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October 2016

[Congratulations to the 2016 CHHS Outstanding Alumni Academy inductees](#)

On Friday, Oct. 7, the College of Health and Human Services welcomed its 2016 inductees to its Outstanding Alumni Academy. After a panel discussion with partners and guests from the community and CHHS faculty, staff and students, three outstanding alumni were inducted into the academy.



[Students explore opportunities at inaugural CHHS Student Expo](#)

Students are invited to explore their opportunities at the 2016 CHHS Student Expo. They will learn about the programs available at CHHS. They'll also learn about student organizations in the college and across campus. Groups from the community will also be here to connect with students.



[OT scholarship recipients honored at AMBUCS luncheon](#)

On Oct. 5, members of the Kalamazoo AMBUCS organization came to the College of Health and Human Services to celebrate the WMU OT students who were 2016 recipients of AMBUCS scholarships.



[Universities celebrate Florida-Michigan alliance](#)

Officials from WMU and Florida Southwestern State College gathered Oct. 18, to announce an alliance that will allow WMU to offer several high-profile academic programs at FSW's Charlotte County campus. For several years, WMU Physician Assistant students from Kalamazoo have completed clinical rotations at two hospitals in Charlotte County, Florida.



[Art exhibit represents 'Finale' for retiring Gay Walker](#)

The exhibit currently on display in the CHHS second-floor art gallery represents the end of a chapter for the artist, but also marks a new beginning. The exhibit from **Gay Walker**, former coordinator of the Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness program is titled, "Art is My Therapy: A Finale."



[Childbirth simulator delivers lifesaving skills](#)

Bronson School of Nursing has recently acquired a MamaNatalie Birthing Simulator. This device will help students learn the complications and risks associated with childbirth in a simulation setting. Students learn lifesaving skills and to help mothers survive on the day of delivery.



[Students gain experience at WMU Senior Day Services](#)

This fall, students from the Bronson School of Nursing, occupational therapy and psychology will be working with participants from WMU Senior Day Services to further their knowledge in their respective disciplines.



CHHS in Social Media



Check out our new [Instagram](#) page.

In other news

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

- [Registration is open for WMU's Turkey Trot 5K](#)
- [Chicana author next up in fall Frostic Reading Series](#)
- [Wrongful Conviction Program changing one life at a time](#)

CHHS on Facebook and Instagram

The College of Health and Human Services is on [Facebook](#) AND [Instagram](#)! Please take a moment to "like" and "follow" us to stay informed on what's going on throughout the college.



Congratulations to the 2016 CHHS Outstanding Alumni Academy inductees

On Friday, Oct. 7, the College of Health and Human Services welcomed three inductees to its Outstanding Alumni Academy. After a panel discussion, alumni from OT, PA and interdisciplinary health services were inducted into the academy.

This year's CHHS Outstanding Alumni panel discussion was on the topic of **Interprofessional practice and patient outcomes: the changing health care landscape**. The varied experiences of a physician assistant, military officer, occupational therapist and medical librarian made for an interesting conversation.

The panel discussion was followed by the CHHS induction ceremony, where inductees were introduced and presented with plaques and certificates commemorating the occasion.

Afterward the honorees and guests attended the 2016 WMU Distinguished Alumni Reception at the Bernhard Center.

2016 Outstanding Alumni Academy

Elizabeth R. Skidmore, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA - Class of '96

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Elizabeth Skidmore is an occupational therapist, and associate professor and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Pittsburgh. She also holds appointments in the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and the Clinical Science Translational Institute, and serves as a scientist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Rehabilitation Institute.

Her NIH funded research program examines the associations among cognitive impairments, mood symptoms and activities of daily living disability in two populations: 1) individuals with acquired brain injury (stroke, traumatic brain injury) engaged in inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, and 2) community-dwelling older adults with late-life cognitive impairments and/or depressive symptoms who are at risk for dementia.



Dr. Skidmore has received several awards for excellence in teaching and research. Dr. Skidmore is the recipient of the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association Academic Educator

Award, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award. She is also the recipient of the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association Inaugural Research Award, and the American Congress of Rehabilitation Deborah Wilkerson Research Award. Dr. Skidmore has been inducted into the American Occupational Therapy Foundation Academy of Research and the American Occupational Therapy Association Roster of Fellows. Most recently, Dr. Skidmore was the first rehabilitation therapist to receive the 2016 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the United States Government on early career scientists.

Martha Knuth, MLIS, BS-IHS - Class of '10

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SERVICES

Martha Knuth is a librarian with the Stephen B. Thacker Library at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. Knuth started her career in public health and library science at Western Michigan University where she studied Interdisciplinary Health Services and Chinese while working as an assistant at Waldo library. She grew this foundation of expertise in health, information and research at the University of Pittsburgh where she received her Masters of Library and Information Science, and worked in a variety of academic and medical library settings. She then went on to teach the fundamentals of library and information science as an assistant professor at one of South Korea's top universities, Sungkyunkwan University.

On returning to the US, Knuth had the honor and the privilege to join her alma mater in the founding of a brand new medical school, the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine, as a librarian and instructor. There she collaborated to build its library and all of its services from the ground up. In all of her positions, she has sought to make a real difference in the health and well-being of her community and world. She is thrilled to be supporting the CDC and the world in its mission to advance science, prevention, preparedness and medicine in order to protect the health, safety and security of all. She is honored and humbled to be considered an alumna of achievement. Those who came before her inspired her own career, and she hopes her experiences will encourage others in their pursuit of supporting health and wellness.



COL Eric A. Kennedy, APA-C, MS - Class of '96

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Eric A. Kennedy, PA-C, graduated from Western Michigan University's Physician Assistant Program with a Bachelor of Science in 1996. In 1999, Eric obtained his Master of Medicine in Family Practice from the University of Nebraska.

He served in the US Army and Air Force for over 30 years as he started as an enlisted soldier and has achieved the rank of Colonel. He is currently active in the Michigan Army National Guard and has been deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa (OIF/OEF humanitarian missions). In 2015, COL Kennedy was the first physician assistant to be named Medical Commander for the Michigan Army National Guard. He presently holds the position of State Surgeon of the Michigan Army National Guard. In that role, he is responsible for policy direction and management of the MI ARNG health service system. He advises the Michigan Army National Guard ATAG General and Chief of Staff on all health care matters pertaining to the US Army and its military health care system.



COL Kennedy is also a flight surgeon for the Michigan Army National Guard and a physician assistant at the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek. He has been a preceptor for Grand Valley State University and WMU Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine students during his time at the VA. Eric has worked for both Bronson and Borgess Hospital. He has also found time to be a Shriner and a Mason in between all of those professional duties.

During his time at WMU, Eric played on the rugby college team and was elected class student body president. His wife, Sarah, is a fellow WMU graduate from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He and Sarah are very involved in the Mattawan community, where they live with their two young daughters, Brooke and Brielle.

CHHS Student Expo



2016 CHHS Student Expo

Thursday, November 3 from 3 to 6 p.m.

In the College of Health and Human Services Atrium

Explore your opportunities at the 2016 CHHS Student Expo. Learn about the departments and programs available here in the college. You can also learn about student organizations housed in the college and across campus. Businesses and organizations from the area will also be here to connect with you.

Along with various booths, there will also be entertainment, giveaways, raffles, **free food** and more – all with an emphasis on health and human services. Above all, the expo is an opportunity for networking and learning, where you can connect with what you need to be successful at any stage of your academic journey!

Questions?

Email Alicia at chhs_info@wmich.edu or call (269) 387-7367.

Prizes

In addition to the many giveaways at the expo, you can register for a couple of great prizes.

- Two (2) **Kindle Fire** tablets
- **WMU Dining Dollars** gift cards
- Free smoothies from **Bella Vita Cafe**

- And more!

Booths

A number of WMU RSOs and local organizations will be represented at the Expo. Here is a partial list:

Booths	
Area Health Education Center (AHEC)	Golden Key International Honour Society (RSO)
Audiology - Unified Clinics	HIMSS
Behavioral Health Services - Unified Clinics	NSSLHA (RSO)
Best Buddies WMU (Autism Center for Excellence)	Pre-Physician Assistant Society (RSO)
Career & Student Employment Services	Sindecuse Health Center
Cassopolis Family Clinic	Student Activities and Leadership Programs
Center for Disability Services	Student Health Advisory Council (RSO)
Cherry Health	Student Nurses Association (RSO)
CHHS Office of Advising	Student Occupational Therapy Association (RSO)
CHHS Office of Student Engagement and Success	Study Abroad HIGE
CHHS Student Ambassadors	Vision Rehabilitation Clinic - Unified Clinics
Financial Aid and Scholarships	Western Student Association (RSO)

CHHS Academics	
Blindness and Low Vision	Occupational Therapy
Bronson School of Nursing	Physician Assistant
Intigrative Holistic Health and Wellness	Social Work
Master of Public Health	Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences

OT scholarship recipients honored at AMBUCS luncheon

On Oct. 5, members of the Kalamazoo AMBUCS organization came to the College of Health and Human Services to celebrate the WMU OT students who were 2016 recipients of [AMBUCS scholarships](#).

The recipients, WMU OT students from both Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, expressed a great deal of gratitude to the organization for the financial aid.

“It has allowed me to reduce my work hours so I can focus more on my classes,” said **Caitlin Muir**. “Plus, driving back and forth between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, this will definitely help me keep gas in my tank.”

AMBUCS is a nonprofit service organization dedicated to creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities. For 2016-17, nearly 40 WMU OT students received a total of \$28,400 from local chapters and the national AMBUCS organization.



(L to R) Dr. Ben Atchison, Natalie Allen, Caitlin Muir, Alison Braden, Krista Kerby, Ellen Stimson, Chanel Raddatz, Alex McMullen, Sarah Jarzembowski, Julie Ballast, Heather Lonkar, Mr. Jack Bellware - president of the Kalamazoo chapter of AMBUCS

According to AMBUCS, the organization has given more than \$8.3 million in scholarships to nearly 15,000 students pursuing degrees in physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology and audiology. Over \$150,000 is awarded annually.

[Scholarship applications](#) are due mid-April and awards are announced in late June.

WMU and Florida Southwestern State College announce alliance

by Cheryl Roland

October 19, 2016 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Officials from Western Michigan University and Florida Southwestern State College gathered **Tuesday, Oct. 18**, to announce an alliance that will allow WMU to offer several high-profile academic programs at FSW's Charlotte County, Florida, campus.

The alliance will provide integrated programs based on the community's need and impact on Charlotte County's economic development. During the event, **WMU President John M. Dunn** and FSW President **Jeff Allbritten** spoke about the importance of the alliance for each school. Additional speakers included **Denis Wright**, FSW regional vice president for economic development, and **Bill Truex**, chairman of the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners.



Dunn and Allbritten

An economic and cultural force

"Florida is home to the highest number of WMU alumni outside of the Midwest and presents great opportunity for new research, development and partnerships," Dunn says. "Our alumni and University supporters are thrilled that WMU is partnering with FSW to become an economic and cultural force in the area."

Earlier this year, Florida's Commission for Independent Education approved two provisional licenses for the University to offer academic programs in Florida. Final approval for WMU program offerings must come from the Higher Learning Commission, which is the University's accreditation body. Once such approvals are obtained, WMU and FSW will be able to release details regarding various degree programs that will be offered.

"Western Michigan University's particular areas of nationally recognized academic expertise match significantly with the needs of our community," Allbritten says. "We are excited to collaborate, establish a long-lasting partnership and welcome WMU to Florida."

Customized educational offerings

WMU, which is known for providing academic programs in aviation, wellness, business and environmental studies, also works with industries and businesses to customize educational offerings and credentialing certifications.

"It is important for Charlotte County to have a partner willing help create access to higher education programs," Truex says. "By FSW and WMU coming together we now have an engine in place to keep talent here in the region while at the same time being able to customize educational programs needed right here in Florida's West Coast."

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Art exhibit represents "Finale" for retiring Gay Walker

The exhibit currently on display in the CHHS second-floor art gallery represents the end of a chapter for the artist, but also marks a new beginning.

The exhibit from Gay Walker, artist, retiring instructor and former coordinator of the Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness program at Western Michigan University, is titled, **Art is My Therapy: A Finale**. And while it marks her retirement from WMU, which will be official at the end of the fall semester, it is anything but an ending to her artistic passions.



"As an art therapist, I know that making art helps me process what is happening in my life," says Walker. "This has gotten me through some difficult and painful times, as well as allowed me to celebrate the beauty around us."

"This exhibit shows some different sides of my therapeutic art making," she added. "Art is my therapy, my stress relief, my form of meditation, communication, and connection."

The exhibit will be on display until Dec. 17.

Artist/Retirement Reception

There will be an Artist/Retirement Reception to celebrate this exhibit and recognize the career of Gay Walker.

Wednesday, Nov. 16

College of Health and Human Services - Atrium and second floor art gallery

Short program at 4:30 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvre and libations until 7 p.m.



Free parking is available in lot 104, just west of the CHHS building.

About Gay Walker



Gay Walker

Gay and her husband, John, just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Her first career was graphic design and she ran Walker Design for many years before going back to school to earn her master's in art therapy at Antioch University. Her art therapy work has mostly been with children and adults who have cancer, people with dementia and disabilities and those who are grieving and dying in hospice.

Gay earned her graduate certificate in holistic health from WMU, began teaching in the Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness program in 1995, and was coordinator from 2007 until last May when she stepped down in preparation for her retirement. In addition to her academic duties, Gay has curated exhibits in the College of Health and Human Services gallery for 10 years, a role that allowed her to meet many amazing artists who continue to inspire her.

In retirement, Gay hopes to explore more forms of art making and new materials, as well as to return to making jewelry. She means to flesh out her inner artist.

Childbirth simulator delivers lifesaving skills

[Bronson School of Nursing](#) has recently acquired a MamaNatalie Birthing Simulator. This device will help students learn the complications and risks associated with childbirth in a simulation setting. Students learn lifesaving skills and how to help mothers survive on the day of delivery.

This birthing simulator does not rely on batteries and does not have any electronics. It is strapped onto the operator, who takes the role of the mother, and manually controls the training scenario. The simulator then makes it easy to create very compelling situations of complex or normal birthing scenarios.



Nursing students demonstrate the birthing simulator.

"We are very excited to use this new device in simulation," states **Tina Keeler MSN**,

RN, clinical coordinator of nursing operations. "It will afford us great opportunities to highlight complications such as asphyxia and postpartum hemorrhage in childbirth."

Its lack of electronics makes the MamaNatalie simulator a useful tool to train midwives throughout the world. In fact, Laerdal, the manufacturer of the device, [donates one MamaNatalie](#) to a third world country for every one that is purchased.

Students gain experience at WMU Senior Day Services

This fall, students from the [Bronson School of Nursing](#), [occupational therapy](#) and [psychology](#) will be working with participants from WMU Senior Day Services to further their knowledge in their respective disciplines.

Bronson School of Nursing students and faculty at WMU Senior Day Services. Pictured left to right are Liza Rouse, RN, coordinator of Senior Day Services; Joanne DeWitt, MSN, RN, nursing faculty member; and students Benjamin Miller, Allison Simkins and Robert Bonifas.



Three students from the Bronson School of Nursing are completing a four-week rotation under the supervision of nursing faculty member, **Joanne Dewit, MSN, RN**. Students are assigned a participant where they will create a life review and complete health assessments. This experience focuses on communication, wellness of elders and holistic care during their first clinical experience.

Six students from occupational therapy who are enrolled in **Dr. Debra Lindstrom's** section of Therapeutic Use of Technology in Occupational Therapy are paired in teams of two to work with their assigned participants to develop solutions to everyday challenges. Teams work to create low-tech devices that assist participants in everyday life. Last semester, teams developed devices such as feeding equipment, multi-purpose cuffs and activity stands.

Dr. Jonathan C. Baker from the Department of Psychology, along with his doctoral associate, **Brian MacNeill** and three graduate students are also working with participants at the Senior Day Services. Brian and the students have been working with participants who demonstrate challenging behavior that may put their community living at risk. The team has been training staff and overseeing the fidelity of interventions. As such, they have been able to help several participants remain at the day program and in their home, who otherwise may be unable to attend due to problem behavior associated with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

For the past 15 years, Western Michigan University Senior Day Services has served older individuals with cognitive or functional impairments that need special assistance or supervision during the day. Senior Day Services offers students opportunities for innovative learning through internships, volunteering, practicum and employment.