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Spring 2017

## College of Arts and Sciences: Spring 2017

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Alum featured in CBS show: Dr. Jim Olson (B.S. '84, Biomedical Sciences) "lights up" brain tumors so neurosurgeons can see cancer.

STORY



# WMU to launch Collegiate Pathways program with Forest Hills Public Schools

BY TYLER LECCEADONE

MARCH 13, 2017 | WMU NEWS



WMU EUP Associate Dean Edwin Martini (left) signs the Collegiate Pathways agreement with Margaret Fellinger, Forest Hills Public Schools assistant superintendent for instruction.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—On **Thursday, March 2**, Western Michigan University Extended University Programs entered into an agreement with Forest Hills Public Schools to launch the first-of-its-kind “Collegiate Pathways” program.

The dual enrollment program, set to launch in fall 2017 at Forest Hills Northern High School, allows students to earn the full Chinese language minor offered by WMU while still enrolled in high school. **Dr. Edwin Martini**, WMU associate dean for Extended University Programs, met with district officials at the WMU-Grand Rapids Beltline regional location to sign the contract and begin the rollout of logistics for next fall.

## MODEL PROGRAM

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While this is the first program being offered through WMU’s new Collegiate Pathways initiative, the University is in discussions with other districts to provide dual enrollment programs for additional foreign languages and other academic programs, says **Dr. Dawn Gaymer**, associate provost for Extended University Programs.

“This partnership with Forest Hills provides a model we hope will be used to deliver similar programs for other districts,” says Gaymer. “We are confident Collegiate Pathways will provide students with a rich learning experience that will streamline their path to earning a college degree.”

WMU EUP in partnership with the University's Haenicke Institute for Global Education and its Department of World Languages and Literature in the College of Arts and Sciences will deliver the program on-site at Forest Hills Northern High School.

"We are very excited about this opportunity for our students and are grateful for the time and diligence on the part of WMU's EUP and its Department of World Languages and Literature staff to collaborate on this partnership," said **Margaret Fellingner**, Forest Hills Public Schools assistant superintendent for instruction. "We have experienced an ardent and earnest team effort in terms of the planning that has been necessary to bring this opportunity to fruition."

## FALL STARTUP

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All classes will be taught by WMU instructors beginning this fall. To accommodate the combined schedules of the high school and university, each class will be delivered over the course of the academic year, spanning fall and spring semesters, but with an equivalent number of contact hours to the standard university course.

"Forest Hills is very proud of the high-quality immersion language programs we provide to our students," Fellingner said. "Partnering with WMU to provide expert Mandarin language instruction and engaging courses at the high school level provides our students not only with a wonderful learning opportunity, but also valuable college credit."

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

# WMU hailed as a top producer of U.S. Fulbright Scholars

BY CHERYL ROLAND

FEBRUARY 21, 2017 | WMU NEWS



KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University is one of the nation's top producers of U.S. Fulbright Scholars, according to the U.S. Department of

State's annual ranking of its flagship program, which was just published by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

With six WMU Fulbright Scholars awarded grants for 2016-17, the University is [tied in 10th place](#) as a top producer among the nation's research universities. The report was compiled by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

"It's especially meaningful right now to be acknowledged for our success in producing Fulbright scholars," says WMU **President John M. Dunn**. "Global engagement has been central to this University's identity for decades, and at the same time our faculty members are active internationally, we have been host to record numbers of Fulbright students from other nations. As a campus and community, we're enjoying the best of both worlds."

**Dr. Wolfgang Schlör**, associate provost, and **Dr. Jane E. Blyth**, executive director, both of the University's Haenicke Institute for Global Education, attended a Fulbright reception in Washington, D.C., **Feb. 21** honoring top Fulbright colleges and universities.

## 2016-17 WMU FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

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WMU's Fulbright Scholars for the 2016-17 year and their areas of focus include:

- Dr. James Butterfield, professor of political science; Vietnam in its global contest
- Dr. Jon Davis, associate professor of mathematics, ethnomathematics and South Africa's centralized educational system
- Dr. David Huffman, professor of chemistry, innate immune response, Denmark
- Dr. James Hueng, professor of economics, economic reforms in China
- Albert LaVergne, professor emeritus of art, sculpture in Nigeria
  
- Lynn Kelly Albertson, director of Career and Student Employment Services, the German-American Fulbright Commission

## ABOUT THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

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Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 370,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential—with the opportunity to exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. Over 1,100 U.S. college and university faculty and administrators, professionals, artists, journalists, scientists, lawyers, and independent scholars are awarded Fulbright grants to teach or conduct research annually. The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program operates in more than 125 countries throughout the world.

The Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation made by the United States Congress to the Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations, and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support.

Faculty interested in learning more about the Fulbright Program at WMU can contact Michelle Metro-Roland, Fulbright campus scholar liaison, at [michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu](mailto:michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu).

Learn more about the Fulbright Program at [us.fulbrightonline.org](http://us.fulbrightonline.org).

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

## Professor wins prestigious Japanese literary prize for poetry

BY CHERYL ROLAND

FEBRUARY 20, 2017 | WMU NEWS

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—**Dr. Jeffrey Angles**, Western Michigan University professor of world languages and literatures, was honored during a formal ceremony in Tokyo **Feb. 17** as the 2017 winner of the prestigious Yomiuri Prize for Literature in poetry.

Angles won the prize—comparable to America's Pulitzer Prize—for his book of Japanese-language poetry "Watashi no hizukehenkōsen" ("My International Date Line"), which was published by Shichōsha in 2016.

The Yomiuri Prize for Literature, now in its 68th year, is given out in six categories each year: poetry, fiction, playwriting, criticism/biography, essays, and research/translation. All books published in the previous calendar year are considered for the award. Angles' book was, in the eyes of the judges, the best book of poetry published in Japan in 2016.



Dr. Jeffrey Angles, one of only a handful of non-native speakers ever to win the prestigious Yomiuri Prize for Literature

"This book of poetry taught me that there are special territories that only people who have two languages embedded deeply within themselves can reach," said **Natsuki Ikezawa**, a prominent Japanese novelist and one of the judges for the award, of Angles' book.

## ABOUT THE YOMIURI PRIZE

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The Yomiuri Prize began in 1949, and like the Pulitzer Prize, is sponsored by a newspaper—the Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's best-selling newspaper, which has a circulation of 9 million. Yomiuri winners receive a cash prize and an inkstone, an item that is used in East Asia when writing with a brush. For that reason, the inkstone has come to symbolize the act of writing.

Angles is one of only a handful of non-native speakers ever to win the award, a fact due in large part to the difficulty of mastering the Japanese language. He is the first American ever to win in the poetry category, and his win has led to a great deal of attention.

Announcement of the award drove many writers and commentators to note on social media that the judge's decision to give the award to Angles for his first book in Japanese was unprecedented.

"I couldn't be more astounded by all of this," Angles says. "This prize is usually reserved for extremely well-established writers. The list of past winners is like a who's-who in the world of Japanese literature."

Angles says the book was published in December, but it's sold well enough that it is already going into a second edition. While in Japan for the Yomiuri ceremony, he had the opportunity to visit a large Tokyo bookstore that featured a display with his image and name along with his book.

"Someone even recognized me in the bookstacks," he says. "I think it was my beard that did it."

## ANGLES

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Angles has been interested in the Japanese language since he first traveled to that nation as a 15-year-old. He earned his doctorate in Japanese literature from Ohio State University and has been a faculty member at WMU since 2004.

He says he has loved poetry, and Japanese poetry in particular, for many years, but his interactions with the Japanese poetry world started as a reader, researcher and translator. He has published a dozen academic books on Japanese literature that include translations and anthologies. He first rose to national attention when his 2010 book of translations "Forest of Eyes: Selected Poems of Tada Chimako" won not one, but two, literary awards in the United States.

His decision to try writing his own poetry in Japanese also came in the year 2010, when he participated in a poetry event in Japan, serving as Japanese-English translator so that four prominent poets from around the world could communicate with each other. Angles wrote his first poem in Japanese at that event, drawing praise from one of the four poets—Shuntarō Tanikawa, who is one of Japan's most famous poets.

Many of the poems in Angles' Yomiuri Prize-winning book derived their inspiration from his personal life, his experiences flying back and forth across the Pacific, negotiating the differences between two widely differing languages and cultures, his experiences with his family, and his memories of his childhood in Ohio. A number of the poems, he says, veer into the surreal and play with language in ways that bend the usual patterns of the Japanese language in new directions.

He's considering publishing an English-language version of the book.

"Many of the poems play with the sounds and particularities of the Japanese language," he notes, "but a lot of editors I know have been asking me to translate them. My family is asking too, but I think they're just worried I might have written something about them."

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

# Sports Media students getting real-world experience with ESPN3

BY MOLLY GOALEY AND JEANNE BARON

MARCH 17, 2017 | WMU NEWS



Instructor Wade Cutler (foreground) works in the control room with Devon Doxey, assistant director of Bronco Productions, and students like Juno Hickman (background), a senior majoring in film, video and media studies.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Students in Western Michigan University's new Sports Media course are gaining hands-on experience in live broadcasting under the tutelage of instructor **Wade Cutler**.

Working with Bronco Productions in WMU's Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, Cutler and the students have been streaming men's basketball games this semester on ESPN3, ESPN's signature broadband sports network and the online home for live sports.

The School of Communication began the course in fall 2016, taking advantage of an agreement between ESPN and the Mid-American Conference. The agreement calls for various athletic events to be covered on ESPN's family of networks for 13 years, with broadcasts over the ESPN3 platform overseen by the MAC's 12 individual universities.

As part of the pact, students get the chance to develop athletic events for live streaming if the schools provide the infrastructure to produce broadcasts of ESPN quality. WMU has invested in the necessary infrastructure, and now Bronco fans worldwide as well as Sports Media students are reaping the benefits.

## LEARNING BY DOING AT WMU

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Cutler's students are learning the ins and outs of live-sports production by working alongside the Bronco Productions team. That team broadcast more than 30 men's and women's basketball games and other select events this academic year for ESPN3, in addition to producing the game broadcasts that air on WMU's in-house video screens during home athletic contests in a variety of sports.

"The benefit to our students is the experience of working with the latest broadcast equipment and the ability to include ESPN3 work experience on their resumes," Cutler says. "Our students are gaining so much 'real world' experience from this course that I'm confident they'll have no problems getting a job in this industry."

WMU's Sports Media students get to operate cameras, video switchers, audio consoles and other high-tech equipment provided by the School of Communication and Bronco Productions. They learn about story creation and development, preproduction elements, anchoring, live-show production, control room techniques and master control operation, as well as marketing, advertising and how web streaming works with live broadcasts.

Cutler says 99 percent of his course is hands on, with students able to take on ESPN3 production roles with the Bronco Productions team as they gain more experience.

"One area that I focus on during live broadcasts is the little and big problems that occur, from simple misspellings on graphics to equipment malfunctions," he adds. "The 'show must go on' is so true in live broadcast, so we teach our students how to resolve issues while still producing a network-quality show."

## PREMIER EQUIPMENT, TRAINING

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The infrastructure upgrades WMU needed to make to comply with the ESPN-MAC deal were finished in 2015 and partially covered by the MAC. Among the University's key investments has been purchasing a state-of-the-art production trailer and other pieces of equipment mimicking those owned and operated by ESPN.

A part-time WMU communication instructor, Cutler is well versed in all of that equipment. He is CEO of Trade Communication, a film and video marketing company based in Grand Rapids, and has done live sports production work with outlets such as ESPN and ABC, CBS and NBC sports.

Cutler says he not only teaches the fundamental skills needed to be successful in the growing field of live-sports production, but also lets his students know what the networks expect from those they hire and uses his connections to help students find work.

"It's my goal to make ESPN look at WMU as the premier MAC school for this type of educational training," Cutler says, "and the national television exposure for our athletes is exciting, as well."

An in-depth **story about the ESPN-MAC agreement** and Bronco Productions is available at [bit.ly/2mBjAqg](http://bit.ly/2mBjAqg). More **information about WMU sports** is available at [wmubroncos.com](http://wmubroncos.com).

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

## Alum's "Tumor Paint" research featured in CBS Sunday Morning

March 20, 2017

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – Scorpions can be deadly, but as Dr. Jim Olson knows, they can also save lives. Olson, a 1984 Western Michigan University alumnus, is a brain cancer physician and researcher at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. His research on a tiny molecule that lights up brain tumors so neurosurgeons can better distinguish cancer from normal tissue, is the subject of a [CBS Sunday Morning interview that aired March 12](#).



"We were inspired by a 16-year-old girl who had a brain tumor," Olson tells CBS reporter Susan Spencer. "After 12 hours of surgery, the surgeons left behind a big piece. And we decided that day to find a way to make the cancer light up so that surgeons could see it while they're operating."

Olson's team developed Tumor Paint by re-engineering scorpion venom (chlorotoxin), which naturally targets brain cancer cells, by tagging it with a molecule that acts like a flashlight. The process causes brain tumors to "light up" during surgery so the margins can be seen more easily. Olson says the goal is to help surgeons remove as much cancer as possible while safely leaving normal brain tissue intact.

"Sometimes it's really hard for surgeons to tell what is cancer and what is normal," Olson says. "In the brain, you can't take out a big chunk of normal just to make sure you got the cancer cells, and Tumor Paint distinguishes clearly the difference between brain cancer and normal brain in all of our experiments we've done so far."

Olson says Tumor Paint could be an FDA-approved reality as soon as 2019. "I think this will potentially be the biggest improvement in cancer surgery, maybe, in 50 years," he said.

## JAMES OLSON, M.D., PH.D. (B.S. '84, BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES)

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Olson earned his bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences from Western Michigan University and the Lee Honors College in 1984. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in Pharmacology in 1989 and an M.D. in 1991, both from the University of Michigan. He completed his residency in pediatrics in 1994 and completed his fellowship in pediatric oncology in 1997, both at the University of Washington.

He currently is a professor of pediatric hematology-oncology at the University of Washington School of Medicine, an attending physician at Seattle Children's Hospital and a full member at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Olson is a physician scientist who cares for children with brain tumors and discovers and develops new cancer therapies. His lab's work led to five national clinical trials, of which he leads a Phase III trial through the Children's Oncology Group.

Olson is the founder of Presage Biosciences and Blaze Bioscience: The Tumor Paint Company. He authored "Clinical Pharmacology Made Ridiculously Simple," which has been the most used pharmacology board review book for more than 20 years. In 2013, Olson and colleagues at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center launched Project Violet, a citizen science initiative that uses crowd funding to develop a fundamentally new class of anti-cancer compounds derived from organisms such as violets, scorpions and sunflowers, to attack cancer cells while leaving healthy cells untouched.

For more information on his research, [click here](#).