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Research and Discovery News

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4-2017

## April and May 2017 news items

Office of Vice President for Research

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## April and May 2017 archived news items

### WMU theatre faculty member wins NEH grant

CONTACT: DEANNE PUCA

APRIL 17, 2017 | WMU NEWS



Durham

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University's Dr. Lofton Durham, associate professor of theatre, has received a \$6,000 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

His project, "Medieval Theatre at the Center: Jaques Milet's Destruction of Troy and the Making of the French Nation," explores how theatre, both live and in its documentary afterlife, shaped and reflected widely held beliefs about the emergent French nation from the 15th through the 17th centuries. It was one of 208 humanities projects and programs funded by the NEH nationwide and one of just 69 projects in the Summer Stipend category chosen for funding.

"For me, the Summer Stipend represents essential support for my research agenda by enabling me to commit two full months to the project," Durham says. "This outside support, plus the support of Western for my (spring 2018) sabbatical, will push my book over the finish line.

"I'm especially grateful to the Office of the Vice President for Research and my WMU peer reviewers, who gave me invaluable advice that helped me completely revamp my proposal before submitting it to the NEH," he adds.

#### NEH SUMMER STIPENDS

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National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipends support individuals pursuing advanced research that is of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both. Eligible projects usually result in articles, monographs, books, digital materials and publications, or other scholarly resources. Summer Stipends support continuous full-time work on a humanities project for a period of two consecutive months.

**Learn more** at [neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends](http://neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends).

**For more WMU news, arts and events**, visit [wmich.edu/news](http://wmich.edu/news).

## Find Your Research Program Officer or Contract Administrator

### RESEARCH PROGRAM OFFICERS

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Research program officers offer assistance with proposal development, submission and other pre-award activities.

[Find the research program officer](#) assigned to work with your area.

### RESEARCH CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR

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The research contract administrator assists with the development and approval of prime and subcontracts associated with externally funded projects.

[Contact the research contract administrator](#) for assistance with contract negotiation and development.

## NSF CAREER Awards received by WMU faculty

Contact: [Diana Hearit](#)

May 31, 2017

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—[Dr. Fahad Saeed](#), [Dr. Wendy Scott Beane](#) and [Dr. Elena Litvinova](#) have all been given the highly prestigious, CAREER award from the National Science

Foundation—NSF. CAREER awards are the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards for junior faculty and these highly selective grants are given to members who are likely to become academic leaders of the future. Awardees have the flexibility to explore unexpected new terrain uncovered in the course of their research.

**Dr. Fahad Saeed**, a Western Michigan University assistant professor in the Departments of Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering, will use the 5-year grant of \$500,000 to lay a foundation for fast algorithmic and high performance computing solutions suitable for analyzing big proteogenomics data sets. He plans to involve both undergraduate and graduate students in the research, as well as develop an outreach program for K-12 students. For more information, see <http://www.wmich.edu/engineer/fahad-saeed>.

The \$160,000 for the fiscal year totaling \$800,000 over the lifetime of the grant, went to **Dr. Wendy Scott Beane**, assistant professor of biological sciences, to investigate the mechanisms by which neural regeneration is regulated in planarians.

**Dr. Elena Litvinova**, assistant professor of physics, will be awarded \$474,998 for her project entitled "CAREER: From Fundamental Interactions to Emergent Phenomena: Geometrical Aspects of Nuclear Dynamics". The project will address important issues of the nuclear structure theory and include innovative outreach activities at the interface of science and visual arts.

Read more about these awardees in the [WMU magazine](#).

## Scholar Talks

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[Western Michigan University Research on YouTube](#)