



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

College of Arts and Sciences news

College of Arts and Sciences

4-2015

College of Arts and Sciences E-News Issue 24: April 2015

College of Arts and Sciences

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cas_news



Part of the Higher Education Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation

College of Arts and Sciences, "College of Arts and Sciences E-News Issue 24: April 2015" (2015). *College of Arts and Sciences news*. 37.

https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cas_news/37

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Arts and Sciences at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in College of Arts and Sciences news by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.





WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

College of *Arts and Sciences*

e-News Issue 24: April 2015

Upcoming CAS events



Stay in touch!



Update your information



SPAA alumna,
Lesley Ware '03
is fashion blogger,
author and
entrepreneur



CAS News

- ▶ CAS sponsors documentary and discussion on sexual assault on college campuses
- ▶ Graduate CAS programs rank high in 2015

FACULTY Features

- ▶ Dr. C. James Hueng and Dr. Xiaojun Wang are recipients of the Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies Research grant
- ▶ WMU world languages and literatures professors help judge the 2015 Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl

ALUMNI Profiles

- ▶ Spanish graduate, Greg Sumner '97 discusses receiving an education for change
- ▶ Jeffrey Lockwood '82, creative writing alumnus, publishes first novel

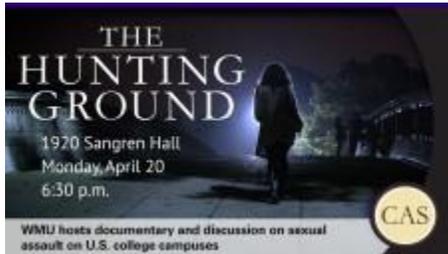
STUDENT Stories

- ▶ Three CAS students part of team that wins the 2015 Wege Prize
- ▶ Public relations major is Clinton Foundation intern



The Hunting Ground Comes to WMU

The Hunting Ground
Monday, April 20
1920 Sangren Hall
6:30 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)



The College of Arts and Sciences at Western Michigan University joins a list of offices and departments that are sponsoring the public screening of [The Hunting Ground](#), a provocative documentary about sexual assault on U.S. college campuses. As WMU implements a new campus-wide policy on sexual misconduct, the event provides a needed opportunity for open dialogue. Discussion about how the WMU community should address sexual and gender-based violence, facilitated by campus and community experts, will follow the screening. Information and resources from both on-campus and off-campus organizations will be provided.

The Hunting Ground is being sponsored by the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Academic Affairs, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Institutional Equity, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Gender and Women's Studies, the Department of Sociology and the Women in Higher Education Learning Community.

Graduate Programs Rank High in 2015

Posted on Tuesday, March 10, 2015



The latest annual U.S. News & World Report rankings of the top graduate programs in the nation shows Western Michigan University with seven programs among the top-100 in their disciplines and three of those named the best in Michigan.

In the latest round of rankings released March 10, WMU's two Occupational Therapy programs--one based in Kalamazoo and the other in Grand Rapids--and the University's Speech-Language Pathology program captured the highest rankings in Michigan in those disciplines.

WMU graduate programs ranked among the nation's top 100 are:

- Occupational Therapy, Kalamazoo—No. 21
- Speech-Language Pathology—No. 35
- Occupational Therapy, Grand Rapids—No. 36
- Rehabilitation Counseling—No. 37

- Audiology—No. 45
- Physician Assistant—No. 57
- Social Work—No. 66.

All seven of WMU's top-100 programs are part of the University's celebrated College of Health and Human Services.

Another eight WMU graduate programs also were highly ranked among graduate programs at the nation's more than 650 colleges and universities that confer master's and doctoral degrees. The additional ranked WMU programs are in: Clinical Psychology (114), Earth Sciences (113), English (125), History (125), Education (136), Psychology (141), Art (146), and Public Affairs (149).

"We have a long history of graduate programs that have established a national reputation, particularly in the health and human service fields," says Dr. Susan Stapleton, dean of the WMU Graduate College. "That, of course, continues, but I'm also extraordinarily pleased at the breadth of academic disciplines represented by our other ranked graduate programs. Together, they reflect our commitment to outstanding graduate education."

Included in U.S. News & World Report's annual graduate education edition are rankings for the nation's top medical and law schools. The magazine unveiled a new listing this year of the most diverse law schools in the nation. The listing, which was based on the total proportion of full and part-time minority law students, includes the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School, which was listed as Michigan's most diverse law school. WMU-Cooley was tied for 36th place nationally with law schools at such other universities as Harvard, Northwestern and Illinois, Urbana Champaign.

Economics, Chinese language profs snag Light Center research grants

by Renita Bellmore

March 26, 2015 | WMU News



Hueng

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—**Dr. C. James Hueng** and **Dr. Xiaojun Wang** are the recipients of the fourth annual Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies

Research grant. Each awardee will receive \$3,000 to support a research project and publication.

About the projects

Hueng, a professor of economics, will undertake a project titled "Measuring Real Business Conditions in China." He plans to build a daily business-cycle index for China, with a possible extension to Taiwan. Using the index, he also will revisit Chinese economic issues, including the effects of monetary and fiscal policies on business conditions.

The project will broaden the international aspects of Hueng's research agenda to include Greater China. He plans to build academic connections with Chinese scholars and to showcase Chinese economic studies and research at WMU by submitting articles to China-related economics journals.



Wang

Wang, a professor of world languages and literatures who teaches Chinese, will work on a project titled "From a Career Map to Career Chinese— Bridging the Gaps Between Language Learning and Career Development." He plans to integrate language acquisition with career development by surveying current students about their career goals and identifying areas of need.

A major focus of Wang's project will be on developing core vocabulary to use in teaching. His goal is to provide Chinese-language teachers with an updated and expanded list of Chinese vocabulary related to career development. Additionally, Wang plans to develop teaching resources about culture and knowledge in the workplace and about how to balance language teaching with cultural awareness and career development.

Light Center grants

Light Center Research grants are awarded annually and provide support to WMU faculty members for research and creative activities that support the study of Greater China.

For more information, visit the [Light Center website](#).

CAS Faculty Judge Japanese Quiz Bowl



Two Western Michigan University faculty from the Department of World Languages and Literatures participated as judges for the 2015 Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl. Dr. Carlos L. Pimentel and Hikaru Kondo traveled to Eastern Michigan University on March 15, 2015, as teams of junior high and high school students from around the state competed. The quiz competition tests students' knowledge of Japanese language and culture. Teams are broken into five divisions—division 1 consists of elementary learners and division 5 being the most advanced. This year 46 teams from 14 Michigan schools competed. Pimentel and Kondo met Japanese colleagues from Michigan

institutions and helped promote WMU's Japanese program.

While this was Pimentel and Kondo's first time participating, WMU has been represented at previous Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowls. Dr. Jeffrey Angles and Dr. Rika Saito, both World Languages and Literatures faculty, have been judges. According to Angles it would be amazing to host this event to help promote "WMU as a major player in Japanese language study," but he acknowledged that the logistics of hosting it would be demanding. WMU will continue to engage with the competition by sending representatives from the Department of World Languages and Literatures to judge the competition and speak with students about the possibility of studying Japanese at WMU.

An Education for Change

Posted on Monday, March 23, 2015



As a student at Western Michigan University, Greg Sumner (*BS; BA '97*) was a medallion scholar, an orientation student leader, studied abroad in Spain, and completed an internship at United Airlines. In his post-collegiate years, Sumner became a pilot for United, co-owns a real estate investment firm, has an MBA from Arizona State, and is the Vice Chair for the National Gay Pilots Association Education Fund.

"I joined NGPA in 2002. At the time I needed fellowship; people who understood sometimes having to be in the closet while

on the job. I found an amazing group of people from corporate to airline pilots," said Sumner.

He didn't realize at the time that it would be a connection he made in that group that would lead to his next step. After 9/11, Sumner, like many airline pilots, was laid off. While many of his colleagues left the U.S. to fly for Asian and Middle Eastern airlines, Sumner decided to work on the other side of the industry. A fellow NGPA member helped him get a corporate pilot position, which in turn led to a job in marketing and sales in avionics. In this role, he was able to apply his 'end user' experience while learning a side of the industry that pilots don't usually experience. What may have been a significant transition for many, seemed like a natural progression to Sumner.

“I got an education for change,” Sumner said. And that’s the biggest advice he gives to current students at WMU, to be flexible and open to experiences and opportunities. That and networking. “Some of my closest friends are the people I met my first year in college; that social aspect is important, but the professional networking is just as important.”

Now that the economic climate has shifted, Sumner, who lives in Phoenix and is based in Houston, is once again an airline pilot, flying 757s and 767s across the country and to South America and Europe. But because of his broad base of experiences as a student, Sumner admitted it would have been OK to not fly again.

“I was encouraged to use the Medallion to broaden my horizons and take advantage of all the opportunities around me,” he said. As a result, Sumner, who came to WMU to study aviation, also majored in Spanish and minored in business. Those experiences, his interests outside of his degree program, helped him be flexible when the unavoidable happened and his career industry became unstable.

Sumner decided to attend WMU because he wanted to stay in the Midwest, coming from Chicago, and was intrigued by the Medallion Scholarship. On campus, Sumner was active in a community that he said was always warm and welcoming.

“When I started, there was not a huge push for out-of-state students, so there were not many other students from Chicago,” he said, “I never felt like a number. I loved that you couldn't walk ten minutes without seeing someone you knew. It made campus a lot smaller for me.”

As a recent graduate, Sumner got his foot in the door with the airlines quickly. He moved to Arizona to maximize flight time racking up flying hours as a flight instructor and found a job with United working as a baggage handler and gate agent.

Today, Sumner’s work with the NGPA is focused toward helping current students. Sumner was asked to join the NGPA Education Fund Board as one of the younger members (closer to the college experience); he has since become the board’s Vice Chairman. The fund gives scholarships to students who wish to be professional pilots, whether they identify as LGBT or are allies to the gay and lesbian community.

“We are really pushing outreach—we have money to give and we know the need is out there,” Sumner commented. As a former Medallion scholar, he not only sees the value in scholarships, but is committed to giving back because he was given so much.

He also has plenty of advice for those preparing for a career, “You need a network for a career change. Be supportive of others because you never know when they can return

a favor. Be active outside of your job. Before you leave college, work on professional networking and internships because they can help you decide if this is something you really want to do.”

But, as evidenced by Sumner, if you find that the economy or your personal preference change over time, flexibility and a good, strong network are key to finding your next step.

Anomie

Posted on Wednesday, March 18, 2015



Jeffrey Lockwood’s (*MA ’87*) first novel, “Anomie” is set to be released on April 7, 2015.

“Anomie” is centered on Michael, a middle-aged professor and writer. After a series of tragedies, he seeks closure by traveling to China. The story follows his journey through loss, forgiveness, and belonging.

“Places where I’ve lived and visited can be found throughout the story. For about one-third of my adult life, I have lived internationally, as a soldier, Fulbright Scholar, Peace Corps volunteer, and teacher/lecturer,” said Lockwood.

Lockwood was living in Shanghai when he decided to write a novel, but he found that the city had too much stimulation for him to concentrate on writing. However, he was able to write a 1,000 word short story, which eventually became “Anomie”.

Lockwood also pursued a Master's degree in Blindness and Low studies, where he worked in the blindness rehabilitation center.

“Anomie” is published by Harvard Square Editions. To learn more or obtain a copy, [click here](#).

WMU student team wins national Wege sustainability prize

by Cheryl Roland
March 30, 2015 | WMU News



Front row: Elijah Lowry, Max Hornick, Kelsey Pitschel, Carlos Daniels. Back row: Kyle Simpson, Ramon Roberts-Perazza, Josh Shultz.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—A team of five Western Michigan University students has won the 2015 Wege Prize, besting teams from around the nation in the eyes of an international panel of judges whose task was to assess the teams' ability to use design principles to tackle sustainability problems.

The WMU team captured first place and a \$15,000 award **March 28** in an event the Grand Rapids-based Wege Foundation calls a "gathering of the brightest collegiate minds in America to solve a truly wicked problem." The second annual transdisciplinary design contest asked teams of five to work collaboratively across institutional and disciplinary boundaries to create a circular economy—a tightly looped, restorative economic cycle where resources can be re-adapted for use without limiting the desirability of products or the loss of revenue.

WMU's team competed under the name Western Sustainers.

The WMU team

- **Max Hornick**, public relations major from Kalamazoo.
- **Ramon Roberts-Perazza**, a civil engineering major from Detroit.
- **Kelsey Pitschel**, a mechanical engineering major from Hartland.
- **Elijah Lowry**, a geography and environmental and sustainability studies major from Dearborn.
- **Cara Givens**, a biomedical science major from Detroit.

The WMU team designed The Local Loop Farm, an agricultural system that exists symbiotically with the surrounding community, using complementary systems to increase economic, environmental and biological effectiveness. Building on research done by WMU's Office for Sustainability, the team used current technology for its design, including hydroponic grow beds, fish cultivation and hot composting.

The increased efficiencies achieved allow for the production of fresh, healthy fish and vegetables that are affordable to the community and eliminate many of the negative effects associated with current food production and consumption.

The Western Sustainers were advised by two recent WMU grads **Kyle Simpson** from Novi and **Carlos Daniels** from Detroit, as well as **Josh Shultz**, who is the permaculture coordinator in the Office for Sustainability. The WMU team's design presentation can be viewed at wegeprize.org/western-sustainers.

About the competition

The 2015 competition featured 13 teams of five students, representing a total of 12 different colleges and universities and 45 academic disciplines. Five international sustainability and design professionals returned as judges. In addition to WMU, participating colleges and universities included: Alma College, George Washington University, University of California Berkeley, Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University (four teams), Kendall School of Art and Design, Hope College, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Savannah College of Art and Design and Pennsylvania State University.

Second place went to a team from Kendall and Savannah College. Third place was awarded to a team made up of students from Savannah College, Kendall and Penn State.

Judges for the competition were:

- **Colin Webster**, education programme manager for the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Edinburgh, United Kingdom.
- **Gretchen Hooker**, biomimicry specialist with the Biomimicry Institute.
- **Nathan Shedroff**, program chair for MBA programs at the California College of Arts.
- **Ellen Satterlee**, executive director of the Wege Foundation.
- **Michael Werner**, green chemistry and restricted substances manager for Apple.

The Wege Foundation focuses on local good works that enhance the lives of people and preserve the health of the environment. The five branches of its mission are education, environment, arts and culture, health care and human services.

For more information, visit wegefoundation.com.

CAS Student Interns with the Clinton Foundation

DJ DeLong

Creative writing and history major

College of Arts and Sciences, Marketing and Communications student employee



One of the greatest opportunities for undergraduate students is the chance to get hands-on experience in areas of academic interest. Western Michigan University offers a large number of internships and junior Michelle Shember has taken full advantage of the internships that WMU provides.

Shember, a public relations major and Spanish minor, has taken the initiative to gain hands-on experiences to learn about different areas of communication and public relations. Her first opportunity was as a public relations and communications intern at the WMU Haworth College of Business. While there, Shember wrote press releases and feature stories, interviewed professionals from many areas of expertise, and provided project management and collaboration with graphic designers and print vendors. Shember said, "It was exceptionally beneficial; my time there gave me real insight to the professional world and an understanding of things like prioritization and time management, office collaboration and professional etiquette, things you just can't learn in a

classroom." According to Shember because of her internship at WMU she felt confident enough to apply for an internship with the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

The Clinton Foundation builds partnerships between businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments and individuals to find solutions that last and transform lives and communities from what they are today to what they can be tomorrow. Their focus is to improve global health and wellness, increase opportunity for women and girls, reduce childhood obesity, create economic opportunity and growth and help communities address the effects of climate change, among other global challenges. Shember discovered the Foundation by interviewing WMU alumnus Bo Miller.

Miller previously worked with the Clinton Foundation and was more than willing to work with Shember to further discuss ways he could help her get involved, including giving her a recommendation during the hiring process. Following the discussion with Miller and after spending a semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Shember knew that her interests lied in international work and that she wanted to gain experience with an internationally focused organization. She said, "I knew from prior experience with nonprofit organizations that I wanted to work where I knew that my contributions were making a significant and positive impact." The Clinton Foundation was the perfect fit for her because of their international impact, helping millions of people each year in a wide variety of areas. "It is an organization I truly admire," Shember comments.

Shember was selected as a Communications Intern. Her responsibilities include handling Clinton Foundation press inquiries and incoming correspondence, working on press releases, conducting research and brainstorming new media opportunities. She also gains experience and exposure to media monitoring and strategy.

Even though graduation is still a year away, Shember is confident that the internship experience with the Clinton Foundation will have a significant impact on her goals and future aspirations. She knows how important internships are to students academic career. "Having relevant experience on your resumé and being able to walk into an interview and say that you wrote this published article or worked on this project in a real business environment sets you apart," she said. She also emphasizes the importance of networking, especially for letters of recommendation, whether it's to pursue a graduate degree or for career advancement.

When asked what advice she would offer current WMU students considering internship experience Shember recommends using Bronco Jobs. She says it is a great jumping off point and allows access to a large database of internships, both on- and off-campus. She also stated that students should have

an idea of what kind of industry or organization they see themselves in. "It's important to work where your passions and interests lie; that's where you'll do the best work and get the most out of your experience," she says.

One of the guiding principles for the Clinton Foundation is, "No one has all the answers, but we can bring together the people who can find them." WMU works in the same fashion. WMU will direct students to faculty, staff, alumni and resources that will make sure they find the answers they are looking for as they move from their collegiate career into their professional career.

Creative Cookie

Posted on Friday, March 13, 2015



Lesley (Williams) Ware (*BS'01, Elementary Education; MPA '03*) attended Western Michigan University for a degree in elementary education because she wanted to work with and teach kids, but she didn't end up in a 'typical' classroom.

After receiving her Master's in Public Administration from WMU, Ware worked in the non-profit sector for nearly a decade at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Forbes Funds, and more recently at the Girl Scout National Office in Manhattan.

"I started a fashion blog in 2008 called the Creative Cookie, which later became a small business venture," Ware explained. "It's a boutique-sewing studio, in Red Hook Brooklyn, where I teach classes to young fashionistas. I share the studio with my husband who is a photographer. It's a great collaboration. "

But her creative venture didn't stop there. Recently, Ware's first book "Sew Fab" was published by Laurence King in London in early February. The book is a sewing and style guide for tweens.

"After leaving my full-time job, I responded to an ad on Craigslist and ended up teaching an 11 year old how to sew. She was my first client," Ware said. "It was the perfect blend of my elementary education background and love for fashion. "

After searching local book stores for reference materials to teach a tween how to sew with no luck, Ware decided she would write something of her own, and 'Sew Fab' was

born.

Ware credits her time at WMU as a major factor in her successful endeavors and has some strong advice for current students. “Set goals and dreams for yourself and then work very (very) hard to accomplish them. Hang on to all the contacts you make and keep in touch. Establish a good name for yourself and people will support what you do.”

As a student at WMU, Ware enjoyed having two cousins on campus and being close to her hometown of Muskegon. “I also loved campus and all the student services offered,” she commented. After a year in the elementary education program, Ware received a full scholarship. Among her most notable memories of her time at WMU are being involved with Delta Sigma Theta and serving as a Resident Assistant in Bigelow Hall.

“My dream is to release a book a year,” Ware said.

To learn more about Sew Fab or to keep up with Lesley, visit her blogs at www.thecreativecookie.com and www.lesleyware.com.