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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

College of *Arts and Sciences*

e-News Issue 17: September 2014

Upcoming CAS events



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Update your information



Fall Welcome
a success for
College of Arts
and Sciences



CAS News

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- ▶ New Bronco Study Zone opens
- ▶ Gender issues topic of public talk

FACULTY Feature

- ▶ CAS welcomes impressive group of new faculty
- ▶ Part-time faculty member and alumna, Rebecca Fleury '08 first female selected as city manager of Battle Creek

ALUMNI Profiles

- ▶ Criminal justice alumnus, Garrett Soldano '01 goes from defenseman to doctor
- ▶ Historian Larry Massie '72 '74 '77 publishes account of Michigan's history in *Blue Water, Red Metal & Green Gold*

STUDENT Story

- ▶ SPAA student, Carrie Drake is new executive director of Building Blocks of Kalamazoo



2014 Fall Welcome



The College of Arts and Sciences welcomed 854 freshmen students to Western Michigan University for the 2014-15 academic year. During Fall Welcome, a four-day program assisting incoming freshmen with academic and social transitions into college life, students were led throughout campus with student ambassadors, met their CAS advisors, and participated in social activities with their classmates. Faculty leaders worked with their students throughout welcome week and prepare for a semester that includes amazing speakers and service-learning opportunities with the purpose of exploring all that CAS and WMU have to offer. Incoming students also met with Dr. Edwin Martini, associate dean, and faculty members Drs. James Cousins, Sarah Hill, Pablo Pastrana-Perez and David Rudge for Academic College Kickoff, where students were provided with a live question-and-answer session that included the option to tweet questions to the CAS advising office.

Martini believes Academic College Kickoff is an important aspect of orienting students to WMU. "Our students continue to identify very strongly with their chosen departments, but we have intentionally been trying to foster a sense of college identity for CAS students as well. We want them to identify with the college and with the liberal arts, to recognize that there are experiences, opportunities, and responsibilities that come with being part of Arts and Sciences. We see ourselves as the academic heart and soul of the university, and we want our students to consciously embrace that identity." In addition to providing an identity for the students within CAS, Martini sees this as vital to recruiting and retaining students. According to Martini, "increasing our level of student engagement is a key part of our recruitment and retention strategy in CAS, and getting our students to connect and identify with the college is an important part of our approach. It's been really fun to watch students embrace Arts and Sciences, proudly sporting their CAS stickers and chanting 'CAS' when Dean Enyedi officially welcomed them to the college and the University."

This newest class of CAS students include 33 international students and help bring the total number of CAS students to 5,264 undergraduate, 1,008 graduate students. The programs receiving the most incoming students are biological sciences, communication, psychology and criminal justice.

New Bronco Study Zone opens in September

by Deanne Puca - August 19, 2014 | WMU News



Students gather to study.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University students will have a new, comfortable, supervised study environment available to them beginning **Monday, Sept. 8**, that allows them to track their study hours. Instructors will also have a way to incorporate supervised study hours into their courses.

An open house to experience the Bronco Study Zone will be from **1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20**, on the second floor of Waldo Library. The new area will allow students to log study hours with a card-swipe system to fulfill requirements set by instructors and student organizations.

Bronco Study Zone

The area is open to any WMU student and will be staffed Sunday through Thursday in the late afternoon and evening with times posted at the location. Students wanting to improve their study habits can enter the zone and will receive academic support and coaching by zone staff.

Students who wish to help at the Study Zone as a staff member can volunteer or can take an academic coaching course, UNIV 1030, for academic credit.

Refreshments and snacks will be provided at the open house. Attendees will have an opportunity to swipe into the zone using their Bronco Card and be entered into a drawing for door prizes, including two Millennium restaurant \$50 gift certificates.

For more information, contact Chris Robinson, Haworth College of Business, at christine.robinson@wmich.edu or Katie Easley, College of Arts and Sciences, at katie.e.easley@wmich.edu.

Gender issues topic of public talk

by Deanne Puca

August 29, 2014 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University's **Real Talk Diversity Series** will open with a discussion on gender and issues of privilege from **6 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18**, in the Multicultural Center of the Trimpe Building. Refreshments will be provided.

"Unraveling the Gender Knot" is the topic of a presentation which is based on Dr. Allan Johnson's books, "The Gender Knot" and "Privilege, Power, and Difference." One of the greatest barriers to ending sexism, racism, and other forms of privilege is that some people are trapped in ways of thinking that are not grounded in reality, leading the wrong questions to be asked and turning conversations about privilege into occasions for members of dominant groups to feel guilty and defensive. As a result, the conversations that need to happen turn bad, or more often, not at all.

To learn more about Johnson's work, visit his website at agjohnson.com.

For more information, contact Tiffany White at tiffany.white@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6327.

CAS Welcomes New Faculty Members

The College of Arts and Sciences at Western Michigan University is proud to welcome 21 stellar new members to its faculty. Early career faculty are critical to achieve the mission and vision of the College of Arts and Sciences. They represent the renewal and sustainability of the liberal arts at WMU. Each individual joining the ranks of faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences brings unique skill, expertise and creativity that will enhance WMU's teaching, learning, discovery and service missions.

These faculty members join 16 schools, departments and programs within the College of Arts and Sciences, are graduates of 32 institutions from all over the world and are listed below. To view their biographies please visit the [2014 new faculty booklet](#).

Nichole Andrews, Department of Statistics
Dr. Ashley Atkins, Department of Philosophy
Dr. Zbigniew Chajecski, Department of Physics
Dr. Minerva Cruz, School of Public Affairs and Administration
Dr. Janelle DeWitt, Department of Philosophy
Dr. Dan Dolson, Department of Philosophy
Bradford Dykes, Department of Statistics
Dr. Kristen Hatten, School of Communication
Geronimo Johnson, Department of English
Dr. Robert Kagumba, Mallinson Institute for Science Education
Dr. Jeanne LaHaie, Department of English
Dr. Daniel Macfarlane, Environmental and Sustainability Studies
Dr. Michelle Machicek, Department of Anthropology
Dr. Carlos Luis Pimentel, Department of World Languages and Literatures

Dr. Adrienne Redding, Department of English
Dr. Diane E. Riggs, Department of Comparative Religion
Dr. Denise Ross, Department of Psychology
Dr. Kelly Trusty, School of Public Affairs and Administration
Dr. Mercedes Tubino-Blanco, Department of Spanish
Kelly Wittenberg, School of Communication
Dr. Jian Yao, Department of Biological Sciences

Part-Time Faculty Member and Alumna, Rebecca Fleury 08' First Female Selected as City Manager of Battle Creek

[Link to Battle Creek Enquirer Story](#)

Defenseman to Doctor

Posted on Monday, August 11, 2014



When alumnus Garrett Soldano (*BA '01, Criminal Justice*) attended Western Michigan University, football was his passion. Soldano played defense for the Broncos for five years before getting signed to the Chicago Bears. Unfortunately, Soldano was released from the Bears, which left him with the decision of what he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

During this turning point, Soldano received advice from one of his closest friends; "Follow your heart."

Soldano spent the next two weeks trying figuring out how to do so, and was brought back to a memory of his childhood. He was fourteen years old and he and his mother were involved in a car accident. After the accident, Soldano began having headaches, acting irritable, and found it hard to focus. It was only after he saw his

chiropractor that everything began to make sense.

Soldano had injured his spine, and after some adjustments from his doctor, he began to notice how much better his body was functioning. It was this memory that made Soldano realize that he wanted to help people the same way; so he enrolled in Palmer College of Chiropractic.

Soldano now runs the Soldano Family Chiropractic Center in Kalamazoo and Richland. The two location chiropractic office is run by an eight member team, one of which is Soldano's cousin, Brandon. The office prides itself on patient care, stating that patients won't just get a cookie cutter diagnosis; their health history will be examined to determine what will work best for treatment. The office has also won a Five Star Service Award; a prestigious accolade given out by Integrity Management.

He is also making a name for himself as an author, having recently released his first book, *God's True Law, a parent's guide to successful children*. Soldano has two sons, Jack and Alex, and is married to Jennifer Soldano (*BS '01, Biomedical Sciences; MBA '02, Business Administration*), a fellow Bronco.

To read more about Soldano, visit his bio page by [clicking here](#).

Visit www.MyWMU.com/concierge to see the benefits offered by Soldano Family Chiropractic Center.

Posted by Stan Sulewski

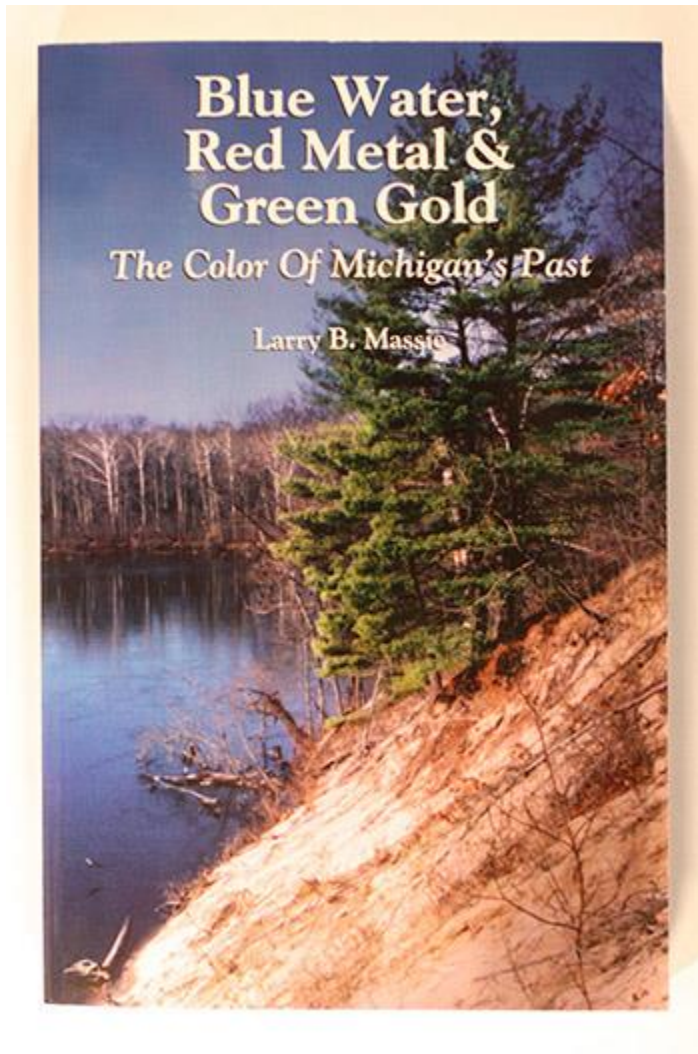
Blue Water, Red Metal & Green Gold

Posted on Monday, August 25, 2014

When you think of the Mitten State, a number of things might come to mind. The sprawling white pines, the beautiful coastal towns, and massive Great Lakes are just a few things that make up Michigan's rich heritage. Historian Larry Massie (*BA '72, Anthropology; MA '74, History; Specialist in Arts '77, History*) showcases these attractions and many more in the 12th installment of the Voyages Into Michigan's Past series, *Blue Water, Red Metal & Green Gold*.

Massie's 21st book, *Blue Water, Red Metal & Green Gold* is a 27 account story of Michigan's history; shipwrecks, the copper rush, and lumberjacks being just a few of the points touched upon. Massie compiled the story material through extensive research, most of which coming from his own 45,000-volume library.

"I get ideas all the time. I have a file with about 200 stories that I have yet to write," Massie said in an interview with the Kalamazoo Gazette. "But, sometimes you just don't



have enough. I file it away and hope that I'll come across that missing link that makes it a good story."

Blue Water, Red Metal & Green Gold also showcases the solving of a murder mystery in Kalamazoo, Bob Dole visiting Battle Creek, and the travels of Andy and Don Seelye during World War II.

Massie began his work as a historian while working as an archivist for Western Michigan University. With almost a decade of experience under his belt, Massie left to pursue his dream of becoming an independent historian. Massie now writes for various magazines, museums, and historical organizations with his wife, Priscilla.

"I'm just very grateful for the people who have enjoyed my work and who have pushed me to write more," Massie said in the same interview with the Gazette.

To learn more about Massie and *Blue Water, Red Metal & Green Gold*, please read the full story at mlive.com.

Posted by Stan Sulewski

SPAA Student, Carrie Drake is New Executive Director of Building Blocks of Kalamazoo

[Link to Kalamazoo Gazette Story](#)