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## College of Arts and Sciences E-News Issue 16: August 2014

College of Arts and Sciences

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# College of *Arts and Sciences*

e-News Issue 16: August 2014

## Upcoming CAS events



## Stay in touch!



## Update your information



Ph.D. student  
Iliana Rocha wins  
Donald Hall  
Prize for Poetry



## CAS News

- ▶ WMU hosts International Conference on African Development
- ▶ Michigan Autism Conference registration open

## FACULTY Feature

- ▶ Biological sciences faculty receive \$200,000 grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## ALUMNI Profiles

- ▶ Lynn Kelly-Albertson '83 '86 elected to Michigan Career Educator and Employer Alliance
- ▶ Economics graduate Thomas Lane '71 writes Most Delicious of Privileges
- ▶ Damar Foundation President is Richard Markoff '68

## STUDENT Story

- ▶ Thomas Marks, Ph.D. candidate named director of Center for English Language and Culture for International Students



Association of Writers  
& Writing Programs



# Good governance in Africa is focus of August conference

by Margaret von Steinen  
July 21, 2014 | WMU News



International Conference on African Development Aug. 14-16

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Pressing issues African states face in terms of sustainable development will bring scholars and policy-makers from around the globe to Western Michigan University for a conference **Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 14-16.**

The eighth **International Conference on African Development** will be held in Brown Hall on WMU's main campus in Kalamazoo and is free of charge for academics, policymakers, investors, donors, students and the general public. It will feature a keynote presentation along with the presentation of some 30 papers.

Participants will be coming from across the United States, as well from nations such as Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Japan, Somalia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

This year's theme is "The Challenges of Good Governance and Leadership for Sustainable Development in African States."

"Sustainable development and democratic good governance remain the greatest challenges for Africa in the 21st century," says conference director Dr. Sisay Asefa, a WMU professor of economics and director of the University's Center for African Development Policy Research.

"The conference provides an independent forum where people can freely discuss their research and views regarding democratic governance to promote sustainable development for all African nations."

## Conference details

### Keynote presentation

The keynote presentation will be given at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15, in 2028 Brown Hall by Professor Mammo Muchie from the Shwane University of Technology in Pretoria, South Africa. His program is titled "Innovating Sustainable Governance in Africa: Removing Persistent Social Capital and Institutional Deficits."

Muchie's research interests are focused on African politics and the role played by technology in building systems of governance. He is widely published and has taught and conducted research at

various universities in the United States and Europe. He also serves as chair of the Network of Ethiopian Scholars established in 2001.

### Registration and check-in

This year, the conference fees have been waived for all attendees, including students and the public. On-site registration and check-in will take place in Brown Hall's front lobby from 3 to 5 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 14, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 15-16.

The conference is being sponsored by the WMU Center for African Development Policy Research, numerous academic and administrative units at the University, and several other organizations.

**For more information or to register**, visit [international.wmich.edu/content/view/2636/1783](http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/2636/1783). Contact Dr. Sisay Asefa with questions at [sisay.asefa@wmich.edu](mailto:sisay.asefa@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-5556.

## WMU Hosts the First Annual Michigan Autism Conference



WMU will host the first annual Michigan Autism Conference. This exciting conference, taking place Oct. 9-11, is designed to provide families, practitioners and researchers with information related to assessment and treatment of those with autism. Although WMU is hosting and will offer presentations, speakers from all over the country with extensive backgrounds in assessing and treating autism will also contribute. WMU alumni speakers include Dr. Caio Miguel '01 '04, Dr. Carl Sundberg '87 '90 '96 and Dr. Mark Sundberg '75 '76 '80. WMU psychology faculty presenters include Dr. Jessica Frieder, Dr. Wayne Fuqua, Dr. Amy Naugle and Dr. Stephanie Peterson. For more

information and to register please visit the [Michigan Autism Conference website](#).

## WMU researchers receive grant to study fatal fungus in bats

by Deanne Puca

July 10, 2014 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded two Western Michigan University researchers more than **\$200,000 to study a fatal fungal infection afflicting hibernating bats** in eastern North America.

The \$223,602 grant was part of an overall \$1.8 million awarded recently targeted toward eight projects across the country focused on research and management of white-nose syndrome. WNS has killed millions of bats since it was first documented in New York in the winter of 2006-07.

**Dr. Maarten J. Vonhof**, associate professor of biological sciences and the environmental studies, and **Dr. Robert Eversole**, master faculty specialist in biological sciences, are heading the research at WMU. Working with them are Dr. Timothy Carter of Ball State University and Dr. Kevin Keel of the University of California, Davis.



## The research

The group is testing the efficacy of chitosan, a compound obtained from the hard outer skeleton of shellfish, to limit the growth of WNS—*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*—on experimentally infected bats. The compound acts as a fungal biostatic and prevents the fungus from growing. In addition, chitosan is a wound-healing accelerant and may help to limit damage to the skin caused by the fungus. Eventually, this research may lead to a treatment that is available for widespread use to treat hibernating populations of bats or their hibernation location to limit growth and transmission of this deadly disease.

Funding was granted to eight projects at universities in New York, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin. Projects include studies to better understand bat immune responses to WNS, investigations into methods to control the disease, and ways to examine the molecular infrastructure of the fungus that causes WNS and other cave-dwelling fungi.

"Bats are fascinating animals that are vital for a healthy environment. We are hopeful that these investments into research will get us closer to getting the upper hand on this devastating disease," says Wendi Weber, co-chair of the White-Nose Syndrome Executive Committee and northeast regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding

Since 2008, the service has granted more than \$17.5 million to institutions and federal and state agencies for WNS research and response. This year's grants are the second round of WNS research funding awarded by the service. A total of \$1.4 million was awarded to federal agencies that provided matching funds for research and response to the disease. Another \$1.5 million is currently available for state wildlife agencies on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

"Scientists from around the world are working together to understand this disease, and to develop the tools to manage WNS and conserve our native bats," says Dr. Jeremy Coleman, the service's national WNS coordinator. "Findings from past research have led to improved methods for detecting *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, development of potential tools to slow disease spread and treat infected bats, and the development of a national bat population monitoring program."

Funding for the grants was provided through the service's Endangered Species Recovery and Science Applications program.

# State group elects WMU executive to vice presidential post

by Jeanne Baron  
July 21, 2014 | WMU News



Kelly-Albertson

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—A senior executive at Western Michigan University has been elected vice president-higher education by the [Michigan Career Educator and Employer Alliance](#).

Lynn Kelly-Albertson, WMU executive director of professional and career development, was elected to the two-year position during the alliance's annual conference in June. Kelly-Albertson, who had been serving as a constituent liaison for the organization, assumed her new office June 20.

The Michigan Career Educator and Employer Alliance promotes and maximizes the advancement of internships, cooperative education and employment in Michigan through collaborative relationships among employers, colleges and universities. It is a nonpolitical, nonprofit organization based in Lansing.

Kelly-Albertson oversees WMU's [Career and Student Employment Services](#). That comprehensive office empowers students to develop the skills necessary for reaching their career goals and provides employment services, career fairs, career advising, campus employment, and assistance with writing resumes and cover letters and formulating successful job-search strategies.

In 1985, Kelly-Albertson joined WMU's staff and the Division of Student Affairs as coordinator of professional practice services. She was promoted to acting associate director of the Career Services office in 1992, director of the Student Employment Referral Service in 1994 and, after those two units evolved into Career and Student Employment Services, her current position in 2002.

During her nearly 30 years with the University, Kelly-Albertson has served in numerous roles, including as a key player in developing GoWMU, WMU's intranet, and as chair of the campuswide United Way Campaign and Student Affairs Professional Development Team. She is a member of professional organizations such as the National Student Employment Association, National Career Development Association, and National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Kelly-Albertson earned bachelor's and master's degrees in communication from WMU and has done doctoral coursework in higher education administration.

## Most Delicious of Privileges

Posted on Monday, August 4, 2014

Thomas Lane (*BS '71, Economics*) started his banking career in the 70s; a career that eventually led him all over the world. With a few decades of banking under his belt,



Lane decided to shed some light on some of his experiences by writing his most recent book, *Most Delicious of Privileges*.

Lane started his career in banking in the U.S. Virgin Islands with Chase Manhattan. At 24, Lane decided to move back to the United States and began working in New York City. New York eventually brought him to London, and then Italy.

Published in June 2014, *Most Delicious of Privileges* is an inside tale of a failing Savings and Loan Association (S&L) in Texas. Lane said that the story has a bit of lust, thievery, and intrigue; all coming

together in a plot that can easily be enjoyed by many. Lane said that the title of his book comes from John Randolph, a chairman of the first House Ways and Means Committee.

Lane, who is no stranger to writing for his blog, commented that publishing a book for the first time comes with its fair share of challenges. By trying to adapt to a new style of writing that is different from the banking world, Lane said technology threw him through a bit of a loop. He also said that the editing process can become somewhat hypnotic.

“Editing is a demanding process,” Lane said. “It is startling to discover another, previously missed, grammatical error on the eighth reading. Somewhere the manuscript has to be handed off to another pair of eyes.”

Aside from writing books, Lane’s blog encompasses his many experiences traveling abroad. You can follow his blog at [downtheblockaroundthecorner.com](http://downtheblockaroundthecorner.com).

*Most Delicious of Privileges* is available for purchase at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

*Posted by Stan Sulewski*

## **Damar Foundation President**

Posted on Monday, July 21, 2014

Richard Markoff (*BA '68, Communication*) was set to retire in December; right up until another opportunity to give back to his community arose.



Markoff served as the visiting senior advisor at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and a guest lecturer for graduate courses in organized leadership for the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology. With retirement in sight, Markoff was approached with another opportunity – to serve as the president of the newly created Damar Foundation.

In his new role, he will be presiding over the Damar Foundation, which was created by Damar Services as a means to raise funds in order to help children and adults with autism, intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, and behavioral disabilities. Damar Services has been serving the community for more than 40 years. The 800 person staff serves approximately 1,500 clients and families daily through community-based and residential treatment, outpatient behavioral health, applied behavioral analysis and more.

“Personally, I am excited by this calling to serve those challenged by autism, intellectual, and developmental disabilities through the Damar Foundation,” said Markoff in an interview with Inside INdiana Business. “It has been an honor to work with Chancellor Charles Bantz on the Central Indiana Education Alliance, and to teach very talented IUPUI graduate students regarding leadership.”

Markoff will work with the Damar Foundation for the next 18 months for what he says is a very special mission. Markoff says that he will be calling it quits with both the Foundation and IUPUI Dec. 31, 2015, although not everyone is as excited for retirement as he is.

“My students are not happy that I’m leaving the university,” Markoff said.

Before he joined IUPUI, Markoff worked as executive vice president of the Simon Youth Foundation. Under his leadership, the organization’s resource development grew by more than 75 percent, and they were awarded more than \$1.4 million in scholarships on an annual basis. The organization aided 25 schools in 12 states and served 3,300 at-risk and economically challenged youth on a daily basis.

Markoff’s generosity doesn’t end there. He was also president of the Congregation Shaarey Tefilla, on the board of directors for the American Red Cross, and involved in the Indiana Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

To learn more about Markoff and the Damar Foundation, please click [here](#) to read the

article from Inside INdiana Business.

*Posted by Stan Sulewski*

# English language and culture center gets new director

by Margaret von Steinen  
July 31, 2014 | WMU News



Marks

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University's **Center for English Language and Culture for International Students** has a new director.

During its July 23 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees approved the appointment of **Thomas Marks** as head of the center. Marks had been serving as interim director of CELCIS since July 2013 while a national search was conducted.

The center falls under the auspices of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education. It offers an intensive, fully accredited program for anyone seeking to learn English as a second language.

Dr. Wolfgang Schlör, associate provost of the Haenicke Institute, says Marks' service as interim director already has moved the program in a number of positive directions, particularly in faculty development and outreach across campus.

## Thomas Marks

Marks, a CELCIS employee since 1996, has served on the center's faculty as well as in various administrative positions. He has traveled extensively overseas and recently has been teaching an academic writing class at the University of Tokyo every March.

His teaching interests are in the areas of speaking and listening, grammar, reading and writing, academic writing and business English, while his research interests are in narrative theory, modern literature and British literature from 1790 to 1820.

Before coming to WMU, Marks taught English as a Second Language in the United States and Japan. He is pursuing a doctoral program in English literature at WMU.

Marks earned a bachelor's degree in English and economics from the College of William and Mary and a master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from the University of Arizona.

**For more information**, contact the Haenicke Institute at [wmu-international@wmich.edu](mailto:wmu-international@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-3993.