majoring in film, video and media studies and minoring in psychology and Japanese. He intends to take part in an intensive Japanese language program at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities in Hikone, Shiga Prefecture, Japan.

Benefits of studying overseas

Living and learning in a vastly different environment of another nation is a special experience for every student who participates in the Gilman Scholarship Program, says retired U.S. Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman of New York, who sponsored the legislation creating the program that now bears his name.

"(It) not only exposes our students to alternate views, but also adds an enriching social and cultural experience," Gilman says. "It also provides our students with the opportunity to return home with a deeper understanding of their place in the world, encouraging them to be a contributor, rather than a spectator in the international community."

Allan Goodman, president of the Institute of International Education, adds that the returning students are better prepared to assume leadership roles within government and the private sector.

"It is critical to the success of American diplomacy and business," Goodman says, "and the lasting ties that Americans make during their international studies are important to our country in times of conflict as well as times of peace."

Assistance provided by WMU

Stanfield, Sipes and Dziepak were advised and supported in applying for the Gilman Scholarship by Anastasia Kaml, Ann Ganz and Sakhi Vyas, their WMU study abroad specialists, and Dr. Michelle Metro-Roland, WMU advisor for the Gilman program and director of faculty and global program development in the University's Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Students receiving a federal Pell Grant who are planning to study abroad are encouraged to visit ije.org/gilman to learn more about the scholarship. Eligible students interested in applying should first contact the WMU Gilman advisor at michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5890.

For more information about WMU's study abroad programs and scholarships, visit wmich.edu/studyabroad or call (269) 387-5890.

Anthropology Students Dig on Apple Island



Apple Island Tours.

Students in this spring's Anthropology in the Community class had a unique opportunity to participate in an archaeological dig that could result in an addition to the National Register of Historic Places. Led by archaeological dig principal investigator, Dr. LouAnn Wurst, ten undergraduate students collected data from Apple Island, a 35-acre island located in the middle of Orchard Lake in Orchard Lake, Mich. Their work coincided with the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society's annual

After spending three weeks excavating and searching for archaeological data, the class now has the task of process their findings and prepare to submit them to the National Register of Historical Places, the official list of the nation's historic places deemed worthy of preserving. According to Wurst, having Apple Island named as a national historic sites would present recognition and offer some protection. In addition to the educational experience that the students earned, they were also granted with the community involvement that their class intended to focus on. Following the submission process, Wurst and her students will return the artifacts they discovered—which totaled nearly fifty pounds—back to Apple Island.