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Newsletter

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3-2018

## Connections, 03/2018

College of Health and Human Services

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## College of Health and Human Services



March 2018

### **EWB renovations on track for summer completion**

At the State of the College in 2016, **Dean Earlie Washington** announced that the second floor of the Ernest Wilbur Building (EWB) would be renovated and turned into classroom, lab and office space. The EWB was selected after an exhaustive search for space on campus and in downtown Kalamazoo.



### **OT grad students attend summer institute for future scientists**

**Elsie Bush** and **Colette Chapp**, two students from WMU's occupational therapy graduate program, will attend the third annual Summer Institute of Future Scientists in Occupational Therapy in June. The one-day program matches future student scientists with doctoral and post-doctorate mentors.



### **Burian Lecture Series returns in April**

The College of Health and Human Services will partner with the University Center for Humanities to bring **Dr. Danielle Allen** to WMU for a pair of events on April 12. A CHHS invitation-only event in the afternoon will be followed by the



2018 Burian Lecture at Knauss Hall at 7 p.m. Dr. Allen will speak on the topic of Inequality, Citizenship and the Promise of Education

### **UCEC events focused on families of incarcerated persons**

The University-Community Empowerment Center continues its Building Bridges series of community conversations with **Dr. Dana Cunningham** about supporting families of incarcerated individuals. On April 5, Dr. Cunningham will speak at the college in the morning and lead a panel discussion at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home in the evening.



### **Student service in post-hurricane Puerto Rico**

Ten social work students traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico, over spring break to complete a service learning course focused on developing cultural competence and achieving social, economic and environmental justice in the wake of Hurricane Maria.



### **Dean's List students recognized**

More than 1350 undergraduate students in the College of Health and Human Services were invited to a ceremony at the college to celebrate the fact that they met the requirements for the dean's list during a semester or session in 2017.



### **HHS on Social Media**



Mr. Bones is still celebrating St. Patrick's Day.  
From the [College of Health and Human Services](#) via [Instagram](#)

### In other news

Here are some other WMU news articles you might be interested in:

- [WMU trustees set standards, procedures governing University policies](#)
- [WMU, community groups developing plan for local waterways](#)
- [WMed's inaugural class celebrates big day, prepares for next step in residency training](#)

### CHHS on Facebook and Instagram

The College of Health and Human Services is on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)! Please take a moment to "like" and "follow" us to stay informed on what's going on throughout the college.

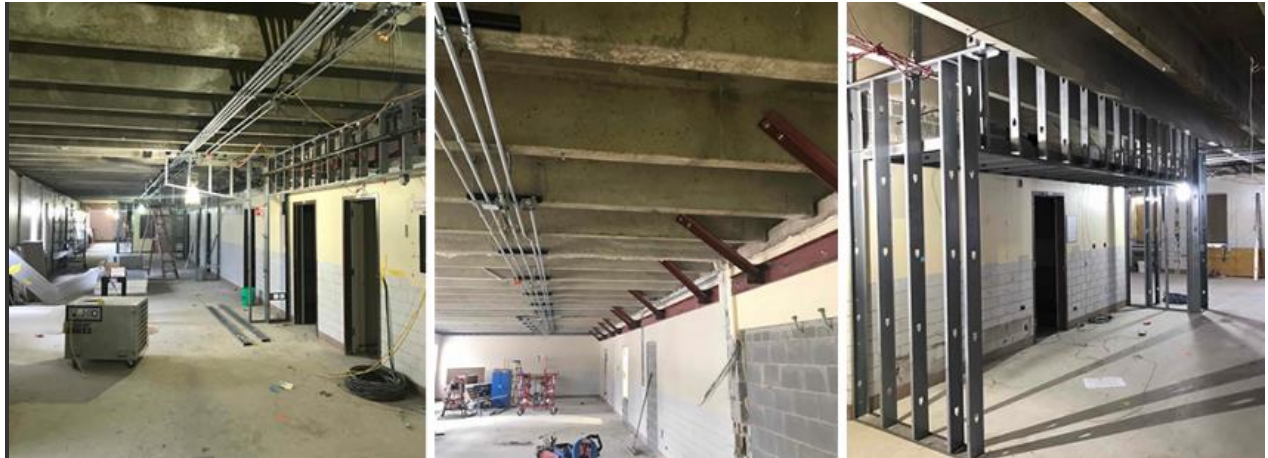




# EWB renovations on track for summer completion

At the State of the College in 2016, Dean Earlie Washington announced that the second floor of the Ernest Wilbur Building - or EWB - would be renovated and turned into classroom, lab and office space to officially house the new Department of Physical Therapy and provide additional space for other CHHS programs. The EWB was selected after an exhaustive search for space on campus and in downtown Kalamazoo.

In the fifteen months since making that announcement, there has been a great deal of activity in the building. Demolition was completed late last year and construction is well underway on the interior.



Construction photos from the interior of EWB in early March

## EXTERIOR

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The EWB was built in 1962. The scope of the renovation project will also include redesign of the west entrance - the entrance closest to the CHHS building. Designers were asked to not only update the exterior, but use design elements to show the connection between the EWB and the CHHS building.

The EWB's west entrance will utilize several design elements of the CHHS building, which was completed in 2005. New stonework, covered entryway and wooden slats above the windows duplicate those on CHHS building and intrinsically highlight the connection between the two spaces.



The detailed landscaping plan calls for tall evergreen trees to line the south edge of the building as well as 13 different varieties of grasses, shrubs and perennials.



## INTERIOR

Designers call the interior concept "industrially kinetic."

The concept of industrially kinetic is a response to the building's story of re-use and revitalization. It celebrates the new program of active learning spaces and showcases flexibility with visual connections to the student activated class lab spaces. "Industrial," paying homage to the EWB's history and efficiency reusing existing building components where appropriate. "Kinetic," using contrast and highlight to organize dynamic program elements – establishing a hierarchy of spaces.

The finish materials will also reflect WMU brand identity and sustainably responsible goals.



The project, designed by SmithGroup JJR with construction by AVB Inc., is well underway and on schedule for completion during the summer of 2018.

## OT students attend summer institute for future scientists

Two students from WMU's occupational therapy graduate program will attend the third annual [Summer Institute of Future Scientists in Occupational Therapy](#) in June. The one-day program matches future student scientists with doctoral and post-doctorate mentors.

**Elsie Bush** and **Colette Chapp**, first and second-year grad students respectively, were selected from a group of highly qualified applicants that submitted to a rigorous application process.



*Elsie Bush and Colette Chapp*

The institute is a joint program from the American Occupational Therapy Association and the American Occupational Therapy Foundation that seeks to identify potential scientists in entry-level education programs, connect them with mentors in the OT scientific community and help students develop a peer network.

"I'm very proud of these students," says **Dr. Maureen Mickus**, associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. "I'm so excited for both of them and know that this will contribute to their skills related to research in the field."



The facilitators and mentors will be composed of faculty and doctoral/post-doctoral students from established research programs around the nation, which makes the institute an ideal networking opportunity for attendees. In addition, all students who attend the institute are also invited to the two-day Occupational Therapy Summit of Scholars, which immediately follows the institute at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

## The Promise of Education - Danielle Allen

**April 12, 2018 | 7 p.m. | 2452 Knauss Hall,  
WMU**

### **“Inequality, Citizenship, and the Promise of Education”**

When we think about education and equality, we tend to think first about distributive questions—for example, how to design a system that will offer the real possibility of equal educational attainment, if not achievement, to all students. The vocational approach imagines that this equal attainment will translate into a wider distribution of skills, which will reduce income inequality. The civic conception of education suggests a very different way to understand the link between education and equality. This understanding begins with the recognition that fair economic outcomes are aided by a robust democratic process and, therefore, by genuine political equality. Thus an education focused not merely on technical skills, but also on what I call participatory readiness, provides a distinct and better way to promote equality through schooling.



*Danielle Allen*

Allen, Professor of Government and the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University and Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, is a political theorist who has published broadly in democratic theory, political sociology, and the history of political thought. Allen is the author of five books: "The World of Prometheus: The Politics of Punishing in Democratic Athens" (2000), "Talking to Strangers: Anxieties of Citizenship since Brown v. Board of Education" (2004), "Why Plato Wrote" (2010), "Our Declaration" (2014), and "Education and Equality" (2016). "Our Declaration" was awarded the 2015 Francis Parkman Prize and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Award for nonfiction, and she is also a contributing columnist for The Washington Post.



## Building Capacity - Creating Opportunities - Overcoming Barriers - Inspiring Action

The University-Community Empowerment Center at Western Michigan University is a research, consultation, and training center that collaborates with individuals, groups and organizations to empower communities to reduce poverty.

Employing research, evaluation, policy analysis, consultation, training and advocacy, the overall goal of the center is to empower distressed communities by assisting them in creating social and economic opportunities through the engagement of community residents, service providers and other stakeholders in collaborative action to reduce poverty.

## COMMUNITY FORUM

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Join us Thursday, April 5 for a pair of events to discuss how families deal with the incarceration of family members.

The events are a continuation of the UCEC's Building Bridges series of discussions for community empowerment and growth. The April events feature Lansing native and licensed clinical psychologist, **Dr. Dana Cunningham**, who has devoted more than 16 years to working with children, adolescents and families. Dr. Cunningham recently published a book titled **A Day I'll Never Forget**, which shares the story of a youngster whose father was suddenly incarcerated.



*Dr. Dana Cunningham*

- **Thursday, April 5 - 11 a.m. | Academic Forum**  
College of Health and Human Services, Room 4010  
Dr. Cunningham's presentation is titled Beyond the Bars: The Impact of Parental Incarceration and will be followed by discussion with students, faculty and community members.  
Event is free and open to the public. No RSVP required.
- **Thursday, April 5 - 6 p.m. | Community Panel Discussion**  
Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home, 1424 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI  
Dr. Cunningham will lead a panel of University and community leaders in a discussion about the impacts of incarceration on a community, specifically the impacts on children.  
Event is free and open to the public. [More information and RSVP online](#)

# Student service in post-hurricane Puerto Rico

Ten social work students (five graduate and five undergrad) traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico, with **Dr. Dee Sherwood**, Grand Rapids MSW program coordinator, over spring break to complete a service learning course focused on developing cultural competence and achieving social, economic and environmental justice in the wake of Hurricane Maria.



*Taking a break from painting*

"It's important that we recognize the shared trauma and resiliency of Puerto Ricans, as fellow Americans who are still struggling to recover from the destruction of Hurricane Maria," says Dr. Sherwood. "As social workers advocating for human rights and environmental justice, we realize that climate change and natural disasters have disparate impacts on vulnerable communities."

She added, "hurricane season will begin again in just a few months, and yet, more than half of the island is still without access to electricity and water."

During the trip, students learned about the culture, economics and history of the island of Puerto Rico. They also helped resurface and paint a community center building in a vulnerable community in San Juan. Because electricity and other public services remain somewhat sporadic in areas of the island, these community centers continue to serve as important locations for people to get resources, information, food, water and medicine.

"I had the privilege of experiencing Puerto Rico before and after the hurricane. It is invaluable to feel the pain of compassion while experiencing the hope of change," says **Lillian Dempsey**, MSW student who went on the trip. "This can translate into other aspects of your life by motivating your desire to connect with humanity in a quest for the common good of all."

In addition to completing the community service project, faculty and students participated in research documenting the experiences of fellow social workers in Puerto Rico in providing disaster relief in their communities.



## 2017 Dean's List students recognized

More than 1350 undergraduate students in the College of Health and Human Services were invited to a ceremony at the college to celebrate the fact that they met the requirements for the dean's list during a semester or session in 2017.

While not all 1350 could attend the ceremony, those who did, along with their friends and family, were recognized for their wonderful academic achievement.

"Our students on the dean's list make good choices and work hard," says **Dean Earlie Washington**. "Your success means a great deal to the college,



*Dean Washington welcomes the group*



the University and—most importantly—to the individuals and families whose lives you will touch in positive ways after graduation."

Every year, Dean Washington asks the previous year's recipient of the [CHHS Faculty Teaching Excellence Award](#) to address dean's list attendees with a brief lecture. This year, that honor went to **Dr. Maureen Mickus**, associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Dr. Mickus spoke about correlation analysis, providing sample research about some preconceived notions that young and middle aged persons have about the lives of older persons.



*Dr. Maureen Mickus*

It was an interesting, informative talk that also managed to draw chuckles from students and parents alike.

To make the [dean's list at WMU](#), students must earn a minimum 3.5 GPA over 12 credit hours in the spring and fall semesters (or six credit hours during a summer session).

"They are laying the groundwork for success after WMU," says Dean Washington, "in careers through which they will help many people and serve as an example and inspiration to others."



*Dean Washington handing out awards.*