

# PRISM

## SPRING 2015

**\*Retrieved on 7/09/2015. Links may or may not be active in the future.**

### **New Michigan budget includes \$4 million for WMU autism initiatives**

#### **College of Arts and Sciences**

Western Michigan University is slated to receive \$4 million to boost its autism research and professional training initiatives, State Rep. Margaret O'Brien announced June 20 during a stop on campus for a news conference.

### **Department Launches New Program in Dominican Republic**

#### **College of Education and Human Development**

The College of Education and Human Development at WMU launched a Ph.D. in educational leadership program in the Dominican Republic (D.R.) Monday, Jan. 19.

### **New 2015 medical engineering program and more highlighted in Technology Century**

#### **College of Engineering and Applied Sciences**

The new medical engineering master's program scheduled to begin in 2015, was recently highlighted in the Engineering Society of Detroit's Technology Century publication

### **WMU awarded \$3.7 million for programs in blindness and low vision**

#### **College of Health and Human Services**

Four recent grants totaling \$3.7 million have been awarded to the Western Michigan University Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies and are aimed at filling a severe shortage of specialists trained to assist people with vision problems live fuller, happier lives.

### **WMU's first out-of-state community college microsite**

#### **Enrollment Management**

With our new focus on attracting more out-of-state transfer students, we launched our first out-of-state community college microsite: College of DuPage.

### **Anita Hill to kick off new Raise Your Voice speaker series**

#### **Lee Honors College**

Anita Hill, the woman who captivated the nation with her testimony of sexual harassment directed at then-U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, will launch a new speaker series at Western Michigan University. The talk has been postponed due to bad weather on the East Coast causing travel difficulties. It will be rescheduled later this semester.

### **New education library leadership**

#### **University Libraries**

University Libraries is pleased to announce that **Brad Dennis**, associate professor, is the new head of the Gary and Rita Swain Education Library located in Sangren Hall at Western Michigan University. **Michele Behr** is named education services librarian in the Gary and Rita Swain Education Library.

### **WMU hosts second annual Michigan Autism Conference**

#### **College of Arts and Sciences**

Western Michigan University's Department of Psychology hosted the second annual Michigan Autism Conference and expectations were exceeded by both participants and the planning committee.

### **BRAIN Lab: Putting scholarship and hearts in the right place**

#### **College of Health and Human Services**

Together experts in occupational therapy, psychology, social work, exercise physiology, neuroscience, biological sciences, and medicine neurology and music therapy are learning how music can help those with neurological disorders.

### **Foundation Scholarships announced**

#### **Enrollment Management**

To expand access to Western Michigan University and to assist new students with the greatest financial need, WMU announced that it will offer 10 \$50,000 Foundation Scholarships to new first-year students beginning their studies in fall 2015.

### **Medallion Scholarship competition draws top students to vie for \$50,000 scholarships**

#### **Lee Honors College**

Some 800 academically talented high school seniors from Michigan and around the country are gathering at Western Michigan University this month for the 32nd annual Medallion Scholarship Competition.

### **Journal of College Access - New journal born on ScholarWorks at WMU Libraries**

#### **University Libraries**

Journal of College Access published its first issue Jan. 6, 2015, on the Western Michigan University's institutional repository, ScholarWorks at WMU.

## New Michigan budget includes \$4M for WMU autism initiatives

Contact: Cheryl Roland

June 20, 2014 | WMU News



Left to right: Nesbitt, O'Brien, Dunn, Schuitmaker at June 20 announcement.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University is slated to receive **\$4 million to boost its autism research and professional training initiatives**, State Rep. **Margaret O'Brien** announced **June 20** during a stop on campus for a news conference.

The University, which has a national reputation for its work in behavior analysis as a treatment for autism, will use the funding to tackle the growing national incidence of the brain development disorder by:

- Increasing the number of new professionals in the field each year and developing a training model that can be disseminated and replicated at other colleges and universities.
- Developing innovative on-campus support networks for college students on the autism spectrum.
- Directing and overseeing a community daycare and treatment center for young children.
- Directing, developing and maintaining community consultation resources, using such technology as podcasts and teleconsultation.

### *AN 'INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN PROGRAM'*

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"Today we're here to really focus on our children ... It's about what research shows works and about investing in our young people so that we can not only improve quality of lives, but we can actually maximize the resources that the taxpayers send to the state," O'Brien said. "... We're announcing today that we have been able to secure \$4 million of state funding directed toward Western Michigan University so we can increase the capacity to train professionals, and so that, hopefully throughout this state, we will no longer have families waiting up to two years to get services."

Joining O'Brien for the announcement were State Sen. **Tonya Schuitmaker** and State Rep. **Aric Nesbitt**, both of Lawton, who supported the funding decision. The new funding is part of the Michigan budget finalized in a conference committee in Lansing earlier this month.

O'Brien, who has a background in social work and business, noted that she and her two colleagues were among Michigan legislators who worked earlier to secure insurance coverage for autism services in Michigan. Once that was accomplished in 2012, she said, they began to hear too many stories about the shortage of service providers and long waits for families to get assistance. Allowing the situation to evolve over time and waiting for the supply of trained professionals to grow to match the need was not an option.

"By the time we built that capacity, it was going to be too late for too many children," O'Brien said. "We know that the earlier we reach them the better it is for families and kids."

The solution, she noted was "in my own backyard," where Western Michigan University already has an internationally known program in training people in behavioral health—especially those who serve those families that are dealing with autism.

WMU President **John M. Dunn**, who was at the O'Brien event, praised the Portage representative for her advocacy and for connecting the University's resources with a growing and urgent need in the broader community.

"Rep. O'Brien has been steadfast in her support for what we do here," Dunn said. "She is an advocate for putting the best resources of a research university to work to address very real community needs. This is a population that demands and deserves our commitment to ensure a well-trained force of professionals is available to help realize the full potential of those with autism."

Autism spectrum disorder and autism are general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized—in varying degrees—by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. Earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicated the prevalence of autism is rising and now affects one in 68 American children. Breaking this number down, the CDC estimates one in 42 boys have autism compared with one in 189 girls.

## *BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS AT WMU*

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Behavior analysis specialists in WMU's Department of Psychology have a 30-plus year history of work with community partners to offer supervised field experience in the areas of developmental disabilities, autism and education. The University has awarded nearly 400 doctoral degrees and more than a thousand master's degrees to professionals working in developmental disabilities, autism, clinical psychology and industrial organizations psychology—all with a behavior analysis orientation.

The efforts funded by the new state money will move forward under the direction of **Dr. Stephanie Peterson**, chair of the WMU Department of Psychology, and **Dr. Wayne Fuqua**, professor of psychology, whose longtime focus has been on the use of behavior analysis for the treatment of autism.

# Department Launches New Program in Dominican Republic

Jan. 22, 2015



First cohort in Dominican Republic program.

The College of Education and Human Development at WMU launched a Ph.D. in educational leadership program in the Dominican Republic (D.R.) on Monday, January 19, 2015. Thirty students are in the first cohort who will go through the program together in four years. It is the first doctoral program offered by WMU in a foreign country.

Being offered through a unique collaboration between WMU and the D.R.'s Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE), this program was designed to prepare individuals to hold leadership and management roles in K-12 or higher education. It is offered via a hybrid-learning format with teaching support from WMU faculty. The program also includes a study abroad component, in which the students will travel to WMU in June each year for three weeks of intensive study.

The program will help the D.R. build its infrastructure and human resource capacity.

# WMU awarded \$3.7 million for programs in blindness and low vision

Contact: Mark Schwerin

November 10, 2014 | WMU News



Dr. Kim



Dr. Lee



Dr. Wiebold



Dr. Emerson

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Four recent grants totaling \$3.7 million have been awarded to the Western Michigan University Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies and are aimed at filling a severe shortage of specialists trained to assist people with vision problems live fuller, happier lives.

The personnel training grants are from the U.S. Department of Education and span five years. The grants will help prepare orientation and mobility specialists, vision rehabilitation therapists, rehabilitation counselors and teachers of children who are visually impaired.

Ultimately, the grants will help thousands of people who are blind and visually impaired by educating the next generation of specialists who will work with visually impaired youths and adults in schools and organizations, as well as recruiting scholars who represent the diverse populations they will serve.

The awards respond to severe personnel shortages nationally and statewide and address employment challenges faced by those with visual impairments.

## *THE GRANTS*

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The four grants, the principal investigator, amounts and a brief description are:

- Orientation and Mobility Personnel Preparation, **Dr. Dae Shik Kim**, associate professor, \$746,971. Orientation and mobility professionals supported by this award will teach safe and efficient travel skills to working age and older adults with blindness or low vision.
- Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Personnel Preparation, **Dr. Helen Lee**, associate professor, \$697,140. These professionals work primarily with blind and visually impaired adults, providing instruction and guidance in adaptive independent living skills, enabling them to confidently carry out their daily activities.

- Rehabilitation Counseling with an Emphasis in Employer Relations, **Dr. Jennipher Wiebold**, associate professor, \$999,782. Rehabilitation counseling is focused on assisting people with disabilities to achieve their personal, career and independent living goals. The project will prepare graduates from the rehabilitation counseling program with an emphasis in employment and employer relations.

- Preparation of Teachers of Children with Visual Impairments and Orientation and Mobility Instructors of Children, **Dr. Robert Wall Emerson**, professor, \$1,248,723. The project will prepare teachers of children with visual impairments. Program graduates will work with students with visual impairments in preschool through elementary and high school.

### *'PERFECT, POSITIVE STORM'*

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The highly competitive awards may be applied for every five years, says **Dr. James Leja**, department chair. This year, their funding cycles coincided and all applications were fully funded.

"They all hit at the same time," Leja says. "So this happened to be, if you will, that perfect, positive storm. This creates a strong foundation for our five departmental programs over the next five years."

The training grants will have far-reaching effects, Leja says. Students come from across the country to earn degrees from the department, then take that training back to their home communities, where they make a difference in the lives of people with visual impairments.

"Each one of our graduates affects a whole lot of people," Leja says. "It has a nice, cascading effect. There's a huge shortage of professionals in all of these areas."

At a time when many professionals in the field are retiring, the number of people with disabilities, including vision problems, is rising, Leja says. This includes many individuals with age-related sources of visual impairment, such as glaucoma and macular degeneration.

### *INCREASING NEED*

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People with disabilities represent a small but increasing percentage of the overall population and require crucial support for education, workforce training and ultimate independence. In 2006, the National Eye Institute estimated that there were up to 5 million Americans who were visually impaired and that more than 1 million of these individuals were legally blind.



According to the 2011 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 63 percent of the individuals with visual disability aged 21-64 were unemployed. Moreover, the Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons estimates that 70 percent of the state's rehabilitation staff will retire in the next five years.

The WMU department is the oldest of its kind in the world. It attracts scholars from across the United States and internationally and annually produces more graduates with specialties in blindness and low vision than any other institution.

"We've historically seen, in all the years that we've been around, that many individuals with visual impairments have unmet needs in part because of the challenges of producing enough qualified graduates to get out there and provide services," Leja says. "So the need has always been huge. Obviously, we're very happy about the grants."

# Strategic Enrollment Plan 2018-2025

## *ENROLLMENT OBJECTIVES*

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- Increase institutional enrollment at the undergraduate level to meet targeted net revenue projections.
- Implement institutional enrollment plan that produces annual growth and increases overall student quality into the top quartile as compared with institutional peers.
- Establish institutional wide commitment to “University First” by promoting the spirit of collaboration and eliminate silos.
- Identify, develop and establish clear and consistent institutional messages utilizing the full range of communication modalities.
- Initiate new processes by the Office of the Registrar that improves institutional communication, student registration, graduation attainment, and student persistence.
- Expand institutional knowledge and awareness of **AAC&U High Impact Practices** and their research proven value in improving student learning, retention and engagement.
- Invest and improve our regional relationships, partnerships and service.
- Continue to evolve role of the Office of Student Transitions to become the institutional leader in student transitions for traditional student populations and the initiator of responsive programs for adult learners.

- Increase the utilization of technology in the Office of the Registrar to improve graduation audit and classroom utilization.
- Identify, address and implement institutional practices and programs that increase student involvement in community activity, affiliation and student life.
- Expand our commitment to planning and resource allocations that are market driven and supported by data driven decision making.
- Establish baseline enrollment capacity levels for each college and academic discipline.
- Collaborate with Academic Deans on identifying and prioritizing the development of new enrollment targets in line with academic discipline development.
- Identify and incorporate best practices to increase student satisfaction, retention and graduation rates.
- Identify and expand prospecting and recruitment strategies in key out of state targets.
- Improve our visibility and recruitment practices in Michigan to increase our marketshare.
- Establish institutional commitment to the recognition of transfer student needs and value.
- Enhance partnerships with Michigan Community Colleges.
- Establish institutional commitment to resource allocation for improved availability of financial aid and scholarship awarding.
- Implement new practices and processes in the office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to improve yield, persistence and graduation outcomes.
- Increase institutional focus on financial literacy and outreach.
- Develop a Pre-College program that serves the local region and increases WMU's reputation as a genuine partner.
- Utilize the Office of Pre-College Programs as a feeder for prospective students.

# Anita Hill to kick off new 'Raise Your Voice' speaker series

Contact: Mark Schwerin

January 15, 2015 | WMU News



Hill (Photo credit: Jack White)

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—**Anita Hill**, the woman who captivated the nation with her testimony of sexual harassment directed at then-U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, will launch a new speaker series at Western Michigan University.

Hill will speak at **7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3**, in Kalamazoo's Chenery Auditorium, five days after an award-winning documentary about Hill and the famous Senate hearings is screened at Alamo Drafthouse. The documentary, "Anita: Speaking Truth to Power," will be shown at **5:30 and 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29**, at the downtown theatre at the corner of Portage and South streets.

**The talk has been postponed due to bad weather on the East Coast causing travel difficulties. It will be rescheduled later this semester.**

## *'RAISE YOUR VOICE' SERIES*

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The new "Raise Your Voice" speaker series arose from discussions at the Lee Honors College about issues of violence and hostility against women that have surfaced in recent months, says **Dean Carla Koretsky**.

"I think especially a lot of us were aghast at the statistic that as many as one in five women on college campuses may be experiencing sexual violence of some kind," Koretsky says. "It's obviously an enormous societal problem. It's a problem that affects not just these women, but men on our college campuses as well. We decided to bring a series of speakers to campus who could address these issues from many different perspectives and engage the campus and broader community in a deep discussion."

Koretsky and Jane Baas, honors college associate dean, formed a committee to create a yearlong speaker series bringing nationally known scholars, artists and activists to campus.

"We think it's an issue that we can and really should be addressing on college campuses and we thought the best way to do that is to bring it out into the open and make everyone aware of the issues," Koretsky says.

Two additional speakers are set for the spring, while an appearance by noted feminist and activist **Gloria Steinem** is tentatively slated for September.

### *ANITA HILL*

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For now, Hill's Feb. 3 presentation is sure to garner widespread attention. Hill currently is a professor of social policy, law and women's studies at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management. She was thrust into the national spotlight in 1991 when she accused U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, her supervisor at the U.S. Department of Education and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, of sexual harassment.

The nation watched with rapt attention as Hill detailed the alleged harassment before a U.S. Senate committee. Thomas vehemently denied the allegations and eventually was confirmed to the high court.

Directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Freida Mock, "Anita: Speaking Truth to Power," has been praised by critics. With it, Hill broke her silence about the famous hearings.

### *OTHER UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS*

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**March 3: Soraya Chemaly**, 7 p.m., 2000 Schneider Hall, "Effecting Change through Social Media."

**April 4: Tatyana Fazlalizadeh**, 5:30 p.m., 1004 Richmond Center for Visual Arts, "Stop Telling Women to Smile" street art project.

Steinem heads the cast of speakers tentatively slated for fall. Others include **Gail Griffin**, formerly the Ann V. and Donald R. Parfet Distinguished Professor of English at Kalamazoo College and author of "The Events of October: Murder-Suicide on a Small Campus;" **Jackson Katz**, an American educator, filmmaker and author; and **Wagatwe Wanjuki**, a survivor, activist and writer.

Additional tie-ins with the series also are planned. Those include bringing in a Theatre of the Oppressed group to work with First Year Experience students, an honors college common read of the book "The Events of October," and presentations by WMU faculty and staff exploring gender and violence as part of the honors college's Lyceum Lecture Series at noon Wednesdays at the college.

## *ABOUT THE SERIES*

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The speaker series has found broad support across campus, with a long list of co-sponsors signing on. They include the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Fine Arts, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Haworth College of Business, University Center for the Humanities, Department of Spanish, Frostic School of Art, School of Music, School of Communication, Center for the Study of Ethics in Society and University Cultural Events Committee.

Funding for the spring portion of the series has been raised from on-campus sponsors.

"So really it's all been internal funding up until now," Koretsky says. "For the next phase, we'll be going out into the community and looking for individual and corporate sponsors who would like to help us with the fall series. I think it's very feasible that that will happen."

**For more information**, visit [wmich.edu/honors/events/raise-your-voice](http://wmich.edu/honors/events/raise-your-voice).

# WMU Hosts Second Michigan Autism Conference



Western Michigan University's Department of Psychology hosted the second annual Michigan Autism Conference and expectations were exceeded by both participants and the planning committee. During the first year, which was considered successful, there were 270 registrants. In 2014, the number of attendees and speakers jumped to 480! Educators and researchers from Michigan, California, Massachusetts, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana converged in Kalamazoo, Mich., to discuss autism topics related to Michigan legislation and services in the state.

Dr. Jessica Frieder, WMU professor of psychology and coordinator of the conference notes that WMU has the premier institution for behavior analysis and views this conference as a way to bring high-caliber educational opportunities to the state of Michigan for practitioners, researchers and parents of autistic children. "Understanding that professionals and families are bombarded with information on possible interventions, the largest mission of the Michigan Autism Conference is to support education in an accessible manner," Frieder said.

In addition to providing great opportunities for educators and experts to collaborate in Kalamazoo, Frieder expressed the value of WMU hosting the conference as it relates to alumni and current students. Frieder stated, "Alumni love to return. They come to the conference and are proud." Graduate students also benefit as the conference "brought the classroom to life. They got to hear from the people who write the books they are reading." The educational value extended outside of the classroom as graduate ambassadors served as assistants to conference speakers and several speakers attended poster ceremonies for students.

When asked about planning for next year's conference—Oct. 7 through 9, 2015—Frieder plans to incorporate more mainstream topics that will focus on children and advocacy for transition, implement more sessions for medical practitioners and offer more resources for parents. Please visit the [WMU Department of Psychology](#) for details on the program and visit [Michigan Autism Conference](#) for information on next year's conference.

## BRAIN Lab: Putting scholarship and hearts in the right place



*WMU Brain Lab Staff Brittany, Edward, Michelle, Amanda and Caitlyn  
Susan Andress*



*Amanda Ziemba, MT-BC reviews data from wrist sensor  
Susan Andress*



*Wrist sensor measures responses*  
Susan Andress



*Ed Roth outside his WMU office*  
Susan Andress





Ed Roth demonstrates music therapy device  
Susan Andress

*Together experts in occupational therapy, psychology, social work, exercise physiology, neuroscience, biological sciences, and medicine neurology and music therapy are learning how music can help those with neurological disorders.*

The opiates the young mother used during pregnancy passed through the umbilical cord to her baby. Now that her baby is born, she does not know how to soothe or sing a lullaby to her crying child.

A group of children, exposed early in life to trauma, are unable to express their emotions—until they learn to use music to do so. Music becomes their language, their key to empathy for others.

A group of graduate students sing from sheet music, then sing again by improvising. The level of oxytocin in their brains, a hormone that facilitates bonding with others, appears to rise dramatically when the singers improvise and even more when they sing together.

These are just some of the research projects currently underway in the BRAIN lab at Western Michigan University. The Laboratory for [Brain Research And Interdisciplinary Neurosciences](#), or BRAIN, is an interdisciplinary research center founded in 2011 by [Ed Roth, a music therapy professor](#), to pursue primarily translational and clinical research using various neuroscience-driven methodologies.

"It was an idea three, four years in the making," Roth says. "It began with team building, getting a team together of people who had the scholarship we needed and also their hearts in the right place."

Holding meetings every other week or so, Roth brought to the table experts in occupational therapy, psychology, social work, exercise physiology, neuroscience, biological sciences, and medicine neurology, adding his own expertise in music therapy.

"We weren't the traditional lab in that we started with informal discussions," Roth says. "The work developed organically; we had our own ideas and we responded to proposals. Word got out, and people started coming to us who had shared interests."

Roth's team is committed to the interdisciplinary approach, he says, even when it means giving up at times one's own area of interest. The BRAIN lab includes full members, affiliate members, collaborators, and graduate students. In other words, Roth says, "those who are willing to give to the greater good. And the rose still has not lost its bloom. In 2014, we've hit a fever pitch with projects we are actively involved in."

Michelle Suarez, assistant professor of occupational therapy, is working with Roth on a study combining occupational therapy and music therapy with infants prenatally exposed to opiates. The project has been nearly four months in the planning, and mothers with their infants are currently being gathered to participate in the study. The mothers have to be drug-free to participate in the study. They are under methadone therapy.

"Combined clinical experience tells us that if we can give these mothers the skills they need, we can change the child's developmental trajectory and avoid the pitfalls of falling behind before they've even entered school," Roth says. "The things that most mothers do naturally, like rock and cuddle their babies, sing lullabies to them, these mothers don't do."

Therapists will provide interventions and strategies built around how infants perceive sound, sights, touch, movement, and translate that information into experiences that will regulate their arousal.

"For instance, when mothers sing to their infants, the oxytocin hormone, or 'love' hormone, is released," says Roth. "Early-stage evidence tells us that music causes or increases oxytocin release, at least in the mothers and

possibly in the infants. There's a sing-song component to the ways mothers talk to their children. There's a natural rhythm to how mothers communicate with their infants. We think we can facilitate this bonding."

The same flush of oxytocin that one experiences during intercourse, Roth says, happens also in child birth. It can happen again in these bonding moments between mother and child, facilitated by music.

Another study focuses on children ages 3 to 6 who have experienced significant traumas, again combining occupational and music therapy to help them learn how to self-regulate behaviors. Amanda Ziemba, a graduate student in music therapy, is directing this study with Roth.

"We are using a trauma-informed, resiliency-focused, brain-based model. We hope to help these children do all the things other kids do socially, emotionally, cognitively so that they can learn along with others when they enter the classroom. These children have experienced singular traumas, physical abuse, neglect or ongoing emotional abuse."

Roth admits it isn't always easy to maintain a clinician's distance when working with these children. "As researchers, we can't be involved on that level, but our hearts do get broken. We use our skill set to help them and keep the situation in context. I don't think it's grandiose to say we are treating the community by treating its most vulnerable."

In a collaborative project with John Hopkins University, graduate student Jason Keeler explores the brain activity of children while improvising on a musical keyboard using fMRI neuroimaging techniques.

"These are children ages 8 to 12 who have been diagnosed with alexithymia, an inability to experience or express emotions," Roth says. "One piece of the underlying theory is that music may have developed before speech, a kind of superior language. With music, these children are able to express their emotions."

In this study, when children are asked to improvise on a piano keyboard, much the same way that a jazz musician improvises, areas of the brain are activated that include areas connected with empathy.

"We are finding that the prefrontal cortex in the brain becomes activated in these children just as it does in a professional musician, even though the

children have no musical training, and it can lead to uninhibited self-expression."

A similar study involves vocal improvisation as compared to singing composed music. By drawing a small sample of blood from participants, oxytocin levels are measured before and after improvisation and before and after singing prepared music. Comparisons are also being measured between solo singing and singing in a quartet.

"Improvising is more closely related to verbal dialogue, so we expect to see higher oxytocin levels during improvised singing," says Roth. Because of the presence of oxytocin, those singing in groups are also expected to show a feeling of connectedness, produced by singing together.

Roth's hope, he says, with all of the BRAIN lab research projects is to provide evidence that will remove barriers due to insufficient evidence to providing therapy. "By rigorous research, our goal is to show the most effective, evidence-based interventions for the most vulnerable populations. To me, the question is: What can we learn about the body's response to music and how can we use that to help people?"

*Zinta Aistars is creative director for [Z Word, LLC](#), and correspondent for [WMUK 102.1 FM Arts and More program](#). She lives on a farm in Hopkins.*

# Strategic Enrollment Plan 2018-2025

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- Utilize the Office of Pre-College Programs as a feeder for prospective students.

# Event draws top students to vie for \$50,000 scholarships

Contact: Jeanne Baron

January 20, 2015 | WMU News



This year's Medallion Scholarship Competition is Jan. 24 and 31.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Some 800 academically talented high school seniors from Michigan and around the country are gathering at Western Michigan University this month for the 32nd annual Medallion Scholarship Competition.

The program runs from **8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, with half of the students attending on **Saturday, Jan. 24**, and the remainder on **Saturday, Jan. 31**.

The competition is one of the biggest events of its kind in Michigan. Since it began in 1984, some \$87 million in four-year scholarships has been offered to more than 15,000 students. Full Medallion Scholarships have been given to more than 500 students, including 23 last year, amounting to more than \$8 million.

This year's competitors will vie for at least 20 full Medallion Scholarships worth \$50,000 each over four years. Medallions are the most prestigious merit-based scholarship WMU awards to incoming freshmen. This year's recipients will be attending WMU beginning in fall 2015.

## *ALL PARTICIPANTS OFFERED AWARDS*

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Medallion Scholars will be selected from about 40 semifinalists, who will be invited to return to campus in February to interview with the Medallion Selection Committee. The 20 students chosen to receive full Medallion Scholarships will become members of WMU's Lee Honors College.

The honors college enhances the undergraduate learning experience by providing such benefits as smaller class sizes, individualized academic advising, special co-curricular opportunities and a freshman-mentoring program.

Semifinalists not awarded Medallion Scholarships receive a top-tier Dean's Scholarship worth \$6,000 over two years. Each remaining competitor receives a one-time Dean's Scholarship worth \$3,000.

To be invited to compete for a Medallion Scholarship, students must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.70 at the end of their junior year and at least an ACT composite score of 26 or SAT-combined math and critical reading score of 1170. They also had to apply to WMU by Dec. 5.

## *MANY ACTIVITIES ON EVENT DAY*

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On competition day, the competitors will write essays and participate in a group problem-solving activity. These judged events will be used, together with students' ACT or SAT scores, high school GPA, and student biographies submitted online, to select the semifinalists.

Student and parent check-in for the event will take place from 8 to 8:45 a.m. in the Bernhard Center and will be followed by a welcome program from 9 to 9:30 a.m. that will include remarks by WMU President John M. Dunn.

Students will take part in competition activities from 9:30 a.m. until about 1 p.m. During that time, their parents will attend informational sessions on topics such as financial aid, campus housing and dining services.

From 1 to 2:30 p.m., students and parents will have lunch and visit the Academic Showcase, where they can meet with faculty members from the University's seven academic colleges as well as the Lee Honors College and Graduate College. Optional tours will take place from 1:30 to 3 p.m., and a trip to WMU's world-class aviation campus in Battle Creek will be offered from 2 to 4 p.m.

**For more information** about the 2015 Medallion Scholarship Competition, visit [wmich.edu/medallion](http://wmich.edu/medallion) or contact Scott Hennessy, associate director of admissions, at [scott.hennessy@wmich.edu](mailto:scott.hennessy@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-2000.

*Wednesday, January 28, 2015*

## ***Journal of College Access – New Journal Born on ScholarWorks at WMU Libraries***

***Journal of College Access published its first issue January 6, 2015 on the Western Michigan University's institutional repository, ScholarWorks at WMU.***

The Journal is a collaborative effort of the Michigan College Access Network and WMU.



*Online journal's opening page - first issue in ScholarWorks*

The editors Patrick O'Connor, Ph.D. and Christopher Tremblay, Ed.D. saw a need across Michigan and the nation for a journal focused on how students aspire to, gain access to, enroll in and persist in higher education institutions.

It is an open access, academic, peer-reviewed, digital only journal made easier to launch through the online platform, ScholarWorks, managed by Western's University Libraries. This complex tool supports journal publishing from the submission and reviewing of article to the final step of publishing an issue. One can sign up for email notices or RSS feeds from the journal.

A digital showcase of the research, scholarly and creative output of members of the Western Michigan



University community, ScholarWorks holdings including over 13,000 papers that have been downloaded over 1.3 million times since its inception in 2011.



*The journal's first issuance is celebrated with cake at Western Michigan University Libraries; l to r, Brandy Johnson, Chris Tremblay, Maira Bundza.*

Submissions to the Journal of College Access are welcome from a wide community of practitioners including, but not limited to college and university faculty, graduate students, administrators, college access professionals, and others with an interest in the college access movement. Browse the first issue published at <http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jca/>

Also helping celebrate the rollout was the executive director of the Michigan College Access Network; Brandy Johnson and ScholarWorks at WMU librarian and repository manager, Maira Bundza.

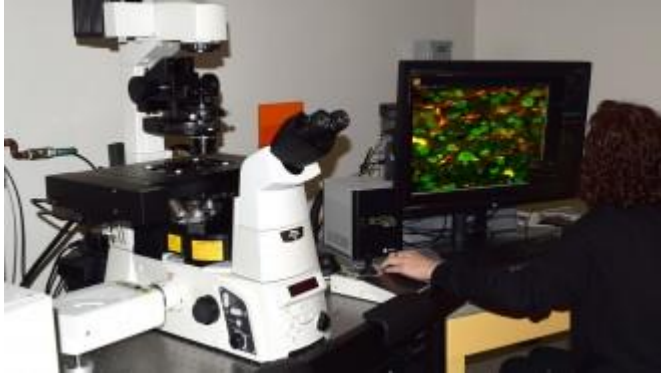
### **Links to more news**

College of Arts and Sciences

- [State-of-the-art confocal microscope changes research at WMU](#)
- [20 influential alumni honored during Homecoming 2014](#)
- Student features of [Ted Carter](#) and [Brooke Rowland](#)
- [Two to receive WMU's distinguished faculty award](#)
- [WMU philosopher-ethicist honored as emerging scholar](#)
- [Two honored at convocation with distinguished teaching awards](#)

# State-of-the-Art Confocal Microscope

## Changes Research at WMU



Western Michigan University, Biological Imaging Center director, Dr. Rob Eversole helped the Department of Biological Sciences acquire a new microscope that in a short period of time has already enhanced and changed the way WMU conducts research. The Nikon C2 confocal microscope was installed in Oct. 2014 and stands to provide numerous grant opportunities for WMU due to its advanced capabilities.

WMU graduate student Darcy Trimpe has already benefited from the new confocal microscope in conducting her research on the neurogenesis and cell death in the olfactory bulb of the adult zebrafish. Trimpe was previously driving to the Van Andel Research Institute in Grand Rapids, the closest facility to Kalamazoo with access to a confocal microscope that offered the enhanced capabilities of the Nikon C2. Now that Trimpe is able to study her tissue specimens on campus, she is able to focus more of her time researching possible mechanisms by which neuronal cells in the zebrafish brain regenerate, with the goal of understanding the process of cell regeneration in the human brain.

In addition to Trimpe's research, several other lab projects are utilizing the confocal microscope for its ability to conduct time-lapse experiments, image larger specimens in 3D and accept cell cultures. The confocal method increases optical resolution and contrast and eliminates areas that aren't in focus. The new instrument is particularly capable in rendering multicolored fluorescently labeled specimens with minimal operator training time.

Biological sciences graduate students and faculty are primarily using this new equipment, but according to Eversole because the microscope is so versatile, the potential for collaboration with the wider scientific community is much greater. Eversole is also mindful that this equipment,

which is excellent for biological imaging, could bring in grants by collecting data for others, including local industrial companies. This includes a new collaboration with Metabolic Solutions Development Company in Kalamazoo. There are already \$3.6 million in existing university grants and another \$4 million pending.

While Eversole took lead on acquiring the new microscope, he is grateful to the College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Vice President for Research, Lee Honors College, the Department of Biological Sciences and several individual scientists for their support and financial contributions, which were vital. This single piece of technology will not only give WMU students a unique research experience, but will also increase the ability for departments to collaborate while increasing WMU's visibility for being a research institution.

## Homecoming 2014



On Friday, Oct. 24, the College of Arts and Sciences hosted an Alumni Achievement Award Reception for outstanding contributions made by 20 influential alumni. To view photos from the event please visit the [2014 CAS Alumni Achievement Award Reception photo album](#).

### **Alumni Achievement Award Winners**

[Meet the winners here!](#)

**Erin Archuleta**, co-owner, ICHI

Department of English

**Judge Charles Binder**, federal magistrate judge, United States District Court, Eastern District, Michigan

Department of History

**Dr. Timothy Chartier**, associate professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science,  
Davidson College  
Department of Mathematics

**Justice Patricia O'Brien Cotter**, associate justice, Montana Supreme Court  
Department of Political Science

**LZ Granderson**, journalist and commentator, CNN and ESPN  
School of Communication

**Boyd Hanson**, executive director, BioMetrics, BioMarin  
Department of Statistics

**Bryan Hill**, Spanish teacher, Portage Northern High School  
Department of Spanish

**Dr. Jane Howard**, founder, The Center for Direct Instruction, California State University,  
Stanislaus  
Department of Psychology

**Eric Howe**, associate professor of education, Assumption College  
Mallinson Institute for Science Education

**Dr. Marc Humphrey**, team leader, International Atomic Energy Agency  
Department of Physics

**Dr. Hilman Latief**, faculty of Islamic Studies, Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta  
Department of Comparative Religion

**Honorable Angela Pasula**, judge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court, Michigan  
Department of Philosophy

**Dr. Trilisa Perrine**, associate professor, chemistry, Ohio Northern University  
Department of Chemistry

**Dr. Ken Purnell**, associate professor, Central Queensland University  
Department of Geography

**Dr. Jessica Sturm**, assistant professor, French and Applied Linguistics, Purdue University  
Department of World Languages and Literatures

**Samuel Valenti III**, president, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Investment Officer and Chairman,  
Valenti Capital, LLC and World Capital Partners, LLC  
Department of Economics

**Dr. Jeffrey Watts**, director, Anti-Infectives Research, Zoetis  
Department of Biological Sciences

**Mike Wireman**, national groundwater expert, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of Geosciences

**Dr. Bradley Wright**, professor, department head, Department of Public Administration and  
Policy, University of Georgia  
School of Public Affairs and Administration

## Student Feature: Ted Carter

DJ DeLong  
Creative writing and history major  
College of Arts and Sciences, Marketing and Communications student employee



Western Michigan University has been rated one of the top 100 schools in the nation for the second year in a row according to Washington Monthly. The educational programs and faculty stand out among other universities. A large part of what makes WMU so special are the outstanding students enrolled here. One particular student, Theodore Carter, has stood out to the

faculty and staff of the College of Arts and Sciences. Carter will graduate with two bachelor's degrees after just three years.

In December, Carter will earn a Bachelor of Science degree in applied mathematics and physics, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry with a minor in biology. His outstanding academic career started before he even became a student at WMU. Carter arrived at WMU with nearly 50 credits transferred from scoring high enough on his Advanced Placement tests while he was in high school. These transferred credits went toward Carter's General Education courses and introductory major courses, allowing him to dive right into the more advanced and upper level courses.

Carter averaged 20-24 credits a semester. In order to handle such an intense workload Carter explained the need to be organized. With the amount of credits he takes, he understands more than most the importance of organization simply at the scheduling process. He states, "Know what you need to do and get it done." Carter does ensure that he gives himself a break. "I take Fridays off no matter what," Carter explains. After spending approximately 100 hours a week on schoolwork alone, he needs at least one day off. He says that during his free time he likes to swim and go sailing.

When asked why he pushed himself so much in his academic career, Carter said that he is trying to see the breaking point for himself. This is influenced by his decision to join the Navy SEAL Program after graduating from WMU. It has been a dream since he was young and that drive to see how far he can go is present in both his academic and career focuses. After his time being a Navy SEAL and returning to civilian life, he says he would like to return to college and get his master's and Ph.D. in both physics and applied mathematics. His advice to current and prospective students is, "If you have the means, just try adding one more class. People can do more if they are willing to aspire to it."

## Brooke Rowland Shines in the Classroom, Courtroom and on Stage

DJ DeLong

Creative writing and history major

College of Arts and Sciences, Marketing and Communication student employee



Western Michigan University has many outstanding and successful alumni, but very few earn a degree at 18-years-old and graduate from law school at 21. It is an amazing accomplishment, but political science alumna, Brooke Rowland '11 did just that.

Rowland was a transfer student from Kalamazoo Valley Community College who had been homeschooled prior to attending KVCC. At 16, a time when most teenagers are looking forward to getting their drivers license, Rowland transferred to WMU and was already focused on her dream to go to law school. She graduated from WMU after studying public law and attended Georgetown Law School.

According to Rowland, WMU prepared her very well for success at law school. She said, "Forming strong relationships with professors and trying to get as much out of every class as possible greatly enhanced my educational experience and prepared me for the academic challenges at Georgetown." Rowland worked closely with the College of Arts and Sciences to take as many law-specific courses as possible. In addition to her academic preparation, Rowland was an intern for U.S. Representative Fred Upton during her junior year at WMU.

When discussing the law school application process Rowland said, "I spent a great deal of time researching the options and preparing a perfect application." Her advice for any student looking to pursue law school is to focus on grades, the LSAT score, letters of recommendation and a strong resumé and personal statement. "Shoot to as close to perfect as possible," she adds. Rowland hired private tutor, Rich Klarman, whom she highly recommends, to study for the LSAT and the MI Bar Exam. Rowland recognizes that law school is not for everyone and encourages students considering that path to "seriously evaluate whether the time and money is worth it."

While attending Georgetown, Rowland was deeply involved in moot court, an activity in which participants take part in simulated court proceedings, which includes drafting briefs or memorials and participating on oral arguments. She won the Best Brief Award at the Beaudry Moot Court Competition and was the Assistant Director for the Leahy Moot Court Competition. Rowland passed her exams and in December 2014 was officially sworn into the bar by Justice Markman.

Rowland's success does not stop at her academic and professional careers. She is an award-winning harpist and has received first prize at the Young Artist's Harp Seminary International Harp Competition. In addition to her musical talent, Rowland was Miss Michigan's Outstanding Teen, is the current Miss Greater Kalamazoo and will be running for Miss Michigan in June 2015, making her the only pageant titleholder in the Miss America system to simultaneously be an attorney.

Evident with her academic record, professional aspirations, musical talent and pageant history, Rowland learned the importance of effective time-management, a trait she says more students should try to perfect. "The main person affected by your choices in undergrad is you, not a client, not a boss," she added. Her advice to students at WMU is to study as hard as possible, get as much out of the classes as possible, form relationships with professors and get involved in useful activities outside of the classroom. "TV will be around when you're done with this phase of life. Do something more productive in this unique and narrow window," she said. Rowland is a perfect example to students of the possibilities that exist if they are determined and motivated to achieve their goals.

## Two to receive WMU's Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award

Contact: Jeanne Baron

October 7, 2014 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University will present its 2014-15 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award to **Dr. E. Rozanne Elder** and **Dr. John Jellies**.

The honor is the highest annual award WMU bestows on faculty members. It pays tribute to individuals whose work constitutes a significant body of achievement that is widely recognized within the national and international academic communities.



Elder and Jellies will be recognized during this year's academic convocation at **2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10**, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event also will feature WMU President John M. Dunn's State of the University address and presentation of four other prestigious campuswide honors: the Distinguished Service, Distinguished Teaching, Emerging Scholar and Annual Make a Difference awards.



Elder

### *DR. E. ROZANNE ELDER*

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Elder is a professor of history and director of what is now the Center for Cistercian and Monastic Studies in WMU's Medieval Institute. She has organized the center's annual Cistercian Studies Conference since 1973 and also served as editorial director of Cistercian Publications until 2008. Since 2008, she has continued to organize the annual Cistercian Studies Conference as a component of the University's world renowned International Congress on Medieval Studies held on campus each May.

Elder's research focuses on the history of medieval intellectual traditions and the history of Christianity with a specialization in monasticism. In addition to editing more than 250 Cistercian Publications volumes, she has written scores of scholarly articles and book chapters as well as presented lectures and workshops at prestigious institutions at home and abroad.

Nominators lauded Elder for ensuring that the Cistercian center is known and respected around the globe and for enhancing WMU's international reputation in the fields of Cistercian and monastic studies, along with related fields such as archaeology, theology, ecclesiastical and intellectual history, and comparative religious studies. Nearly all stressed that she has had a profound impact on four important fronts: editing and publishing, research, collaboration, and mentorship.

One WMU colleague nominating her wrote that just mentioning Kalamazoo brings instant recognition among scholars, in large part because of the annual Cistercian Studies Conference and the vast number of seminal texts, monographs and collected essays that Elder organized, edited and cultivated as the editor of Cistercian Publications.

"She has marshaled her considerable energy, enthusiasm, organizational skills and academic talents to developing new ideas, encouraging the growth of the discipline and elevating the quality of its scholarship," the colleague wrote. "By naming her a Distinguished Faculty Scholar, WMU would acknowledge the leadership and recognition she has already attained around the world."

Elder was praised especially for bringing some 300 texts to publication while at the same time participating fully in teaching and research, contributing to the ongoing development of the Medieval Institute's academic program, building an impressive body of her own scholarly work, and supporting the careers of countless others.

In addition, many nominators described Elder as uniquely responsible for greatly enriching the materials available to researchers, teachers, religious communities and general readers, even as radical changes have taken place in academic publishing. They also praised the unique collaboration and intellectual interchange she has generated between secular scholarly communities and religious communities.

"I want to emphasize that Rozanne Elder can be looked upon as the keystone holding together monastic and especially Cistercian studies not only in North America, but also in the world at large," an emeritus professor from Roskilde University in Denmark wrote. "She has been a central link in establishing at Western what is unique in academic life in North America: an academic milieu which profits from the presence of people living the life that is being studied, the monks and nuns who year after year come to Kalamazoo for the Cistercian Studies Conference, and who make their knowledge and experience available to lay scholars."

Several nominators noted that they first met Elder as graduate students. They wrote that she inspired them to pursue a career in Cistercian or medieval studies and has mentored them ever since. As one former graduate student put it, "She has encouraged hundreds of scholars young and old, lay and monastic, from all continents, contributing directly to the building of their careers."

In summing up Elder's extraordinary four decades at WMU, one history department colleague noted that the University is known the world over as an exemplary locus of research and scholarship on the Middle Ages.

"Erudite scholars on the WMU faculty have contributed to this reputation," he wrote. "While many have come and gone, Roxanne Elder has devoted an entire career to excellent scholarship and to fostering the work of American and international colleagues and students."



Jellies

## *DR. JOHN JELLIES*

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Jellies is a professor of biological sciences who has been a WMU faculty member since 1995. He uses experimental approaches with model systems, most recently medicinal leeches, to answer questions related to brain function or more specifically, how the nervous system controls behavior. This career-long work and has generated nearly \$4 million in grant dollars from national funding agencies.

Professionally active on and off campus, Jellies has served in such capacities as president of the WMU Faculty Senate as well as the Michigan Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience. In addition, he has been an invited faculty member or speaker at prestigious institutions such as the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation, and an editorial board member or manuscript reviewer for several leading journals.

Emphasizing that Jellies is a world renowned researcher, nominators cited him for cutting-edge discoveries made before and after coming to WMU. One praised him for his ability "to bring ideas to practical fruition that directly benefit mankind." Many also noted that dozens of Jellies' peer-reviewed manuscripts have been published in leading journals, with an almost unprecedented seven of them featuring his work on their covers.

In addition, supporters lauded Jellies for his inventiveness in surpassing technical difficulties that have stymied other researchers and for continuing to maintain a superlative level of creativity and scholarship throughout his three-decade career.

"One former colleague at the University of California, Berkeley wrote that Jellies stands alone among present-day physiologists for the skill, dedication and precision with which he carries out his groundbreaking work and called him "a unique treasure as an experimentalist."

Meanwhile, a fellow graduate student from 30 years ago reported that, "Dr. Jellies has built a remarkable career that has produced a number of major discoveries. His dedication, technical expertise, persistence, enthusiasm and talent for experimentation have all contributed to his wide reputation as an accomplished neuroscientist."

Jellies also was cited for being an inspired teacher, instructor and advisor who consistently teaches more classes than required and who has directly mentored scores of students in his research lab.

"Professor Jellies is a superlative teacher. He leveraged his broad range of research accomplishments and life experiences to provide an outstanding learning experience for his students," a former student wrote. "His love of learning and his joy of sharing his knowledge were evident to me and his students during every minute of his class meetings. I can attest firsthand to Dr. Jellies' genuine and unselfish desire to help those around him reach their potential. He went out of his way to share his talents and passion for research with us."

Most nominators also praised Jellies as someone who has provided exemplary service to WMU, his discipline and academia. "Good research alone does not make a great faculty member. John has also been recognized for great work in both service and teaching," one WMU Faculty Senate colleague wrote. "More precisely, [greatness] is in John's ability to work with people; his networking with individuals, industry and educational institutions; and his dedication to those he serves."

In summing up Jellies, one of his former teachers at Texas A&M University called him one of the finest scientists he has ever met and wrote that, "What characterizes John Jellies' work is a remarkable ingenuity in finding tractable but interesting problems, an amazing ability to use simple but elegant approaches, a set of hands that would make him the world's most gifted microsurgeon, an artistry that manages to picture the true elegance and beauty of nature, and an intelligence to make sense of it all."

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## WMU philosopher-ethicist to be honored as an emerging scholar

Contact: Mark Schwerin

October 8, 2014 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.--A Western Michigan University philosopher and ethicist whose research has broken new ground in the areas of cyberwarfare, torture and nanotechnology will be honored by Western Michigan University as an emerging scholar during an Oct. 10 campuswide awards ceremony.



Allhoff

**Dr. Fritz Allhoff**, who in 2013 received a \$500,000 National Science Foundation grant to study the ethics of cyberwarfare and had a book on the ethics of torture published, will be presented the **2014-15 Emerging Scholar Award** during WMU's **academic convocation** ceremonies at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event will feature WMU President **John M. Dunn**'s State of the University address as well as the presentation of several other campuswide awards honoring Distinguished Faculty Scholars, Distinguished Teaching Award recipients and those being honored with Distinguished Service Awards.

## *EMERGING SCHOLAR AWARD*

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The Emerging Scholar Award program was launched late in 2006 to acknowledge the accomplishments of WMU faculty members who are among the rising stars in U.S. higher education. It is designed to celebrate the contributions of faculty who are in the first decade of their careers at WMU and who, by virtue of their contributions to scholarship or creative activity, have achieved national recognition and demonstrated outstanding promise to achieve renown in their continuing work. The award goes to scholars nominated for consideration through a campuswide selection process and carries a \$2,000 cash prize.

## *DR. FRITZ ALLHOFF*

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Allhoff's book, "Terrorism, Ticking Time Bombs and Torture," was published by the University of Chicago Press. He also coauthored a scholarly book, "What is Nanotechnology and Why Does it Matter?: From Science to Ethics," which was published in 2012. Allhoff also has edited nine scholarly volumes, nine teaching-oriented volumes and three trade publications and has published 17 peer-reviewed articles in top-ranked journals and 15 invited journal articles, seven as the single author.

Allhoff also has 10 book chapters to his credit and has given presentations at over 60 national and international conferences. He has acted as conference or session organizer at over 20 national and international events and as a reviewer for both journal and book publications for multiple journals and presses. He is managing editor for 13 different publication series on topics ranging from nanotechnology to the extremely popular "Philosophy for Everyone" series.

## *QUANTITY AND QUALITY*

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"Dr. Allhoff's research and productivity is nothing short of incredible," wrote one nominator. "There is simply no manner or research productivity in which he has not extensively engaged."

Allhoff was cited for not only the sheer quantity of his research output, but also its quality, breadth and reach.

Allhoff joined the WMU faculty in 2005 and has served as director of graduate studies since 2008. He also has been director of the Medical Humanities Workgroup since 2010, director of the History and Philosophy of Science Workgroup from 2006-10, and adjunct assistant professor for the Mallinson Institute for Science Education from 2007-10. He earned his bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary in 1998 and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2001 and 2005, respectively.

In addition to his duties at WMU, Allhoff has served as a research fellow at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics in Canberra, Australia, and a visiting associate professor in the University of Michigan Department of Philosophy. Earlier this year, Allhoff received his juris doctor degree from the University of Michigan School of Law. He is now serving a judicial clerk for the Honorable Craig F. Stowers, an Alaska Supreme Court justice, and completed an internship with the Honorable Helene N. White, a U.S. Court of Appeals judge with the Sixth Circuit Court in Detroit.

"There is not a more energetic, professional or productive scholar than Fritz," wrote another nominator and longtime colleague. "Even as a graduate student at U.C. Santa Barbara in 2003, Fritz had the foresight to be concerned with ethical issues arising from emerging technologies and, given his background in both science and philosophy, has proven to be well equipped in addressing such daunting issues."

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[Academic Convocation sets direction for 2014-15 academic year](#) | Oct. 7, 2014

## Two will be honored at convocation with Distinguished Teaching Awards

Contact: Cheryl Roland

September 23, 2014 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.--Western Michigan University will honor two faculty members in the **School of Communication** next month for being exceptional educators and mentors and demonstrating outstanding dedication in their work.

**Sue Ellen Christian** and **Dr. Autumn Edwards**, both associate professors of communication, will be recognized as the recipients of this year's Distinguished Teaching Awards during WMU's Academic Convocation at **2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10**, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The annual

event includes WMU President **John M. Dunn**'s State of the University address along with the presentation of other campus-wide awards honoring this year's Emerging Scholars, Distinguished Faculty Scholar and the recipients of the Distinguished Service and Make a Difference awards.

Initiated in 2006, the Distinguished Teaching Award is the highest honor given by the University to recognize faculty members for their work with students. Christian and Edwards join 19 other faculty members who have been honored since the start of the award program. A similar program, the WMU Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award, was conducted between 1966 and 2001 and honored 131 faculty members.



Christian

## *SUE ELLEN CHRISTIAN*

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Christian, a former Chicago Tribune reporter who teaches journalism at WMU, was praised by her nominators for bringing real-world experience to the classroom and helping her students build the skills they will need to succeed in today's news world. A faculty member since 2001, Christian has had a profound and lasting impact on her students.

"Professor Christian's greatest qualities as a teacher are believing in her students and giving them the tools to be great journalists," said one alumna who is now a professional journalist and remains in touch with her mentor. "I chose WMU for its journalism program because I knew I was going to be a journalist. Professor Christian knew it, too, and did whatever she could to help me succeed."

Her ability to build a positive teaching environment, her commitment to her students and her ability to connect with them and to stay connected over time also were noted as among her teaching strengths.



"In the early stages of my college career, Professor Christian introduced me to the world of journalism," wrote a current student. "Throughout my time at Western, Professor Christian has served as a resource, a mentor and a friend."

In addition, Christian was singled out for successful work in building bridges between college journalists and budding high school writers by developing a collaborative project in which they focused on diversity and producing a series of publications that focused on the topic of teaching tolerance.

An alumna and area teacher worked with Christian on a five-year, grant-funded project to link the two groups of students in an effort known as Communicating Common Ground. She praised Christian for her dedication to bringing a new generation into the industry and giving them a thorough grounding in some of the important issues of today and the future.

"Working with Sue Ellen on these projects was so inspiring," the teaching colleague wrote. "She was taking journalism to a new arena...using storytelling to explore topics in diversity and using passion to inspire not only her own students at WMU, but also high school students in Kalamazoo Public Schools."

Christian earned a bachelor's degree from Hope College and a master's degree from the University of Michigan. She was a staff writer at the Chicago Tribune for 10 years before accepting a faculty appointment at WMU.



Edwards

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## *DR. AUTUMN EDWARDS*

Edwards, whose focus is on interpersonal communication and communication theory, was lauded by those nominating her for the passion and ability she demonstrates to help students

understand cutting-edge theoretical concepts and their use in the research lab as well as their value when applied in an organizational setting.

"Having had Autumn as an instructor for two graduate-level courses in communication where we deal with high-level discussions of quantitative methodology and theoretical concepts," wrote one graduate student, "it amazes me how easily she can transform confusing textbook language into clear and concise conceptualizations of the material."

Another student noted Edwards' classroom style and teaching methods and commended them as inspirational. The student first encountered Edwards in a large lecture class and went on to see her teacher become a mentor.

"In a lecture class of over 100 students," the student wrote, "Dr. Edwards managed to create an engaging learning environment that fostered both critical thinking and creativity...Dr. Edwards has fueled my desire to continue my education in graduate school and has allowed me to realize my potential as a student and communication scholar."

Edwards also was praised by a colleague for helping create a course that is now a required course for all majors and minors and for co-creating a research lab used by graduate students to conduct experiments and surveys. The second function of the lab is to teach interested undergraduates the basics of research. The colleague nominating Edwards asserted that lab function was its "most important."

And as the faculty member who teaches the introductory course to the school's master's program, Edwards also is known for helping graduate students develop a strong research foundation and also for generating interest in research among undergraduate students.

"Dr. Edwards creates an open intellectual environment that really sets the tone for the entire program," one of her students affirmed. "Dr. Edwards does not discriminate against those she may disagree with: in fact, Dr. Edwards often takes interest in them as a way of expanding her own intellect."

Edwards earned a bachelor's degree at Texas Tech University, a master's degree from the University of Kansas and a doctoral degree from Ohio University. She held graduate teaching and research positions at both Kansas and Ohio before coming to WMU in 2005.

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College of Education and Human Development

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- [Dietetic Interns Awarded Sustainability Grant Funds](#)
- [Department Chair to Receive Award](#)
- [Two Alumni Named Most Influential](#)

# Assistant Professor Receives Inaugural Fellowship

January 15, 2015



Dr. Stephanie Burns

Dr. Stephanie Burns, Assistant Professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, has been chosen to receive the inaugural Edwin L. Herr Fellowship for Excellence in Counseling Leadership and Scholarship Award. The honor, awarded by Chi Sigma Iota, the International Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society, will be presented at Chi Sigma Iota's CSI Day at the American Counseling Association's 2015 Annual Conference and Expo on March 13 in Orlando, Florida.

The Herr Fellowship was created to recognize and honor the career contributions of Dr. Edwin L. Herr to Chi Sigma Iota and to the counseling profession as a whole. Dr. Herr's career as a counselor and counselor educator spanned more than 50 years. He served as President of the American Counseling Association, the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, the National Career Development Association, and Chi Sigma Iota. A past editor of several journals, including the Journal of Counseling & Development, Dr. Herr is widely recognized globally as one of if not the preeminent scholar in career counseling. He also is widely acclaimed as our profession's most eloquent and respected global ambassador for counseling.

The Herr Fellowship is awarded annually to a full-time counselor educator in the early stages of his or her career (3-5 years) whose professional goals include career development or international issues in counseling. Dr. Burns is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Ohio and Michigan. She currently serves as the Chapter Faculty Advisor for the Mu Beta Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota at Western Michigan University. Dr. Burns' research and scholarship focus on counselor professional identity and career interest assessment and psychometric scoring methodologies. In 2013 Dr. Burns was selected as an Emerging Leader Fellow by the Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES).

#### College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

- [Innovative Projects at the 55th Conference on Senior Engineering Design](#)
- [2014 Alumni Excellence Academy Recipients](#)
- [Dr. Ala Al-Fuqaha Awarded \\$900,000 Qatar Foundation Grant](#)
- [Dr. Bade Shrestha Named ASME Fellow](#)
- [2014 Passport Day at the Parkview Campus Attended by More Than 350 Incoming Students](#)

#### College of Health and Human Services

- [Nursing outstanding alumnus named Brilliant New Investigator](#)
- [WMU PA students contribute funds and win accolades](#)
- [WMU Chapter of National Student Speech Language Hearing Association awarded honors](#)
- [College reveals proposal for Serenity Park on its grounds](#)
- [Alumni return to present at a public forum and join Outstanding Alumni Academy](#)
- [Ireland study abroad leads to OT international exchange](#)
- [New, innovative offerings and options enhance academic programs](#)

- [Dean presents annual awards and state of the college address](#)
- [Interdisciplinary health sciences conference presents research and awards](#)
- [OT professor to receive national honor](#)
- [Clinic optometrist honored as fellow](#)

## Nursing outstanding alumnus named Brilliant New Investigator



Photo courtesy of [Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center](#).

Bronson School of Nursing alumna Dr. Heather Tubbs Cooley '03, inducted into the College of Health and Human Services Outstanding Alumni Academy in 2010, has been named the 2014 Brilliant New Investigator for the prestigious Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science. The award was presented to her at the council's 2014 State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research conference in Washington, D.C. Sept. 18 to 20. For more information about the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science, visit them on the [Web](#).

After earning bachelor's degrees in both nursing and Spanish at WMU, Tubbs Cooley went on to pursue a Master of Science in Nursing and Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently an assistant professor and nurse scientist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and an assistant professor of clinical nursing at the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing. For more information about Tubbs Cooley, [read her bio](#).

# WMU PA students contribute funds and win accolades

Every year at the annual American Academy of Physician Assistants conference, the Physician Assistant Foundation selects a local charity to support and creates a friendly contest among the nation's physician assistant student societies to see which can demonstrate the most support. For the 2014 conference last May in Boston, the charity chosen was the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, an organization that provides access to high quality health care for homeless men, women and children in the greater Boston area.

In the six weeks of fund raising, our PA students, faculty, staff and friends raised \$3,112 to support the charity, the highest amount collected by any PA student society in the nation. Team WMU PA was declared the official winner of the contest! Thanks to faculty advisor Master Faculty Specialist Phil Walcott for inspiration and guidance, and thanks and congratulations to the team for generously supporting health care for the homeless in Boston.



Team WMU PA members celebrate a fund raising win.

# WMU Chapter of National Student Speech Language Hearing Association awarded honors

Congratulations to the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology's chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, which was awarded Chapter Honors at the Silver Level from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in recognition of work in philanthropy, community service, career awareness, advocacy and networking. This is a first for Western Michigan University's chapter and well-deserved for a very busy 2013-14 with the guidance of 2013 Registered Student Organization Advisor of the Year Cary Cekola.

Among their many activities, they volunteered at a local senior living community, informed middle school students about the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology at an MLK STEMulating careers event, and partnered with Psi Iota Xi in blind rehabilitation bingo celebrations and an Honor Flight reception for World War II veterans. In addition, the group held several fund raisers. Among them was Scoops for Smiles through which students and faculty helped a young boy from the island nation of St. Lucia receive cleft lip and cleft alveolar surgery. A year-end banquet and silent auction they sponsored for the department brought in significant funds.

All of this activity did not go unnoticed. The Silver Level Chapter Honors will be presented at the NSSLHA Honors Ceremony at the Annual Convention of the association in November 2014.



Psi Iota Xi-NSSLHA mixer participants; Front Row left to right: Macey Nacarato, Anna Larnier, Laura Chianakas, Louella Bradley, Barb Turcott, Sandy Thompson; Second Row: Kaye Robison, Kathy Johnson, Ann Tyler; Back Row: Hanna Lasky, Joe Kilpatrick, Laura Rusk Jerks, Ashlyn Cox



# College reveals proposal for Serenity Park on its grounds

The College of Health and Human Services is committed to providing exceptional education experiences, enhancing diversity, promoting health and a climate of inclusion, and maximizing the use of resources to enhance sustainability within the college and community. The proposed Serenity Park will be an expression of those commitments.

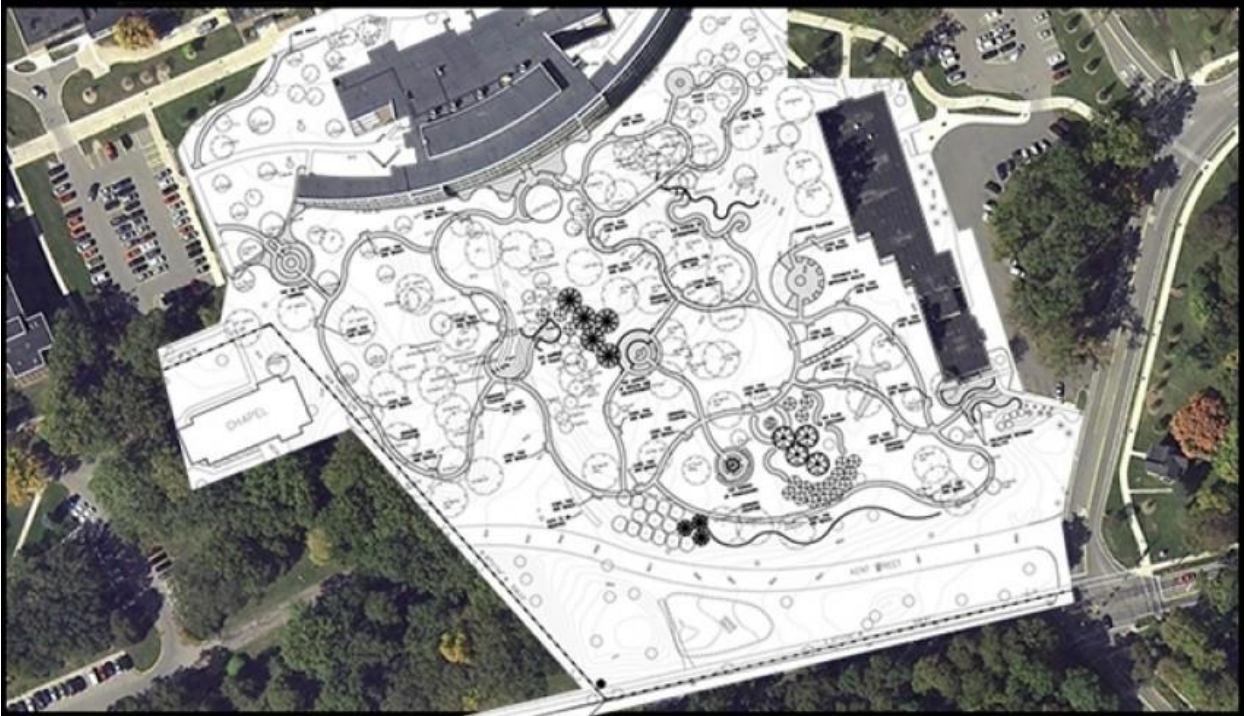
It will serve as an outdoor classroom and learning experience for students in all of the health and human services disciplines and throughout the campus and beyond. The walking path and themed garden spaces will promote the healthy, calming and healing influences of nature, while engendering an appreciation of the outdoors as a safe place for persons of all abilities to explore.

Texture, sound and scent will be carefully cultivated to create diverse sensory experiences. Unique way-finding methods such as cell phone technology, wind chimes and waterfalls will assist in orientation. All elements of the park—including steps, paths and benches—will be constructed to accommodate varied levels of mobility, and many will serve therapeutic purposes.

Donations will make the addition of these elements possible.

To learn more about Serenity Park and how you can support it, visit [MyWMU.com/serenitypark](https://mywmu.com/serenitypark).





# Alumni return to present at a public forum and join Outstanding Alumni Academy

On Friday, Oct. 24, nine College of Health and Human Services graduates returned to join the college's [Outstanding Alumni Academy](#) and to share their experience and expertise. At 1 p.m. in room 1010, academy inductees presented and served as respondents at a public forum and conversational exchange on the importance of interprofessionalism in creating effective public policy and improved health and human services provision—and outcomes—in all areas of society.

Interprofessionalism is a core tenet of the [College of Health and Human Services Strategic Plan](#) and the variety of professions represented by the 2014 slate provided for a broad and interprofessional perspective in relation to those topics. Outstanding alumni spoke about an instance in their careers in which working interprofessionally was essential to accomplishing a goal and shared lessons learned from that experience. This was followed by an open discussion among alumni and attendees.

At 4 p.m., constituents gathered for the Outstanding Alumni Academy induction, program and reception in room 4010. Dean Earlie Washington welcomed attendees, with Graduate College Dean Susan Stapleton and Development and Alumni Relations Engagement Manager Kyle Herm adding their comments. Program leaders introduced their inductees, who each accepted a certificate and award and shared the memories, meaning and value of their educational experience with the College of Health and Human Services. Alumni continued the celebration as guests of WMU Development and Alumni Relations at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Reception in the East Ballroom of Bernhard Center.





Dean Washington delivers the welcome at Outstanding Alumni event.



Alumni panel presents at forum.

## ***Ireland study abroad leads to OT international exchange***

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In early September, Drs. Mary Hannon-Fletcher, head of school, and Patricia McClure, associate head of school, along with six occupational therapy students from the University of Ulster, Jordanstown, Northern Ireland, spent a week at WMU, visiting College of Health and Human Services classrooms and various clinics. The visit was an extension of a long-standing partnership; over the past eight years Department of Occupational Therapy Associate Professor Dr. Maureen Mickus has coordinated a faculty-led study abroad in Ireland program for over 200 WMU students. As part of this experience, WMU students attend University of Ulster classes and participate in clinical placements throughout greater Belfast. Future plans for the partnership include shared courses between the two occupational therapy programs and continued exchanges.



*Visiting University of Ulster students pause to pose.*

*Clockwise starting at upper left: Visitor Dr. Patricia McClure, OT Chair Dr. Ben Atchison, Dr. Maureen Mickus, Dean Dr. Earlie Washington, visitor Dr. Mary Hannon-Fletcher*

## ***New, innovative offerings and options enhance academic programs***

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### **4 + 3 Accelerated Audiology Doctoral Degree Program**

The audiology concentration within the Bachelor of Science degree in interdisciplinary health sciences will allow students to enter the doctoral degree program through an accelerated graduate degree program option specifically designed for audiology. Students can double-count 12 credit hours of coursework in both undergraduate and graduate degrees under the accelerated graduate degree option. This allows a student to complete both degrees in seven years rather than eight. More information can be found on the [Web](#).

## Social Work Specialization: Trauma Across the Lifespan

A new trauma practice across the life span specialization in the master's degree program in social work will prepare WMU students for work involving people who have experienced trauma throughout their lives. The program is consistent with the School of Social Work's mission to educate social workers to advocate for social and economic justice and the well-being of all people. Contacts for the program are Dr. Karen VanDeusen, [karen.vandeusen@wmich.edu](mailto:karen.vandeusen@wmich.edu) and Dr. Ineke Way, [ineke.way@wmich.edu](mailto:ineke.way@wmich.edu).

## Health Informatics and Information Technology

Approved in early 2012, the multidisciplinary health informatics and information management program (Hiim) continues to grow. Bronson School of Nursing faculty member Dr. Sharie Falan and Bernard Han, professor of business information systems in the WMU Haworth College of Business designed and co-direct the program. It was developed to meet the rise in demand for health care information professionals in health care and related industries. With a major and minor available, Hiim graduates are specialists in managing medical records and coding information for reimbursement and research in a variety of health care settings. More information can be on the [Web](#).

# *Dean presents annual awards and state of the college address*

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Dean Earlie Washington's state of the college address on Friday Dec. 5, 2014 confirmed that the WMU College of Health and Human Services continues to be not only well and healthy, but thriving. She noted that even in the face of challenges over the past several years, our response was not to reduce or shrink but to sustain and grow. She then covered data that showed a steady increase in student enrollment, credit hour production, academic programming and access to it, and research productivity over the past five years.

Along with quality, highly ranked academic programs, Dean Washington noted that excellent faculty and staff are essential to the college's health and success. At the 2014 Faculty and Staff Awards Celebration that followed her address, the faculty and staff members pictured below—with stories—were feted and presented with awards. Learn more about the awards and their criteria at [www.wmich.edu/hhs/about/awards](http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/about/awards).



**Kathy Gerow,**  
Outstanding  
Customer Service  
Award



**Tracy Young,**  
Professional Instructor  
Teaching Excellence  
Award



**Richard Long,**  
Research Excellence  
Award



**Diane Durette,**  
Scholarship  
Excellence Award



**Mary Stahl,** Faculty  
Teaching Excellence  
Award

# Interdisciplinary health sciences conference presents research and awards

The 2014 biennial Interdisciplinary Doctoral Research Conference was held on Friday, July 25 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Health and Human Services Building. The conference, which originated in 2004, provides a venue for interdisciplinary health sciences doctoral students who have completed the required academic course sequence to make formal presentations on their research practicum studies. The student whose presentation is judged the strongest by a panel of judges receives the Pisaneschi Prize for the Best Scientific Presentation. Current students and alumni are also invited to present posters on any aspect of their research, and they are eligible to receive the R.C. Wardley Award for the Best Scientific Poster.

This year's Pisaneschi Prize was awarded to Josh Scott, a third year doctoral student and occupational research consultant for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for his talk "Variation in Wildland Firefighter Hazardous Carbon Monoxide Exposure by Fuel Model, Fire Activity and Region." Among its impacts, this research has the potential to significantly influence work place practices and administrative controls that would reduce hazardous exposures for wildland firefighters. The 2014 R.C. Wardley Award was presented to Jennifer Harrison, third year doctoral student and School of Social Work faculty member, for her co-authored poster "Maternal Ethnicity, Age, and Income Characteristics Associated with Breastfeeding." Implications of this research include the development of culturally humble and stakeholder-led breastfeeding education and promotion to younger and poorer mothers.





Left to right back row: Kieran Fogarty, Kirk VanderMolen, Jennifer Harrison, Ed Roth, Berta Griffin-Stover, Raju Chowdhary Left to right front row: Nicole Bradford, Anne Riddering, Molly Bathje, Sharon Long, Monica Kwasnik, Josh Scott, Amy Curtis and Nicki Nelson.

## OT professor to receive national honor



Congratulations to Department of Occupational Therapy Professor Debra Lindstrom, Ph.D., who has been chosen to receive the American Occupational Therapy Association's Roster of Fellows Award at that organization's 2015 Annual Conference and Expo in Nashville, Tenn. on Saturday, April 18.

The Roster of Fellows recognizes members of the association, who with their knowledge and expertise, have made a significant contribution to the continuing education and professional development of members of the Association. In particular, Lindstrom will be recognized for her contributions as a clinical reasoning champion, educator, researcher, mentor and advocate.

In announcing her honor, Department of Occupational Therapy Chair Dr. Ben Atchison said, “Dr. Lindstrom has a consistent pattern of creating innovative teaching and learning opportunities for her students. She is deeply committed to the professional development of her students as well as her colleagues. This is clear by her willingness to take time and effort to mentor and consult in many different venues.”

Nominators noted that Lindstrom has successfully moved from problem-based learning, to case-based learning, to team-based learning into her classes. She works to keep students actively engaged and striving for excellence as they complete unique and relevant assignments and activities. Lindstrom’s research topics span from work/ergonomics and clinical reasoning to psychometric properties of commonly used assessment instruments, and she has mentored more than 25 students, faculty and alumni in research.

Many of her considerable contributions in the area of advocacy have been with and through AARP, including co-creating and developing a program based on the AARP Home Fit Guide. The program helps older adults understand what they need to do to stay safely in their homes as long as they can and wish to do so. Due in great part to Lindstrom’s work, Michigan is now seen as one of the leaders in AARP in Livable Communities, and the programs have spread to other states. In addition, Home Fit has become the foundation for many new ventures, such as CarFit, a program sponsored by AAA, AARP, and AOTA that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles fit them.

Through these and other efforts, Lindstrom has not only advocated for recipients of OT services, but has served also as an advocate for the OT profession. Says a nominator, “Every participant in a Home Fit event... has a better understanding of what occupational therapy is, and what an OT can do...because the program is presented by an OT.”



# Clinic optometrist honored as fellow



Unified Clinics optometrist Dr. Matthew Johnson has achieved the prestigious fellowship accreditation “FAAO” recognizing him as a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. This designation signifies that Johnson has met rigorous qualifications involving presenting written and oral case studies, being evaluated through interviews and clinical assessment, and meeting the highest educational and licensure standards.

Johnson instructs graduate students in blindness and low vision and provides comprehensive low vision optometric care through the Vision Clinic at WMU’s Unified Clinics. In 2011, he was recognized as Young Optometrist of the Year.

## Enrollment Management

- [New director of admissions named](#)
- [Tau Sigma chapter installed, new members inducted](#)
- [New online feedback form](#)
- [Awarding aid to students with immediate need](#)
- [Lil' Purple Backpack Resource Guide](#)
- [First-Year Seminar technology](#)

Lee Honors College

- [6 receive Inspired Learning Grants through the Learning Network of Greater Kalamazoo](#)
- [Call for posters for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Racial Healing Symposium](#)
- [Alpha Lambda Delta and Advisor Anthony Helms earn recognition](#)
- [WMU's Alpha Lambda Delta chapter wins award for the ninth straight year](#)

# 6 receive Inspired Learning Grants through the Learning Network of Greater Kalamazoo

Updated Jan 8, 2015; Posted Jan 8, 2015

By [Julie Mack | jmack1@mlive.com](#)

**KALAMAZOO, MI** – Five individuals have been awarded \$2,500 Inspired Learning grants and one person will receive a \$1,000 grant from the [Learning Network of Greater Kalamazoo](#) and the [Kalamazoo Community Foundation](#), the organizations announced today.

"While the Inspired Learning grants program was designed to award four grants, there were many worthy ideas," said Amy Slancik, The Learning Network director at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, said in a press release. "We added two additional grants and wish we could have done even more!"

The \$2,500 grants were awarded to:

- **Jane Baas**
- **Binney Girdler**
- **Kandace Lavender**
- **Francesca Pileci-Bates**
- **Katelan Schoen**

The \$1,000 grant went to [Laura Henderson](#) for the Big Dreams project and Youth Led Creative Justice.

The Learning Network of Greater Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo Community Foundation kicked off the Inspired Learning grants program in October to empower local educators to launch innovative learning ideas.

To apply, educators needed to upload to the program's Facebook page a short video explaining their idea. From Dec. 2-12, people could visit the page to vote for their favorite videos. Voting narrowed the submissions down to the [top 12 videos](#). Next, the panel of community leaders from Kalamazoo County selected the final four recipients of the grants. There were 44 submissions for grants and more than 13,700 votes were cast by the community.

# Invitation for Contributed Posters

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Racial Healing Symposium

March 20, 2014 Fetzer Center

In 2012, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded a Racial Healing planning grant to Western Michigan University. The goals of this planning grant are to: (1) deepen the commitment to diversity, inclusion and racial healing within the WMU campus community, (2) address health disparities and equity in the communities of west Michigan and (3) expand WMU's role as a community leader in support of academic readiness and success from early childhood through college graduation, particularly among those from racially diverse, underserved communities in west Michigan.

The WKKF Racial Healing planning grant awarded to WMU is intended to support planning and pilot activities that will build capacity for sustained, future activities, related to the goals described above. The Racial Healing planning grant period ends April 30, 2015. It is anticipated that a consortium of WMU faculty and staff will apply to WKKF for an implementation grant, based on the outcomes of the planning period activities. Posters are invited from anyone interested in participating in future Racial Healing initiatives.

Deadline to Respond: February 1, 2015 Selections Announced: February 16, 2015

Submission Requirements: • Short description of project (750 word maximum). Please describe how this project relates to one or more of the WKKF Racial Healing Planning grant goals.

Poster Information: • Posters must be set up between 8 and 9 am on March 20. Posters will be on display until 5 pm. • Poster presenters must be present from 12-1 pm. • Presenters are responsible for poster printing costs and logistics. • Poster guidelines will be sent to all accepted presenters on

February 16. • Poster presenters will be required to submit a PDF of their poster for distribution on or before March 20.

Information About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The following information is taken from [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org). Please visit this site for more information. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer Wil Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

The foundation organizes their work and investments toward attaining three strategic goals:

- o Educated Kids: Increase the number of children who are reading-and-math proficient by third grade.
- o Healthy Kids: Increase the number of children born at a healthy birth weight and who receive the care and healthy food they need for optimal development.
- o Secure Families: Increase the number of children and families living at least 200 percent above the poverty level.

Within and around each goal are commitments to Community & Civic Engagement and Racial Equity – because both are necessary for communities to create the conditions under which all children can thrive.

- o WKKF Statement on Racial Healing: We believe that racial healing and racial equity are essential if we are going to accomplish our mission to support children, families and communities in creating and strengthening the conditions in which vulnerable children succeed. We actively support efforts to dismantle racial and structural inequities that limit opportunities and hold some children back.

For More Information • Contact Dr Carla Koretsky ([Carla.koretsky@wmich.edu](mailto:Carla.koretsky@wmich.edu)), Dean, Lee Honors College

University Libraries

- [Librarian Laurel Grotzinger celebrates 50 years with WMU](#)
- [ILS Implementation Kick Off \(New library system to benefit campus community\)](#)
- [Cool New Databases: Highlighting How New WMU Library Resources get to you](#)
- [Award Winning Conference Poster](#)



## ***Librarian Laurel Grotzinger celebrates 50 years with WMU***

*Thursday, January 15, 2015*

**She was presented with a crystal Bronco sculpture at a recent 25 year club event. University Libraries Dean Joe Reish congratulates her on the great accomplishment!**

She started her career teaching in the School of Library and Information Science, rising from assistant to full professor in just four years. Known for her research on women in librarianship she also became the school's director, chair of the Graduate Studies Council, Graduate College Dean, and president of the Faculty Senate among other positions.

"I've served under six of the University's eight presidents. But I tell people I started at WMU when I was in kindergarten," Grotzinger says with a laugh. "The University has obviously been my life in many ways and has always presented opportunities to grow and to learn."

She was also recently honored at University Libraries for her service. More on her career is in this news release in which another 50 year employee is also honored. [More](#)

*Friday, October 17, 2014*

# ILS Implementation Kick Off

**WMU Libraries will have a new integrated library system (ILS) in place for the University community for Fall 2015.**

Our decision to implement a new system was influenced by several factors, but primarily the ongoing explosion of information resources available in electronic formats and the needs of WMU students and faculty for comprehensive, intuitive, and highly effective search tools.

The new system was selected after a year-long effort to investigate student and faculty research expectations, document library requirements for managing current and future information sources, and match those factors to a new system. The investigation was chaired by Dean of University Libraries Joe Reish, directed by Library Systems Manager Keith Kelley, and involved numerous library employees.

The system we have selected is comprised of two interconnected, cloud-based components from the Ex Libris Group: a discovery tool ("**Primo**") that students, faculty and other researchers will use to find and access information resources, and a behind-the-scenes management system ("**Alma**") that library employees will use to purchase, catalog, track and circulate those resources. These services replace the current Voyager system that has been in use for over 15 years and was developed primarily to manage print books and journals. It has required a number of add-on components, custom programming and work-around practices to accommodate the increasingly diverse components of academic research.

## **Implementation of the new system has kicked off!**

The process will take several months as we transfer data, and configure, test and learn the new software. Both old and new systems will run in parallel through Summer 2015 to give faculty time to incorporate any changes into Fall 2015 courses.

When the new system is up and running, researchers will see a new discovery tool on the library web site, offering a one-stop, intuitive starting point. Undergraduates doing introductory research will benefit from this straightforward option, while advanced features will be available for more complex queries. The new system will consolidate the three current, overlapping search tools – PowerSearch, Books+ and Classic Catalog – into a single place to begin. Direct access to individual databases, such as JSTOR, PsycINFO and Web of Science, will continue to be available.

For library employees, the new system offers more efficient workflows and eliminates several redundant data management tasks. Streamlined practices will allow us to make more resources available faster and to put additional focus on value-added service to students and faculty.

## **Thanks ...**

We are grateful for the invaluable input from hundreds of University students, faculty and staff through surveys, focus groups and informal communication. This feedback told us about your experience with the

current system and desires for added functionality. We have had expert assistance from the University's Information Technology Office and the Office of Institutional Research to ensure the new system meets security, data, and service-level standards and will successfully integrate with other campus systems. Thank you to the Office of the Provost for funding and support for this project.

**For additional information, please contact:**

Ann Lindsay, Integrated Library Systems Project Manager -- ann.lindsay [at] wmich.edu

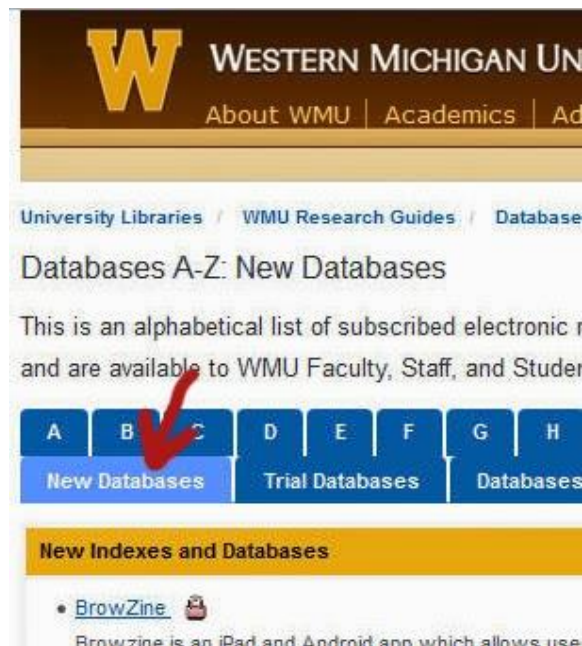
or

May Chang, Associate Dean of Libraries Information Technology -- may.chang [at] wmich.edu

## ***Cool New Databases:***

### **Highlighting How New WMU Library Resources get to you**

*Thursday, January 15, 2015*



The University Libraries provides access to hundreds of database and thousands of online journals, newspapers, e-books, streaming music and videos, and more for WMU students, faculty, and staff. The Libraries' collection, which you search from the home page, is continually updated with new electronic resources that support the WMU curriculum. The Electronic Resources and Serials Unit within the Technical Services Department coordinates the acquisition, management, and payment for these resources. Many library professionals help make them findable, searchable, and usable for the WMU community.

Recently the University Libraries have arranged for access to Privco, a private company information database; a physics e-book collection; Rock'sBackPages, a database of articles on popular music; and the World Cinema Collection, a streaming video database highlighting films from all over the globe.

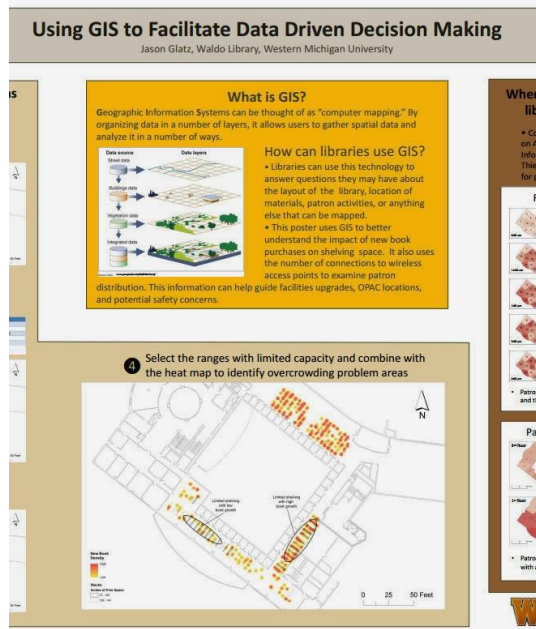
A list of the new databases, including a fuller description and a link to the resource added to the collection



is at: [http://libguides.wmich.edu/AZ\\_Resources/New\\_Databases](http://libguides.wmich.edu/AZ_Resources/New_Databases) or from the Library home page click on Databases A-Z, then click on New Databases for the newest acquisitions.

*Tuesday, February 3, 2015*

# Award Winning Conference Poster



Jason Glatz, maps coordinator and a specialist in GIS at University Libraries won a bronze medal at the Association of Research Libraries conference for a research poster titled "[Using GIS to Facilitate Data-Driven Decision Making](#)." Follow this link to see the entire research poster. It demonstrates how data can be mapped to gain insight into an issue.

Glatz also heads the mapping service at Waldo Library Maps Room where the WMU community can have spatial data from their research conveyed in maps by a GIS specialist at no cost.