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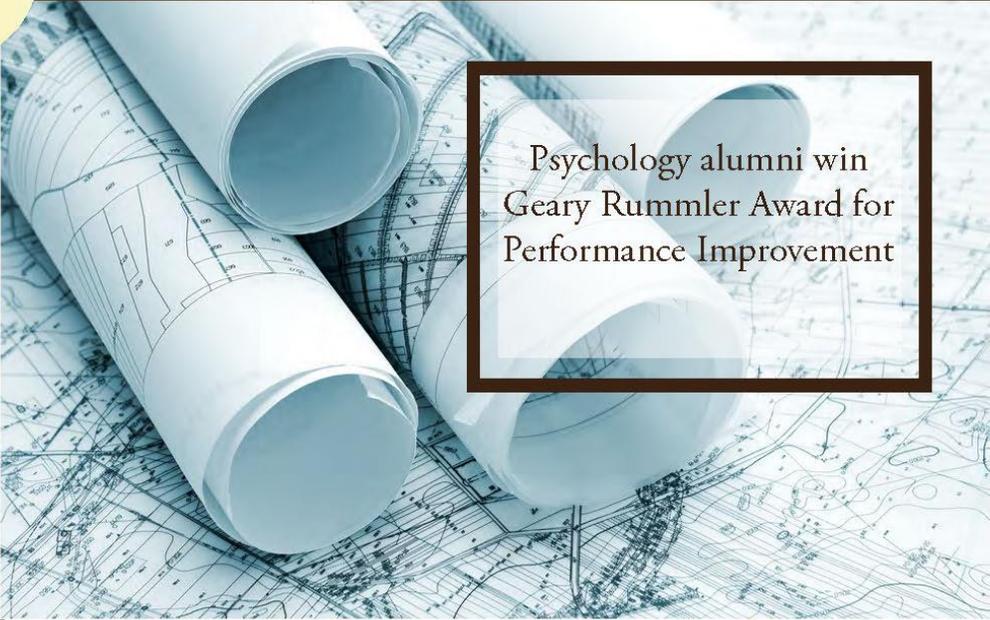
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College of Arts and Sciences

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WMU named finalist for national Climate Leadership Award

by Cheryl Roland

April 1, 2014 | WMU News



Online votes may be cast once per day through Tuesday, April 15.

KALAMAZOO—Western Michigan University is a **finalist to win a 2014 Climate Leadership Award** as part of an annual competition among the U.S. colleges and universities that are signatories of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment.

WMU is one of four schools in its category for national honors in the awards program sponsored by Second Nature, a national nonprofit that seeks to create a sustainable society by transforming higher education, and Planet Forward, a web-to-television initiative that documents and shares energy, climate and sustainability advances that can be used to tackle some of society's biggest challenges.

"This is enormously gratifying," says **WMU President John M. Dunn**. "We've been committed to sustainability for a very long time, and we have a record of significant accomplishments. This honor is an acknowledgement of our past work, our current initiatives and our commitment to the future. It's about the culture of sustainability we're building on campus and in our community."

This year, the award program's fifth, drew the largest and most competitive pool of nominations to date, according to Second Nature. The other three schools in the running for top honors among doctorate-granting institutions are the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, University of North Texas and Ohio State University. The Second Nature Board of Directors will choose the award winner in

WMU's category as well as the winners in four other collegiate categories that are based on higher education Carnegie classifications. Winners will be announced in late spring.

Video competition begins April 1

The Climate Leadership Award program features a public, online voting component. Each of the 20 finalists was invited to produce a video that promotes its specific sustainability efforts. Voting opens Tuesday, April 1, with the videos available for viewing and voting on the Planet Forward website at planetforward.org/content/climate-leadership-awards-2014 and continuing for the first two weeks of April, which is Earth Month. **People can vote once daily between April 1-15.** Approximately 50,000 votes were cast during last year's voting.

The WMU video highlights both the University's long-time strengths in energy savings as well as its commitment to building a culture of sustainability by weaving the institution's commitment to green and sustainable practices into every part of University life. Featured in the video are a number of scenes highlighting campus initiatives as well as interviews with Dunn; Dr. Harold Glasser, executive director for campus sustainability; graduate student Kate Binder; and undergraduate student Carlos Daniels.

The video describes WMU sustainability efforts that date back more than 30 years, predating those of many other schools that have more recently embraced the need for both basic green tenets and the need for systemic change.

"The impacts of climate change are being felt at all scales and among all people across the U.S. and the world, and our colleges and universities are clearly at the forefront of identifying solutions, and providing the next generation of responsible and pioneering leaders," says **David Hales, president of Second Nature** and a recent visitor to the WMU campus. "This year we are seeing the most innovative and exciting projects yet, and we are thrilled to be able to recognize these institutions and their work."

About Second Nature

Second Nature works to create a healthy, just and sustainable society beginning with the transformation of higher education. Second Nature is the supporting organization of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, a partnership among approximately 680 colleges and universities in every state and the District of Columbia who have committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare students through research and education to solve the challenge of the 21st century. Learn more at secondnature.org and presidentsclimatecommitment.org.

Sustainability at WMU

Western Michigan University's sustainability efforts, which are part of its strategic plan, date back to 1971 when the University established Michigan's first environmental studies program. In 1980, WMU launched a quasi-green revolving fund—the first in the nation—that is used to fund energy-saving projects. Energy savings from those efforts have been captured and reinvested in additional energy-saving initiatives over the years. A number of other higher education institutions have since adopted similar funding mechanisms. Additional work at WMU has focused on solar power, electric vehicles, food and gardening storm water management and interdisciplinary efforts to build sustainability into curricula and research. In 2010 WMU students became the first student body in Michigan to initiate and approve a fee that supports campus sustainability initiatives and provides funding for student research.

For more information about WMU's sustainability initiatives, visit wmich/sustainability or contact the Office for Sustainability at wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu or (269) 387-0947.

2014 Faculty and Staff Award Winners



The College of Arts and Sciences is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2013-14 Faculty Achievement Awards, Staff Excellence Awards, the Diversity and Inclusion Recognition Award and the Gender Scholar Award. This year we recognized 13 individuals for their exemplary contributions to the College of Arts and Sciences. Each honoree received his/her award on Thursday, March 20, in the University Center for the Humanities (2500 Knauss Hall), at 3:30 p.m. To view photos from the event visit the [2013-14 Faculty Achievement and Staff Excellence Awards album](#).

Faculty Achievement Awards

The faculty achievement awards align with Strategic Priority D of the [College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Plan](#) to recognize outstanding faculty contributions to the mission of the College.

Here are this year's Faculty Achievement Award recipients:

Professional and Community Service:

Dr. Philip Egan, Department of English

Research and Creative Activity:

Dr. William C. Olsen, Department of English
Dr. Benjamin Torres Caballero, Department of Spanish

Teaching:

Dr. Jennifer Machiorlatti, School of Communication
Dr. Michael Ryan, Department of Economics

Global Engagement:

Dr. Jeffrey M. Angles, Department of World Languages and Literatures
Dr. James Butterfield, Department of Political Science

Staff Excellence Awards

CAS staff play a critical role in the success of our departments, institutes, school and the college. We are very fortunate to have an incredible group of dedicated staff in the College of Arts and Sciences. This award recognizes the great work and contribution of great staff members over the past year. This year's Staff Excellence Award recipients are:

Ms. Jacquelyn Bizzell, CAS Undergraduate Advising
Ms. Dorilee Schieble, Department of History
Ms. Heather White, Mallinson Institute for Science Education

Diversity and Inclusion Recognition Award

This award is made to CAS faculty who demonstrate an exemplary commitment to diversity and inclusion as expressed through research and creative activity; teaching, mentoring, or curriculum transformation; professional service; and/or a combination of achievements in these areas. This year's Diversity and Inclusion Recognition Award recipients are:

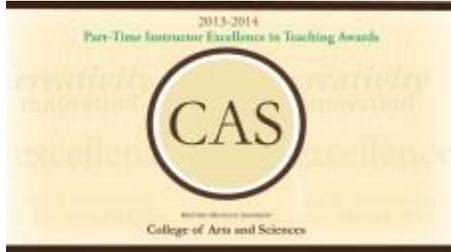
Dr. Sisay Asefa, Department of Economics
Dr. David Huffman, Department of Chemistry

Gender Scholar Award

The CAS Women's Caucus strives to promote an academic culture of inclusiveness for all people at Western Michigan University in research, teaching, service and administrative work. The Gender Scholar Award is awarded to a CAS faculty member who demonstrates excellence in gender-related research and scholarly activities. Applicants are judged based on the overall quality of the work and contributions advancing knowledge in an area of research that has a gender focus. This year's Gender Scholar Award recipient is:

Dr. Jean Kimmel, Department of Economics

Part-Time Instructor Excellence in Teaching Award Winners



The Western Michigan University College of Arts and Sciences is proud to announce its first winners of the Part-Time Instructor Excellence in Teaching Award. This award acknowledges significant contributions to the learning environment by part-time instructors and is based on an accumulated record of achievement as a teacher at WMU as evidenced, for example, by student evaluations, peer and supervisor feedback, and letters of support.

The 2013-2014 Part-Time Instructor Excellence in Teaching Award winners are:

Dr. Britt Hartenberger, Department of Anthropology

Dr. Hedy Habra, Department of Spanish

Mr. David Paul, Department of Philosophy

Each winner will be recognized on Friday, April 11, in the Center for Humanities at 3 p.m.

Researcher Signs Letter Delivered to President Obama



As an expression of concern by scientists and conservationists, a letter was delivered to President Barack Obama regarding the decline of monarch butterflies. Among the researchers who signed this important letter was WMU professor of biological sciences, Dr. Stephen Malcolm. The huge decline in monarch numbers appears to be an indicator of problems with agricultural policy in the US and Canada and deforestation in Mexico. The number of monarch butterflies wintering in Mexican pine and fir forests has plunged to its lowest level since studies began in 1993. The famous butterflies this year covered just 1.65 acres, or 0.68 hectares, providing further evidence that the monarch's annual migration from Canada to Mexico is in danger of disappearing.

"The overwintering decline to less than a hectare is truly alarming," Malcolm says. "There's a lot of buzz on the Internet about this decline, the reasons for it and the implications of such a huge decline." Overwintering monarchs in Mexico have gone from covering about 21 hectares in 1996-97 to about 0.68 to 0.67 hectares this winter, Malcolm says. Last year, the butterflies covered about 1.21 hectares, almost double the

total this winter. Malcolm says the monarchs have been weathering a perfect storm of adverse factors, including habitat destruction, wider use of genetically modified, herbicide resistant corn and soybeans and extreme weather.

The decline is alarming because they are a good indicator of broad, ecosystem imbalances caused by policies that need to be researched and regulated more effectively. Migratory monarchs move across the landscape of NAFTA and are the symbol of the CEC, the environmental component of NAFTA, based in Montréal. Thus, the butterfly should act as a symbol of responsible and sustainable economic development. Instead it is a symbol of serious environmental degradation in which not only monarchs are declining but so are pollinators and other beneficial insects such as predators and parasitoids of agricultural pests.

"There's a huge network of citizen scientists, who are really engaged in monarch butterfly biology and doing all sorts of things to try to enhance the environment for monarch butterflies and they are truly alarmed," Malcolm says. "It's such an iconic insect that there's a huge amount of affection and interest throughout North America. It's not just the U.S.A., it's Canada and Mexico, too. We wrote a paper more than 20 years ago about endangered phenomena like butterfly migration and it's pretty clear that that paper was prophetic that this migration is endangered. It's a threatened phenomenon. It's threatened west of the Rockies and east of the Rockies." According to Malcolm, the latest findings show how serious the problem is. "Monarchs won't go extinct, but migratory monarchs could. We wouldn't see monarchs anywhere north of the Gulf Coast." Audio clips can be heard of Dr. Malcolm discussing the decline of monarch butterflies at wmich.edu/news/radio.

WMU Psychology Alumni Receive National Award



WMU faculty member and alumna Dr.

Heather McGee (pictured) and her business partner Dr. Lori Ludwig, also a Western Michigan University graduate, were honored with the Geary Rummel Award for the Advancement of Performance Improvement for their work at Performance Blueprints, Inc. This award, presented by the International Society for Performance Improvement is designed to honor individuals and/or organizations who have demonstrated and reflect the work and life of its namesake. This award is designated for outstanding thought leaders who demonstrate outstanding performance in "adding value", with outstanding documented results and selfless sharing.

Performance Blueprints, Inc. is dedicated to disseminating the science of behavior and organizational performance improvement through workshops, talks, book chapters and journal articles. Ludwig and

McGee were initially inspired by the work of Geary Rummler while getting their doctorates at WMU under the guidance of their mentors Dale Brethower, Alyce Dickinson and Maria Malott. As they began consulting and teaching, they continuously tried to find ways to consolidate their learnings into user-friendly tools for clients and students. They are grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from the Masters and are committed to carrying the torch forward to advance the field. For more information about Performance Blueprints, Inc. and/or its partners, please visit [Performance Blueprints, Inc. online](http://www.performanceblueprints.com).

President Obama on 'Between Two Ferns': WMU graduates help make Funny Or Die video with Zach Galifianakis

http://www.mlive.com/entertainment/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2014/03/obama_on_between_two_ferns_wmu.html

All-University Graduate Award Winner is Physics Doctoral Student



One of the most significant honors that Western Michigan University can award any graduate student is the All-University Graduate Research and Create Scholar Award and this year's awardee is Samantha Wickramarachchi from the Department of Physics. Under the guidance of Dr. John Tanis, her dissertation "Electron transmission through micro-sized funnel shaped glass capillaries" investigates the transmission of atomic particles through electrically insulating capillaries. This research, interdisciplinary in the fields of atomic physics and materials science, offers potential applications in science, medicine, and technology. Her work has resulted in six manuscripts, eight abstracts with poster presentations at conferences and one talk invitation. She earned a bachelor's degree in 2004 from the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka and a master's degree in physics in 2010 from Western Michigan University. She was the recipient of the Leo R. Parpart Scholarship for Outstanding Research in 2011 and 2012 and the Jacob DeWitt Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2012-13 from the Department of Physics at WMU. Ms. Wickramarachchi hopes to become involved in research beyond her graduate experiences.

Bronco Legacy



Western Michigan University has a history of Broncos that have attended from the same family. There are stories of parent and child graduates, sibling graduates, and generations of graduates. However, the Lenkart family has the distinction of being made up of five current Broncos—four students and an employee, simultaneously. Kevin is pursuing a master's degree from the School of Public Affairs and Administration. He considers his family "fortunate to have a large and well-respected university" in close proximity to where they've settled. His wife Robin has been an employee in WMU's Department of Chemistry for six years and is proud that her eldest daughter will graduate this year "with a great education at a well-known and highly-esteemed university."

Kevin and Robin's three children, Allison, Lauren and Scott are also proud Broncos. Allison, a senior majoring in psychology, admits that she wanted to attend a university further from home initially, but has grown to love WMU. When thinking about graduating this year, Allison said, "I will really miss being on campus because I feel so comfortable here and have grown to love being a student and a Bronco. I have made many life-long friends." Allison's time at WMU will extend through this summer as she is preparing to study abroad in Ireland to visit elderly care and Alzheimer's facilities.

Lauren, an elementary education major and member of the Lee Honors College, credits WMU with giving her a second place to call home and granting her with opportunities to get involved on campus and with the community. She recently participated in the Alternative Spring Break where she volunteered at Give Kids the World, a resort for children with life-threatening illnesses and was inducted into the honors fraternity, Alpha Lambda Delta.

Although Scott is still in high school, he has been taking classes at WMU since the seventh grade as part of the Academically Talented Youth Program. He is now dual-enrolled at WMU and says he is thoroughly enjoying his classes. Scott's experience at WMU has solidified his decision to become an International Relations/Political Science major.