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## College of Arts and Sciences E-News Issue 4: August 2013

College of Arts and Sciences

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# College of Arts and Sciences

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*E-News Issue 4: August 2013*



## Globally Engaged

WMU pride at the Guggenheim in Bilbao, Spain.

### *CAS News*

WMU's commitment to global engagement leads faculty and staff to Spain  
WMU hosts the first annual Michigan Autism Conference  
Math and science experts chosen for teaching fellowship program

### *Faculty Features*

Dr. Bob McConnell receives National Rehabilitation Association's service award  
Dr. Hedy Habra earns honorable mention for 2013 Arab American Book Awards

### *Alumni Profiles*

Dr. Elizabeth Douglas '01 joins faculty at WMed  
Public Administration alumnus, Mark Jackson '87 '91, named president of the WMU Alumni Association

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# Global Engagement Leads WMU Faculty, Staff and Students to Spain



WMU's comprehensive commitment to global engagement is evident in its creation of a study abroad program for faculty and staff. In collaboration with the Department of Spanish and the International Education Council of the Faculty Senate, the Haenicke Institute established an international professional development workshop in Spain. Travel grants were awarded to 12 faculty and staff members from various departments and units so they could receive 30 hours of instruction on Spanish language and culture at the University of Cantabria, located in the beautiful coastal city of Santander. In addition to the classroom instruction, participants were treated to cultural excursions designed to provide exposure to the deep historical journey that has helped Spain evolve into the diverse and rich country that exists today.



WMU faculty and staff members attended classes from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the week and traveled throughout Santander for cultural lessons during the evenings. Cultural excursions included trips to Parliament, the Cabo Mayor Lighthouse, the Prehistory and Archaeology Museum of Cantabria, the Palacio de Magdalena, and the Cathedral of Santander. Additionally, WMU undergraduate students were also attending the University of Cantabria. Spanish majors who selected

Santander as their study abroad destination joined faculty and staff on day trips to explore other cities

and prominent sites in Spain. The combined WMU group traveled to Potes-Picos de Europa, Santillana del Mar, the Guggenheim Museum (pictured above) and the Burgos Cathedral.



Travel grants were awarded to Patricia Burgwald, University Libraries; Lauren Carney, College of Arts and Sciences Office of the Dean; Joetta Carr, Gender and Women's Studies; Myla Edmond, College of Arts and Sciences Office of the Dean; Charlotte Giscombe, Center for Academic Success Programs; Nancy Hock, Occupational Therapy; Peggy Miller, Human Resources; Joan Morin, University Libraries; Bruce Naftel, Gwen Frostic School of Art; Cris Obreiter, Department of Military Science and Leadership; and Linda Reeser, School of Social Work.

## WMU Hosts the First Annual Michigan Autism Conference



WMU will host the first annual Michigan Autism Conference. This exciting conference, taking place Oct. 9-11, is designed to provide families, practitioners and researchers with information related to assessment and treatment of those with autism. Although WMU is hosting and will offer presentations, speakers from all over the country with extensive backgrounds in assessing and treating autism will also contribute. WMU alumni speakers include Dr. Caio Miguel '01 '04, Dr. Carl Sundberg '87 '90 '96 and Dr. Mark Sundberg '75 '76 '80. WMU psychology faculty presenters include Dr. Jessica Frieder, Dr. Wayne Fuqua, Dr. Amy Naugle and Dr. Stephanie Peterson. For more

information and to register please visit the [Michigan Autism Conference website](#).



# Math and science experts chosen for teaching fellowship program

by Cheryl Roland  
July 17, 2013 | WMU News



Fellowship program places experienced professionals in high-need urban and rural schools.

KALAMAZOO—The third class of the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellows**, announced July 15, is bringing 13 new math and science professionals to Western Michigan University to be part of a program designed to provide Michigan's high-need urban and rural schools with teachers who offer both cutting-edge preparation and real-world expertise in math and science.

The 13 fellows selected to attend WMU are among this year's 51 WKKF-WW Michigan Teaching Fellows. Each fellow will receive \$30,000 to complete a specially designed, cutting-edge master's degree program based on a yearlong classroom experience. In return, fellows commit to teach for three years in Michigan's high-need urban and rural secondary schools.

The newly selected 2013 class is the third group of fellows named in Michigan since the program was launched by the Kellogg Foundation in 2009 with \$18 million in support. The program is administered by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation of Princeton, N.J., which runs similar fellows programs in Indiana, New Jersey and Ohio.

The statewide program recruits recent college graduates or career-changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Among the new fellows attending WMU, for instance, are a professional ornithologist, two former Peace Corps members, a pharmaceutical industry professional and a wireless consultant. Each has already earned at least a bachelor's degree from schools around the nation. Four have earned master's degrees as well, and one fellow already has earned a doctoral degree.

The program ultimately will impact more than 100,000 Michigan high school students, providing them with the level of instruction they need to contribute and thrive in the state's rapidly changing economy and workforce. Numerous studies have demonstrated that students in high-need schools are significantly less likely to have access to such teachers, particularly in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and math.

"The research is clear—the most important factor affecting the quality of a student's education is the quality of the classroom teacher. Beyond that, effective educators can make a powerful and lasting impact on students in ways that can't be measured by test scores and report cards," says **Sterling Speirn, president and CEO of the Kellogg Foundation**.

In addition to WMU, campuses working with the Fellows program include Eastern Michigan, Grand Valley State, Michigan State and Wayne State universities as well as the University of Michigan. These

universities partner with local school districts where Fellows learn to teach in real classrooms from the beginning of their master's work, just as physicians learn in teaching hospitals. The 10 partner districts for these clinical placements, up from nine last year, include Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, Comstock, Detroit, Godfrey-Lee, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Wyoming and Ypsilanti. WMU is working with Battle Creek Public Schools, Benton Harbor Area Schools, Comstock Public Schools, Kalamazoo Public Schools and Grand Rapids Public Schools.

"Michigan's economic future will be driven by the STEM fields," says **Arthur Levine, president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation**. "Getting strong math and science teachers into Michigan's high-need schools means both creating opportunities for the young people who most need them and building the state's workforce. There's no greater need in Michigan education today, and we think these fellows will do a tremendous job in helping to meet that need. They are amazing people, and they will change tens of thousands of lives."

### ***W.K. Kellogg Foundation***

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Mich., and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org).

### ***Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation***

Founded in 1945, the [Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation](http://www.wkkf.org) of Princeton, N.J., identifies and develops leaders and institutions to meet the nation's critical challenges, working through education.

### ***WMU's 2013 WKKF-WW Fellows***

- **Michael Buhler** of Idaho Falls, Idaho  
Utah State University, 2013, mathematics education  
Tutor, mentor and substitute teacher at local high school, worked with students with learning disabilities; college math tutor, three years; Eagle Scout; Cub Scout Den Leader; official for high school and Little League baseball and football.
  
- **Irene Burch-Travis** of Detroit  
Western Michigan University, 2013, biochemistry  
Undergraduate teaching assistant; graduate of high-need schools; worked with youth ages 1-12; co-facilitator, First-Year Seminar, WMU.
  
- **Kelly DeRango** of Kalamazoo  
Indiana University, 1986, political science and Spanish  
University of Michigan, 1992, M.B.A. finance  
University of Wisconsin, 1995, M.S., economics  
University of Wisconsin, 2000, Ph.D, economics

College-level instructor/administrator in economics, 15-plus years experience; tutor, Kalamazoo Public Schools, five-plus years experience; coach, Girls on the Run; former volunteer, U.S. Peace Corps in Honduras; avid runner and marathoner; food enthusiast.

- **Derek DenHartigh** of Zeeland, Mich.

Grand Valley State University, 2013, biomedical engineering, cell and molecular biology  
Dean's List student; youth ministry leader at local church; college-level tutor, organic chemistry, biochemistry, and physiology, GVSU Student Academic Success Center.

- **Aaron Fillenworth** of Lansing, Mich.

Aquinas College, 2008, mathematics  
Volunteer, observer and participant in math classes in high-need school; peer and colleague mentor; document developer, responsible for training coworkers in complex projects and procedures; passionate and engaged sportsman.

- **Joshua Gates** of Lansing, Mich.

Taylor University, 2010, psychology  
Peace Corps mathematics teacher, Burkina Faso; intern, United States Mission to the United Nations; undergraduate math tutor; psychology research assistant.

- **Ashley Hill** of Kalamazoo

Western Michigan University, 2009, biology and environmental studies  
Western Illinois University, M.S., 2011, biology  
Adjunct biology instructor, community college; graduate teaching assistant, biology; board member and interpretive assistant for nature programs at state fish hatchery; advocate for environmental education and public awareness regarding natural resources; volunteer high school women's bowling coach.

- **Lisa Litchfield** of Lansing, Mich.

Northern Michigan University, 2006, zoology  
Michigan State University, 2009, M.S., zoology  
Docent, program coordinator, and educator, local zoo, five-plus years; conservation advocate; graduate teaching assistant, biology; research assistant, West African crab taxonomy; member, Association of Zoos and Aquariums; certified Open Water Diver SCUBA; outdoor recreation enthusiast.

- **Samantha Quist** of Kalamazoo

Central Michigan University, 2012, meteorology  
Math tutor; wireless consultant.

- **Kirstan Walker** of Grand Rapids, Mich.

University of Michigan, 2011, aerospace engineering  
Volunteer math and science teacher, Nicaraguan high-need school; LEGO robotics coach for middle school students; team leader for STEM summer camps for middle and high school students.

- **Elizabeth Weaver** of Mattawan, Mich.

North Carolina State University, 1992, chemistry  
North Carolina State University, 1995, M.S., organic chemistry  
Pharmaceutical industry professional with five-plus years' experience; volunteer, local nursing home; Girl Scout Daisy and Brownie co-leader; mentor, Kalamazoo Area Achievement Program; volunteer, Mattawan Early and Later Elementary Parent Association; avid gardener and baker.

- **Torrey Wenger** of Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo College, 2012, biology

Ornithologist with 15-plus years experience in education at local nature center; specialist in environmental education and author of many articles on the subject; certified heritage interpreter; licensed bird bander; specialist in ornithology.

• **Erik West** of Rockford, Mich.

University of Michigan, 2011, business

Volunteer mathematics teacher in Honduras, grades eight through 12, and head basketball coach; camp counselor for multiple youth summer camps; youth football defensive coordinator, Chicago; assistant coach for sixth grade basketball team; head manager of the University of Michigan football team.

## SPAA Educator and Alumnus Recipient of Meritorious Service Award



WMU School of Public Affairs and Administration part-time faculty member and alumnus, Dr. L. Robert McConnell '86 is the 2013 National Rehabilitation Association's (NRA) Max T. Prince Meritorious Service Award. The Meritorious Service Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated faithful service and leadership to NRA. It is given to a member who has provided outstanding membership and leadership for a period of a minimum of ten years, or a member who has demonstrated leadership in a chapter, division and/or national committee.

McConnell has served the NRA in several capacities for 37 years. He has been a national president, national board member and director of its Mary Switzer Memorial Seminar and Scholars program. McConnell also founded and served as president of the association's first Multicultural Division state chapter. School of Public Affairs and Administration director, Dr. Barbara Liggett says that McConnell has been "faithful and fearless" in his advocacy for the employment and independence of persons with disabilities. She also stated that he knows the importance of access, equity and justice for all, values held dearly by all in public administration.



# Instructor's book honored in 2013 Arab American Book Awards

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by Mark Schwerin

July 31, 2013 | WMU News



Habra

KALAMAZOO—A book by a Western Michigan University instructor has won an **honorable mention in the 2013 Arab American Book Awards**.

**Hedy Habra**, a Spanish instructor, won honorable mention for her book "Flying Carpets," released in 2012. Habra and other award recipients will be honored at a ceremony **Saturday, Nov. 2** at the Arab American Museum in Detroit.

"Flying Carpets" is a story collection in the grand tradition of Arab storytelling. In it, Habra waves her writing wand and takes the reader on a journey as they read about people and places far away and encounter temples and mountain villages, gliding boats and fragrant kitchens, flaming fish and rich tapestries.

The stories recover lost, partially forgotten and imaginary spaces, progressing from the concrete to the universal. The first two sections move between Egypt and Lebanon with a touch of magic realism. In the second half of the collection, the characters become less rooted in time and space as the dreamlike elements intensify.

## *Hedy Habra*

Habra was born in Egypt and is of Lebanese origin. She earned a master's degree in English and master's and doctoral degrees in Spanish literature, all from WMU. She received WMU's All-University Research and Creative Scholar Award and a Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award.



Cover of Habra's book, "Flying Carpets"

Habra writes poetry and fiction in French, Spanish and English and has published more than 150 poems and short stories in numerous journals and anthologies. In addition to "Flying Carpets," Habra is the author of a poetry collection, "Tea in Heliopolis," and a book of literary criticism, "Mundos alternos y artísticos en Vargas Llosa."

Her latest, "Flying Carpets," has garnered praise from fellow Arab American writers.

"Habra's stories are joyous and tragic at once, witty and profound," says **Khaled Mattawa**, author of "Amorisco." "This is a book full of marvels, beautifully written."

## Alumna @ WMed

7/9/2013



Elizabeth Douglas, MD (*BS '01, Biomedical Sciences*) joins Department of Pathology Founding Chair Joyce deJong, DO in developing and serving the pathology education needs of the medical students and participating in the development of a medical examiner program to serve southwest Michigan. She will become an assistant professor in Pathology.

Dr. Douglas is from the southern thumb town of Armada, Michigan and a proud alumna of Western Michigan University and Lee Honors College, where she majored in Spanish and Biomedical Sciences. She earned her medical education from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and completed a combined anatomic and clinical pathology residency at the Cleveland Clinic.

After completing her forensic pathology fellowship training through the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office, she was employed at the Franklin County Coroner's Office in Columbus, Ohio. During her time in Columbus, she served as the Chief Deputy Coroner in addition to creating and delivering the educational program for the visiting medical students and residents. Dr. Douglas will split her time between East Lansing and Kalamazoo.

The School also recently appointed a new library director, Elizabeth R. Lorber. In her role as library director, Lorber will oversee evaluation, assessment, and improvement of library services, systems, and procedures and strategic planning. She will work with WMed faculty to integrate informatics and library instruction into the curriculum and will respond to the research needs of the residency programs and other individuals connected with the medical school.

To read more, please follow the link below:

*Elizabeth Douglas, MD is pictured above.*