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College of Arts and Sciences

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E-News Issue 13: May 2014

WMU offers **Bachelor of Science** in
Freshwater Science and Sustainability

CAS

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CAS News

Interdisciplinary freshwater science and sustainability degree offered
Dean and department chair named outstanding administrators
Department of Gender and Women's Studies receives Bronco Pride Advocacy Award
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Faculty Feature

Dr. Wafa Hassan earns STARTALK grant

Alumni Profiles

After 14 years in foster care, Amanda Shelton '14 graduates with highest undergraduate honor
Bradford Shovlin '03, new executive chef at Iron Horse Hotel

Student Story

WMU students lobby in Lansing

Stay in touch!



Update your
information



WMU, NMC offering freshwater science and sustainability degree

by Jeanne Baron

April 25, 2014 | WMU News



Two required program courses are offered in the summer I 2014 session.

KALAMAZOO—Western Michigan University and Northwestern Michigan College have joined forces to expand the study of fresh water—a critical natural resource that is in limited supply and under threat.

The institutions have developed an interdisciplinary curriculum that allows students to earn a **Bachelor of Science in Freshwater Science and Sustainability**. The new degree program will be formally rolled out next month in Traverse City, Mich., and officially begins in September.

Two courses toward the program are being offered through WMU's Extended University Programs division at its northern Michigan regional location, WMU-Traverse City, starting **Monday, May 5**, and are being taught on NMC's Great Lakes Campus.

Students wishing to conduct all of their freshwater science and sustainability studies in Traverse City may enroll at NMC and earn an associate degree, then seamlessly transfer to WMU-Traverse City and complete the final two years of coursework required for the bachelor's degree. Students also may enroll in the bachelor's-only version of the program offered on WMU's main campus in Kalamazoo.

Benefits of collaboration

The B.S. in Freshwater Science and Sustainability builds on NMC's Freshwater Studies Program, which developed the first associate degree of its kind in the country and now offers an Associate in Science and Arts in Freshwater Studies or an Associate in Applied Science in Freshwater Studies.

Dr. Steven Kohler, professor of biological sciences and director of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program at WMU, says the new bachelor's program has a unique curriculum that focuses on freshwater ecosystems and the environmental, social and economic issues of their sustainable use and management.

"Students will have a diverse learning experience and be well prepared to enter a wide variety of careers or graduate school," Kohler says.

He adds that NMC is a perfect institution for WMU to partner with to offer the new degree.

"They have a strong track record in providing freshwater studies courses, are strategically located close to Lake Michigan and operate the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, which has an on-site water analysis laboratory and uses a 56-foot research vessel as a floating classroom," Kohler says. "We bring to the table all of the resources of a Carnegie-classified national research institution, including nationally and internationally recognized faculty researchers and a diverse array of research and creative activities on freshwater systems. We also have one of the best-established environmental studies and sustainability programs in the country, and WMU is recognized as a national leader in sustainability."

Filling an educational niche

Hans Van Sumeren, director of NMC's Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, says the new bachelor's degree program not only reflects an ideal use of both institutions' assets, but fills an important educational niche as well.

"Education in water-related areas is critical to developing sustainable practices and innovative strategies to meet global demands on this critical resource," Van Sumeren says. "This collaboration between NMC and WMU and our freshwater-focused degrees demonstrates how our institutions are providing students the training needed to meet these demands head on."

He also notes that the two institutions have been working together in various ways for some time, identifying collaborative research projects and co-teaching courses. In addition, both institutions share an academic interest in the Great Lakes.

"The Great Lakes contain 20 percent of the world's surface fresh water and Michigan has a tremendous diversity of lakes, streams and wetlands, so this is the place to study freshwater science and sustainability," Van Sumeren says. "Water, energy and food are recognized as the most important factors facing future generations. We have an obligation to learn how to sustain those resources for those who come after us."

About the bachelor's program

The B.S. in Freshwater Science and Sustainability provides the broad interdisciplinary training that employers at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and elsewhere say they want in prospective employees.

It consists of 92 credit hours of required coursework, the final two years of which is offered in an online and hybrid (mixed online and face-to-face) format. Courses are designed to be completely transferable as well as flexible and include field experience. No minor is required because much of the general education requirements are embedded in the required coursework.

Graduates of the program will be prepared for careers such as freshwater quality analysts, watershed managers, sustainability coordinators, environmental and resource managers, corporate social responsibility coordinators, and environmental consultants or advocates. The degree also prepares students to pursue graduate studies in the sciences and sustainability leadership.

Summer courses, additional information

The two courses toward the new bachelor's degree that WMU-Traverse City is offering this summer are Human Impact on Great Lakes Ecosystem and Freshwater Ecology. Both of these hybrid courses include field exercises in Traverse City and are quickly filling. To enroll, contact Kim Stevens with WMU-Traverse City at (231) 995-1846 or obtain additional details at wmich.edu/traversecity/freshwater.

For more information about the B.S. in Freshwater Science and Sustainability, contact WMU's Steven Kohler at steve.kohler@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2987. Information about the Associate in Science and Arts in Freshwater Studies or Associate in Applied Science in Freshwater Studies is available by contacting NMC's Great Lakes Water Studies Institute at (231) 995-3333 or visiting nmc.edu/water.

Outstanding Administrator Award Winners



The Professional Instructors Organization at Western Michigan University has selected two members of the College of Arts and Sciences as recipients of the inaugural Outstanding Administrator Award. Dr. Alexander Enyedi, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Dr. Jonathan Bush, Chair of the Department of English are the first WMU administrators to receive this distinction. As an organization of part-time faculty, PIO strives to encourage WMU administrators to:

Promote teaching effectiveness

Include part-time faculty in governance decisions

- Provide sufficient support, resources and encouragement
- Recognize and reward excellent performance



Dean Enyedi was selected in recognition of his demonstrated commitment to part-time faculty, evidenced by this year's introduction of the [College of Arts and Sciences Part-Time Instructor Excellence in Teaching Awards](#). According to one faculty member, "Dean Enyedi has done a great job at communicating with PIO on a number of issues concerning part-time instructors. He always seems willing to meet with us to either keep us informed or to discuss our concerns. There are few awards given on campus that part-timers can participate in. The College of Arts and Sciences, through Dean Enyedi's leadership, created an award specifically for part-time instructors. This type of action speaks volumes to me."

Dr. Bush was also selected for his proven commitment to part-time faculty. Since he has become chair, he has made a strong effort to include part-timers in department meetings and committee meetings. He has maintained close ties to PIO by informing them each time budget concerns threatened to affect the number of people employed by the department. One faculty member states, "Dr. Bush consistently treats part-time employees as if they were of the same caliber of tenured faculty. He always makes himself available for a question, concern or even just a conversation."

Department of Gender and Women's Studies Wins Award



The Department of Gender and Women's Studies at Western Michigan University was selected to receive the 2014 Bronco Pride Campus Advocacy Award for its outstanding contributions in the area of lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and ally diversity and inclusion. This award recognizes a department, office, or registered student organization that has demonstrated exceptional leadership in the area of LBGTA-inclusion at WMU by advocating for and fostering a safe and welcoming environment for all people. The criteria for the Bronco Pride Campus Advocacy Award are:

- Demonstrates an enduring commitment to support and advocate for LBGTA individuals and LBGTA-initiatives on campus
- Welcomes all members of campus inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity
- Provides leadership in the area of LBGTA-inclusion
- Strives to create organizational and/or institutional change that promotes LBGTA-inclusion
- Actively challenges structures that perpetuate institutional oppression for LBGTA people
- Shares Office of Diversity and Inclusion vision which encompasses inclusion, acceptance, respect, and empowerment

The department was recognized during the Lavender Graduation ceremony on Thursday, April 24.

Employees Make a Difference in 2014



On Monday, April 14, two College of Arts and Sciences employees were honored during the spring semiannual Western Michigan University Make a Difference award ceremony. 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. Mary Lou Brooks, office coordinator for the Department of Geography and Tammi Smith, academic advisor

for the CAS advising office were applauded for their service to WMU.

Brooks was nominated by her colleagues, as well as by students that she impacts. She patiently explains daunting grant processes and procedures and is known for taking the time to listen to students with both academic and personal issues. She is an excellent example to the students she supports as she is a student also and excels in the classroom. In addition to her care and concern for students, Brooks provides constant support to faculty and staff and shows her commitment to the Department of Geography by coming up with ideas to promote the department.



Like Brooks, Smith was nominated by her colleagues and the students she advises. Smith is credited with setting up thousands of incoming students for success. She is highly organized and works well with various departments across campus. Her ambitious nature has caused improvements to the process of advising each year and colleagues credit her contributions with making WMU better for its students. Smith embodies the pride as an employee and as an alumna, as she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from WMU.

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.

[CAS Make a Difference award winners from the fall 2013 ceremony.](#)

WMU Receives STARTALK Grant



Dr. Wafa Hassan, assistant professor of Western Michigan University's Department of World Languages and Literatures, secured an \$88,000 federal STARTALK grant to fund a summer workshop on the teaching of Arabic. Hassan's project, "STARTALK in Action: Technology in the Learner-Centered Arabic Classroom" will take place in Detroit, Michigan, from July 29-August 15. This is Hassan's eighth STARTALK grant, but first one as a faculty member of WMU.

According to Bloomberg's latest business language report, Arabic has become the third most useful business language, making it increasingly important in the classroom. WMU's affiliation with STARTALK is vital in maintaining relevance in business and education communities. Through STARTALK, teachers will be educated on methods of teaching Arabic in the classroom while local high school students benefit by participating in the process. By training 22 teachers in Arabic instruction and having 30 students go through the program Hassan is confident that the awareness of WMU's commitment to global engagement will rise.

The decision to host the program in Detroit was intentional. Hassan plans to recruit teachers and students from Detroit and Dearborn public schools to participate. Not only are the majority of Arabic speakers in the state of Michigan located in the metro Detroit area, but WMU's affiliation with

STARTALK will increase the University's visibility in Southeast Michigan. Hassan states that this program will make WMU visible to Detroit and "will bring students to WMU to study Arabic." Additionally, STARTALK will increase WMU's partnership with the Michigan State University Detroit outreach center as MSU has donated the space for the instruction.

STARTALK is a methodology course with an extensive focus. While going through the program, participants will be taught that technology can be used in innovative ways to create language engaging lessons. According to Hassan the "purpose of using technology programs as tools will encourage students to produce language and create voice and text messaging in Arabic." Students will have the option and be encouraged to create cartoons in Arabic and to use avatars to communicate with one another. Participants will receive a certificate for completion and continuing education units.

In order to make this program successful, Hassan will hire three teachers and enlist the help of experts in teaching in Arabic to present during the workshop. Hassan, also an expert in teaching Arabic will do much of the training along with the teachers she hires.

STARTALK is a program of the National Security Language Initiative announce by former President Bush in January 2006. The initiative seeks to expand and improve the teaching and learning of strategically important world languages that are not widely taught in the United States. STARTALK provides critical language education for students K-16, professional development for critical language teachers and resources for the world language teaching and learning field.

After 14 years in foster care, Amanda Shelton graduates Saturday with WMU's highest undergraduate honor

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2014/04/after_14_years_in_foster_care.html

New chef and spring wine dinner at Smyth

<http://onmilwaukee.com/dining/articles/showlinwinedinner.html?37517>

WMU Students Lobby in Lansing



Dr. Denise Keele, Western Michigan University assistant professor of political science and environmental and sustainability studies, wanted students to truly experience American environmental policy and not simply study it. Collaborating with the Michigan Environmental Council, a coalition of more than 70 organizations created to lead Michigan's environmental movement, Keele organized Michigan Environmental Policy Lobby Day.

Representatives from the Michigan Environmental Council gave several presentations to five sections of the spring 2014 environmental policy course and to one public event that included issues that they deemed appropriate for the students to lobby. As an additional lesson—voting counting—all students who attended the presentations, including the open session, selected their top three issues and all votes were tallied. By far, the Line 5 Pipeline issue received the most votes and the students instantly had a real environmental issue on which to focus their attention.

Line 5 is a pipeline owned by Enbridge Energy Company, a Canadian based company that is responsible for 800 incidents that exceed 6.8 million gallons of oil spilled in the United States and Canada. Stretching over 640 miles, Line 5 carries up to 20 million gallons of crude oil everyday and has not been replaced in more than 60 years. Underwater footage of Line 5 shows some original supports have broken, indicating extensive corrosion. An oil spill from Line 5 would reach the shores of Mackinac City and Mackinac within three hours and it's projected that within 17 hours, impact would reach the Kalamazoo River in Marshall, Michigan.

Preparing for Lobby Day was filled with just as many lessons, if not more, than the actual day in Lansing. Students were assigned to be a part of the logistics, legislator research or issue research group. The logistics group determined which legislators would receive a visit, calling legislative offices to schedule student appointments and preparing the schedule for the day in Lansing. Legislator researchers identified relevant legislators to Line 5 and prepared background profiles on legislators that would receive a visit on Lobby Day, including positions on legislative issues, committees they serve and campaign financing. Issue researchers investigated Line 5 and talking points for each student and legislator meeting.

Thirty six students, Keele and participating faculty members Dr. Laura Hastings, assistant professor of political science, Dr. Lynne Heasley, associate professor of environmental and sustainability studies and history and Dr. Sarah Hill, associate professor of anthropology and environmental and sustainability studies took the trip from Kalamazoo to Lansing. Students spent the day at the State Capital meeting with state legislators to educate and lobby on behalf of the Line 5 pipeline. The goal of adding this experiential quality to learning is to teach students to work on a continuum. Keele's intent is for students to see that while they "can't change everything at once, they can move small things forward." The job of the students was to get legislators to talk about Line 5. At this point, a petition has been started and Keele is confident that the state will pursue regulation as a result of the presence of the WMU students, but it continues to be an ongoing issue.

Student reflections



While participating in Lobby Day was optional, 36 students chose to make the trip to Lansing and one of the most rewarding aspects of this experience is seeing the student reaction. "It's fun to see which students will respond and how they respond to the chaos and mayhem in politics," says Keele. "Students have a visceral reaction to the political scene. They love it or hate it and they learn something about themselves."

David Hemmerlein, a biology and environmental and sustainability student from Kalamazoo calls lobby day "one of the great experiences" of his collegiate career. He notes that despite having conflicting views on certain issues, he was able to connect and come to an understanding while speaking with state representatives.

Lobbying an issue "was the most exciting, life-changing experience" that geography student Marianne Twork of Holton, Michigan has had at WMU. She states that the "excitement of swaying a legislator of a non-environmentalist party to push the issue forward was one of the most satisfying feelings I've ever felt in my life." Twork learned "how to affect change in the state government" as well as learned a lot about herself.

This hands-on experience from start-to-finish was "one of the most memorable" experiences for communication student Angela Wehner of Gaylord, Michigan. In preparation for lobby day, Wehner met with Greg MacMaster, state Representative of the 105th district, which includes her hometown and Representative Patrick Somerville. Wehner credits the feedback she received from MacMaster and Somerville as helping her prepare for lobby day.

The benefits of the environmental policy class extended beyond the College of Arts and Sciences. Niklas Carey, a social studies, secondary education student, states that participating in lobby day "changed the way I view government and my role in government." He also encouraged other departments to have more projects much like this one available.

Future of Lobby Day



This is the second time that Lobby Day has been offered to WMU students. It was first offered during the spring of 2013. While Keele is definitely looking forward to offering Lobby Day again, she is going to make it available on an every other year rotation, making the next Lobby Day in 2016. This gives the

newly elected legislators time to become acclimated and works better on the election cycle. Professors interested in collaborating with Keele to become a part of Lobby Day are encouraged and she states, "we should do more" and it could work well with students interested in sociology, history, and any other department interested in how people work and how government works.

Michigan Environmental Policy Day is sponsored by the WMU Environmental and Sustainability Studies program Gwen Frostic Workshop Series in partnership with the Michigan Environmental Council. All photos were taken by Lynne Heasley.