



8-2018

## Connections 08/2018

College of Health and Human Services

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### WMU ScholarWorks Citation

College of Health and Human Services, "Connections 08/2018" (2018). *College of Health and Human Services Newsletter*. 46.  
[https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/hhs\\_news/46](https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/hhs_news/46)

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## College of Health and Human Services



AUGUST 2018

### **Fall begins with new leadership at CHHS**

On university campuses, fall is a time of new beginnings as high school graduates leave their hometowns to take the next steps in their education. The CHHS begins the new academic year with a new dean, as well as a number of new chairs and directors in our departments and schools.



### **School of Social Work honors field instructor of the year**

On Tuesday, Aug. 21, the WMU School of Social Work held its 2018 field instructor orientation event. The annual event brings together social work staff, faculty and community partners to share information and best practices related to social work field instruction.



### **CHHS building closure during home football games**

Tailgating and related activities take over the parking lots and lawn of CHHS before each WMU home football game. For the safety and security of our building and its occupants, CHHS



buildings will lock at noon game days. Game day classes may be rescheduled or relocated, but will not be canceled.

### **WMU's Seita foster youth effort garners national acclaim**

Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest collegiate honor society, announced WMU as the 2018 recipient of its Excellence in Innovation Award. The \$100,000 award recognizes WMU for expanding higher education opportunities through its Seita Scholars Program, a program for students from foster care offered by WMU's **Center for Fostering Success**.



### **HHS on Social Media**



Just another quiet afternoon at CHHS.

From the [College of Health and Human Services](#) via [Instagram](#)

### **In other news**

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

- [WMU to host 10th International Conference on African Development](#)

- [WMU alumnus creates meaningful connections through storytelling](#)
- [Finding a better way from bean to brew](#)

## CHHS on Facebook and Instagram

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



# Fall begins with new leadership at CHHS



CHHS Dean Ron Cisler

On university campuses, fall is a time of new beginnings as high school graduates leave their hometowns to take the next steps in their education. The College of Health and Human Services begins the new academic year with a new dean, as well as a number of new chairs and directors in our departments and schools.

## DEAN RON CISLER

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On Aug. 1, **Dr. Ron Cisler** became the fourth dean of the College of Health and Human Services. [Dean Cisler came to WMU](#) from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he most recently served as the interim dean of their College of Health Sciences. He replaced **Dr. Earlie Washington**, who has returned the faculty in the School of Social Work.

"Of course, I'm thrilled to be in the College of Health and Human Services," says Dean Cisler. "I was impressed with the diversity of its people, its academic programs and, of course, the facilities when I first visited WMU in 2017. And I'm excited about the opportunities we have going forward."

Dean Cisler's primary research interests are in population health disparities, behavioral health risk factors, alcoholism and alcohol-related problems. He is internationally known for his expertise in assessing recovery outcomes for alcohol treatment clinical trials.

He is getting to know the campus and is quick to introduce himself to students in and around the college. Earlier this month, he took the opportunity to volunteer as a Bronco Buddy, helping new and returning students move into the CHHS learning community at Eicher Hall.

"Kalamazoo is a wonderful community," says Cisler. "There seems to be a culture here that values small and local business, and that's something that means a lot to me. I'm very impressed with the quality of life here."

## SCHOOLS AND DEPARTMENTS

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Cousins

Earlier this summer, **Dr. Hector Diaz**, announced that he would step down as director of the School of Social Work. Dr. Diaz will be on sabbatical leave this fall and will return to teaching in January 2019. **Dr. Linwood Cousins** has been named interim director for the School of Social Work for 2018-19. Dr. Cousins is well known to the school, having served as director from 2009-13. Most recently, he served as chair of WMU's Department of Anthropology and chair of the Department of African-American and African Studies over the last three years.



DeThorne

On July 1, **Dr. Laura DeThorne** started at Western Michigan University as the chair of the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. Dr. DeThorne came to WMU from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she served on faculty for 13 years, including administrative appointments as the director of undergraduate studies and associate head of

speech and hearing science. She recently relocated to the Kalamazoo area with her husband and two teenage sons.



Chase

July 1 was also the first day of the permanent appointment of **Dr. Carla Chase** as chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy. Dr. Chase acted as interim chair during the 2017-18 fiscal year. She continues to work on the development of the new Doctor of Occupational Therapy program, which will replace the master's degree currently offered at WMU.



Areaux

**David Areaux**, associate professor in the Department of Physician Assistant, accepted the role of interim chair of that department, effective July 1. David stepped into this one-year appointment, after the June 30 retirement of former interim chair, **Denise Bowen**.

## School of Social Work honors field instructor of the year



Field instructor of the year, Autumn Delnat, along with Stephanie Lagalo, director of field education

On Tuesday, Aug. 21, the WMU School of Social Work held its 2018 field instructor orientation event. The annual event brings together social work staff, faculty and community partners to share information and best practices related to social work field instruction. More than 75 people were in attendance.

The overall theme for this year's orientation event was Leadership and Supervision in the Field. The group spent time going over BSW/MSW field learning contracts to ensure that field instructors and WMU faculty shared an understanding about expectations and responsibilities.

Every year at the event, the School of Social Work recognizes the previous year's Field Instructor of the Year. For 2017-18, that honor went to **Autumn Delnat**, a licensed professional counselor at the YWCA.

"The YWCA is a valuable partner for us, and Autumn has done incredible clinical work there," says **Stephanie Lagalo**, director of field education in the School of Social Work. "They take numerous WMU social work students each semester, and the experience those students receive is truly outstanding."

Autumn was nominated by both of her students last year. For 2018-19, she will be the field instructor for seven MSW students.

## CHHS building closure during home football games



WMU football at Waldo Stadium

WMU's [first home football game](#) is August 31 at 6 p.m. Tailgating and other related activities take over the parking lots and lawn of CHHS before each home game. For the safety and security of our building and its occupants, the CHHS building and Ernest Wilbur Building will lock at noon game days.

- **Game-day classes are not canceled:** Classes scheduled in the CHHS buildings on game day afternoons may be rescheduled or relocated. They will not be canceled. Students should check with their instructors for more information.
- **Parking:** Students, faculty and staff with appropriate permits may legally park in the CHHS lots before tailgating begins on game days. Once tailgating begins, you may have to pay to enter the lots. If you leave, it may be difficult or impossible to re-enter once tailgating activities begin.

"This is a challenge we face solely based on our proximity to the stadium," says **Nancy Cretsinger**, director of academic and student services. "But it's not a new challenge, and our staff and faculty work diligently to minimize the impact on our students."

Though the buildings will be closed for general use, individuals with swipe access to the building may enter and exit as usual.

## WMU HOME FOOTBALL GAMES AND BUILDING CLOSURE TIMES

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- Friday, Aug. 31, vs. Syracuse University  
Kickoff: 6 p.m. | Building closed: noon
- Saturday, Sept. 15, vs. Delaware State University - CommUniverCity Night  
Kickoff: 7 p.m. | Building closed: noon
- Saturday, Oct. 6, vs. Eastern Michigan University - [Homecoming](#)  
Kickoff: noon | Building closed all day
- Thursday, Oct. 25, vs. University of Toledo  
Kickoff: 7 p.m. | Building closed: noon
- Thursday, Nov. 1, vs. Ohio University  
Kickoff: 7 p.m. | Building closed: noon
- Tuesday, Nov. 20, vs. Northern Illinois University  
Kickoff: 7 p.m. | Building closed: noon

# WMU's Seita foster youth effort garners national acclaim

CONTACT: CHERYL ROLAND  
MAY 17, 2018 | WMU NEWS



KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi—the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines—has announced Western Michigan University as the 2018 recipient of its **Excellence in Innovation Award**.

The \$100,000 award, given biennially, recognizes WMU for achievement in finding a powerful solution to expanding higher education opportunities through its **Seita Scholars Program**.

"Phi Kappa Phi is proud to recognize Western Michigan University for its innovative Seita Scholars Program," said Society Executive Director **Dr. Mary Todd**. "By lifting up an under-represented population—young people who have aged out of foster care—the University has transformed lives and offered hope to individuals who may never have dreamed a college degree was within reach."

Established in 2008 as a signature initiative of WMU, the Seita Scholars Program is a comprehensive support system that aims to increase successful outcomes among young adults who have aged out of the foster care system in the state of Michigan. Scholars of the program receive a scholarship, year-round on-campus housing and one-on-one campus coaching for academic and personal support throughout their collegiate career.

Expanding on the success of the Seita Scholars Program, WMU established the Center for Fostering Success in 2012. The center conducts research on foster care and higher education and has trained campus coaches for foster youth in nine states. The center is also the home base for a statewide network—Fostering Success Michigan—that focuses on disseminating best practices and supporting other colleges and universities as they provide opportunities to former foster care youth.

WMU, on behalf of its efforts through the Seita Scholars Program and Center for Fostering Success, was selected as the 2018 recipient of the Excellence in Innovation Award by a jury of emeritus college and university presidents during a two-part screening process. The University was first chosen as one of six semifinalists before advancing as one of three finalists. The pool of entries represented inventive, multifaceted projects at institutions across the United States. Each institution was assessed on its project's ability to achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes to create systemic large-scale change.

"We are enormously pleased that Phi Kappa Phi has recognized both the innovative nature and the impact of our Seita Scholars Program," said **Dr. Edward Montgomery**, president of WMU. "Our Seita Scholars Program has made a real difference in the lives of an amazingly resilient group of young people here on our campus. Through this program, we've learned to rethink student support systems in a way that can be adapted by college and university communities around the nation. We are indebted to our staff and faculty who work alongside these students to make a real difference."

WMU will accept the Excellence in Innovation Award during Phi Kappa Phi's Biennial Convention in Minneapolis Aug. 3.

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## SEITA SUCCESS

Since accepting its first class of former foster care youth in fall 2008, WMU's Seita Scholars Program has grown into the nation's largest and most comprehensive outreach program for young people who have aged out of foster care. The program is named after Dr. John Seita a three-degree WMU alumnus who is a national advocate for foster care youth and whose personal story inspired program founders.

Today, about 150 former foster-care youth are at home on the WMU campus and working toward their degrees. By the time the program hits its 10-year anniversary in September, it will have nearly 150 graduates.

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## ABOUT PHI KAPPA PHI

Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi annually inducts approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni. The society has chapters at more than 300 select colleges and universities in North America and the Philippines. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The society's mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

Learn more about [Phi Kappa Phi](#).

**For more WMU news, arts and events, visit [WMU News](#) online.**