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College of Arts and Sciences

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E-News Issue 8: Dec. 2013



Graduation comes early for a political science major battling brain cancer.

CAS News

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English major Ryan Vaughn '06 wins Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition
Sandy Barry-Loken '94 empowers more than 2,000 girls in Southwest Michigan
Artist Paul Marquardt '79 creates permanent installation in Sangren Hall

Stay in touch!



Update your
information



Archaeological project earns state award

by Jeanne Baron
November 20, 2013 | WMU News



Members of the public listen to an educational program at Fort St. Joseph.

KALAMAZOO—The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project has received a 2013 State History Award in the educational programs category.

The award was presented by the Historical Society of Michigan during the society's annual Meeting and State History Conference earlier this fall in Kalamazoo. The State History Awards are the highest recognition given by the state's official historical society.

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project was established to find the site of Fort St. Joseph, which was located near Niles, Mich. The initiative is a partnership among Western Michigan University, the city of Niles and the Fort St. Joseph Museum.

It is headed by **Dr. Michael S. Nassaney**, WMU professor of anthropology and the project's principal investigator, and aided by Support the Fort as well as several other government, history and community groups.

Fort St. Joseph

WMU's Department of Anthropology pinpointed the fort's location during an initial survey in 1998. Excavations began in earnest there in 2002, when WMU began conducting its annual archaeological field school at the fort site.

Since then, faculty researchers and students at the University have continued working to uncover and interpret the fort's physical remains.

First established as a mission in the 1680s by French Jesuits, the fort was one of the earliest European settlements in the western Great Lakes region. It was an important part of a chain of settlements that facilitated the fur trade between Native Americans and the French, and took on the roles of garrison and trading post during the first half of the 18th century.

Outreach and education

Public outreach and education are major aspects of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project. Digs have taken place every summer since 2002 at the fort site, with the project hosting WMU's field school as well as archaeology camps for middle and high school students, teachers and interested adults.

Starting in 2006, the University joined with local organizations to stage an annual open house that attracts about 2,000 visitors. The event includes tours of the fort site, lectures, displays of excavated items, historical reenactments and demonstrations, and period music, dancing and food.

In addition, videos, booklets, a blog and other informational materials have been produced under the project's aegis, including a 30-minute documentary on 18th-century colonial and frontier life titled "[A Militia Muster on the Eve of Revolution.](#)"

The documentary earned a gold award in the social sciences area of the instructional/educational/training programs category of the 2013 Aurora Awards program, an international film and video competition to recognize excellence, particularly for products, programs and commercials that typically do not have access to international competitions.

It was created using a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council. Nassaney and **Stephen L. Kettner**, a videographer and editor with WMU Media Services and an adjunct professor for the University's School of Communication, co-produced the work. **David Tabor**, a 2010 WMU graduate, served as second cameraman.

Other related materials

Other documentaries shot and edited by Kettner include "The Search for Fort St. Joseph: Lessons in History, Culture and Scientific Methodology" (2004), "The Fort St. Joseph Project: Service and Learning in the Community" (2006), and "Making the Past Come Alive: Public Archaeology at Fort St. Joseph" (2008).

The first two documentaries are available for purchase through Films for the Humanities. A [lengthy article](#) about Fort St. Joseph written by Nassaney and accompanied by numerous photos is posted online by The Encyclopedia of French Cultural Heritage in North America, based at Laval University in Quebec City.

CAS Alumni and Employees Make a Difference

On Wednesday, December 4, Western Michigan University held its semiannual [Make a Difference](#) Reception. Out of eleven awardees, five have ties to the College of Arts and Sciences as alumni and employees. Winners include:

- Joanne Beverage, Department of English
- Bruce Carpenter '74 (chemistry), Department of Chemistry
- Myla Edmond, Office of the Dean
- Paul Hildenbrand '86 (public relations), Haworth College of Business
- Dorilee Schieble, Department of History



From left to right, Paul Hildenbrand, Myla Edmond, WMU President John Dunn, Joanne Beverage, Dorilee Schieble and Bruce Carpenter.

Joanne Beverage's nominator said that Beverage "has gone over and above the description of her position" since joining the Department of English. Beverage not only greets every student that enters the department and makes them feel comfortable, she also works well with faculty, graduate students and part-time instructors. Beverage is described as a great help and invaluable member of her department.

Finance specialist, Bruce Carpenter received multiple nominations that illustrated examples of his exceptional work. Carpenter is noted for having a rare commitment to Western Michigan University and its growth. By his example, Carpenter illustrates the important role that WMU staff members have in the lives of students and colleagues which positively impacts the work environment and attitude in the Department of Chemistry.

Like Carpenter, Myla Edmond had more than one nominator. Working in the College of Arts and Sciences Office of the Dean, Edmond is noted to be the first to volunteer and shows through her actions that exceeding expectations is the only way to ensure success. One colleague states that Edmond "is innovative and always has a solution." Edmond is said to have a contagious calm demeanor and "has the ability to walk into a room and lower the stress level significantly."

Paul Hildenbrand works in the Haworth College of Business, but is a public relations graduate of WMU. His nominator says Hildenbrand is directly responsible for increasing the number of transfer students who come to WMU. He is "always willing to lend a helping hand to improve the University and the student experience." An example of his commitment to improve the student experience, Hildenbrand recently spear-headed a community service project that focused on providing support to veterans.

The phrase "not in my description" does not exist for Dorilee Schieble. When a task needs to be completed in the Department of History Schieble is not interested in determining who should do it. Instead she takes it on or tries to resolve issues directly. Her nominator states that her "attitude, skill set and intelligence" has her involved in a vast amount of projects. Schieble is considered "the most professional and effective staff person" one her nominators has encountered in more than fifteen years at WMU.

The Make A Difference award is a campus-wide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected for the award receive a before-tax prize of \$300 and a certificate. These semiannual award winners are then eligible for one of four annual Make a Difference awards that includes a before-tax prize of \$1200 prize. Award winners are selected by a committee of peers from the participating employee groups of AFSCME, APA, MSEA, POA, and PSSO.

Ed Gordon '82 Returns to Campus



Communication and political science graduate Ed Gordon '82 returned to campus on Monday, December 2, to mark the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to Western Michigan University. Gordon, an Emmy-award-winning journalist, has been the host and contributor of various news programs, including BET News, BET Tonight, NPR's News and

Notes and most recently, Weekly with Ed Gordon.

Gordon returned to WMU to help facilitate conversations surrounding race relations as the campus community remembered King's visit to WMU. The event began with attendees listening to an audio tape featuring excerpts from the speech that King delivered at WMU, just four months after he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The excerpts focused on King's acknowledgment that change was sweeping the entire world. His message of interconnectedness was clear and poignant.

Following King's powerful words, WMU President Dr. Dunn provided remarks on the significance of the day King came to WMU and introduced Ed Gordon. Using King as an example, Gordon challenged WMU students, faculty and staff with the idea that one man can make change. He shared interactions and interviews he conducted with South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, Nelson Mandela and President of the United States, Barack Obama to illustrate that change has to first start from within. Gordon stated "you can only move forward and be great when you feel greatness within yourself." Gordon closed by personally and collectively challenging participants to make their world and lives better by challenging leadership, including at WMU, to live up to its promises and to challenge self, as "challenging yourself is the hardest challenge."

Accelerating Michigan

11/19/2013

Ryan Vaughn (*BA '06, English*) recently walked away from the fourth Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition as a grand prize winner. Well, his company Varsity News Network of Grand Rapids, won, and took home the \$500,000 cash prize.



The Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition is an international business competition that awards cash prizes and in-kind awards to innovators.

Varsity News Network enables athletic directors to manage their own communications and create media coverage of their own events—that's high school athletic directors, by the way. The already popular website will be able to expand product offerings including a mobile app because of the win.

Empowering Girls

12/2/2013

Sandy Barry-Loken (*BA '94, Public Relations; MA '97, Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology*) spends her days serving as a role model and mentor for more than 2,000 third through eighth grade girls in Southwest Michigan as the Director of the Greater Kalamazoo Girls on the Run.



She leads the organization, which is responsible for building character, healthy lifestyles and self-esteem in young girls with running as a central theme and activity goal.

Barry-Loken came to WMU because it was one of the few schools that had a concentration in public relations within communication. During her undergraduate years, she was an active participant in campus life, and served as a residence hall assistant all four years in the valley dorms. She also worked in University Relations.

“My experience at WMU was really positive and I have so many memories of my time being an RA,” she said. “I still stay in touch with a lot of the other students I worked alongside.”

After finishing her bachelor’s degree, Barry-Loken stayed at Western Michigan for graduate work in higher education. She participated in President Diether Haenicke’s presidential intern program, which led her to become the Director of Student Activities and Leadership Programs.

She moved over to work with Girls on the Run a little more than 10 years ago, and has been a large part of the program’s growth in the region.

“When I started I was a 20-hour a week employee and we had about 700 girls we were serving,” said Barry-Loken. “Now we have eight part time employees and there are nearly 2,400 girls in the program, which is about 44% of the population of third through eighth grade girls in the area.”

Kalamazoo’s chapter of Girls on the Run is the largest in Michigan and one of the biggest in the country. Although she’s not directly working at WMU, Barry-Loken said she works closely with her alma mater as a community partner.

“Each year we work with multiple WMU interns, and we have several college students who serve as volunteer coaches,” she said. “The girls love having Western students as their coaches. We also partner with WMU to host the start and finish of our season-ending 5k at Waldo Stadium.”

Barry-Loken said the greatest part of her job is seeing the transformation that takes place with everyone involved.

“It’s inspiring to see how volunteer coaches and young girls are both changed from the beginning to the end,” she said. “Girls on the Run is a lot more than a running program and it’s exciting to see how all who are involved are inspired to reach their full potential.”