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College of Arts and Sciences

E-News Issue 11: March 2014

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Students share the impact of the College of Arts and Sciences in contest.

CAS News

Students share the impact of the College of Arts and Sciences in I Am CAS contest
Department of Psychology wins \$500,000 grant to provide services for autism
CAS initiatives to talk about value of the liberal arts
Exploring Fort St. Joseph
CAS faculty and staff invited to Dine with the Dean

Alumni Profiles

Creative writing grad pockets another top writing award
School of Communication alumni part of 'Big' fundraiser

Student Story

Political science and environmental and sustainability studies major prepares for Jamaica

Stay in touch!



Update your
information



I Am CAS

"The College of Arts and Sciences represents the academic heart and liberal arts core of Western Michigan University and provides a broad range of academic programs."

—Dr. Alexander Enyedi

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Western Michigan University

The Office of the Dean was extremely pleased with the quality of entries received for the first I Am CAS contest. For that reason, making a decision was difficult. We contemplated listing honorable mentions because the competition was so incredibly close, but every entry was honorable and worth mentioning. We are proud of each WMU student who participated. To see all entries visit the [I Am CAS photo album](#).

Winners were selected based on:

- completion of entry
- quality of statement
- clarity of photo
- attention to grammar and spelling

Congratulations to Casey Blair of Wheaton, Illinois and Kylia Dantzler-Morgan of Grand Rapids, Michigan!



It's not too late for you to share the impact that the College of Arts and Sciences has had on you! Share your photo and story directly into [the photo album](#) or by emailing coas-web@wmich.edu.

WMU wins \$500,000 grant to create wide range of autism services

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by Mark Schwerin

February 25, 2014 | WMU News



Peterson

KALAMAZOO—Those suffering from autism and their families are getting some much needed help thanks to a \$500,000 grant to Western Michigan University psychologists from the Michigan Department of Community Health.

The grant has been awarded to **Drs. Stephanie Peterson and R. Wayne Fuqua**, chair and professor, respectively, in the WMU Department of Psychology, who are implementing the grant project as co-investigators. The grant will fund a sweeping array of initiatives that will use high-tech methods to help train mental health practitioners, parents and others working with autism spectrum disorder, ultimately leading to wider certification of other professionals trained in treating autism.

"The need is really huge," Peterson says. "We're taking a bite out of the elephant."

The grant initiative comes after the state reviewed existing autism services and passed legislation requiring insurance companies to cover treatment. Peterson and Fuqua looked closely at the gaps that were identified by the state and wove their grant proposal around those needs.



Fuqua

Projects to be funded under the grant

- **A tele-consultation initiative**, in which WMU will work with service providers and possibly teachers to increase their behavioral assessment and intervention skills when working with the autistic population. To maximize efficiency and cut down on travel, a specialized camera and audio system will provide interaction between facilitators and participants to coach them through their assessment and treatment. Dr. Peterson and WMU graduate students will then provide live feedback to participants, who can also go back and watch sessions again to review the input from experts. Five sites will be equipped with camera systems to give providers the necessary tools to effectively carry out both assessment and treatment.
- **A podcasting project**, in which autism experts from across the country will explore important issues in behavior analysis related to autism assessment and treatment. The instructional resources will function like a Physicians' Desk Reference for autism spectrum disorder and help practitioners identify, implement and troubleshoot best practices in the assessment and treatment of behavioral problems that are common to children and adolescents on the autism spectrum. Among the topics that will be included are social skills, language assessment and development, self-stimulatory and self-injurious behavior, and toilet training and sleep problems. Podcasts geared toward parents and family are also a possibility.
- **Continuation of the annual Michigan Autism Conference**, bringing autism experts from across the country to Kalamazoo, who, along with WMU autism experts, will provide families, practitioners and researchers with information related to assessment and treatment of autism. The first conference, which was held in October 2013, was highly successful and featured the likes of autism expert and author Dr. Jon Bailey, professor of psychology at Florida State University; and autism researcher Dr. Peter Gerhardt, director of education for the McCarton School, a year-round school dedicated to the belief that children diagnosed with autism can live full and productive lives; as well as remarks by Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.
- **Online and on-site training** of supervisors for practitioners wishing to become board certified behavior analysts for autism spectrum disorder. Since the state only recently mandated insurance funding for autism treatment, Michigan has a shortage of board certified behavior analysts, whose training requires a supervised training module. By training more supervisors, it is hoped more practitioners will obtain their certification.
- **Forming partnerships with organizations providing services** to those with autism and their families. WMU is exploring a partnership with the Autism Alliance of Michigan and assisting with plans to create a parent navigation system that would put families in touch with autism services in their communities.

Implementing all phases of the grant project will require the commitment of a team of WMU faculty with the help of a small army of graduate students. It is anticipated that some 25 to 30 people from WMU alone will be involved, not counting those at community partner agencies and national figures who will lend their expertise.

"We think what we're doing is very compatible with the overall state mission of improving services for those with autism spectrum disorder and their families," Fuqua says. "Services have been pretty spotty until now. This is an important part of a larger state plan to ramp up services in the state of Michigan. We're pleased to be a part of it."

The Liberal Arts



WMU's College of Arts and Sciences offers more than 60 majors, generates nearly half of all WMU credit hours, and provides a high quality liberal arts core for all WMU students. Still, the nature and value of the liberal arts is not always clear, and has become the subject of an intense national discussion. As we map the shifting landscape with respect to attitudes about the liberal arts, we invite you to explore these links and to [share ones](#) that you'd like to see on the list.

- [New Report Documents That Liberal Arts Disciplines Prepare Graduates for Long-Term Professional Success](#), Association of American Colleges and Universities
- [How Liberal-Arts Majors Fare Over the Long Haul](#) by Beckie Supiano
- [Why Scientists Should Embrace the Liberal Arts](#) by David J. Skorton
- ["Only Connect..." The Goals of a Liberal Education](#) by William Cronon
- [You're Majoring in What?](#) by Jennifer Stevens
- [Liberal Arts Degrees: An Asset at Some Companies](#) by Clay Masters
- [A Liberal Arts Degree is More Valuable Than Any Trade](#) by Vivek Ranadivé
- [Pop Culture Has Turned Against the Liberal Arts](#) by Kevin Craft
- [The Liberal Arts, Economic Value, and Leisure](#) by Johann Neem
- [How a Liberal Arts Degree Pays Off](#) by Lynn Kuzma, dean, of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the University of Southern Maine
- [The Value of a Liberal Arts Education in Today's Global Marketplace](#) by Edward J. Ray, president, Oregon State University
- [In Defense of the Liberal Arts](#) by Jack Calareso, president, Anna Maria College

Let's talk!

Take the conversation further and join us on the [WMU College of Arts and Sciences Facebook page](#), on Twitter at [@WMUCAS](#) and in the [LinkedIn College of Arts and Sciences group](#) for Talk Thursdays. Share articles you've read, tell us your

perspective and ask questions on Thursdays of every week. Use the hashtag #WMULiberalArts when referencing this conversation and let's talk about the value of a liberal arts education.

Exploring Fort St. Joseph

Posted on Thursday, February 13, 2014



Just under 60 miles from Western Michigan University is Niles, Michigan, home to the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project. Student and faculty archaeologists from WMU are working to unlock the secrets of this lost frontier outpost of New France.

Despite extreme winter weather conditions, 14 faculty, students, and alumni who have worked on the project traveled to Quebec City in early January for the 47th annual Conference of Historical and Underwater Archeology.

Western came back to Kalamazoo with several awards from the annual photo competition, including two second-place and two first-place prizes. Katelyn Hillmeyer, graduate student, snapped the photo that won first place in the diversity category, pictured. In the photo, students are being offered Sema (tobacco in Anishnaabemowin).

"The students are being led by fellow student Seth Allard who was sharing part of his Native American heritage," explains Hillmeyer. "...Tobacco is a very important item for Ojibwa, and to offer tobacco when receiving a gift is to let the spirit of what you have taken know that you do not accept the gift lightly, but with gratefulness, and an understanding that the gift is to be

used accordingly and not wasted.

"We took plants, altered earth, and also gained knowledge through the data collected—and at the same time altered the environment of the forest. We then acknowledged both the sacrifice of the plant and animal life we disturbed, as well as receipt of necessary data, which was then used to help us on our path of greater understanding... In response, we showed our gratefulness and humility, promising our use of these gifts in a responsible manner."

Additionally, Andrew Beaupré (*MA '10, Anthropology*) organized a session highlighting the forts and families of New France that included paper presentations by Beaupré, LisaMarie Malischke (*MA '09, Anthropology*), and a co-authored paper by Alex Brand, Erin Claussen (*MA '10, Anthropology*), Ian Kerr (*student*), and Michael Nassaney (*professor, anthropology*).

Dr. Nassaney, principal investigator of the project, presented a second paper in a session on critical reflections on the fur trade organized by Amelie Allard of the University of Minnesota. His paper examined significant questions concerning fur trade archaeology, extracted from his forthcoming book on the same topic. Terry Martin also presented a paper featuring Fort St. Joseph archaeology in a symposium dedicated to the historical archaeology of French Colonial America.

The University has been involved in the project since 1998, and works with the City of Niles, the Fort St. Joseph Museum, Support the Fort, Inc., and other community groups. To learn more about the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, please [visit their website at wmich.edu/fortstjoseph](http://wmich.edu/fortstjoseph).

Conference attendees included: Andrew Beaupré (*MA '11, Anthropology*), Erin Claussen (*MA '10, Anthropology*), Erica D'Elia (*student*), Catherine Davis, James Dunnigan (*student*), Anna Gerechka (*student*), Jayne Godfrey (*BA '12, Anthropology*), Joseph Hearn (*student*), Terry Martin, Michael Nassaney (*professor, anthropology*), Emily Powell (*student*), LisaMarie Malischke (*MA '09, Anthropology*), Andrew Robinson (*student*), Andrew Zink

Dine with the Dean



Wednesday, March 26

Bernhard Center, Faculty Dining Room
noon to 1:30 p.m.

Faculty and staff of Western Michigan University's College of Arts and Sciences are invited to dine with the dean. Dr. Alexander Enyedi invites you to share your thoughts, experiences, ask questions and make suggestions as it pertains to CAS and the value of the liberal arts education.

Creative writing grad, author pockets another top writing award

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by Mark Schwerin
February 27, 2014 | WMU News



Moustakis

KALAMAZOO—A graduate of Western Michigan University's doctoral program in creative writing has another award to add to her growing collection.

The literary journal The Kenyon Review has named **Melinda Moustakis** a Kenyon Review Fellow. The budding author can add her latest accolade to her other accomplishments, which include a Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction for her book "Bear Down, Bear North: Alaska Stories" and recognition from the National Book Foundation in 2011 as one of its 5 Under 35 award winners.

About the Kenyon Review Fellows

In 2012, The Kenyon Review welcomed the first of its KR Fellows. The initiative was inspired by the great tradition of Kenyon Review literary fellowships awarded in the 1950s to writers such as Flannery O'Connor and W.S. Merwin in their formative years. These fellowships represent a significant fulfillment of one aspect of the journal's continuing mission: to recognize, publish and support extraordinary authors in the early stages of their careers.

This two-year, post-graduate residential fellowship at Kenyon College offers qualified individuals time to develop as writers, teachers and editors. Fellows receive a \$32,500 stipend, plus health benefits. After two years, it is anticipated that KR Fellows will be more mature and sophisticated writers, teachers and editors. As a result, they will be extremely attractive candidates for academic positions as well as for significant publishing opportunities.

Melinda Moustakis

Moustakis was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, and raised in California. Before entering the WMU doctoral program, she earned her master's degree in English and creative writing from the University of California, Davis. "Bear Down Bear North" also won the Maurice Prize in fiction. Her work has appeared in Alaska Quarterly Review, American Short Fiction, The Kenyon Review and elsewhere. She was a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University and received a 2014 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship in Fiction. Her story, "They Find the Drowned," won a 2013 PEN/O. Henry Prize.

Alumni Party Gets 'Big'

Posted on Monday, February 24, 2014



In the 1988 hit movie 'Big,' main character Josh Baskin makes a wish and wakes up the next morning—big, the adult character played by Tom Hanks. A group of Bronco Alumni are currently experiencing an eerily similar situation, well, maybe not eerie, and maybe not all that similar—but they definitely experienced the feeling of getting 'big.'

What started as a college party has turned into an annual fundraiser that raises tens of thousands of dollars for educational resources in third world countries.

"It didn't start out as a planned thing," said Kellen Manley (*BA '06, Film Video & Media Studies*). "We didn't sit around saying 'what can we do that would be really cool?' It was just a thing we started doing, and realized that we could actually make it into something, so since then, we've really been pushing to help Lifeline Energy. It's just all come together really organically."

In 2004, WMU students Manley, Kevin Turk (*BBA '06, Accounting*), Kris Petro (*BA '05, Communication*), Tim Kelley (*BBA '06, Accountancy*), Phil Krall (*BA '04, Art*), and Will Robertz (*BS '07, Industrial Technology Education*) were hanging out at a student rental on Minor Street in the Vine Neighborhood. It was April Fool's Day, and the group sat around watching Tom Hanks movies all afternoon. Jokingly, they told a few people it was Tom Hanks Day. Little did they know they were starting something big.

For the next few years, April 1 become synonymous with Tom Hanks. Tee shirts were designed, kegs were purchased, and bands set up to play in the basement of wherever the party was to be held. It wasn't until year four that everything changed.

"We were just a bunch of guys, sitting around a college house, watching movies. We never thought that it would turn into an annual fundraiser. We never even thought Tom would find out, or that we would get to meet him back stage on Broadway," said Turk. "The fact that he sends us stuff every year still surprises me."

Turk got a call from Tom Hanks' 'people.' It turns out the actor loved the idea and sent a box of autographed memorabilia for the party. The group decided that instead of keeping the stuff, they would sell raffle tickets and donate the proceeds to a charity for which Hanks is the U.S. Ambassador, Lifeline Energy. Lifeline Energy provides off-grid educational initiatives, most notably a solar, hand-crank radio/light that allows children in third world countries access to better educational opportunities.

It was a hit. The group, who had at this point all graduated from WMU, moved the annual event to Chicago, where it garnered national media attention from CNN, TMZ, and was also picked up by local Chicago media outlets.

In 2013, the man himself sent Turk a few tickets to a performance of his Broadway show, *Lucky Guy*, and Turk, Manley, and Petro had their chance to meet Hanks and talk Tom Hanks Day (pictured above L to R: Turk, Petro, Hanks, and Manley).

"I remember waiting around anxiously back stage, wondering if we were actually going to get to talk to him, and then all of sudden, there he was!" said Manley. "He introduced us to some other people backstage, including Hank Aaron, and then we took some pictures and talked with him for a bit. It was definitely one of the more exciting moments of my life."

It wasn't a huge surprise when people started asking about having Tom Hanks Day parties of their own, and it was at that point Turk, Manley, and Petro knew that what they were doing had truly become something 'big.'

In early 2014, a Kickstarter campaign was launched to redesign the website to allow anyone, anywhere, to organize and promote their very own Tom Hanks Day, while ensuring all proceeds would be donated to Lifeline Energy. With a week left to hit the mark, the \$9000 goal was met. Now, anyone will be able to host their very own Tom Hanks Day, beginning this year on April 12.

"I think that for us, it's been a great way to stay in touch with our friends," said Petro. "The added bonus is that we are raising money in a really neat way, and now anyone, anywhere, can do the same thing."

The campaign was featured on ABC's Good Morning America, and Manley was recently featured on Kalamazoo's WWMT Channel 3 weekend morning show.

To learn more about Tom Hanks Day or Lifeline Energy, please follow the links below:

thetomhanksday.com

[WWMT- Tom Hanks Day Interview with Kellen Manley](#)

[Facebook—International Tom Hanks Day](#)

[Lifeline Energy](#)

Former Western Michigan volleyball player Gillian Asque headed for Jamaican national team

http://www.mlive.com/broncos/index.ssf/2014/01/former_western_michigan_volley.html