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CHHS faculty and staff recognized at State of the College
At the Dec. 2 State of the College event, Dean Earlie Washington recognized high-performing faculty and staff with the annual faculty and staff recognition awards.

- Erica Ongstad - Social Work
  Outstanding Customer Service Award
• Steve Tasko - Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences
Faculty Teaching Excellence Award
• Karen Horneffer-Ginter - Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness
Professional Instructor Teaching Excellence Award
• Dae Kim - Blindness and Low Vision Studies
Research Excellence Award
• Yvonne Unrau - Social Work
Scholarship Excellence Award

Learn about this year's recipients.

PA student awarded scholarship
Travis Turrell, a second year Physician Assistant student at WMU, was awarded a $1000 scholarship by the Michigan Physician Assistant Foundation. He was one of only six PA students in the state of Michigan to receive the scholarship.

OT instructor receives EUP Community Engagement Award
Holly Grieves, occupational therapy instructor at WMU-Grand Rapids, has received the Extended University Programs Community Engagement Award for 2015-16. The $1000 award is presented annually at spring convocation.

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In a partnership with HOSA (future health professionals) of Michigan, AHEC hosted a MED-TALK 2016 program at the College of Health and Human Services at WMU. The event drew more than 200 high school students from West Michigan.
Seriously. Great visit from West Michigan Therapy Dogs at CHHS today. From the College of Health and Human Services, via Instagram

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

- President Dunn gets raise for final year, gives it and more back to WMU
- Longtime employees inducted into 25 Year Club
- WMU football Broncos are headed to the Cotton Bowl
CHHS faculty and staff recognized at State of the College

At the Dec. 2 State of the College event, Dean Earlie Washington recognized high-performing faculty and staff with the annual faculty and staff recognition awards.

Below, you can read the personal introductions written for the awardees. We thank the presenters for their thoughtful words and warm introductions.

**Outstanding CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD**

**Erica Ongstad, Social Work**

Presented by Jennifer Harrison

It is my privilege to be able to introduce Erica Ongstad as the 2016 recipient of the College of Health and Human Services Outstanding Customer Service award. Erica is the office coordinator for the School of Social Work.

There are two short examples I want to talk about of why Erica is eminently deserving of this highest honor for college staff members. I have pestered Erica at times for her response rate with e-mails, phone calls, web queries, and in person visits, but if she doesn’t quit responding so well, completely and professionally, she is going to make the rest of us look bad. It’s my version of an old fashioned work slow-down attempt, but Erica never seems to fall for it.

At one time last year I talked about wanting a calendar that had annual timeframes for field education activities across campuses for the School of Social Work, kind of in a musing way. About two hours later, Erica came into my area saying, “something like this, but linkable in our website?” I was blown away, as it was way more than I would have even envisioned.

The other story is that, like in many of your departments, often people come to the School of Social Work when they really need someplace, someone or something else. I can hear in my head, and often try to emulate, Erica saying, “let me help you find what you are looking for,” and have such respect for what I would claim as a social work skill of getting people to the right resource so that their needs are met, they feel honored, and they sometimes feel like it was their idea the whole time. That is a gift and a skill that not all social workers even have, and Erica has it in abundance.
We are all lucky to have Erica as a colleague, and it is my pleasure to be able to be present as she is recognized today.

**FACULTY TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD**

**Steve Tasko - Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences**

Presented by Ann Tyler

This award was established by former dean, Dr. Janet Pisaneschi, in 1997 to recognize excellence in teaching, a hallmark of the College of Health and Human Services. This year's recipient is Steve Tasko. Here are some comments from his nominators that exemplify his dedication to teaching:

Steve is an incredible teacher who is dedicated to student learning at the undergraduate and graduate level. He is thoughtful in how he constructs his courses to maximize student learning and connect difficult content with clinical practice. He teaches some of our most challenging courses, yet students consistently rave about how much they love his classes.

The passion with which he conveyed curricular information was always evident. He engage his students in conceptual and physical demonstrations and cognitive reasoning exercises in order to make complex concepts accessible to students of a wide range of abilities.

This teacher was profoundly focused on cultivating our class into better learners and better critical thinkers (all of which are entirely related to speech pathology but none of us really knew just how much so at the time).

For Steve Tasko, teaching is not merely a routine. He makes an investment in his students. I am very grateful for the investment he put in me and my career.

The information I learned from Steve’s teaching was instrumental in my academic career at WMU and shaped my desire to continue my academic career and earn a PhD.

If this award is to reflect the impact, inspiration, and exception teaching of an individual I can do nothing but whole-heartedly agree, and nominate Dr. Tasko for this recognition.
I am honored to introduce Dr. Karen Horneffer-Ginter to you today as she receives the Professional Instructor Teaching Excellence Award. For many of you, Karen needs no introduction. She was one of my predecessors, serving as the director of the holistic health care program. She served with distinction and expanded the program from a graduate certificate and gen ed offering to a program that also offered an undergraduate minor.

You may not know that after she graduated in 1996 from the University of Illinois Champagne-Urbana, she was director of behavioral sciences for West Suburban Hospital at Loyola University, where she developed and implemented a curriculum to teach medical residents how to communicate effectively with patients and how to approach care from a more holistic point of view. You may also not know that she has published in 10 peer-reviewed journal articles, five book chapters and is the author of "Full Cup, Thirsty Spirit: Nourishing the Soul When Life's Just Too Much." This is just a sample of her many accomplishments in the holistic health arena. And, of course, she is also an outstanding yoga instructor.

When Karen sought tenure, I had the pleasure of writing a letter of recommendation for her. Although I had never taken a holistic class from her at WMU, I had taken a yoga class from her and shared these insights. "Karen has a way of encouraging you to do more than you think you are capable of, and she does it without judgement or criticism. She also seems to know just how far she can stretch you to perform in a certain area and then gently move you to the next stage."

I am not surprised that Karen was nominated by one of her students. Just as I had experienced, her nominator made a point of stressing Karen's encouraging spirit. She was deemed as "inspiring, praiseworthy and enjoyable," and I couldn't agree more. In the almost 20 years I have known Karen - in many different venues - she has remained kind, caring, helpful, understanding, creative and incredibly competent.
Dae Kim - Blindness and Low Vision Studies

Presented by Jim Leja

This year, I was pleased to nominate Dr. Dae Kim for the CHHS Research Excellence award. Over the past three years, Dr. Kim has demonstrated exceptional research and publication activity that has had an impact in the field of blindness and low vision.

He authored or coauthored 11 refereed publications in journals such as the Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness, the Journal of Transportation Engineering-American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Institute of Transportation Engineers Journal. In addition, he has more than 11 refereed national and international presentations. And finally, Dr. Kim has been PI or co-PI on federal grants totaling more than $1.1 million.

And though it’s not in the criteria for the award, it’s something that I believe is very important, he is able to engage students in his various research activities and brings his expertise into the research class he teaches. Dr. Kim instills his passion into the students he mentors.

I am very happy that he is receiving this honor and recognition of his exceptional efforts and dedication to the university, college, department, and the field. Congratulations, Dr. Dae Kim.

SCHOLARSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD

Yvonne Unrau - Social Work

Presented by Dean Washington

The award for Scholarship Excellence goes to Dr. Yvonne Unrau, professor in the School of Social Work. Dr. Unrau’s scholarship is extensive, and has made a significant impact on the profession, our college and in the communities in which she has worked. She has co-authored 17 books, 45 book chapters, 35 refereed articles and much more. Her concentration on research methods, evidence-based practice and new approaches to interventions have all undoubtedly contributed to the School of Social Work’s continued ranking as a top national program.

Aside from being a professor and mentor for undergraduate and graduate students, much of Dr. Unrau’s work at CHHS has focused on leading the university’s Center for Fostering
Success. This was born out of her research on youth and adults aging out of the foster care system and the recognized need that foster youth were not represented on WMU’s campus.

In 2007, Dr. Unrau conducted a needs assessment and learned that only 12 students with foster care histories were enrolled at WMU. She worked with other leaders on campus to establish the Foster Youth and Higher Education Initiative. From this effort, the Seita Scholars program was launched in 2008. She was the program’s founding director and, in collaboration with her team of staff and students, designed the campus coach support model during her directorship. Today the program serves 150 students from foster care annually at WMU. The program has a scholarship budget of $1.6 million per year and a secure operational budget of nearly $500,000 per year. And, this is only one program under the Center for Fostering Success.

In 2012, the Foster Youth in Higher Education Initiative was renamed the Center for Fostering Success and, in the same year, the center was approved by WMU’s Board of Trustees. Its mission is to increase college graduation and career achievement rates among youth and adults aging out of the foster care system.

Also in 2012, Fostering Success Michigan was established as the center’s second program. Fostering Success Michigan is a statewide outreach initiative that seeks to build capacity for other institutions of higher education to offer support to students from foster care on their campus. In 2013, the Fostering Success Coach Training program was officially launched. This program provides advanced training to professionals across the country who support students from foster care in higher education.

Dr. Unrau feels a great deal of gratitude to lead the center and its programs of excellence. She especially feels honored to use her talent, energy and skill to build supports that directly benefit youth in foster care, and recognizes the exceptional talent of her team of staff in all achievements to date.

Under Dr. Unrau’s leadership, the activities of the Center for Fostering Success align closely with WMU’s mission to be learner-centered and discovery driven. Through this work, as well as her scholarship, Dr. Unrau has advanced policy, created new impactful initiatives in the community and forged strong new state and local partnerships.

One of Dr. Unrau’s strongest contributions to our college and University has been her record of grants and awards to help those in the most need in schools and communities. Since 2008, she has been awarded nine grants totaling more than $2.5 million. Her work has notably been recognized and funded by several organizations including The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and the Department of Health and Human Services, among many others.

Some of her most recent scholarly contributions have concentrated on social work with a view toward mindfulness and mind-body interventions in response to individuals living with trauma. She continues to offer many workshops to educate communities about a variety of topics, including foster care, child welfare, traumatic stress, mindfulness and body-based interventions. She has also offered ways for both students and staff at CHHS and WMU to release stress
through guided yoga and meditation sessions and classes. She has contributed vastly to the development of young scholars and made a tremendous impact on CHHS and WMU.

PA student awarded scholarship

PA program director, Dr. Eric Vangsnes with Travis Turrell

**Travis Turrell**, a second year physician assistant student at WMU, was awarded a $1000 scholarship by the Michigan Physician Assistant Foundation. He was one of only six PA students in the state of Michigan to receive the scholarship.

The awards were presented at the annual Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA) fall CME conference held in Traverse City, Michigan.

The scholarship is awarded to those PA students who demonstrate leadership within their class, a high level of academic achievement and who actively participate in various community service projects.

Congratulations Travis.
OT instructor receives EUP Community Engagement Award

Holly Grieves, MS OTRL

Holly Grieves, occupational therapy instructor at WMU-Grand Rapids, has received the Extended University Programs Community Engagement Award for 2015-16. The $1000 award is presented annually at spring convocation.

She received the award primarily because of work related to the launch of a new partnership between WMU's OT program in Grand Rapids and the community-based organization, Calvin College Rehabilitation Services (CCRS). Through this collaboration, WMU OT students connect with graduate students in Calvin College’s SLP, MSW and audiology departments and GVSU’s PT department to develop treatment plans, provide co-treatment as indicated and learn from clinical supervisors of varying discipline.

"The partnership between our OT department and CCRS is a wonderful example of a true, collaborative community partnership," said Dawn Gaymer, associate provost for Extended University Programs. "The clinic leverages WMU's faculty and clinical expertise to help solve real community problems while expanding opportunities for our faculty and students. It is a model program, and is incredibly deserving of this award."

WMU OT students benefit from expanded fieldwork experiences and a greater depth of case studies and external sources in courses as a result of the partnership.

"We plan to fully invest the funds back into the clinic," said Grieves. "Either by utilizing the funds for specialized training in Constraint Induced Movement Therapy, other continuing education specific to the needs of our clients or to pursue additional equipment for utilization at CCRS."

The Extended University Programs Community Engagement Award is presented annually to instructors who, among other things, forge new partnerships with community-based organizations, who significantly revise program curricula or who help students find external collaborations to enhance their work in a course or in the program overall.
Students raise awareness about sexual and domestic assault

Social work students from a task groups class led by Dr. Gary Mathews collected the hand prints of more than 100 WMU students to help raise awareness about sexual and domestic assault.

The students gathered at the flagpoles in the center of campus to collect the hand prints. More than 100 students received information on sexual and domestic assault before making their mark on the banner.

Students who collected hand prints included Brittany Shetler, Megan Busscher, Hunter Ditzhazy, Jacob Fuller, Mitchell Chapman and Kendall McCarthy

Dr. Mathews also had groups of students working to support the Invisible Need Project and raising money to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for a local family in need.

In addition to raising awareness about sexual and domestic assault, the three groups together collected more than $200, which they donated to the domestic assault program at the Kalamazoo Y.W.C.A.
AHEC hosts HOSA MED-TALK 2016

In a partnership with HOSA (future health professionals) of Michigan, AHEC hosted a MED-TALK 2016 program at the College of Health and Human Services at WMU. The event drew more than 200 high school students from West Michigan.

The half-day program featured presentations from professionals across Michigan on eight health topics including:

- gift of life
- body art and piercing
- hospital intensivist work
- nursing
- forensic medical examinations
- human trafficking
- narcotics
- peace corp

If you are interested in arranging MED-TALK presentations for high schools students in your area, please contact Melissa Ponstein at (616) 771-9494.

About HOSA

HOSA exists to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of high school, post-secondary and middle school students interested in health care. More information at michiganhosa.org.
President Dunn gets raise for final year, gives it and more back to WMU

by Cheryl Roland
December 13, 2016 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees approved a 3 percent raise for President John M. Dunn, increasing his salary for his final year and triggering a $65,000 gift from the University's first couple to boost funds for scholarships and other student needs.

Acting at their Dec. 13 meeting, University trustees unanimously approved the move. The 3 percent salary increase is the same rate used to increase pay for WMU non-bargaining employee groups last July 1. The Dunn raise for 2016-17 will be retroactive to that date and takes his annual salary from $398,241 to $410,189.

Dunn has served as the University's eighth president since July 2007, and will retire June 30, 2017. His practice since the start of his presidency has been with each salary increase to donate back to WMU the cumulative amount of his pay increases since his 2007 starting salary of $345,000. That pledge means this year's gift from Dunn and his wife, Linda, totals more than $65,000. They have designated the funds to be used for scholarships and four funds they've selected for fundraising efforts during the spring—the Student Emergency Fund, Seita Scholars program, WMU Marching Band and the University Art Collection.

"Linda and I are very appreciative of the support that we have received throughout life, particularly when we were young and resources were limited," says Dunn. "Helping students achieve their dreams is very rewarding and we are pleased to be in a position to do so."

Prior to the Dec. 13 action, the most recent adjustment to Dunn's compensation was approved last December and effective on July 1, 2015. The president's employment contract includes a
provision that his salary will be reviewed at least annually and adjusted as determined by the board.

Longtime employees inducted into 25 Year Club

by Jeanne Baron
December 8, 2016 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University recently inducted a total of 41 people into its 25 Year Club as well as recognized two current club members.

The faculty and staff members were honored during a gala induction and dinner Dec. 1. The by-invitation event celebrates employees who have built their careers at WMU by working at the University for 25 years. The 2016 class of inductees began their service to WMU in 1991. Counting these faculty and staff members, the club has an unofficial total of 1,213 members. Of these, 475 are active employees and 738 are retirees.

In addition to the induction of new members, this year’s 25 Year Club gala featured special recognition for two club members, Richard W. Malott, professor of psychology, and James VanDePolder, associate professor of engineering design, manufacturing and management systems. The two faculty members came to WMU in 1966 and now have been employed at the institution for 50 years.

President John M. Dunn presented Bronco mementos to those two special honorees during the gala. He also presented certificates to each of the 25 Year Club inductees, in what is scheduled to be his final participation in the event as WMU’s president.

Club inductees

- Donald L. Alexander, professor of economics
- Lisa E. Baker, professor of psychology
- John Barton, recreation/sports specialist III-SER, landscape services
- Christine J. Blum, custodian, building custodial and support services
- Linda J. Borish, associate professor of history
- Jody A. Brylinsky, associate provost for institutional effectiveness
- Jeffrey M. Carr, manager, maintenance services
• Kim Cho, international admissions counselor, Haenicke Institute for Global Education
• Timothy R. Cobbs, carpenter, maintenance services
• Deborah L. Cronkright, head salad maker, Bernhard Center Dining Services
• Douglas V. Davidson, associate professor of sociology
• James M. Davis, custodian, building custodial and support services
• Janice Evans, custodian, building custodial and support services
• David Franklin Florida II, supervisor, laboratory senior, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
• Jerry W. Fulbright Jr., recreation/sports specialist, landscape services
• Mario A. Galbreath, production operations specialist, Office of Information Technology
• George J. Haus, associate professor of special education and literacy studies
• Lynda L. Hunt, business manager, Office of Development and Alumni Relations
• Carol L.J. Hustoles, faculty specialist II-lecturer of finance and commercial law, retired vice president for legal affairs and general counsel
• Calvin Jones, custodian, building custodial and support services
• Senora Jones, custodian, building custodial and support services
• Stephen L. Kettner, producer and director, Office of Information Technology
• Janet M. Keyes, utility food worker, Burnham Dining Service
• Matthew A. Knewtson, professor of theatre
• R.V. Krishnamurthy, professor of geosciences
• Stephen B. Malcolm, professor of biological sciences
• Donald M. Meyer, professor and chair of economics
• Patty Mikowski, business manager associate, Unified Clinics
• Kathy L. Mitchell, university ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman
• Stephanie Page, house staff, Fetzer Center
• John Parks, network switch analyst, telecommunications
• Randy A. Randt, custodian, building custodial and support services
• Joyce A. Simonds, utility food worker, Bernhard Center Dining Service
• Carol Sundberg, director, Unified Clinics and the Center for Disability Services
• Mercedes Tasende, professor of Spanish
• Rebecca I. Thiel, licensed electrician, maintenance services
• Arthur Ward, refrigeration repairperson, maintenance services
• Martha B. Warfield, vice president for diversity and inclusion
• Alice Wheatley, utility food worker, Burnham Dining Service
• Derrick Williams, second cook, Burnham Dining Service
• David A. Wyman, recreation and sports specialist III, landscape services

For more information on the 25 Year Club including its active and retiree membership lists, visit wmich.edu/hr/25yearclub. Direct questions to the Office of Human Resources at hr-hris@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3620.

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.
WMU football Broncos are headed to the Cotton Bowl

by Kristin Keirns
December 4, 2016 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The No. 15 (CFP) Western Michigan University football Broncos will be playing in the 2017 Cotton Bowl Classic at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, on Monday, Jan. 2.

The Broncos will face the No. 8 Wisconsin Badgers, who fell to Penn State in the Big Ten Championship game Dec. 3. The game starts at noon CST.

The football Broncos have an undefeated 13-0 record this season and are the Mid-American Conference champions. WMU’s Cotton Bowl appearance will be its first in school history and third-straight bowl appearance under the direction of head coach P.J. Fleck. It marks just the second time in conference history that a MAC team has been selected for a New Year’s Six bowl game.
Currently No. 12 in the AP Top 25, No. 14 in the USA Today Coaches Poll and No. 15 in the College Football Playoff poll, WMU is one of just two undefeated schools in the Division I Football Bowl Subdivision. The other is No. 1-ranked Alabama, also 13-0.

Travel packages

WMU has partnered with Anthony Travel to offer comprehensive, exclusive and custom travel packages to Broncos across the nation. Anthony Travel is the official bowl package partner of Western Michigan University and Bronco athletics. No other sites are officially authorized as bowl travel partners. Visit Anthony Travel at anthonytravel.com/wmu-bowl.

Travel package inclusions

- Three-night hotel accommodations at the Gaylord Texan Resort, the official team hotel
- Cotton Bowl Classic game ticket in the official WMU fan section
- Admission to the official Bronco pregame Stampede tailgate and pep rally
- Game day transportation
- Commemorative souvenir
- Commemorative credential and lanyard
- On-site travel directors
- All taxes and fees

The official Cotton Bowl team hotel block included in the travel package is extremely limited and will sell out.

Tickets

All fans are encouraged to purchase game tickets through the Bronco Ticket Office at (888) 4-WMU-TIX (496-8849) or wmubroncos.com/tickets, rather than third-party ticket sites. Purchases made through the Bronco Ticket Office directly aid the University, support the WMU football program and offer the best Bronco bowl experience.

Game ticket pricing

- Club Level—$200 per seat
- Reserve—$100 per seat
- WMU student—$50 per seat, must be currently enrolled WMU student

Tickets and fan packages are being finalized. Check wmubroncos.com for the most up-to-date information.

Reserve advance parking
Pre-purchased parking near AT&T Stadium is also available through the WMU Bronco Ticket Office, (888) 4-WMU-TIX (496-8849) or wmubroncos.com/tickets, at a rate of $25 per vehicle. WMU has a required allotment of 1,500 parking spaces at this rate.

**Cotton Bowl Classic Stampede**

An official Bronco pregame Stampede tailgate and pep rally is planned for **9 a.m. CST Monday, Jan. 2, at Globe Life Park**, home of the Texas Rangers. Located at 1000 Ballpark Way in Arlington, Globe Life Park is a short 10-minute walk from AT&T Stadium.

The tailgate, which will be held in the Jack Daniels Club at the east side of the ballpark, will feature an indoor Texas-style breakfast buffet and two complimentary alcoholic drink tickets. A cash bar will also be available featuring both domestic and craft beer, house wine and breakfast-themed mixed drinks. The site will feature fun activities to enjoy before the game and exclusive commemorative giveaway items. The tailgate will conclude at 11:30 a.m. CST to provide adequate time for pedestrian travel to the game. More information is available at mywmu.com/cottonbowl.

**Stampede tailgate tickets**

Admission to the Stampede tailgate and pep rally is $65 per person and may be procured at (888) 4-WMU-TIX (496-8849) or wmubroncos.com/tickets. Space is limited to the first 700 registrants. Registrants' names will be added to a guest list and event check-in will be required. Game tickets, parking and tailgate admission are sold separately.

**WMU Bronco gear**

Official 2017 Cotton Bowl Classic Bronco gear is available through the WMU Athletics Online Store or WMU Bookstore.

**Watch party locations**

WMU's Office of Development and Alumni Relations is organizing watch parties across the nation for fans who cannot make it to the game. Visit mywmu.com/watchparty for more information or to request to host a watch party at a public venue.

**For the most up-to-date bowl information**, including details on tickets, travel, events and more, visit wmubroncos.com.

**For travel packages**, visit anthonytravel.com/wmu-bowl.

**For information on watch parties, the Stampede tailgate and other pregame fan experiences**, visit mywmu.com/cottonbowl.

**For WMU news, arts and events**, visit wmich.edu/news.
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WMU wide receiver Corey Davis earns multiple all-America honors | Dec. 8, 2016
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Football Broncos move up to No. 17 in AP Poll | Oct. 31, 2016
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