



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Magazine



Bee Aware

Students study a
pollinator in peril



6 Bee Inspired

Threatened honeybee population inspires student beekeeping, research project

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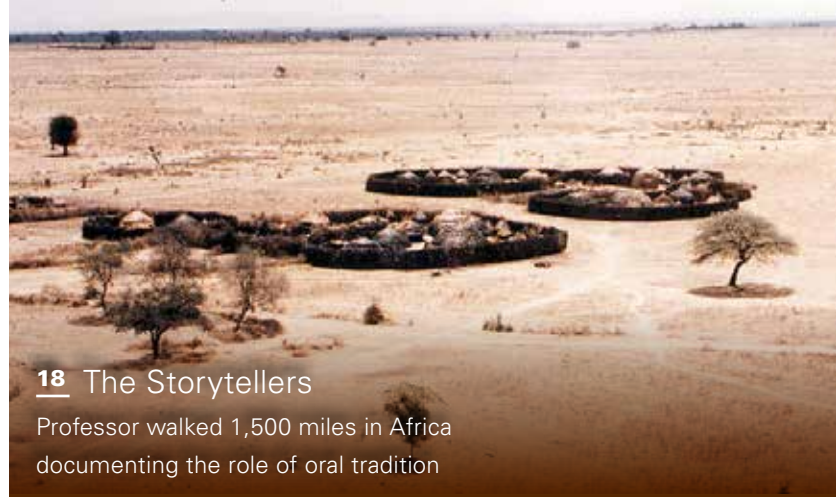
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On the cover

A student beekeeper handles a honeybee colony frame laden with bees, honey and capped larvae. The population of managed bee colonies in the U.S. has been declining. A group of WMU students created an apiary to study this at-risk insect.



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Full Frame

Decades ago, WMU students designed the 70-plus stained glass windows that adorn Kanley Chapel. The late Noreen Belden Myers designed the pane shown here. It is one of five windows gifted to the chapel by Alpha Beta Epsilon, the University's oldest alumni constituent group. On page 22, read more about the windows and an alumnus' quest to honor the student works.

Dear Friends,

Western Michigan University is learner centered to its core—so much so that we've begun to think of this place as *the opportunity university*.

What does this mean? The examples are numerous.



Weston Hillier says that helping found a student-developed research apiary, made possible by WMU's Student Sustainability Grant, altered his professional aspirations. Because of this project, designed to explore both threats to bees and their importance as crop pollinators, Weston now looks toward work in sustainable agriculture.

Students come to WMU, this opportunity university, fired up about protecting the environment or inventing products or writing

fiction or teaching, and they discover how to channel and advance those passions. And many discover new ones because of our wealth of programs and deep expertise of our faculty.

I also take pride in the knowledge that individuals such as veteran broadcaster Keith Thompson turn to WMU to strengthen their own expertise, even after decades of professional experience.

A meteorologist, Emmy winner and recent alumnus, Keith says that WMU has "an egalitarian feel to it, an encouragement to test ideas and ask questions."

Keith gets it. We talk about WMU as learner centered because we are emphasizing that everyone in the University, at every stage of life and no matter how much they already know, can be engaged in learning.

On the pages that follow, read more about Weston, Keith and the experiences of other Broncos. And I hope they indicate why I take such pride in what this University offers to our diversity of learners. At WMU, opportunities to know more abound.

Enjoy your reading.

Best regards,

John M. Dunn
President

WMU produced nation's top industrial engineering student

An April graduate of WMU was named the nation's top industrial engineering student. Kyle E. Croes is the 2014 first-place winner of the Institute of Industrial Engineers' James W. Barany Student Award for Excellence.



Croes

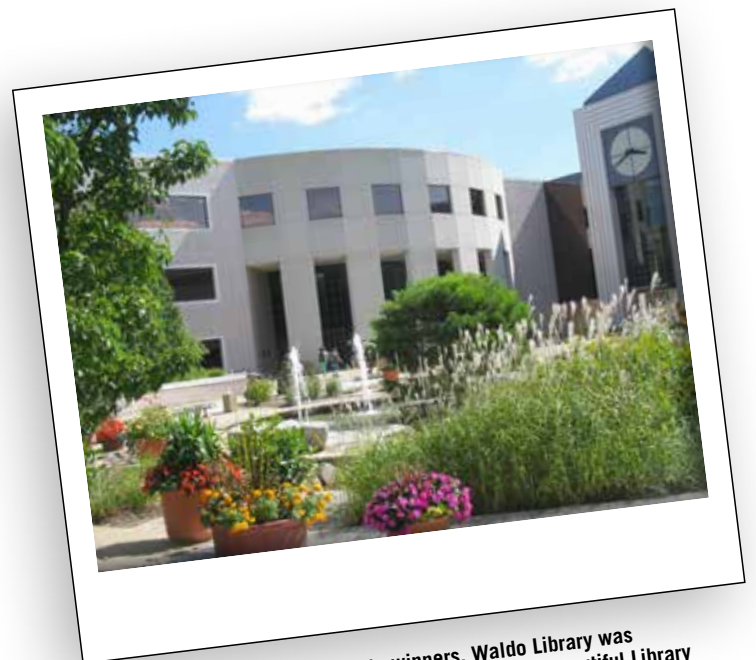
The top award is made to just one undergraduate in the nation who has provided distinguished service to industrial engineering through excellence in scholarship and campus leadership.

Croes earned his bachelor's degree from WMU in the spring and now works in supply chain management at Eaton Corp.

A talented high school musician who was a member of the Detroit Symphony Youth Ensemble, Croes came to WMU undecided about a major. He says he discovered WMU's industrial and entrepreneurial engineering major as a "great blend of both business and engineering."

He used his musical background to inspire some of his entrepreneurial work, including his invention of a guitar-stringing tool.

His engineering innovations as a student also have included simulation and development of a new production line for Stryker Corp., redesigning the layout of a grain mill to enhance logistics, improving facility layout for a distillery, and cost and process improvements for an area manufacturer. ■



Though not among the ultimate winners, Waldo Library was recognized for its curb appeal in a national Your Beautiful Library photo contest sponsored by the Gale Cengage Learning company. The photo highlights the skill of the University's landscape services staff.

WMU takes a lead role to combat climate change as member of the Alliance for Resilient Campuses

WMU is a founding member of the Alliance for Resilient Campuses, a nationwide network of colleges and universities that have committed to lead the nation's response to many of the challenges triggered by changing global weather patterns.

The leaders of 30 campuses around the nation are founding signatories to the alliance. They include WMU's President John M. Dunn.

"The information being shared about climate change makes it very clear that we're no longer talking only about the need for prevention or mitigation," Dunn says.

"As institutions of higher education, our responsibility is to play a leadership role in identifying the best and strongest responses to the changes we're already beginning to see."

The new initiative is organized by Second Nature, a leading U.S. presence in higher education sustainability that also separately awarded WMU with a 2014 Climate Leadership Award, recognizing the campus for its innovation and leadership in sustainability.

In its statement of purpose, members of the alliance specifically pledged to:

- assess and understand climate impact in their individual regions;
- adapt by using changes to building and infrastructure development, energy and land management, food sources and water supply, transportation and community partnerships;

- accelerate climate and sustainability education and research; and
- share and coordinate response strategies with other campuses and communities. ■



Using a mobile device, view the video that won WMU a 2014 Climate Change Leadership Award.



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Homecoming weekend 2014: We Will Reign

With the theme, "We Will Reign," the University celebrates its 91st homecoming Oct. 24-26.

The weekend's festivities include a Distinguished Alumni Award reception, tailgating, the Campus Classic race, a family weekend and alumni brunch and Bronco football.

Learn more, register for various homecoming events and buy tickets online by visiting mywmu.com/homecoming.

The celebration begins on WMU's main campus with the Distinguished Alumni Award reception in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Three executives from business and higher education are this year's honorees.

The 2014 recipients are:

Wendell L. Christoff, CEO of Litehouse Inc.

Daniel J. Martin, dean of the College of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University

Donald Southwell, chairman of the board of Kemper Corp.

Alumni are nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of the WMU Alumni Association. A homecoming weekend reception honoring them starts at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24. The deadline to register for the event is Oct. 17. Tickets are \$45.



This year's homecoming gridiron match up is set for Saturday, Oct. 25, kickoff time to be announced at wmubroncos.com. The Bronco football team faces the Ohio University Bobcats in Waldo Stadium.

In the three hours leading up to the game, the Office of Development and Alumni Relations is hosting a tailgating party in Parking Lot 1 on Oakland Drive. The event includes all-you-can-eat BBQ, entertainment and activities for the entire family. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under age 12.

Earlier that day, runners and walkers may take to campus for the 16th annual Campus Classic race. The event features a 1K Fun Run and Walk at 8:45 a.m. and a 5K Run and Walk at 9:15 a.m. Top finishers in various categories win awards.

Racers and walkers may register and pay online at the race information site, wmich.edu/campusclassic, up until 11:59 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23. Race-day registration and packet pickup will take place at the Student Recreation Center until 9 a.m.

One of the culminating activities for homecoming weekend is the family weekend and alumni brunch on Sunday, Oct. 26. A breakfast buffet will be served in the Bigelow Dining Hall from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$8 per person. Visit mywmu.com/homecoming to order tickets. ■

WMUK wins two National Public Radio awards

The University's public radio station WMUK-FM won two awards for its local programming from Public Radio News Directors Inc.



During an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., WMUK reporter and producer Gordon Evans accepted a first-place award for "best interview among mid-sized stations." The award honored a segment of Evans' "WestSouthwest" weekly program that focused on the e-book "We Are One" and race relations in Battle Creek, Michigan.

A second PRNDI honor for WMUK news coverage was the second-place award for correspondent and WMU alumnus Chris Killian's audio postcard from Bombay Beach, California, which won praise in the "best use of sound" category. The segment was part of a series that Killian produced as he traveled around the nation last year in a VW camper.

"Each year, PRNDI recognizes the best of local public radio news in a wide array of categories," says WMUK News Director Andrew Robins.

"We're enormously proud to see our station's name among those honored this year. Our two award-winning programs represent thousands of hours of programs that we think make our community well-informed, thoughtful and engaged."

WMUK began operations in 1951 and was Kalamazoo's first FM station. In 1971, it was part of the initial group of radio stations around the nation to join with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to form National Public Radio. ■

University becomes part of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute network

The Bernard Osher Foundation has selected WMU to become the newest member of the celebrated national network of lifelong learning programs it supports.

WMU's Academy of Lifelong Learning, which has been offering classes for older adults in southwest Michigan since 2011, is now the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Western Michigan University.

The agreement, which was effective in April, came with an operating grant of \$100,000 from the foundation to WMU.

Once the institute demonstrates success and potential for sustainability, the Osher Foundation will consider awarding an endowment of \$1 million to provide permanent support for WMU's lifelong learning initiative, which is administered by Extended University Programs.

In addition to WMU's, there are 117 other Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes at colleges and universities in locations that range from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska.

Lifelong learning at WMU features academically oriented, enriched learning courses and trips designed for people age 50 and above. Courses are taught in one- to eight-week timeframes and all are offered in person rather than online. The program is delivered by an all-volunteer organizational structure working with administrative oversight and support from WMU's Extended University Programs.

To have joined the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is a validation of the quality of WMU's lifelong learning program, says Dr. Dawn M. Gaymer, associate provost for Extended University Programs.

"With these additional resources, we will increase our course and trip offerings, maintain the high-quality programming that our constituents have come to expect, and learn additional ways to make our OLLI more robust and self-sustaining for years to come," she says.

The Osher Foundation was founded in 1977 by Bernard Osher, a respected financial-sector businessman, community leader and philanthropist.

The foundation's goal is to improve quality of life through support for higher education and the arts. The lifelong learning programs it supports can be found in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For complete information and a schedule of current offerings, visit wmich.edu/olli. ■



Dunn gets drenched

President John M. Dunn endured an icy deluge from Buster Bronco after accepting a challenge to take part in the ALS "Ice Bucket Challenge." The grassroots fundraising campaign swept the nation this year and raised more than \$100 million to fight amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a motor neuron disease. Dunn also donated \$100 to the cause.



WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine welcomes inaugural class

The nation's newest medical school, the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, welcomed its first class of students in August.

"It has been fun and also gratifying to see our 54 inaugural students start medical school," says Dr. Hal B. Jenson, founding dean of the school.

"This has been a focus of planning and preparation by hundreds of people in Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan and all the effort has paid off by having the building, curriculum, faculty and student services ready to go. We have an outstanding group of students from across the country who have come to Kalamazoo to learn the science and art of medicine," he says.

Members of the first class were selected from among more than 3,500 applicants from across the nation.

The class, which is 56 percent male and 44 percent female, includes students from 14 states. They earned their undergraduate degrees at 35 colleges and universities ranging from Big Ten schools like the universities of Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota to liberal arts colleges, like Albion, Calvin and Hillsdale.

Three members of the entering class are WMU graduates and two earned degrees at Kalamazoo College. Both of those schools enjoy a preferred relationship status with the medical school.

"The students have been warmly welcomed and embraced by the Kalamazoo community. As an inaugural class, they will help set the future of the medical school and will graduate to become the future of medicine," Jenson says.

At 54, the Class of 2018 is slightly larger than the goal of 50 students originally announced. The school expects to admit 60 students next year and grow in each succeeding year until it reaches an eventual class size of 84 students per class.

"We have an outstanding group of students from across the country who have come to Kalamazoo to learn the science and art of medicine."

—Dr. Hal Jenson, School of Medicine dean



Named for the Kalamazoo orthopedic surgeon and medical device innovator who founded Stryker Corp., the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine is a collaboration involving WMU and Kalamazoo's two teaching hospitals, Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare.

In the planning since 2008, the new school was granted preliminary accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education in October 2012.

And three years ago, Ronda E. Stryker, granddaughter of Homer Stryker, and her husband William D. Johnston, a WMU trustee, donated a gift in excess of \$100 million to launch the school, which is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that is supported through private gifts, clinical revenue, research activity, tuition from students and endowment income.

Students began classes on Aug. 18 at the new W.E. Upjohn M.D. Campus, a site that includes a 350,000-square-foot newly renovated medical research facility. The site was a gift from MPI Research, a company led by William U. Parfet, great grandson of the campus' namesake, who started the Upjohn Co. in Kalamazoo in 1886.

The school also includes the WMU School of Medicine Clinics on Oakland Drive, immediately adjacent to the University's main campus. ■



Bee Aware, Bee Inspired

The population of managed honeybee colonies has been declining in the U.S. WMU students created an apiary to study this at-risk pollinator.

After hours of meticulous work in unrelenting summer heat and well away from an apiary buzzing with thousands of honeybees, the students paused for a sweet, golden treat.

"If I could eat like a bee all the time, I'd be in heaven," said Caitlin Minzey who, with the others gathered, sampled honey from one of the apiary's six colonies.

"They've got the best diets ever—sugar."

Sugar is the carbohydrate of the honeybee diet. They also consume pollen, which is their protein. And during early development, larvae are fed portions of a substance called royal jelly.

This tasting followed a routine inspection of the hives during which students scrutinized bees for mites or signs of disease. They also looked at still-encased larvae, checked the level of honey production and most important, the students checked to see if each colony had a healthy, egg-laying queen.

And how was that "nuc" hive coming along?

"Looks good," head beekeeper Weston Hillier assessed after examining a frame of honeycomb from a nucleus colony, a mini hive that would, with luck, develop into another full-size colony.

"We want to do as little tinkering as possible. I know the queen is in there. I know she's laying eggs and everything looks good," he announced to the group before resealing the nuc hive.

Most of the students gathered that day were new to the art and science of beekeeping, and a few of them were more veteran,



WMU junior Shaana Way peers over a hive buzzing with thousands of bees.

“If I could eat like a bee all the time, I’d be in heaven. They’ve got the best diets ever—sugar.”

—Caitlin Minzey

having helped establish this apiary last year with an \$11,000 allocation from WMU’s Student Sustainability Grant Fund.

The initial work of this group, WMU Students for a Sustainable Earth, has been to develop a self-perpetuating cadre of student beekeepers to care for the bees, with the most experienced keepers teaching newbies who join the apiculture project.

Big picture, these environmentally conscious students are concerned about the plight of the honeybee, an important but imperiled pollinator threatened by a variety of culprits, including habitat loss, pesticides and the puzzling phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder.

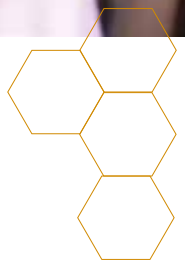
The students have been learning how to create and maintain hives to raise awareness and study the ecological significance of the honeybee. Eventually the goal is to use the apiary to conduct research.

Every third mouthful

In the United States, managed honeybee colonies have been declining over the past several decades, from more than five million such colonies in the 1940s to half that today.

One of the specific blows to honeybees in the past 10 years—colony collapse disorder—is a mysterious occurrence in which a majority of the bees in a colony abruptly depart and never return. Scientists have not pinned down a cause, but many suggest there’s probably not a single cause, rather a synergistic effect from multiple stresses.

The downturn in honeybees is significant because roughly one third of the food Americans consume—some \$15 billion worth of annual agricultural production—directly or indirectly benefits from honeybee pollination, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Commercially produced apples, almonds and other crops are dependent on the honeybee.

"The attention grabber is when they show those supermarket pictures—one supermarket with shelves full of food and then shelves missing all the bee-pollinated stuff," Hillier says, referencing a popular visual illustration of the importance of honeybees to the U.S. food supply.

"That really sends the message home. I think that's something people need to see."

Just this summer, the USDA announced a measure providing \$8 million in incentives for farmers and ranchers to establish new habitats to support honeybee populations in Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

"In recent years, factors such as diseases, parasites, pesticides or habitat loss have contributed to a significant decline in the honeybee population," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in June.

"This \$8 million is part of the administration's ongoing strategy to reverse these trends and establish more plant habitat on Conservation Reserve Program lands to restore the bee population," he said.

Newbees

When Hillier started this project in 2013, he knew nothing about beekeeping. But the biology and environmental studies major, who completed his studies at WMU this past summer, was concerned after hearing about what was happening to bees.

He and another now-former WMU student, Nicholas Wikar, began to study the issue, and wrote and won an \$11,065 Student Sustainability Grant to create a research apiary.

The Student Sustainability Grant Fund is a pool of money generated from a Student Sustainability Fee that was instituted at WMU in 2010. A majority of the student body voted in favor of the \$8 per semester fee to fund green projects, and students successfully won WMU Board of Trustees approval to support setting up such a fund.

Nearly 60 percent of the proceeds from this fee go to stoke the grant fund, with the balance supporting a Green Jobs initiative as well as providing supplemental funding for the WMU Office for Sustainability.

Just as members of Students for a Sustainable Earth did, any WMU student may seek grants for projects that contribute to the University's culture of sustainability. Other projects that have won grant support include recycling studies, expansion of student-cultivated gardens, a café featuring locally sourced and organic foods, and a campus bicycle cooperative.

"As humans, we feel like we're this powerful species who can manipulate the earth, but we will never be able to do what (bees) do!"

—Caitlin Minzey

"The apiary grant provides a wonderful illustration for how students were able to identify a significant problem—the plight of bees and their importance to society as a pollinator species—and develop an enriching research project that is now accessible to any student or staff member at WMU," says Derek Kanwischer, coordinator for sustainability projects in the Office for Sustainability.

With its grant, Students for a Sustainable Earth hired a renowned entomologist and beekeeper, Dr. Larry Connor, to teach them about

honeybee biology, the complexity of hive life and how to develop and maintain bee colonies. Several members also attended a national conference.

"There are a lot of people who dive into beekeeping who don't know anything about bee biology," says Connor, an entomologist, publisher and author of several bee books. "That's how you learn to ask the good questions."

When he first started teaching the students, Connor says he didn't see enough "good old-fashioned fear... Some of them showed up (to his apiary buzzing with bees) wearing shorts and flip flops."

That changed.

"My relationship with them has been so positive," Connor says. "They are a great group of young people. They are great future scientists and teachers and they needed to have that kind of fostering from someone like myself who has many, many years of experience with students."

The students who have become involved in the project hail from a variety of disciplines, including the biological sciences, but also business and technology fields.



Hillier

Though honeybees are widely used to pollinate food crops in the United States, the insects are not native to North America.*



At peak population, a honeybee colony may buzz with 60,000 to 80,000 bees.*



A survey of managed honeybee colonies found losses of 23 percent nationwide for the 2013-14 winter season, according to the Bee Informed Partnership, a research concern. These losses were an improvement over the previous season when nationwide colony casualties were about 30 percent.*



WMU's student-maintained apiary produced 180 pounds of honey in 2013.*



*Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, American Beekeeping Federation, WMU Students for Sustainable Earth and the Bee Informed Partnership, a collaboration of researchers supported by the USDA and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. ■

The buzz

It's often been the case that students join this effort with a basic knowledge of honeybees. But as the amateur beekeepers learn, they seem to develop a degree of awe for the insect.

"It's amazing that the bottom of the food chain has so much power and influence," Minzey observes.

"As humans, we feel like we're this powerful species who can manipulate the earth, but we will never be able to do what they do."

"Honeybee evangelists" may be too strong a description for them, but they have a fount of facts they readily share with friends and family.

Did you know that to produce a single pound of honey it takes the lifetime effort of about 768 honeybees visiting 2 million flowers and flying some 55,000 miles?

Did you know honeybees gather propolis, a resinous mixture collected from trees and other plants that the bees use as glue to seal up their hive? Propolis has anti-microbial properties and is being studied for its medicinal properties.

Did you know that in extreme cold, a colony's bees cluster into a tight ball during winter, putting the queen in the middle?

"And (the worker bees) slowly take turns rotating from the outside to the inside. So everybody gets cold and warm," Hillier explains. "They want to keep the queen alive."

Winter provided the student beekeepers their hardest lesson when this past spring they cracked open the bee colony boxes to find that none of their bees had survived Michigan's unusually harsh winter.

Though a nationwide survey of managed honeybee colonies found that colony losses for the 2013-14 winter season weren't as great as the previous year—23 percent versus about 30 percent, according to the Bee Informed Partnership—colonies in the Midwest did take a hit.

The Michigan beekeepers who responded to the survey reported colony losses north of 60 percent.

Hillier says it was a great disappointment when he found all their previous season's bees had died, but says, "It taught me. If they had all survived, I wouldn't have been forced to think more about" better ways to protect them.

And though last year's colonies died, they also produced 180 pounds of honey.

The team purchased this season's bees using more than \$1,000 from the sale of that honey as well as beeswax products.

This winter, the keepers plan to use better thermal clustering techniques to keep the bees warm, along with other countermeasures.

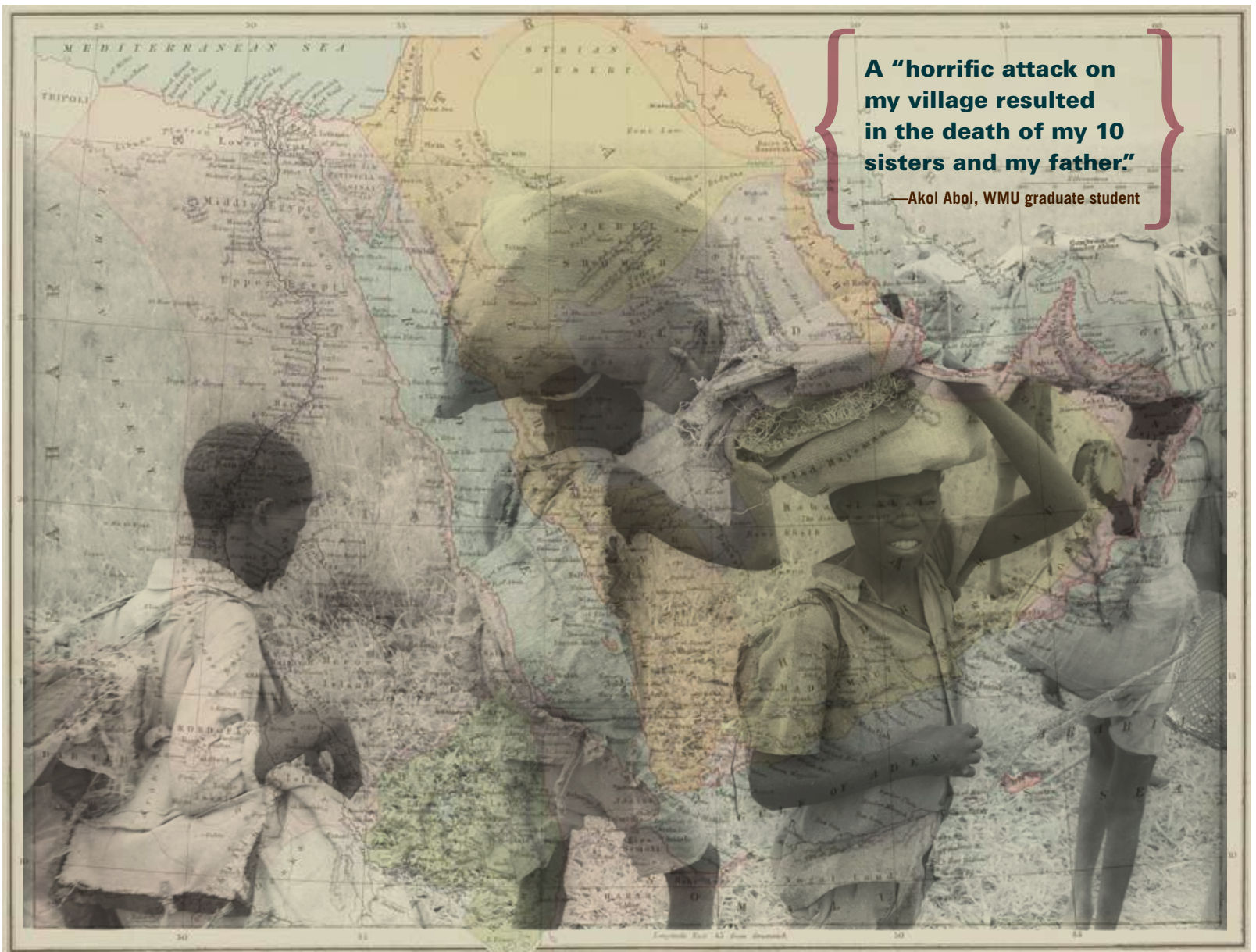
As this group becomes more accomplished in their beekeeping skills, its goal is to use the apiary to conduct qualitative research. And Hillier says this project has changed his career path.

"I thought I'd do some conservation biology or something like that. But now I'm geared toward sustainable agriculture that also deals in conservation.

"Bees, native landscaping, sustainable agriculture—it's all starting to catch on more. You hear more about people being concerned about their food," he says. ■



WMU senior Ali Leist



A “horrific attack on my village resulted in the death of my 10 sisters and my father.”

—Akol Abol, WMU graduate student

This is one of the many images of “lost boys” captured by New York photographer Wendy Stone.

SUDANESE “LOST BOY’S” LONGTIME DREAM REALIZED AT WMU

WMU student Akol Abol is among the generation of so-called Lost Boys of Sudan—more than 20,000 children who were displaced during civil war in Sudan. Many died fleeing the armed conflict. Pondering why he survived, Abol says, “Maybe God wants me to be a witness to tell what happened to us.”



"MAYBE GOD WANTS ME TO BE A WITNESS TO TELL WHAT HAPPENED TO US."

At 6 years old, Akol Abol became one of the millions displaced by civil war in Sudan, and most of his family members were among those killed.

Orphaned, grieving his family and left to grow up in refugee camps, the Sudanese "lost boy" experienced few joys through childhood, save for school and playing soccer with friends.

So when Abol had a tibia and fibula snap during one spirited game at a camp, it may have seemed like another cruel blow in a life too full of them.

But what happened next is directly linked to where Abol is today—on the cusp of completing a master's degree in occupational therapy at WMU, an achievement that once seemed impossible in the face of almost unfathomable hardship.

Abol is one of the so-called Lost Boys of Sudan—among the more than 20,000 children of the Nuer and Dinka ethnic groups who were displaced, orphaned or both during civil war from 1983 to 2005.

Millions of Sudanese were killed or displaced from their homes.

The region where Abol was born, southern Sudan, has since become a country. South Sudan achieved independence from Sudan in 2011. But the young nation is still beset by civil conflict. People are still dying.

Childhood interrupted

Abol was born more than 33 years ago in the small town of Kuajok. The early years of his life were simple and innocent. Surrounded by 11 sisters and deeply loved and cared for by his mother and father, Abol fondly remembers the dry heat and the livestock.

But as he busied himself with growing up, the war slowly moved closer to his world until he had to abruptly abandon all he had ever known when gunmen entered his village.

"I was 6 years old when government troops and government-sponsored militias attacked my village in southern Sudan," says Abol, recalling the terrifying day he lost most of his family.

"I awoke to the sound of automatic weapon fire."

Terrified and confused, he fled barefoot. But he was spotted and then chased into the woods by armed men firing at him on horseback.

While young Abol avoided harm, "this horrific attack on my village resulted in the death of my 10 sisters and my father," he says.

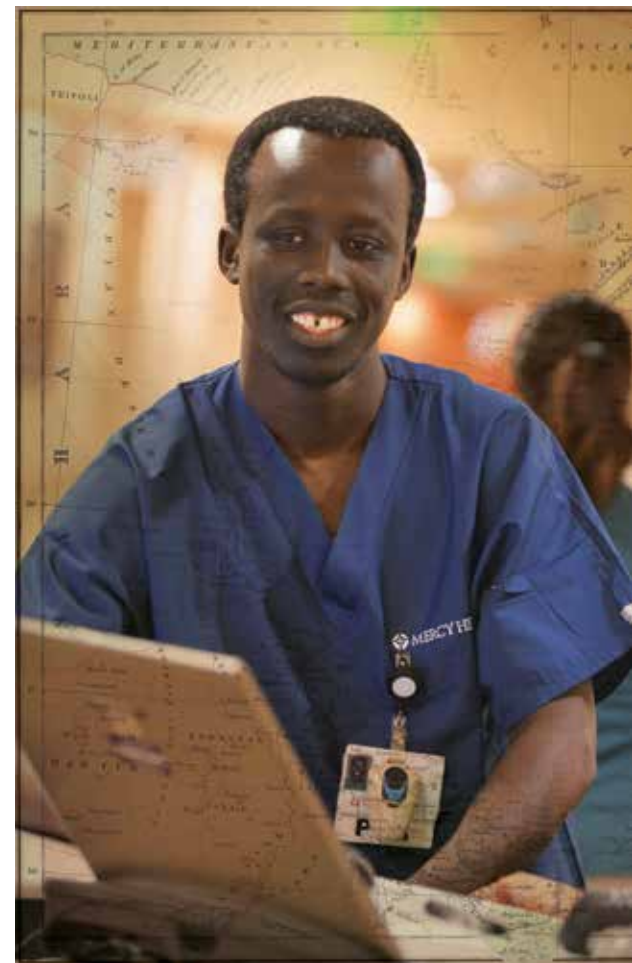
Abol stayed a couple nights in the forest. Other villagers also taking refuge told him that it was dangerous back home and when he asked about his family, there were no answers. In fact, he wouldn't learn his family's fate—that his mother and a sister were the sole survivors—until years later.

Joining other refugees, he began to walk farther and farther from home.

"I will always remember sucking liquid from mud and eating unknown leaves and berries just to stay alive. Along with other escapees, I traveled for years in search of safe refuge," he says.

Abol's journey carried him over a thousand miles across three countries to refugee camps in Ethiopia and later in Kenya.

"Three-fourths of my fellow lost boys and girls died along the way due to starvation, disease and attacks by wild animals and enemy soldiers. Most of the conditions and challenges we faced were indescribable," he says.



Today, Akol Abol leads a busy life as a health care worker and occupational therapy student.

Refuge and education

Although Abol was one of the few to survive the long journey to the camps, safety was not guaranteed. Death was an ever-present specter due to a lack of food and security. If the youngsters didn't perish from the unsanitary conditions of the camps and scarce food rations, they still had to worry about raiders coming to steal what little they owned.

That was a period that Abol calls "the black days of our life."

"Those were the days that I would go to school, drink water as lunch, do homework, drink water as dinner and go to sleep right afterward with your stomach rumbling or growling. That time was like being in a prison."

"My first ABC was learned by writing in the top soil. There were no pencils or papers to write with. One textbook was shared among seven to eight people. It was a mess," he says.

Over the years, school and playing soccer with friends were some of the chief joys in Abol's life, and though the game dealt him a bone-breaking blow when he was 18 years old, it also led to a career aspiration.

"I played soccer a lot. And one day we were playing, I suffered a compound fracture. A defender kicked me and my bone came out of the skin. So I was taken to one of the clinics and in that clinic, there was one (occupational therapist). I felt everybody was good, but the OT was so awesome and so nice to me."



WMU occupational therapy graduate student Akol Abol is looking forward to a career serving others as a health care professional. In this series of photos with Holly Grieves, an instructor in WMU's occupational therapy program, Abol demonstrates the kind of assistance he would provide an OT client.

A roommate, Alfred Uthou Ukech, was one of those who succumbed to the camp's conditions. Abol had rushed to donate blood to this friend who was dying from complications of severe anemia only to be turned away due to his own anemia. Alfred passed away by his side.

"I don't know what a childhood is to be honest with you," Abol says. "The only hope I had was to go to school and become a better person through education."

Abol attended schools started by the United Nations, though they were often poorly resourced.

"Although the OT treated me wholly as a person with dignity, respect and patience, after I came to the United States, I realized that the health workers and the facility that cared for me probably did not have adequate skills and tools to fix my tibia and fibula correctly."

But the experience planted a seed in Abol who thought, "this is what I want to do." I came to realize this was my calling."



"THE ONLY HOPE I HAD WAS TO GO TO SCHOOL AND BECOME A BETTER PERSON THROUGH EDUCATION."

America, an unbelievable dream

In the late 1990s, the United States began resettling lost boys and girls, granting refugee status to thousands.

As a high school student in Kenya, Abol had read about the United States but only knew "that America was a good place to be, a land of opportunity, where if you worked hard, you could do whatever you wanted to do. But it's a land that if you don't succeed, you may end up being homeless."

In 2000, Abol began the process of coming to America to start a new life.

After going through several rounds of interviews, he had to meet with an American lawyer, who would ultimately determine that he could come to the United States.

"The process was long, and some of my friends didn't make it because of cultural differences," says Abol, who explains that, "we are taught not to look into people's eyes, and American immigration lawyers thought we were hiding something, which led to a failure of the interview for many lost boys and girls."

In 2001, Abol was among a group that was granted admittance to the U.S. "At first, we didn't believe it. It wasn't a believable dream," he says.

Abol flew from Nairobi to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where other

Sudanese had settled. He found living in Michigan was like living in another world.

"In southern Sudan, we don't have any winter ever. Period. The transportation is also different. I used to always walk on foot. I had never rode a bicycle or driven a car or been on a highway," Abol says.

And the diet was vastly different. For years, corn grain was his major source of nourishment.

"In addition, back in Sudan, you would know your neighbors. Here it is different. You can live next door to a neighbor in an apartment, but you don't even speak to each other."

After working in the food-delivery business for a couple of months in Grand Rapids, Abol felt ready to pursue higher

education and focus on his interest in health care. He took a full-time job at Mercy Health Saint Mary's hospital as a patient care assistant while earning his associate's degree from Grand Rapids Community College.

Not wanting to stop with a two-year degree, he transferred to WMU to complete a bachelor's degree. Abol is now working on his second WMU degree, a master's degree in occupational therapy, the profession that sparked his interest in health care professions and so meaningfully touched his life years ago. He expects to graduate in December.

Since his days as a lost boy, these accomplishments are among many triumphs in Abol's life, including reuniting with his mother and sole surviving sister, who both still reside in Sudan. He's also married and the father of three young sons.

But Abol is not satisfied with his own ascendancy. With an optimistic and humanitarian spirit, his goal is to make a difference in the quality of life of underserved populations in the United States and in South Sudan one day.

Abol intends to become South Sudan's first homegrown occupational therapist, and he wants to open a general education school, a library and a foundation to help individuals striving for self-sufficiency in his home community.

He also feels strongly that the world should be aware of the tragic consequences of civil conflict back home. He and a friend, Leju Moga, are in the process of writing a book about their experiences as lost boys, events that so many others didn't survive.

Pondering why he made it, Abol says, "Maybe God wants me to be a witness to tell what happened to us because, along the way, I saw horrible things happen. I could have been one of those people who were killed by a lion or thrown in the river or who knows.

"But I think my life was spared to tell the rest of the world the evil things going on in Sudan and that things need to be done to stop it." ■



Veteran meteorologist and recent WMU alumnus wins Emmy



It's 2:15 p.m., and the main studio at WWMT-News Channel 3 is in a mid-afternoon news lull.

The cameras are off. The anchor desk is empty. A few chairs swiveled sideways sit nearby, not pushed in by the noon news team, the whole scene lit by a kind of smoldering fluorescent light. A very dramatic scene on an episode of the *Bold & the Beautiful* comes out of a nearby television.

There's just one man here—the weatherman.

Tucked into a corner of the studio, in a nook called “The Severe Weather Center,” chief meteorologist Keith Thompson is surrounded by 10 screens. Radar soundings make circular swoops across the Great Lakes region on a few of them, updating the movement of a giant yellow blob that's crossing Lake Michigan. The atmosphere outside is hot, humid and churning.

“Something's going to happen,” Thompson says, his face buried in a screen smattered with computerized weather model data. “It might be today, it might be tonight, but something is going to happen. It's that kind of day.”

An old map of Michigan, folded to form a rectangle that captures the southwest corner of the state, sits by Thompson's graphics computer, the one that makes images for the seven-day forecast and “The Storm Tracker.”

The edges are worn and frayed. A black line sketches out the station's coverage area. Just east of Grand Rapids, a hole, half-an-inch square.

“Don't need that anymore,” he says. “I think (morning meteorologist) Jeff Porter uses it.”

That makes sense. Thompson, southwest Michigan's prodigious prognosticator, has been the face of local weather here for the past 25 years. The 52-year-old Jacksonville, Florida native moved to Kalamazoo in April 1989, after a several year stint at a local ABC-News affiliate in Gainesville, Florida. He took that job after graduating from Harding University in Arkansas.

His foray into weather forecasting occurred more out of necessity than anything else. The station combined a part-time

reporter position with a part-time weekend weather position to make a single, full-time job. Thompson, scarcely an expert at weather forecasting at the time, applied and got the job.

“My intent was to be a news reporter,” he says. “But they had a need to fill, so I went into weather. I believed I could do it and, well, it worked.”

It sure did.

At the urging of a supervisor at the station, Thompson last year entered a weather broadcast into an Emmy competition with the Michigan chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Thompson didn't expect anything to happen, he says. Then he won for best “On-Camera Talent” in the weather category. It was his first time entering the competition.

“I'm not a competition type of guy,” he says. “But I'm happy I won. I was honored.”

Television weathercasters have earned a reputation for being quirky, for having a penchant for playing fast and loose with the established professionalism of a newscast. During the weather forecasts, a bit of humor is totally allowed.

And although Thompson is no stone in the snow, he attributes much of his success to a steadfast, easy going on-air personality, one that's gained the trust of his viewers. After all, the weather is the one part of a news broadcast that affects every viewer.

“I have never had to be the clown, thank God,” he says. “I've had the luxury of never having had to do a tap dance out there. Is there an entertainment element? Sure. But I have tried to come off as natural as possible, to act as if I was in your living room, saying, ‘Let's talk about the weather.’”



Thompson is a family man, married with five kids—four sons and a daughter—and in a real way is committed to the Kalamazoo community beyond just providing weather forecasts. So when he signed a recent three-year contract extension, he got to thinking beyond the green screen, the clicker and those 10 screens.

“I thought, ‘I’ve been in Kalamazoo for years. Why not do something else? Why not do something different?’” he says.

So Thompson decided to pursue a master’s degree in communication at Western Michigan University, receiving his diploma in April of 2013.

“I loved it,” Thompson said of his time at WMU. “I didn’t love being in the throes of writing the thesis, but I loved the atmosphere of the campus. There was a very egalitarian feel to it, an encouragement to test ideas and ask questions.

“Western made me realize I really want to keep in touch with the academic world. It’s fascinating.”

His research focused on reconciling a scientist’s responsibility to report findings and reasoned opinions with the imperative of a journalist remaining unbiased.

“I have always viewed myself as both a journalist and a scientist,” he says. “In many ways, the meteorologist is seen as a station’s scientist. I want to say what I think about a particular scientific issue, but I can’t.”

Take climate change for example. The issue is inherently scientific, and Thompson has his opinions about it. But it has

Using a mobile device, view a video that features Keith Thompson.



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also become hotly politicized in recent years, meaning that it’s not his place to comment on it on air. He took the issue and made it the basis for his thesis.

The conclusion he drew? A newscast is not the appropriate place for a discussion of climate change issues. But a blog, column or other similar outlet? That works, he says.

“There is a justice imperative to share information that is vital for people to know, to help people,” he says. “But there is also a fidelity to the craft of journalism to remain fair and balanced. It’s a dilemma that must be dealt with.”

Thompson has a blog where he discusses his ideas on climate change. But he won’t share it, at least not yet.

“One day I will reveal it,” he says. “Right now, it’s sitting in the corner, quietly.”

Keeping the communication graduate silent for long, though? Not likely. ■

SCENE ON CAMPUS

For a day each year, WMU's Business Technology and Research Park becomes a raceway for cyclists taking part in the annual BTR Park bike race, the Miller Energy Criterium. In July, some 250 competitors zoomed around the 1.1-mile course featuring 90-degree turns and sweeping curves. A total of \$6,000 in prize money was awarded in the day's competitive events.





**1,500 miles walked,
stories to tell**

A WMU researcher's new book draws on his travels in Sub-Saharan east Africa where he documented the role of oral tradition in communities he visited. It focuses on a genesis story that is a source of cooperation, conflict resolution and political alliance among two ethnic groups.

Professor Mustafa Kemal Mirzeler grew up in southeastern Anatolia in Turkey, an area also known as Cilicia, the home of Homer, the blind poet of the ancient Greek myths. It's also where his father carried out an ancient tradition.

"My father was a storyteller," Mirzeler says. "He was one of the many bards in the community who roamed villages in the Taurus mountain ranges, in the plains, and on the ancient shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

"As a child I followed my father from village to village and sometimes imagined that the excitement I felt might parallel that of a child following a storyteller such as Homer in ancient Greek villages thousands of years ago."

Mirzeler followed his father as he travelled from place to place and watched him perform epic tales that not only entertained audiences, but also served to strengthen shared moral values and cultural ties, and sustain an aspect of community history.

"The world of my childhood in Southeastern Anatolia was bound by bitter struggles against corrupt landlords and successive governments. In their performances," says Mirzeler, "the storytellers drew upon Anatolia's ancient oral traditions, its myths, legends, and their own personal experiences. It was storytellers like my father who captured the spirit of the peasants, giving voice to their pains and suffering."

During Mirzeler's childhood, the words of storytellers moved crowds and created in him an enduring interest in societies in which oral tradition is part of the fabric of life.

Years later, as an anthropologist/folklorist, Mirzeler traveled more than 1,500 miles by foot through desert landscapes in parts of Sub-Saharan east Africa where he met storytellers and collected their stories, documenting the way of life and the role of oral tradition among fishers, hunter-gatherers, pastoralists and farmers ranging from the Karamoja Plateau in northern Uganda to the Chalbi desert in northern Kenya and parts of Somalia.

From these experiences in Africa comes Mirzeler's new book "Remembering Nayeche and the Gray Bull Engiro: African Storytellers of the Karamoja Plateau and the Plains of Turkana," an ethnography of the Jie of northern Uganda and Turkana people of northern Kenya.

Mirzeler, an associate professor of English at WMU, researches and teaches the art of storytelling tradition in African, Kurdish, Turkish and Azeri folklore and literature.

Continued on page 26



"I worked with hundreds of storytellers."

—Mirzeler

This cover image from the new book, "Remembering Nayeche and the Gray Bull Engiro: African Storytellers of the Karamoja Plateau and the Plains of Turkana," is an oft-repeated scene from Dr. Mustafa Mirzeler's travels in Sub-Saharan east Africa. Lodoch, the man pictured, is a master storyteller who led the English professor through dusty desert landscapes to meet other storytellers in remote villages.

Dr. John Harvey Kellogg and the Religion of Biologic Living

By Dr. Brian C. Wilson (Indiana University Press, 2014)

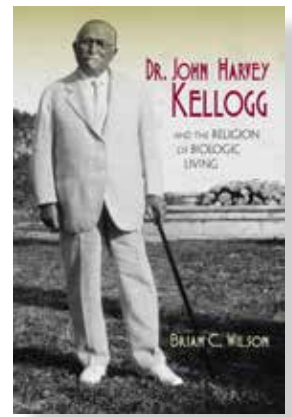
Purveyors of spiritualized medicine have been legion in American religious history, but few have achieved the superstar status of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg and his Battle Creek (Mich.) Sanitarium.

In its heyday, the “San” was a combination spa and Mayo Clinic. Founded in 1866 under the auspices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and presided over by the charismatic Dr. Kellogg, it catered to many well-heeled health seekers including Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller, and Presidents Taft and Harding. It also supported a hospital, research facilities, a medical school, a nursing school, several health food companies and a publishing house dedicated to producing materials on health and wellness.

Rather than focusing on Kellogg as the eccentric creator of corn flakes or a megalomaniacal quack, Dr. Brian C. Wilson takes his role as a physician and a theological innovator seriously

and places his religion of “Biologic Living” in an ongoing tradition of sacred health and wellness. With the fascinating and unlikely story of the “San” as a backdrop, Wilson traces the development of this theology of physiology from its roots in antebellum health reform and Seventh-day Adventism to its ultimate accommodation of genetics and eugenics in the Progressive Era.

Wilson is a professor of comparative religion at WMU. His research and teaching interests include religion in America, world religions and philosophies, and the theory and method in the academic study of religion. ■



Bradburn

☆ One professor's recommended reading

Like many, Dr. Beth Bradburn is busy balancing work and home life. But she manages to carve out time to read for fun and to expand her mind.

“It’s important,” says the WMU English professor and expert in 17th century British poetry. “A lot of people don’t have time to read for pleasure, and I think that’s too bad. And though I’m a specialist in early British literature, I think it’s important for me to read contemporary literature because of the idea that it’s all kind of one thing.”

Bradburn is led to books by her instincts and trusted reviewers. Below is a select list of books she recommends from her last year of reading.

☆ **We Need to Talk About Kevin**

by Lionel Shriver (Counterpoint, 2003)

In this novel, the mother of an imprisoned teen who killed seven high school classmates tells of her son’s upbringing and her own shortcomings in a series of letters to her estranged husband.



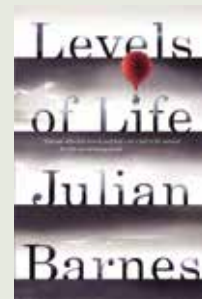
Bradburn’s take: Of all the books I’ve read in the last year, this one stayed with me and gripped my mind for the longest. To me, it’s this incredibly painful exploration of motherhood and guilt. The book is kind of about whether she is guilty of something and about what her level of responsibility is for son’s actions. It’s a very serious, very painful book. But it really makes you think about

parenthood—motherhood, in particular—and guilt... I’m interested in why and how some people do horrible harm and how the people around them deal with it. This is a book that helped me think about that. ■

☆ **Levels of Life**

by Julian Barnes (Vintage Books, 2013)

The publisher describes this book as British novelist Julian Barnes’ essay on grief and his late wife, Pat Kavanagh. Barnes discusses ballooning, photography, love and grief. He writes about putting two things and two people together, about tearing them apart and enduring after the incomprehensible loss of a loved one.



Bradburn’s take: This is a book about grief and part of it is a meditation about when (the author’s wife) died. I learned from it, just on a practical level, about how to behave toward a grieving person. There were a lot of interesting things about what friends helped and what friends didn’t help. The book has three parts. One part is memoir, then a short story and then

there is a short historical essay about hot-air ballooning in the 18th century. The connections are subtle, but all three parts are about love and loss. ■

Negotiating a River: Canada, the US and the Creation of the St. Lawrence Seaway

By Dr. Daniel Macfarlane (University of British Columbia Press, 2014)

It was a megaproject half a century in the making—possibly the largest construction operation, and certainly the largest relocation project, in Canadian history, and a technological and engineering marvel that stands as one of the most ambitious borderlands undertakings ever embarked upon by two countries. The planning and building of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project is one of the defining episodes in North American history.

The project began with transnational negotiations that spanned two world wars and the formative years of the Cold War and included a failed attempt to construct an all-Canadian seaway, which was scuttled by U.S. national security fears. Once an agreement was reached, the massive engineering and construction operation began, as did the large-scale rehabilitation scheme to move people and infrastructure away from the thousands of acres of land that would soon be flooded.

While the story of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project is too often relegated to a footnote in Canadian history, “Negotiating a River” looks at the profound impacts of this megaproject, from the complex diplomatic negotiations, political maneuvering, and environmental diplomacy to the implications on national identities and transnational relations.

New to the WMU faculty, Macfarlane is a professor of environmental and sustainability studies. His research and teaching interests include Canadian and American environmental, transnational/borderlands, international, environmental diplomacy and technology issues. ■

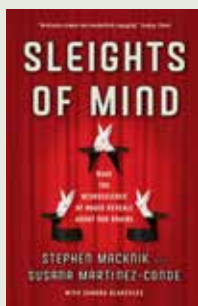


☆ Sleights of Mind: What the Neuroscience of Magic Reveals About our Everyday Deceptions

by Stephen Macknik and Susana Martinez-Conde (Henry Holt and Co., 2010)

Authors Macknik and Martinez-Conde, the founders of the new discipline of “neuromagic,” have convinced some of the world’s greatest magicians to allow scientists to study their techniques for tricking the brain. This book is the result of the authors’ exploration of magic and how its principles apply to behavior.

Bradburn’s take: I’ve always had an interest in neuroscience, and I’ve found that there are lot books that are accessible to lay people where you can learn a lot. This is one of those books. The authors have brilliantly found a way to use this cultural practice—magic shows and magic tricks—as a way to teach people about themselves, about cognition and particular elements of cognition, like attention and how attention works. Anyone who is at all interested in human psychology would find this book interesting. ■



☆ Life After Life

by Kate Atkinson (Reagan Arthur Books, 2013)

In this novel, Ursula Todd is born to an English banker and his wife on a cold and snowy night in 1910. But she dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born once more and embarks upon a life that will be unusual. For, as she grows, she also dies, repeatedly, in a variety of ways, while the century marches toward World War II. Question is, does Todd’s apparent infinite number of lives give her the power to save the world from its destiny? And if she can save it, will she?

Bradburn’s take: You can imagine it takes a lot of clever writing to make the reader understand what’s going on. But once the author sets that up, she’s in a position to ask you to think about how different choices at different moments, or how the effect of circumstances can alter the course of not only one person’s life but also history. Ultimately, it’s a book that asks how one person’s life and choices might possibly affect history. It’s a very interesting book and very cleverly conceived. ■





ALUM PRODUCES BOOK
OF KANLEY CHAPEL STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

An alumnus who in 1957 designed one of Kanley Memorial Chapel's 72 student-designed stained glass windows embarked on a project last year to identify all the artists who created them so many years ago.

Dr. Sherwood Snyder's research resulted in the forthcoming book, "The Windows of Kanley Memorial Chapel," which features these works of art that both beautify the chapel and, as designated by the donors who financed them, serve as memorials in most cases.

The jewel-toned panes have been heralded as the only known student-designed stained glass windows in any U.S. campus chapel.

"The windows are, in the opinion of many, a national treasure and we feel strongly that the story be as accurate as possible," Snyder says.

In 2013, Snyder brought his grandchildren to the University's main campus to view the window he had fashioned and noticed that wooden plaques in the chapel did not correctly credit four of the student artists and there were other labeling mistakes.

The mix-ups may have occurred during a Kanley Chapel restoration project or at another time. But Snyder began a mission to right the mistakes, whatever the case.

"We're all in our 80s. I'm 86 and when we're gone, who's going to be around to say, 'This is what it should be,'" he says.

The chapel contains 72 completed student-designed stained glass windows, all of which were conceived in classes taught by art instructor Hazel Paden, according to University documents.

Each illustrates a Bible verse. For instance, Snyder's window is inspired by the 148th psalm: "Praise ye Him, sun and moon: praise Him, all ye stars of light."

Designing them became a project in Paden's class over several school years.

"Thirty-one of the kids (student artists) were friends of mine. I knew them well," says Snyder, a retired Chicago theater professor.

Art instructor Lydia Siedschlag had insisted that WMU students were capable of designing beautiful windows, Snyder says, and worked with world-renowned Willet Studios to fabricate them.

In Paden's class, students created illustrations that served as blueprints for Willet. The illustrations, called cartoons, are themselves art pieces that hang on walls in campus buildings.

With the help of staff and documents from the WMU Archives and Regional History Collections, Snyder began an inventory last

year. He personally tracked down many of the artists—or in other cases, their relatives—to help verify each window's creator.

He wrote letters and emails and found that small town public libraries were helpful in finding folks.

"We're all in our 80s. I'm 86 and when we're gone, who's going to be around to say, 'This is what it should be?'"

—Snyder

Designers were verified a variety of ways, including by the original cartoons as well as through letters to Snyder in which former student artists enclosed photographs,

pencil sketches and even one needlepoint replica of a window. One designer still had a copy of her notes from Paden's class.

"We also received copies of hometown newspapers' coverage at the time when this or that window was dedicated," he says.

The stained-glass panes aren't the only student works that adorn the chapel. There are also 16 sandblasted windows lining the nave walls and the chapel's pews are ornamented with wooden inlays crafted by students.

Snyder's book, due out later this month, documents all of this art and it describes the history of the chapel, which was completed as a memorial to students who died in World War II. ■

To obtain a copy of the book, contact Snyder at ssrho@gmail.com or send a request to 3341 Snyder Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022.



College by College ..

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences WMU to offer state's second grad program in aerospace engineering

In response to a growing work force need as well as student demand, WMU launched a Master of Science degree in aerospace engineering this fall.

The program is the second graduate program in aerospace engineering to be offered in Michigan. The University of Michigan is the only other higher education institution in the state to offer a graduate program in the field.

"Our undergraduate aerospace engineering program has experienced astounding growth in the past decade," says Dr. Parviz Merati, chair and professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering.

"The student enrollment and faculty numbers have almost doubled, and the program has expanded from aeronautical to aerospace engineering."

Current undergraduates, aware of the college's "high-caliber faculty and facilities" want to stay on and earn their graduate degree here, Merati says.

They also expect to draw current professionals and from international students looking for advanced degrees in aerospace-related research fields.



Students in the new graduate program will have access to a full range of the engineering college's research facilities, including the Aerospace Laboratory for Plasma Experiments, Advanced Thermal Science Laboratory and Applied Aerodynamics Laboratory, which houses two wind tunnels.

For more information, contact Merati at parviz.merati@wmich.edu or (269) 276-3414.

College of Health and Human Services Professor leads national association

Helen Sharp, associate professor of speech pathology and audiology, has assumed the presidency of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association. She had been serving the past year as president elect.

ACPA is an international nonprofit medical society of health care professionals who treat and perform research on birth defects of the head and face. A multidisciplinary organization, it has some 2,500 members representing more than 30 disciplines in 60 countries.

A primary objective of the association is to foster communication and cooperation among professionals from all specialties. Sharp presides over a 16-member Executive Council that establishes association policy and monitors activities as they are implemented through the national office. The council is supported by 25 committees and a staff of nine.

Lee Honors College

College seeks to scare up runners, walkers for scholarships

The Lee Honors College invites runners, walkers and families to join in the Scholar Scare, a Halloween-themed 5K race and 1K fun run and on Saturday, Nov. 1. Participants can come costumed.

This is the third year the honors college has organized a run to help provide scholarships for student enrichment programs, Study in the States and Study Abroad. These unique programs provide students with opportunities for networking, service and cultural enrichment, and they also help students gain a broader view of the world and possibilities for their futures.

The 1K fun run, designed especially for children, begins at 9:30 am. The 5K begins at 10 a.m. Both events start outside the Lee Honors College building.

Immediately following the conclusion of the 5K race, an awards ceremony will take place—which includes prizes for best costume and chip-timed winners in various age categories.

Registration for the run is free for children under 10. If participants pre-register by 5 p.m. Oct. 30, prices are \$10 for WMU students and \$15 for the public. Race day registration, from 8 to 9:15 a.m., is \$15 for WMU students and \$25 for the public.

Members of the Kalamazoo Area Runners will receive \$2 off per registration. Everyone may register online at tinyurl.com/scholarscare.



College of Arts and Sciences Professor's play appears in latest Best American Short Plays

English professor and longtime playwright Steve Feffer's play "The Origins of the Drink They Named After Me" appears in the 2012-13 edition of Best American Short Plays, released in August.

This is Feffer's third appearance on this honor roll of one-act plays that has honored the likes of Tennessee Williams, Edward Albee and others in its 70-plus year run.

Feffer's play, subtitled "A Short Play for Drinking and Crying," tells the story of a character named Sam who has a drink named after him at his favorite bar. The drink is one part fear and one part whiskey.

"It's a big honor for me to appear in Best American Short Plays because, as a young playwright, it was a book I always had on my shelf—and still do," Feffer says.

"The Origins of the Drink They Named After Me" premiered at Chicago's Ruckus Theatre, a theatre founded by a group of his former students.

Feffer's last play to be honored in Best American Short Plays was "And Yet..." in 2010-11 and before that, "Little Airplanes of the Heart" in 1997-98.

Haworth College of Business

Supply chain program is No. 5 in the nation

The College of Business is heralding a national accolade that puts its integrated supply management program among the top such programs in the country.

The celebrated program has been ranked No. 5 on Gartner's Top U.S. Supply Chain Undergraduate University Programs, 2014. In addition to the overall No. 5 ranking, Gartner

5th
in the
nation

lists WMU as the leader in its program scope category, a nod to ISM's unique combination of supply chain management, engineering, information technology and

business education that prepares graduates for challenging and high-paying careers.

"Program rankings such as Gartner's have a very positive and long-term impact on our supply chain program," says Dr. Robert Reck, professor of marketing and co-founder of the program.

"Employers use the rankings to identify the best programs in order to recruit the best supply chain talent, and managers use the rankings to determine where to develop industry relationships, send their employees to complete their education and invest in scholarships."

Graduate College

Graduate student teaching just got better

This past summer, the Graduate College and the Office of Faculty Development collaborated to offer new and returning graduate teaching assistants a weeklong summer institute to improve their instructional skills.

Ultimately, the institute will be just the first component in a new Graduate Student Teaching Credential program.

Taught by veteran professors, graduate teaching assistants from across campus honed skills such as motivating students to learn, improving communication for diverse learners and using technology in the classroom.

Graduate College and faculty development officials plan to make the summer institute an annual opportunity for graduate students, with participants receiving a certificate of completion.

Plans for the full Graduate Student Teaching Credential program include requiring completion of the five-day teaching institute, consistent participation in a learning community across the 2014-15 academic year and production of a professional portfolio synthesizing their experiences.

College of Fine Arts

Music student wins trombone competition

A music student has won an important competition for young trombonists, one of two recent contests in which he was a finalist.

Sophomore Nick Dewyer won the Larry Wiehe Solo Competition at the 2014 International Trombone Festival at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. Dewyer brought home a new trombone worth about \$4,000.

With the victory, Dewyer also was invited to perform in the Competition Winners Showcase Recital at the festival. The recital featured all seven winners from various solo competitions.

"Nick has had a tremendous freshman year on trombone," says his instructor, Dr. Stephen Wolfenbarger, WMU professor of music. "This past March, he traveled to Washington, D.C., to a competition in the National Trombone Solo Competition, and he was also a finalist in two international trombone solo competitions. No other freshman from another university had so much success."



College of Education and Human Development

New counseling course lauded at Harvard-White House session

A graduate course aimed at preparing school counselors to provide better career and college choices won the attention of a national higher education conference at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and sponsored by the White House.

School Counseling for Postsecondary and Career Readiness, which debuted this fall, is a new course offered through WMU's Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology in the College of Education and Human Development.

The course was recognized during a College Opportunity Agenda event held at Harvard.

It was developed through a grant from the Michigan College Access Network obtained by Dr. Mary L. Anderson, associate professor of counselor education and counseling psychology. Brandy Johnson, executive director of MCAN, highlighted the course as a best practice.

College of Aviation

New MBA concentration in aviation takes flight

Beginning this fall, the College of Aviation and the Haworth College of Business began offering a new concentration in aviation within the Master of Business Administration program, geared toward students interested in management roles in the aviation industry.

The concentration developed out of a need for such a program and the synergy between the business and aviation colleges for designing a program to teach managerial and operational best practices.

"Business and aviation are inseparable components of a multi-trillion dollar international industry. As such, aviation is vital to the United States and the global economy," says Captain Dave Powell, dean of the College of Aviation.

Students will complete all requirements for the MBA degree as well as three aviation-focused courses centering on safety management, supply chain and governance in the global environment. A number of aviation case studies will be used in these courses to teach the problem-solving skills needed in the complex, global aviation industry.

"The concentration is ideal for those who seek a career in aviation management or those who already work in the aviation industry and want to advance," says Dr. Satish Deshpande, associate dean for graduate programs and operations for the Haworth College of Business.

For more information, contact MBA Advisor Barb Caras-Tomczak at barb.caras-tomczak@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5086.



Miles of Stories

Mirzeler walked those 1,500 dusty miles in Uganda and Kenya from 1994 to 2011, during sometimes months-long research trips, and lived in communities just as the residents lived in order to understand their traditions as told through oral narratives.

"I worked with hundreds of storytellers, but I became very interested in one storyteller in particular. We became friends, and I became his apprentice," Mirzeler says referring to Lodoch, a Jie storyteller.

Lodoch is featured on the cover of the book in an oft-repeated scene from Mirzeler's travels: Lodoch, the master storyteller, leading him down a parched dusty road through the bush and desert landscape to meet other storytellers in remote villages.

The stories he collected, Mirzeler says, "may seem timeless, and do not really tell much about the people because they are 'just stories'. Yet, if you look at the deeper and broader context, not only the context of the storytelling, but how people live, how they relate to those stories, the stories become more than just stories."

Mirzeler says it's not hard to draw parallels between the journey of Nayeche and the Gray Bull Engiro during a prolonged dry summer in search of water and food, and the actual lives of the people that unfold within the same landscape.

For Mirzeler, the story of Nayeche and the Gray Bull Engiro and other stories told in these communities chronicles and gives meanings to peoples' lives.

According to Mirzeler, the shared vulnerabilities created by living in ecologically unpredictable, inhospitable dry environments encourage people to share food and water and is a constant theme in the stories told in Jie and Turkana cultures.

Survival, despite harsh conditions and unpredictable ecology, is elemental to people's identity.

History Versus Oral Tradition

About the size of Belgium, the Karamoja Plateau is home to nearly a million people comprising various ethnic groups. Mirzeler has studied and collected stories from other groups as well, but in this book focuses on Jie and Turkana.

In these communities in Uganda and Kenya—as with some other societies of the world—customs and key events are preserved in the memories and on the tongues of storytellers from generation to generation. In fact, the Jie language, a dialect of Turkana, has no written form.

"We really need to make the distinction between history—the way we understand history—and storytelling," Mirzeler says.

"The way Jie people understand history is not the same way we understand it. Our conceptualization of history is chronologically ordered, but for them what came first or later really isn't crucial. In fact, they don't date events. They don't number years. The past is the past. How you relate to that past is what's important."



Mirzeler with Lodoch, a Jie storyteller

Although over the years Mirzeler has collected hundreds of stories, his book's central story is that of the young woman Nayeche and the gray bull Engiro.

This genesis tale chronicles what is perhaps an apocryphal event of the long ago past, but its themes continue to foster and give basis for cooperation, in economic and other ways, between the Jie of the plateau and the Turkana of the plains. The

story is mystical in nature but is also practical in its exemplification of a code of conduct.

Nayeche and the Gray Bull

Nayeche is a heroic character. In the story, Nayeche leaves home in search of water in the dry summer when people are subjected to famine.

In this region, it rains for just a few days a year and water is a coveted commodity, as Mirzeler learned firsthand.

Seeking water, Nayeche followed the hoof prints of a bull named Engiro, who she found drinking from an oasis. There, Nayeche also discovered wild fruits. She gathered the fruits and shared them with the Jie men when they came in search of the missing gray bull Engiro.

Ultimately, Nayeche and the Jie men settle in this place, giving birth to Turkana, the nomadic pastoralist people who inhabit the plain.

"I collected many different versions of that story," Mirzeler says. "I lived in the village where Nayeche came from, and visited the places where Nayeche and the gray bull Engiro traveled on the plateau and where Nayeche was buried in the plains."

In the book, Mirzeler writes that for Jie and Turkana, "the memory of this journey has been a source of cooperation, conflict resolution and political alliance." He says the journey of Nayeche is an exemplary tale because the people regularly experience drought and famine.

"In many ways, when they tell these stories they are talking about themselves. Nayeche is not one person. Nayeche is everybody," Mirzeler says.

"Had I not settled in the village and gotten to know the people of the community, I would not have known the significance of Nayeche at the level I do now. Or these other stories," he says.

"These are not simple Aesop tales. These stories are about people's lives. I wanted to look at the storytelling tradition as a cultural practice, and I wanted to approach that more critically."

The book, published in April as part of the University of Toronto's Anthropological Horizons series, has garnered Mirzeler praise.

Anthropologist Sandra Gray wrote that Mirzeler "captures with striking eloquence... the poetry of life in this harshest of desert places—poetry molded out of hunger, scarcity, and above all, opportunism and creativity."

She says Mirzeler's book "will immediately assume a place of importance in the bibliography of the Karamoja Plateau." ■



Engineering students design concussion sensor for football helmets

At a time when football concussions are triggering lawsuits and making headlines, WMU students have come up with a device that can be implanted in a football helmet and monitor the severity and location of blows to the head.

Student engineers have designed a pressure sensor using printed electronics on a flexible organic plastic substrate that can cover the inside of a helmet.

Now they are looking for investors and grants to get their business startup, SafeSense Technologies LLC, off the ground.

Their idea was awarded as one of the top eight final teams in a recent competition sponsored by the University of Michigan in which the students received training for young entrepreneurs. More than 300 teams submitted ideas, with the finals held in February.

“Based on that, we believed we had a niche technology and that we should establish a company, so we did,” says Dr. Massood Atashbar, professor of electrical and computer engineering and the team’s faculty advisor.

The impact-sensing technology has a wide range of applications, from the battlefield to the gridiron. The sensors could measure the impact of a bomb blast or other type of trauma. But with all the attention given to football concussions, it seemed the new device would be of immediate use in monitoring blows on the football field.

Here’s how it works: Data from the sensor, whether inside a football or soldier’s helmet, can be relayed over Bluetooth to a smartphone so a team leader would instantly know the severity of an impact. That data also could be stored on a cloud-based server to give a complete history.

“Basically, this device or system would eliminate the possibility of inaccuracies from field judgments made by coaches, who rely on the self-assessment or self-reporting of players,” Atashbar says.

“The coach would receive real-time, actionable information when one of the players receives a potentially dangerous and serious impact to the head.”

The concussion project is one of several startups under development using printed electronics.

Since 2008, developing flexible electronic and printed electronic technologies has been the focus of the University’s Center for the Advancement of Printed Electronics or CAPE.

The technology has applications in automotive supply, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, food packaging, clothing and a variety of sensor-enabled products.

The shock sensor would be especially valuable in sports, where players tend to under-report symptoms, Atashbar adds, and could be

a valuable tool in other sports, like lacrosse or hockey.

“The players, because of the pressure, try to ignore the injury they have endured and continue playing,” he says.

The sensor could be purchased as an add-on for an existing helmet or embedded by the manufacturer before purchase, Atashbar says. But the project requires additional research and development before it is ready for the marketplace, which is why grant funding is being sought. After it is more fully developed, students are hoping a venture capitalist or angel investor will step forward.

“This device or system would eliminate the possibility of inaccuracies from field judgments made by coaches, who rely on the self-assessment or self-reporting of players.”

—Dr. Massood Atashbar, professor of electrical and computer engineering and the team’s faculty advisor

“We are very excited,” Atashbar says. “We think that we have an enabling technology that I personally expect can lead to a very usable product fairly soon.”

Four graduate students are working on the project. Three are doctoral students in electrical engineering and one is a master’s student in chemical and printing engineering. The students say the experience has been a real eye-opener.

“It was very new for us, because we’re from the



engineering side,” says Ali Eshkeiti, one of the doctoral students. “We didn’t know anything about business, how to talk about the product or what kind of words we should use.”

“We’ve learned a lot about the business side,” agrees Binu Baby Narakathu, also a doctoral student, who has assumed a leadership role in the project.

Students have been working on the sensor for nearly two years. They are excited about its potential.

“Football concussions are a very hot topic nowadays,” Eshkeiti says.

“We hear about this problem everywhere—on

the news, on TV.”

The device not only would warn that a hit had taken place and its severity, but would also pinpoint its location on the head.

“That would be helpful for doctors, who are treating that patient,” Narakathu says, “whereas right now, they’re not able to get that data. Our application would be able to store or log that data so the doctors can retrieve past impacts and do their treatment accordingly.” ■



Teams identify potential for \$2M in savings for budget-pinched Detroit

Two teams from WMU's celebrated integrated supply management program filed reports with Detroit officials on work they have done that could lead to as much as \$2 million in annual savings for the cash-strapped city.

Since early May, two volunteer teams of students, alumni and a faculty advisor have been working with city officials to identify operational efficiencies in two facilities—the Russell-Ferry Garage, a citywide vehicle maintenance and parts warehouse facility, and the Shoemaker Terminal Garage, a bus maintenance and parts warehouse facility for buses.

Charged with working with city personnel in each facility to identify and devise lean systems that can help improve the city's bottom line, the teams presented their findings this past summer to representatives from the Detroit mayor's office, city council members and major city services department heads.

The teams' reports outlined work for the city that will result in:

- Significant reduction of vehicle downtime.
- Achievement of a 95 percent rate of parts on hand for repairs at one facility, based on a pilot project with Detroit's parking operations vehicle fleet.

- The potential for annual savings of \$500,000 to \$1 million in maintenance and repair costs at each facility, upon completion of recommended shorter-term actions.

According to Kenneth C. Jones, instructor of integrated supply management in WMU's Haworth College of Business, the teams he advised were able to use external benchmarks



Jones

to identify and evolve a best practices process that already existed in the city's structure.

Using that as a base, the teams developed easy-to-use forms and checklists for both vehicle operators and mechanics to manage maintenance cycles; developed a better process to leverage an existing NAPA inventory-parts optimization system; and developed a citywide set of fleet rollout priorities and timing.

At the bus facility, they also developed an internal management system and communication plan to improve asset utilization, mechanic productivity and morale as well as strengthen relationships between Detroit Department of Transportation

leadership, mechanics, bus operators and their respective union leadership.

The team's work with the city employees will create a dramatically improved bus condition and turn-around time as well as better facility utilization.

"We've built some great working relationships, and we're not done making positive things happen in Detroit," Jones says. "Our teams learned a ton about municipal operations that we'll leverage to continue helping Detroit and other communities with a similar need."

Students, alumni and staff led the projects. They included recent graduates Hanna Downs of Novi and Tom Monette of Sterling Heights; current students Leo Bieniek of Warren and Jacob Williams of Traverse City; alumnus Joe Fleck of Oakland, a retired senior leader from General Motors; and Jones, who is director of executive education and instructor of integrated supply management at WMU.

The teams applied best practices in lean systems to the projects, with the goals of eliminating waste, reducing expenditures, and providing the structure, scale and flexibility for maximum efficiency for the city storage facilities.

WMU's integrated supply

"The culture of our program and of Western Michigan University is to take on complex challenges for the right reasons and work hard to accomplish goals."

—Kenneth Jones, instructor and team advisor

management program, which is ranked 5th in the nation, became involved with the city's focus initiatives after several months of conversation about needs and goals.

City officials expressed a general interest as well in the Bronco Force Solutions Team concept, which is designed to provide consulting assistance to entities with broad-based student-professional teams like the ones assembled for this effort.

"The culture of our program and of Western Michigan University is to take on complex challenges for the right reasons and work hard to accomplish goals," Jones says. ■



WMU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

More than \$300,000 in Alumni Legacy Scholarships is available in fall 2015 for new first-year and transfer students

ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

Established in 1990 by the WMU Alumni Association, Legacy Scholarships recognize the loyalty of multi-generational Bronco families. A limited number of scholarships are available. In 2014, \$125,000 in Legacy Scholarships were offered to incoming students.

LEGACY GOLD SCHOLARSHIPS

Established in 2014, this scholarship is available for out-of-state admitted students. A limited number of scholarships are available. In 2014, \$150,000 in Legacy Gold Scholarships were offered to incoming students.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must be:

- The child, stepchild, grandchild, step-grandchild, or sibling of a WMU alumna or alumnus
- Admitted to WMU as a regular, undergraduate, degree seeking student
- Entering WMU for the first time, as a first-year (freshman) or transfer student

ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2015

- Scholarship applications will be available in November at MyWMU.com/legacyscholarship
- A single scholarship application will enable students to be considered for both scholarships, depending on eligibility
- A student may only receive one of the two types of Legacy Scholarships
- Scholarships are not guaranteed to applicants

Start by applying for admission at wmich.edu/apply.

1961 - 1989

Dick Pond, BS '61, was chosen for the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame class of 2014 for his outstanding record in men's track and field during the 1960-61 season.

James Charlton, BBA '63, has written a new book titled "How To Speak Baseball—An Illustrated Guide to Ballpark Banter," published by Chronicle Books.

Susan K. (Smiltneck) Maciak, BA '65, is the author of a new book titled "Add to Your Edge: 12 Ways to Excel in the 21st Century." She is a career consultant for Cameo Career & Corporate Consulting LLC, based in Jenison, MI.

Paul A. Nyenhuis, BS '66, was named the Aviation Mechanic of the Year for 2013 by the Seattle Federal Standards District Office. He is the owner of Aviation Inspection & Repair, Inc., in Arlington, WA.

Donald E. Shelton, BA '66, has retired as Washtenaw County Circuit Court Judge and is now an associate professor and director of the criminal justice program at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Robert Benson, BBA '67, was re-elected to the Lodi Township (WI) town board.

Gary Major, BS '67, MA '71, has retired after 48 years of teaching mechanical shop at Sturgis (MI) Public Schools.

Steven H. Newhouse, BBA '67, MBA '68, has written a new book titled, "And you Call This F-ing Leadership?," published by CreateSpace. He is a former vice president of human resources for FedEx National LTL.

Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, BA '67, a professor of history at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, delivered the 2014 W.E.B. DuBois Lecture at the University of Illinois Alice Campbell Alumni Center. His talk was titled "Reflections on the African Renaissance after President Mandela."

David Hofacker, BS '71, has been elected treasurer of the Michigan Snowsports Industries Association board of directors. He is the resort accommodations manager for Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs, MI.

Dennis B. Connor, BBA '73, has retired after 39 years with Ford Motor Co. His most recent position was executive director of purchasing and supplier quality.

Terrie Hunt Gifford, BA '73, has earned the designation of Distinguished Toastmaster from Toastmasters International, a worldwide public speaking and leadership organization.

Bob Morris, BS '73, MPA '83, is the author of "Built in Detroit: A Story of the UAW, a Company and a Gangster," a new book published by iUniverse.

Bruce Madej, BA '74, has received the College Sports Information Directors of America Lifetime Achievement Award. He recently retired from the University of Michigan as sports information director and associate athletic director for special projects.

Ron McDermed, BA '74, has retired from Cedar Springs (MI) Public Schools after 40 years of teaching and administration. McDermed served as superintendent during his final five years with the school system.

Anthony F. Provenzano, BBA '74, a financial advisor, has formed the Provenzano Group in a Merrill Lynch branch in Saginaw, MI.

Beverly Ann (Sherman) Edwards, BA '74, MA '78, has been awarded the Charles A. Willard Dedication Award from the Department of Communication at the University of Louisville. Edwards is an adjunct professor of communication at the Kentucky university.

Susan B. Anthony, BM '75, performed for the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League's "Musical Afternoon."

Karla R. Spaulding, BA '75, a U.S. magistrate judge, was profiled in the December 2013 edition of The Federal Lawyer.

Nicholas M. Bazan, BA '76, was included in Legal Leaders' listing of Texas' Top Rated Lawyers for 2014.

Lena E. (Heffner) Willis, BA '76, was appointed deputy director of finance and purchasing for the City of Detroit.

Paul F. Blacken, BS '77, MA '95, has retired as superintendent of Delton (MI) Kellogg Schools after 25 years as an administrator and nine years of teaching.

Carrie Duits, BA '78, is the new superintendent of Hastings (MI) Public Schools.

Mark R. Smith, BBA '78, past president of the Grand Rapids (MI) Bar Association, received the President's Award during the annual Law Day Luncheon and Awards Ceremony.

Renee Williams, MA '78, has retired after 21 years on the Lake Michigan College Board of Trustees.

Bob Hercules, BA '79, is co-directing and producing a documentary that showcases the life of Maya Angelou.

Fritz Erickson, BS '80, is the new president of Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI.

David Haan, BS '81, has joined Humphrey Products Co. as an engineering project manager. The Kalamazoo-based company makes fluid-control products.

Marin Mazzie, BS '82, starred in Woody Allen's Broadway musical, "Bullets Over Broadway."

Michael Stapleton, BBA '85, has been promoted by Fifth Third Bank to a dual role managing commercial banking in Grand Rapids (MI) and managing the Fifth Third Healthcare division for western Michigan.

Cullen Bailey Burns, BA '76, MA '91, read from her poetry as part of the WMU's Spring 2014 Gwen Frostic Reading Series. She teaches English at Century College in White Bear Lake, MN.

Larry Alebiosu, BS '87, is chairman and chief executive officer of Fashion International, a design, manufacturing and retailer of high-end fashion men's clothing in Southfield, MI.

Tracy Daniel, BS '87, MA '94, was chosen for the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame class of 2014 for her outstanding record in women's softball and volleyball during the 1983-86 seasons.

Lisa Lenzo, BA '87, MFA '91, the author of short story collections and a novel, read from her work as part of the WMU Spring 2014 Gwen Frostic Reading Series.

Laura B. Large, BBA '89, has joined LVM Capital Management Ltd. in Portage, MI, as a wealth management assistant.

1990 - 2014

Jennifer Welch, BS '91, has been promoted to client development coordinator for Oak Point Financial Group in Portage, MI.

Nick Yetter, BS '91, MBA '04, a financial advisor, has been named senior vice president-investment officer in the Wells Fargo Advisors branch in Portage, MI.

Jeanne Bolhuis, BBA '92, MPA '99, has been promoted to administrator at Bronson Healthcare Midwest in Kalamazoo.

Clint Stucky, MS '92, is director of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Newman University in Wichita, KS.

Stephen Lynch, BA '93, comedian, songwriter and Tony Award-nominated actor, performed at WMU's Little Theatre.

Sandy Barry-Loken, BA '94, MA '97, has joined the Kalamazoo Community Foundation as a community investment manager.

Arden Floran, MA '96, has been promoted to vice president of workforce development services for Goodwill Industries of Michiana in South Bend, IN.

Melissa Gray, BS '96, spoke at the WMU Haworth College of Business' Distinguished Speaker Series. Her talk was titled, "What We All Want From Work." She is senior director of sustainability for Rackspace, a worldwide information technology corporation.

Jamal Mayers, BBA '96, was chosen for the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame class of 2014 for his outstanding record in men's hockey during the 1993-96 seasons.

Tonya (Cunningham) Noble, BSE '96, was the recipient of the Outstanding Woman in Technology award at the annual convention of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Xavier Davis, BA '97, toured with the University of Michigan Jazz Ensemble this past spring. He is a teacher at The Julliard School in New York.

Jodi Havera, BBA '97, is the new chair of the Junior Achievement of Southwest Michigan Board of Trustees. She is chief financial officer of Ship-Pac Inc. in Kalamazoo.

Shari Weer, MBA '97, has joined Honor Credit Union in St. Joseph, MI, as chief administrative officer.

Mary Mulvaine, BS '98, was the primary investigator for research that looked at the effect preoperative warming of the operating room has on patients' postoperative temperature. The research was published in the March 2013 edition of AORN Journal, a publication of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses.

Christopher Mars, BBA '99, has joined First National Bank of Michigan as a vice president and commercial banker in its Kalamazoo and Portage offices.

Erica Coulston, BA '00, is a new member of the board of directors for the Brian Injury Association of Michigan. She is president of Walk the Line to SCI Recovery Inc. in Southfield, MI.

Angela (Thomas) Justice, BS '00, MA '05, has been promoted to district coordinator of English language arts, social studies and library services for Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Scott VanderLeek, MBA '00, is the manager of the private banking group for Fifth Third's western Michigan region.

Toby Wendt, BBA '00, has been hired as a human resources manager for Perrigo Co. PLC, in Allegan, MI.

Jayson Rose, BA '01, is an engagement manager for WMU's Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Mike Cirrito, BBA '02, was named the Finance and Insurance Consultant of the Year for 2013 for Harley-Davidson Financial Services.

Christopher Machiniak, BS '02, is the new principal of Bridgman (MI) High School.

Michelle Patrick, BA '02, is a reporter for the Sturgis (MI) Journal.

Andrea VanDeusen, BM '02, MM '07, is the new conductor of the Hillsdale (MI) Arts Choral.

Larissa Chinwah-Mavros, BA '03, was chosen for the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame class of 2014 for her outstanding record in women's tennis during the 1999-02 seasons.

Bradford Shovlin, BA '03, is the new executive chef at the Iron Horse Hotel in Milwaukee.

Anna Arredondo, BBA '05, is the new marketing manager for Allen Trust Company, a Portland, OR-based trust and investment management organization.

Jeana Koerber, BS '05, MA '09, is the new clinical director for Residential Opportunities, Inc.'s Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research in Portage, MI.

Ladel Lewis, MA '05, PhD '12, an evaluation strategist, was named a partner at Meaningful Evidence, an evaluative research firm based in the Washington, D.C., area.

Matthew Russell, BBA '05, is the new chief financial officer for Solarity Credit Union in Yakima, WA.

Jonathan Sanborn, BBA '05, has been promoted to associate vice president and investment officer for Wells Fargo Advisors in Portage, MI.

Christopher Sieklucki, BBA '05, has joined the administration of the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport as assistant director of operations and maintenance.

Jennifer Cote, BBA '07, MSA '08, joined the certified public accounting firm Brink, Key & Chludzinski as a staff accountant in Portage, MI.

Benjamin Daneman, BM '07, has founded the Kalamazoo Jazz and Creative Institute, an organization that cultivates musicianship through education programs and mentoring.

Jenna Schrumph, BBA '07, has been appointed to the board of directors for the Wildfire Credit Union based in Saginaw, MI. She is the director of marketing for Dobson Home Healthcare in Bay City, MI.

Mitch Vermeersch, BA '07, a playwright, read from his work as part of the WMU Spring 2014 Gwen Frostic Reading Series.

Shawn Bahleda, BA '08, MSM '10, a certified physician assistant, has joined Borgess Internal Medicine in Kalamazoo.

Scott Ezra Baker, BSE '08, is a new roadway design engineer for Stantec, an architectural services firm. Baker works in the firm's transportation practice in North Charleston, S.C.

Vanessa Jimenez, BA '08, is the new executive director of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc.

Stephanie Suszek, BBA '08, has joined Kalamazoo's Community Healing Centers as controller.

Ryan Andrews, BM '09, who writes production music for the music library company Pitch Hammer Music, had his music featured in the movie trailer for the movie "Hercules."

Elisabeth Boelman, BS '09, MSM '12, a physician assistant, has joined Bronson HealthCare Midwest Internal Medicine & Pediatrics - Lifetime Wellness in Kalamazoo.

Joanna Boyd, BS '09, MSM '13, a physician assistant, has joined Bronson Pediatric Gastroenterology in Kalamazoo.

Brian Lane, BA '09, helped make an online episode of "Between Two Ferns" with host Zach Galifianakis and his special guest, President Barack Obama.

Ashley Rowland, BBA '09, has been appointed to marketing coordinator at Diekema Hamann, an architecture, design and engineering firm in Kalamazoo.

Tererai Trent, PhD '09, was the featured speaker at the Oklahoma State University undergraduate spring commencement ceremonies.

Dan Ebenhoeh, BA '10, MSM '13, a physician assistant, has joined Bronson HealthCare Midwest Family Medicine in Kalamazoo.

Kurtis Gautz, BS '10, has been promoted to garage specialist for J.M. Wilson, an insurance broker headquartered in Portage, MI.

Benjamin Williams, BS '11, MA '14, has been appointed as a legislative liaison for the Michigan Department of Education in Lansing, MI.

Matt Vetter, BS '11, is a deputy sheriff for the Knox County (S.D.) Sheriff's Department.

Kaitlin Welch, BS '11, was hired as the financial services consumer services representative in the retirement services and administration department of Burnham & Flower Insurance Group in Kalamazoo.

Josh Buurisma, BBA '12, has joined Ship-Pac Inc. in Kalamazoo as an accounting clerk.

Brigette Clock, BBA '12, is the new sales and marketing coordinator for DeWys Manufacturing, a precision metal fabrication company in Marne, MI.

Leon McGee, BS '12, was chosen for the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame class of 2014 for his outstanding record in men's basketball during the 1992-94 seasons.

Benjamin T. Roush, BS '12, is a research scientist for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in Rochester, MN.

Tony Scheffler, BBA '12, retired from the NFL after an eight-year career. He was a tight end for the Detroit Lions.

Colin W. Warren, BA '12, recently achieved the rank of first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and recently returned for his first tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Paula Warren, BS '13, landed a job teaching English for a year in Barcelona, Spain.

Erik Blematl, BSE '13, joined, as a manufacturing engineer, Humphrey Products Co., a Kalamazoo-based maker of fluid-control products.

Matt Fraser, BSE '13, has joined Byce & Associates Inc., in Kalamazoo, as a mechanical engineer.

Holly Kequom, BBA '13, was hired as a systems analyst for the information technology and systems team of Perrigo Co. in Allegan, MI.

Derrick Lingle, MS '13, was hired as a project geologist for Enviroligic Technologies Inc. in Kalamazoo.

Peter Oudsema, BSE '13, was hired as a structural engineer for Byce & Associates Inc. in Kalamazoo.

Christopher J. Tarkowski, MBA '13, was hired as a relationship officer for Greenleaf Trust in Kalamazoo.

David Innes, BSE '14, has been hired as a project engineer for AVB, a commercial and residential property development company based in Kalamazoo.

Amanda J. Mills, BA '14, was named a 2014 Young Woman of Achievement by the YWCA in Kalamazoo.

Ben Ochoa, BSE '14, was hired as a project engineer for Miller-Davis Co. in Kalamazoo.

New scholarship named for Roehrick

An endowed scholarship has been named after Greg D.



Roehrick

Roehrick, an award-winning theatre professor who taught design and technical production

courses at WMU for 36 years. The professor, who served as scenic designer for more than 125 University Theatre productions, died in February. Contact the WMU Office of Development and Alumni Relations at (269) 387-8700 or mywmu.com to contribute to the Greg D. Roehrick Endowed Theatre Design and Technology Scholarship.

IN MEMORIAM

Ruth L. McKinney, TC '19, July 14, 2014, in Charlevoix, MI

Ruth E. Walkinshaw, TC '25, Jan. 25, 2014, in Marshall, MI

Metha L. (Jackman) Secord, BA '29, Jan. 27, 2014, in Charlottesville, VA

Richard A. Patterson, BS '40, TC '48, Feb. 25, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Eleanor Petty, BS '40, April 2, 2014, in Gaylord, MI

Eugene Sura, BA '40, Jan. 17, 2014, in Mesa, AZ

Gwendolyn (Page) Charon, BA '41, Feb. 18, 2014, in Syracuse, NY

Marion L. Glerum, BS '40, Feb. 1, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Marion R. Rumble, BS '42, May 10, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Harry R. Bailey, BS '43, Feb. 15, 2014, in Liverpool, NY

Jean M. (Koestner) Branson, BS '43, July 5, 2014, in Richland, MI

Frank L. Grow, BS '43, May 07, 2014, in Carmichael, CA

Gretchen L. (Vaughan) Bullard, BS '44, March 8, 2014, in Fort Myers, FL

Rachel A. (Rogers) Vanderlaan, BS '44, Feb. 15, 2014, in Cincinnati, OH

Barbara A. (Bartlett) Crebs, BA '45, May 9, 2014, in Helena, MT

Mary A. VanVleet, unknown bachelor's degree '45, July 5, 2014, in Fond Du Lac, WI

Shirley J. (Robinson) Andrus, BS '45, April 11, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Ruth E. George, BS '46, TC '51, April 22, 2014, in Coldwater, MI

Margean A. (Worst) Gladysz, BA '46, MLS '67, April 1, 2014, in Galesburg, MI

Woodrow W. Creason, BA '47, Feb. 11, 2014, in Terre Haute, IN

Vesta V. (Bachman) Knuth, BS '47, July 10, 2014, in De Tour Village, MI

Carroll E. Kyser, BS '47, Feb. 17, 2014, in Lowell, MI

Harvey Overton, BA '47, April 16, 2014, in Chicago, IL

Marian J. Rowley, BS '47, Feb. 19, 2014, in Winston Salem, NC

Ralph H. Sleight, BS '47, June 8, 2014, in Traverse City, MI

Sidney V. DeBoer, BS '48, June 11, 2014, in Battle Creek, MI

Beverly M. (Slover) Harvey, BS '48, May 1, 2014, in Kalamazoo

John N. Karnaemaat, BA '48, May 5, 2014, in Kalamazoo

William J. Kowalski, BS '48, MA '53, June 18, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Laura B. Wallace, RC '48, June 21, 2014, in Richmond, VA

Georgiana Weaver, BA '48, May 19, 2014, in Pleasant Hill, OH

Jack N. Alvord, AMC '49, March 13, 2014, in Clearwater, FL

Barbara E. (VandenBerg) DeWey, BS '49, June 24, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Joseph W. Dillon, BS '49, March 16, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Marjorie B. (Bassett) Hanlon, BA '49, June 29, 2014, in Battle Creek, MI

Cleo M. (Downing) Piercefield, BS '49, May 1, 2014, in Ionia, MI

Dolores T. (Kowal) Smith, BA '49, July 12, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Ned W. Stuits, BS '49, Jan. 26, 2014, in Kaleva, MI

John S. Hines, BA '50, Feb. 24, 2014, in Portage, MI

Edna S. McArthur, BS '50, Jan. 6, 2014, in Grand Haven, MI

William H. McGrew, BA '50, TC '50, Feb. 28, 2014, in Tucson, AZ

Hubert G. Overholt, BA '50, April 23, 2014, in Hastings, MI

Lauren E. Pickett, BS '50, TC '50, MA '64, Feb. 18, 2014, in East Lansing, MI

James W. Ralston, AB '50, May 10, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Reva M. Redmond, SC '50, March 3, 2014, in Portage, MI

Carl C. VanRaalte, BA '50, MA '59, March 27, 2014, in Holland, MI

William Anderson, BS '51, Feb. 27, 2014, in Hoffman Estates, IL

Charles D. Kisinger, BS '51, TC '55, MA '55, April 12, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Arlene E. Pappas, BS '51, Feb. 27, 2014, in New Buffalo, MI

Robert J. Adams, BS '52, May 31, 2014, in South Bend, IN

Nancy L. (Hoffman) Buttrick, TC '50, BS '52, April 11, 2014, in Standish, MI

Sally A. (Schwab) Lindsay, SC '50, BS '52, MA '57, MA '68, July 15, 2014, in Richland, MI

Janet E. Weber, BS '52, May 12, 2014, in Elk Rapids, MI

Evelyn G. (Armstrong) Anderson, BALS '53, March 2, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Jacob J. Boike, BBA '53, June 15, 2014, in Cadillac, MI

Barbara R. (Hokanson) Corey, BM '53, May 07, 2014, in Saline, MI

Norman Enos, BS '53, March 27, 2014, in Elkhart, IN

Shirley M. (Zeiter) Everett, BA '53, MA '66, April 8, 2014, in Jupiter, FL

Bernard R. Leech, BS '53, MA '56, May 9, 2014, in Castro Valley, CA

John W. Alley, BS '54, Feb. 25, 2014, in Milwaukee, WI

Richard D. Cavanaugh, BS '54, March 1, 2014, in Caledonia, MI

Almeta (Powell) Harper, BA '54, June 16, 2014, in Stillwater, MN

Wayne C. Mann, BA '54, MA '64, March 19, 2014, in Portage, MI

Judith A. (Goodrich) White, BA '54, July 8, 2014, in Portage, MI

Kenneth E. Callaway, BBA '55, April 22, 2014, in Lancaster, PA

Bryan D. Dixon, BBA '55, July 14, 2014, in Wichita, KS

Carl J. Hauser, BA '55, April 24, 2014, in Toledo, OH

Robert A. Phelps, BBA '55, March 31, 2014, in Long Beach, CA

Max M. Plumhoff, BBA '55, April 28, 2014, in Granger, IN

Ruth I. (Randall) Boot, BS '56, June 30, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Louis J. Fierens, BBA '56, April 15, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Marjorie MacDonald, BBA '56, Feb. 16, 2014, in Detroit, MI

Beverly K. Shevchik, BS '56, MA '62, March 5, 2014, in Homasassa, FL

Robert F. Topel, BA '56, Jan. 31, 2014, in Manistee, MI

Marilyn J. (Miller) Torrance, MA '56, June 21, 2014, in Portage, MI

Kenneth Blayden, BS '57, June 24, 2014, in Augusta, MI

Stella M. (Huddleson) Cantrell, BS '57, Jan. 17, 2014, in Jefferson City, TN

Carol A. (Lubke) Carlson, BS '57, July 3, 2014, in Big Rapids, MI

James F. Hyatt, MA '57, July 8, 2014, in Cheboygan, MI

Carol M. (Myers) Levering, BS '57, June 21, 2014, in Amelia Island, FL

Patricia A. (Baker) Renfors, BS '57, May 24, 2014, in Chisholm, MN

Leonard F. Tardani, BA '57, May 6, 2014, in Muskegon, MI

Catherine J. Thompson, BA '57, March 11, 2014, in St. Petersburg, FL

Dale A. Boersma, BBA '58, March 5, 2014, in Middleville, MN

Frederick C. Mischke, BBA '58, May 1, 2014, in Elkhart, IN

James F. Slis, BA '58, July 07, 2014, in Lake Ann, MI

Jane E. (Grandy) VanDerveer, BA '58, MA '77, April 22, 2014, in Canton, GA

Wilson A. Blair, BS '59, July 4, 2014, in Detroit, MI

Douglas W. Borst, BS '59, MA '65, Jan. 30, 2014, in Waynesville, NC

Leonard L. Hiatt, BBA '59, Jan. 4, 2014, in Kalamazoo

James M. Hilbert, BA '59, Feb. 27, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Donald E. Sikkema, MA '59, April 8, 2014, in Fort Myers, FL

Bruce O. Stephenson, BBA '59, April 1, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Larry G. Stout, BBA '59, MA '62, Feb. 11, 2014, in Jackson, MI

Joann (Thompson) Athey, BA '60, MA '76, July 6, 2014, in Portage, MI

Walden A. Baskerville, MA '60, EdD '80, Feb. 11, 2014, in Las Vegas, NV

Richard Buehler, BS '60, MA '69, EDS '73, April 3, 2014, in Plainwell, MI

Harold Hamman, BS '60, Jan. 20, 2014, in Weslaco, TX

John G. Moore, BS '60, Feb. 27, 2014, in Alexandria, VA

Dennis L. Schultz, BS '60, MA '66, Feb. 2, 2014, in St. Joseph, MI

Roy G. Stancroff, BS '60, March 19, 2014, in Ludington, MI

Alice M. (Jacobsen) Wangbichler, BS '60, May 13, 2014, in Bear Lake, MI

William E. White, BBA '60, Feb. 2, 2014, in St. Joseph, MI

Lee E. Averill, BS '61, March 2, 2014, in Milford, MI

Carol J. (Schmitt) Buege, BA '61, May 8, 2014, in De Pere, WI

Roger E. Hawkins, BA '61, April 14, 2014, in Ormond Beach, FL

Muriel R. Long, MA '61, July 8, 2014, in Traverse City, MI

Jeanne L. (Mattson) Arducant, BA '62, MA '65, May 4, 2014, in Ironwood, MI

Margaret (Hoerle) Benham, TC '58, BS '62, MA '67, Feb. 18, 2014, in Muskegon, MI

Suzanne K. (Cook) Berglund, BBA '62, Jan. 22, 2014, in Fort Walton Beach, FL

John R. Bjork, BA '62, April 26, 2014, in Winchester, VA

Gerald L. Downing, BS '62, MA '66, Feb. 17, 2014, in Muskegon, MI

Susan A. (Cairns) Sweet, BBA '62, Feb. 7, 2014, in Galesburg, MI

Beverly K. (Carlin) Taup, BA '62, May 23, 2014, in Traverse City, MI

Robert E. Calkins, BBA '63, June 20, 2014, in Mentor, OH

Carolyn Eutsler, BBA '63, Feb. 16, 2014, in Dayton, OH

Peter E. Fisher, BBA '63, Feb. 20, 2014, in Brooklyn, MI

Paul Osenieks, BS '63, May 21, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Isabel (Miller) Perry, BA '63, March 25, 2014, in Coldwater, MI

Alice M. (Herndon) Shurn, MA '63, June 24, 2014, in Benton Harbor, MI

Raymond S. Stutsman, MBA '63, July 13, 2014, in Elkhart, IN

Larry R. Triestram, BS '63, June 16, 2014, in Clio, MI

John T. Bales, BS '64, Feb. 24, 2014, in Traverse City, MI

Richard B. Dunn, BS '64, June 19, 2014, in Dallas, TX

Caryl L. Sofiak, BS '64, July 14, 2014, in Keyser, WV

Bruce G. Uridge, BS '64, April 1, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Glenn A. Blocker, MA '65, March 3, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Bernard T. Ferrio, BS '65, Jan. 12, 2014, in Bay City, MI

Roger E. Hallgren, MA '65, June 1, 2014, in Iron Mountain, MI

Barbara A. (Freehling) Likes, BS '65, April 24, 2014, in Stevensville, MI

Robert A. McNabb, BBA '65, June 16, 2014, in St Joseph, MI

Mary R. Robinson, BS '65, MA '69, MA '75, April 29, 2014, in Asheville, NC

Marie E. (Evans) Snyder, MA '65, July 23, 2014, in Perrysburg, OH

Roni J. Freer, MA '66, April 6, 2014, in Sanibel, FL

Judith Hall, BA '66, MA '77, May 10, 2014, in Paw Paw, MI

Michael J. Hall, BA '66, Feb. 10, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Earl H. Page, BS '66, March 24, 2014, in Cleveland, TN

Albert Roberts, MA '66, July 22, 2014, in Salisbury, NC

Norma (Wamhoff) TerAvest, BS '66, July 1, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Paul K. VanOordt, MA '66, Jan. 2, 2014, in Lansing, MI

David R. Wolf, BS '66, April 4, 2014, in Ventura, CA

Lee E. Young, BA '66, June 10, 2014, in Warren, MI

Florus R. Black, BA '67, July 9, 2014, in Dowagiac, MI

Douglas L. Decker, BS '67, May 15, 2014, in Centerville, MI

Lyla S. (Overton) Fox, BA '67, MA '71, April 11, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Franklin Geoghegan, MA '67, Feb. 13, 2014, in Louisville, KY

Faith E. Hinton, BS '67, MA '68, March 23, 2014, in St. Joseph, MI

Iva E. Hodges, MA '67, Jan. 5, 2014, in Muskegon, MI

Terence Ibbotson, BS '67, MA '68, June 2, 2014, in Suttons Bay, MI

Michael J. Korb, BBA '67, Feb. 4, 2014, in Detroit, MI

Suzanne J. Koster, BM '67, Feb. 5, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Vera M. Tomlonson, MA '67, March 30, 2014, in Goshen, IN

Nancy L. (Lindback) Blamer, BS '68, June 8, 2014, in Kalamazoo

William E. Dekker, BA '68, March 21, 2014, in Albion, MI

Sylvia (Gittlen) Krissoff, MA '68, March 6, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Richard F. Locicero, BS '68, June 6, 2014, in Morongo Valley, CA

John W. Mann, unknown certification '66, BS '68, Feb. 9, 2014, in Kingsford, MI

J. P. McLaren, MA '68, PhD '76, Feb. 13, 2014

Cheryl (Blasch) Nicolaou, BS '68, MA '71, April 2, 2014, in Vonore, TN

James B. Rettman, BS '68, March 30, 2014, in Charlottesville, VA

Herman C. Siegel, MBA '68, Feb. 16, 2014, in Ada, MI

Helen A. Stimson, BS '68, July 20, 2014, in Shelby, MI

Daniel K. West, BS '68, July 1, 2014, in Waldron, IN

Joyce A. (Armentrout) Bishop, MA '69, May 27, 2014, in Battle Creek, MI

Pattie Buchanan, BA '69, June 30, 2014, in Manistee, MI

Caryl A. (Ehrmantraut) DaDan, BS '69, June 12, 2014, in St Joseph, MI

James Fitzharris, BA '69, Feb. 15, 2014, in Escanaba, MI

John C. Lockman, BS '69, March 14, 2014, in Ypsilanti, MI

Barbara J. Moessner, MA '69, March 4, 2014, in Muskegon, MI

Judith Schoenherr, BA '69, May 29, 2014, in Baldwin, MI

Charles M. Stutsman, BA '69, MBA '77, Feb. 6, 2014, in Elkhart, IN

Kenneth L. Andree, MA '70, May 13, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Linda M. (Cooke) Hayes, BS '70, April 5, 2014, in Debary, FL

J. K. Horton, BS '70, MA '77, March 21, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Sandra L. (Fahlquist) Thompson, BS '70, April 12, 2014, in Marietta, GA

Margaret L. Balyeat, BA '71, April 28, 2014, in Benton Harbor, MI

Linda L. (Crandall) Burrous, BS '71, MA '80, May 31, 2014, in St Joseph, MI

Feriel G. (Yager) Hughes, BA '71, Jan. 31, 2014, in Palm Beach, FL

Regina U. McClurg, BA '71, MSW '83, July 22, 2014, in Muskegon, MI

Marion B. Pappé, BS '71, Feb. 18, 2014, in Ludington, MI

Carol E. Petrow, BS '71, April 3, 2014, in Traverse city, MI

Stephen D. Smith, BA '71, MA '79, May 9, 2014, in Battle Creek, MI

Ruth J. Summey, BS '71, April 25, 2014, in Centerville, MI

Vern C. Woodard, MSW '71, April 19, 2014, in Madison, SD

Laurie E. Akerros, BA '72, MA '74, Jan. 07, 2014, in Ann Arbor, MI

Bruce C. Berry, BS '72, Jan. 29, 2014, in Las Cruces, NM

Aaron W. Davis, MA '72, April 22, 2014, in Marshall, MI

Martha J. Hecox, BA '72, May 6, 2014, in Morrison, CO

Richard E. Lucas, MLS '72, June 23, 2014, in Haslett, MI

Anthony J. Patrick, BBA '72, May 23, 2014, in Fort Wayne, IN

Mark D. Smith, BA '72, April 12, 2014, in Monroe, MI

Lucille M. Veenkamp, BBA '72, July 07, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Terri J. (McPharlin) Harper, BS '73, Jan. 2, 2014, in Lowell, MI

Sandra K. Rademacher, BS '73, Feb. 2, 2014, in Saginaw, MI

Earl R. Alexander, BS '74, Feb. 14, 2014, in Dollar Bay, MI

H. J. Arnett, BS '74, MA '84, June 16, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Wilbur W. Dick, MA '74, July 19, 2014, in Stevensville, MI

John H. Gerdes, MA '74, Feb. 3, 2014, in Tucson, AZ

Janis L. (Williams) Lawson, BA '74, Jan. 21, 2014, in East Lansing, MI

Martha E. Palmer, BS '74, July 11, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Dennis P. Tansey, BS '74, May 20, 2014, in Osceola, IN

Delmas K. Wing, BS '74, Feb. 1, 2014, in Three Rivers, MI

Jocelyn G. Bovee, BS '75, May 10, 2014, in Caledonia, MI

Deborah J. McClellan, BS '75, May 21, 2014, in Springdale, AZ

Glenn Willis, BBA '75, April 5, 2014, in Grandville, MI

Ganella Anderson, MA '76, March 29, 2014, in St. Joseph, MI

Cindy L. Doyle, MA '76, Jan. 27, 2014, in Three Rivers, MI

Stephen J. Sage, BA '76, April 20, 2014, in Petoskey, MI

John R. Schuler, BSEMCH '76, July 4, 2014, in Tehachapi, CA

Mildred I. Weeber, MA '76, May 25, 2014, in Arvada, CO

Brian D. Burns, MA '77, June 25, 2014, in Marshall, MI

Glenn J. Muvrin, MA '77, March 27, 2014, in Grand Haven, MI

David A. Norberg, BS '77, March 07, 2014, in Portage, MI

Wallace E. Wing, BBA '77, March 1, 2014, in Hinsdale, IL

Karen E. Yinger, MA '77, July 18, 2014, in Brooking, OR

Ressie M. Brown, BS '78, Jan. 9, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Rosemary M. (Miller) Graveley, BS '78, June 9, 2014, in Lowville, NY

Adeline R. Gruis, BA '78, March 5, 2014, in Cedar Falls, IA

Leslie E. (Lam) Stommen, BBA '78, Feb. 14, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Mark J. Deschaine, BBA '79, April 22, 2014, in Belleville, IL

Krista L. (Hollabaugh) Layman, MOT '80, July 26, 2014, in Augusta, GA

William H. Rieck, MPA '80, April 18, 2014, in Duck, WV

Chris P. Thelas, MPA '80, April 23, 2014, in Battle Creek, MI

Mark G. Verbiest, BBA '80, May 18, 2014, in Los Angeles, CA

Norma N. Young, BS '80, April 21, 2014, in Decatur, MI

Richard J. Maher, MPA '81, March 10, 2014, in Muskegon, MI

Cinda J. Romanow, BS '81, May 19, 2014, in Boyne City, MI

Ann B. Schwendener, MA '81, June 21, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Nora E. (Brautigam) Gessner, BS '82, May 2, 2014, in Washington, OH

Marilyn J. Young, BS '82, Feb. 5, 2014, in Santa Fe, NM

Thomas L. Becksvort, BBA '83, April 27, 2014, in Clinton Township, MI

Brian H. Gribler, BS '83, MA '87, June 23, 2014, in Byron Center, MI

Muriel L. Katzenmeyer, MA '83, May 23, 2014, in Oviedo, FL

Charlotte C. (Ayres) Kurbis, BA '83, May 17, 2014, in New Buffalo, MI

Alice A. McMahon, BSM '83, May 1, 2014, in Marquette, MI

Paul L. Piotrowicz, BBA '83, April 24, 2014, in Morton Grove, IL

Jane M. (Howard) Smith, BBA '83, April 25, 2014, in Monroe, MI

Terrance K. Fournier, BS '84, July 15, 2014, in Bangor, ME

Ellen J. Long, MLS '84, April 2, 2014, in Saginaw, MI

Todd A. Prillwitz, BS '86, March 17, 2014, in St Joseph, MI

Cynthia D. (Ware) Brill, BBA '87, Jan. 26, 2014, in Placitas, NM

Stephen D. Colbath, BBA '87, May 6, 2014, in Traverse City, MI

Kenneth B. Hicks, BBA '87, July 15, 2014, in Gary, IN

Daniel Karpelenia, BS '87, May 29, 2014, in Tampa, FL

Doris M. Northrop, BS '87, March 31, 2014, in St. Joesph, MI

Lee C. Ford, BS '88, May 6, 2014, in Benton Harbor, MI

Robin D. Bye, MA '90, April 12, 2014, in Grand Haven, MI

WMU virologist: Epidemic of Ebola unlikely to occur in the U.S.

Michelle A. (Fecker) Stephenson-Bennett, BM '90, June 13, 2014, in Bluffton, SC

Arthur J. Fedor, EdD '91, June 25, 2014, in Lawton, MI

Trisha M. (Rothi) Leighton, BS '92, March 2, 2014, in Schoolcraft, MI

Okey P. Eanes, BSW '91, MSW '93, March 11, 2014, in Romulus, MI

Patrick H. Haff, MBA '94, March 17, 2014, in Cape Coral, FL

John C. Sterritt, BA '94, Feb. 27, 2014, in Fletcher, NC

Arlene C. Bice, BA '96, Feb. 11, 2014, in Blue Springs, MO

Scott A. Madden, MA '00, Feb. 14, 2014, in South Deerfield, MA

Susan A. (Stierle) Harris, BSW '01, April 6, 2014, in Battle Creek, MI

Christa L. (Denzer) Mannion, BS '01, July 12, 2014, in Saginaw, MI

Kurt R. Signeski, BSW '01, April 29, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI

Kahlil L. Wasson, MPA '02, April 13, 2014, in Lansing, MI

Adam Lampert, BA '03, July 11, 2014, in New Buffalo, MI

Robert W. Rollins, BA '05, May 29, 2014, in Hart, MI

Linda M. Hubbard, BSE '06, March 29, 2014, in East Leroy, MI

Kyle L. Schuring, BS '08, MA '11, May 22, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Jeffrey D. Lee, BS '10, March 28, 2014, in St. Joseph, MI

Christopher Cardon, BA '13, April 16, 2014, in St. Joseph, MI

Faculty

Walden A. Baskerville, associate professor emeritus of counseling, Feb. 11, 2014, in Las Vegas

Mary Anne Bunda, professor emerita of educational studies, July 17, 2014, in Kalamazoo

William "Bill" Doolittle, former head football coach, April 10, 2014, in Venice, FL

Alfred K. Ho, professor emeritus of economics, Jan. 26, 2014, in Kalamazoo

William H. Kanzler, professor emeritus of education and professional development, May 11, 2014, in Kalamazoo

J. Michael Keenan, professor emeritus, July 28, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Wayne C. Mann, director emeritus of university archives, March 19, 2014, in Portage, MI

Claude S. Phillips Jr., professor emeritus of political science, April 17, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Greg D. Roehrick, professor of theatre, Feb. 25, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Richard R. Williams, founder of the WMU Holistic Health Program, Feb. 5, 2014, in Kalamazoo

Joseph T. Work, associate professor emeritus of music, Feb. 7, 2014, in Kalamazoo

The death toll from the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa has soared into the thousands.

Though the virus is extremely deadly and there is no cure for it, there's little chance of an Ebola epidemic in a place like the United States, says Dr. Karim Essani, a WMU virologist and professor of biological sciences.

"We are monitoring pretty darned carefully if the people coming into the United States from these countries, where this virus is prevalent, whether they have a fever or not," Essani says.

Some health care workers brought to the U.S., and at least one other person known to have the virus, have been treated for Ebola and isolated in U.S. hospitals.

"So we really have some idea," Essani says. "But this is biology and there will always be exceptions to it. I do expect the number of cases to go up, there's no doubt about it. So we are going to see these sporadic cases around the globe. But I don't think it will acquire an epidemic form as it has in Africa."

Those most at risk of contracting the virus are health care workers and other caregivers of those infected.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this year's outbreak is the worst in history and the first West Africa has seen of the disease. It has previously hit in other parts of Africa, including Uganda, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It was in what is today the Democratic Republic of the Congo that the virus was first identified. It was discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River.

One of the bad things about Ebola is that there's not been a plethora of research into drugs or vaccines to combat it, Essani says.

"There are, I think, four or five different anti-virals, which are in the works," Essani says. "None of them have gone through the proper clinical trials to make sure they are safe."

At press time, there was not yet an Ebola vaccine approved for human use, though vaccines and therapies tested using animal models were showing promising results, according to the World Health Organization.

"In view of the urgency of these outbreaks, the international community is mobilizing to find ways to accelerate the evaluation and use of these compounds," the WHO said in a statement.

The good thing about Ebola is that it's much harder to spread than other viruses, like flu, which can be spread by coughing or sneezing, Essani says.

"You really have to have contact with body fluids—urine, feces, vomit, blood, these kinds of things," Essani says. "One of the co-discoverers of this virus said, 'If I am traveling in a subway, and I know the person sitting next to me has Ebola, I will not hesitate to travel!'"

As a result, most of the people contracting Ebola have been treating victims or preparing them for burial, Essani says.

"There are certain social customs in the region that the body of the dead has to be washed before it is buried," he says. "And those people come into exposure at that time."

The good thing about Ebola is that it's much harder to spread than other viruses, like flu.

"We are going to see these sporadic cases around the globe. But I don't think it will acquire an epidemic form as it has in Africa."

—Dr. Karim Essani, a WMU virologist



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Sought-after selfie

Selfies with WMU President John M. Dunn are coveted. At this year's Bronco Bash, dozens of students lined up to take cell phone self-portraits with Dunn.