Special education major reflects on studying abroad in Europe

I remember being at freshman orientation, sitting in a meeting where a woman stood in front of a large crowded room full of nervous freshman wanting to learn more about the education programs at Western Michigan University. I was excited to hear all about the education programs, but I wasn’t just a typical education major. I was interested in the Special Education Program. The woman spoke about the College of Education requirements and handed out a list of classes we would need to take. I remember looking at the list and thinking, “Where are all the special education classes?” Just then, the woman began discussing more about what the Special Education Program at WMU offered. She discussed the requirements, and then proceeded to explain that Special Education majors are required to do an extra internship compared to general education majors. I thought to myself, “Do I really want to do two internships?” She also mentioned that Special Education majors are offered the option to do their Special Education internship teaching on a U.S. Military base in Heidelberg, Germany. Immediately, I knew that I was in the right major and at the right University.

Four years later, I was a fourth year senior and it was time to start filling out my student teaching applications for the following year. I was so excited about the opportunity to teach overseas! I was full of emotions; scared, nervous, excited, and really couldn’t believe that I was almost done with college!

A year later, I had completed my Early Childhood, General Education, and my Special Education internships. Each internship allowed me to gain valuable knowledge to use in my classroom. However, studying abroad in Germany not only taught me ways to prepare myself to become an effective teacher, but I learned more about myself as a person and a lot more about the world!

Studying abroad allowed me to experience things that I would never imagine I would ever do, from skiing in the Swiss and French Alps, to climbing castles in Ireland, and wine tasting in Tuscany. I got to meet people from all over the world, and experience many different cultures that are right outside the back door of Germany. I also got to experience the “military lifestyle”, and being a teacher for the Department of Defense School System. All opportunities were new to me and taught me a lot about myself and helped me think about my future in teaching. Studying abroad was an experience of a lifetime, and I would highly recommend it for anyone!

HESA students win national case study competition

Four master’s students in the Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership program within the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology won 1st place in the 12th Annual Virtual Case Study Competition from The Journal of Technology in Student Affairs. Meredith Atchison, Emily Lott, Kira Dow and Jaclyn Rivard (pictured below) presented on the topic of using social media in student affairs. Congratulations!

The teams presentation can be viewed at http://studentaffairs.com/ejournal/Spring_2013/
Interim Dean’s Message:

It has been five months since I was appointed to serve as your Interim Dean of the College of Education and Human Development. During this time, I have met with the entire faculty in each of the six departments, and had the opportunity on numerous occasions, to talk with faculty, staff, alumni, and donors on an individual basis. Notwithstanding, I feel there has never been enough time to talk with you about the important work that you do, how you contribute to this great College and WMU, and your aspirations to add even greater value in the upcoming future. I continue to meet and talk with undergraduate and graduate students about the college and their educational experiences.

As I reflect upon these conversations, I come away increasingly uplifted by the expertise, professionalism, and enthusiasm you bring to this university, the student body, and various university-related initiatives. I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity to work with such outstanding faculty, staff, alumni, donors and student body.

It is an exciting time to be a part of the College of Education and Human Development at WMU. The new Sangren Hall has added an additional burst of energy and excitement to teaching, learning, and collegial discourse between faculty and students and student-to-student interactions. We are about to reactivate our strategic planning efforts. This event is extremely important as we begin to determine how the CoEHD will look over the next three to five years. This work is extremely important as we continue to grapple with an unpredictable economy and fluctuating student enrollment. The feedback we received from the faculty and staff who participated in the beginning stages of our strategic planning efforts was very valuable in helping to create a framework that will help to expedite this process in the months to follow. Taskforce 21 subcommittees are finalizing their reviews and forwarding their recommendations to the Executive Committee for review. I have been listening to the conversations of many individuals who served on the various subcommittees, and am very excited about the potential this work will have on improving teaching and learning within the CoEHD. The Ad Hoc Technology Visioning Committee is busily at work putting together a comprehensive technology plan, with an accompanying professional development program, that will support teaching and learning, as well as equip faculty to use technology to support learning and instructional collaboration between students and faculty. To all of the faculty and staff and alumni who are participating in these three endeavors, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to you for the work that you are doing to support a milieu that enhance teaching, learning and research. Your continued support makes a big difference to the College of Education and Human Development.

Undergraduate Dietetics Majors Engaged in Service Learning

A goal of the dietetics program at WMU is to aid students in developing the professional skills that post-graduate dietetic internship programs and entry-level positions will require. For this purpose, the Dietetic Community Service Program (DCSP) a service learning program for dietetic students was established in 2001 in collaboration with the Southwest Michigan District Dietetic Association. DCSP is a student-run organization that is mentored by one of the full-time dietetics faculty members. In 2011-12, 46 dietetics majors participated in DCSP. Each student committed to volunteering at least 3 hours per week. Many thanks to the following facilities that provided hands on experiential learning opportunities for our students:

- Borgess Medical Center
- Borgess Diabetes Center
- Senior Services
- The Fountains at Bronson
- Tendercare Nursing Home
- Battle Creek VA Hospital
- Alamo Nursing Home
- Borgess Gardens
- West Michigan Cancer Center
- Helen Devos Children’s Hospital
- Family Health Center WIC
- Loaves and Fishes
- Heartland Health Care Center

The Student Dietetic Association (SDA) had a busy year packed with a variety of service learning activities. Members participated in the Ultimate Family Reunion which took place in Spring Valley Park in Kalamazoo. This is an annual event hosted by Mothers of Hope, a group that supports drug and alcohol abusers. SDA members organized a booth and provided healthy eating/chronic disease prevention tips through printed information and discussion with event participants.

SDA continued its bi-monthly service project at the Kalamazoo Friends Meeting House (Quaker) where they prepared and served nutritious meals for church members and their families. The church is active in keeping children in school.
Health education students are model ambassadors of WMU at National Conference

At the recently concluded conference of the American School Health Association (ASHA) in San Antonio, six health education students were lauded for their representation of WMU and their presentation of an evaluation project in a poster presentation titled, Breathe Easy Broncos: Tobacco Free Policy Study on WMU Campuses.

The six student members of the WMU Gamma Mu chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma attended the 86th Conference of The American School Health Association between October 10 and 13, 2012. They were 6 of over 100 students and over 1000 members of ASHA at the conference. Accompanied by Dr. Amos Aduroja, the students attended networking and professional development sessions in health education. Sessions attended provided updated information in the area of education, service and research in the field of health education. WMU students presented a poster presentation on an evaluation project they conducted on WMU students’ attitudes towards proposing a tobacco-free policy on campus. The study indicates an overwhelmingly accepting attitude to the proposal of tobacco-free policy on campus. Lauded by participants, many conference attendees asked if they could replicate the study on their campuses.

Students in attendance expressed having fun as they networked with professors, health professionals and students from around the country. In attendance were: Katie Rietkerk, Katie McDonald, Kirsten Henry, Katie Douglas, Ann Mergel and Katie Cowdery.

Graduate student’s research to be published

The research paper completed by a graduate student in special (adapted) physical education, Andrew M. Colombo-Dougovito, was accepted to be published in the 2013 issue of a nationally recognized peer-reviewed journal, The Physical Educator. This research paper is titled Comparison of Physical Fitness Performance between Elementary-Age Students with and without Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Andrew completed this research paper while he took the course HPHE 7100 - Independent Study under the direction of Dr. Jiabei Zhang, a professor in special (adapted) physical education, in the summer of 2011.

Interior design students collaborate to redesign Kanley Chapel

As the junior interior design students returned to the fall 2012 semester, their first studio project was a collaborative effort with WMU’s Kanley Chapel. Chris Sligh, Director, Student Activities and Leadership Programs, asked the Junior class to design an environment that was inviting for students of all faiths to come to study, participate in bible studies and many other individual and group activities. Sligh wanted the program rooms to be flexible to meet the needs of the different activities that take place throughout the day. The students were to consider acoustics, storage and style to improve the function of the space. This project is the first time many of these students have used their education outside of the classroom environment. The students successfully demonstrated many skills they have learned in the interior design program. In three weeks, the fourteen students prepared design concepts, space plans, perspective drawings, color renderings, and construction documents. They selected furniture and finish materials and presented their solutions to the Kanley Chapel staff. The project is now complete in the classroom, but a team of students will continue to work with Sligh in the Design Development phase, to finalize a solution that can be implemented through WMU’s Facilities Management office.

Outstanding graduate assistant award

The National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) Mid-America Region recognized educational leadership—higher education and student affairs leadership second year master’s student, Emily Lott, as the 2011-2012 Outstanding Graduate Assistant. Emily received her award at the annual regional convention held in Grand Rapids. Emily holds a graduate assistantship (GA) at Kalamazoo College in Student Activities. The Outstanding Graduate Student Assistant award recognizes a student within a higher education graduate program who has made substantial contributions to the NACA® Mid-America region, while continuing to maintain his/her responsibilities to the institution and program board that they advise. This student must demonstrate the desire to pursue a career in student affairs.

Educational leadership graduate students published

Three doctoral students in educational leadership: Izumi Musashi who graduated in December and Jiangang Xia, and Xingyuan Gao who are current doctoral students—have one journal article and two book chapters in press, and three papers accepted for presentation at the 2013 AERA conference.


CECP doctoral students win award
Angela Garrison and Brian Littleton, doctoral students in counselor education and counseling psychology, have been selected as recipients of the 2012 American Psychological Association (APA) Dissertation Research Award. The APA Dissertation Research Award Program is intended to encourage excellence in dissertation research in psychological science by assisting science-oriented doctoral students with research costs. The award of $1,000 is to be used to help offset their dissertation research costs. Brian’s dissertation is titled African American Men’s Health: Regulating Race-Related Stress through Cognitive Flexibility. Angela’s dissertation is titled Testing a Model of Maladaptive Perfectionism and Depressive Symptoms: The Roles of Emotional Disclosure, Emotion Regulation Strategies, Adult Attachment, and Shame.

Special education interns teach in Germany
For the past 15 years, special education students have had the unique opportunity to teach overseas in Germany during their special education internship. Interns spend 15 weeks teaching while experiencing the European culture. The interns live on an American military base and the student population consists primarily of American military children. This will be the last year interns will be teaching in Heidelberg, Germany since the base is closing due to the withdrawal of American troops from Europe. Dr. Elizabeth Whitten, coordinator of special education study abroad, has begun the process of finding new placements throughout Germany for the coming years. You can visit the study abroad homepage for more details on the program.

Pictured are Caitlin Goike, Julie King, Samantha Evasic, Hope Hooton and Shannon Keizer in front of the Heidelberg Castle.

Phi Epsilon Kappa spring initiation
The local chapter of Phi Epsilon Kappa (National Honorary Fraternity for physical education, exercise science, recreation, health and sport management) conducted their Spring Initiation on Sunday, February 10th in the Student Recreation Center. The following new members were inducted: Ben Hinz, Ben Conklin, Tray Crusciel, Monica Toso, Kimberly Turner, Brianna Fielder, Michael Potrykus, Shannon Corcoran, Jenny Kubik and Jeremiah Wakeman. The Epsilon Alpha Chapter is led by Jason Schut (President), Stephanie Henderson (Vice-President), Robert Keller (Secretary), Carly Kirkpatrick (Treasurer), Wil Jackson (WSA Rep), Tyler Boyd (Historian) and Dr. Deb Berkley (Faculty Adviser).

Teacher of the month award
Special education graduate, Ben Hill recently received the Kansas Unified School District Teacher of the Month Award at Lincoln Elementary School for his outstanding achievements in special education teaching. The USD 480/Chamber of Commerce said this about Ben: “Mr. Hill is extremely positive and energetic. He is a team player and shows great consideration to students, staff and parents. Mr. Hill finds or creates lessons and activities to interest each student while expecting the student to participate and be responsible for his/her own learning. He pushes students to be the best student, person and citizen they can be. Congratulations, Mr. Hill!!”

Outstanding Student Business Education Award 2012
Adam Zavislak, recent CTE graduate, received the Outstanding Student Business Educator Award for the state of MI which was presented November 2012 at the Michigan Business Educators’ Association state convention in East Lansing. Adam was nominated by Mr. Shawn Veenstra, Adam’s mentor teacher at Wyoming Park High School, Grand Rapids. Adam is currently teaching career and technology classes at Riverside Middle School, Grand Rapids Public Schools. Pictured is Adam Zabvislak receiving his award with Linda L. Powell, WMU’s CTE Intern Coordinator.

CTE business grad a success
LaSalle Middle School, South Bend, is one of only eight schools in Indiana to receive The National Blue Ribbon School Award for 2012. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and non-public elementary, middle and high schools whose students achieve at very high levels or have made significant progress and helped close gaps in achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students. The program is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. Justin McDonald, 2010 CTE graduate, runs the $400,000 Tech Lab.

2012 FCS Presidential Scholar
Elizabeth Quemada, 2012 dietetics graduate, was chosen as the Presidential Scholar (2011-2012) for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Pictured from left to right are Dr. John Dunn (WMU President), Elizabeth Quemada (FCS
Secondary education assistant professor wins award

Jeffrey Jones, assistant professor, secondary education was recently recognized with the Emerging Scholar Award from the American Educational Research Association's Out-of-School-Time Special Interest Group. Dr. Jones is currently serving as program chair for the OST group for this year's research conference.

New faculty member has article published

Selena Protacio, the newest faculty member in literacy studies, had an article published last semester in the September issue of The Reading Teacher, entitled “Reading motivation: A focus on English learners.” In this article, Protacio used data from her interview study with six English Language Learners (ELLs) from diverse ethnic and linguistic backgrounds to provide teachers with ideas about what factors to consider when trying to motivate ELLs to read in English. Protacio also gave two presentations at the 2012 MITESOL Conference in October in Livonia, MI. Protacio, along with three colleagues from Michigan State University, presented their research on a team-training professional development model involving content-area teachers and ESL specialists from two urban schools in Michigan. Protacio then had a solo presentation wherein she discussed the results of her mixed-methods research on ELL reading motivation and provided classroom implications based on this study.

Burt appointed to REL Midwest Board

Walter L. Burt, interim dean, was recently re-appointed to serve a two-year term on REL Midwest Board of Directors. REL Midwest is part of a network of ten regional educational laboratories funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

University/district partnership to investigate use of virtual reality

In partnership with Constantine Public Schools, Lawton Public Schools, Mattawan Public Schools, Otsego Public Schools, Parchment Public Schools, Paw Paw Public Schools, and Vicksburg Public Schools, Western Michigan University was awarded a grant from the Competition for Innovative National Study on Teacher Practice. Special education’s Dr. Elizabeth Whitten will investigate the use of virtual reality to change teacher practice and student achievement. Ten sites across the country will participate in a national research project led by the University of Central Florida using TeachLive™, a computer-simulated classroom based in mixed-reality technology to develop teacher practice. Western Michigan University was chosen because of their innovative use of classroom simulation for teacher development. Their work is at the cutting edge of teacher education. At Western Michigan University, the use of the TeachLive™ simulator helps practicing teachers retool their skills. The simulator is a mixed-reality teaching environment that supports teacher practice in pedagogy and content. In the TeachLive™ Lab, pre-service and in-service teachers walk into a simulated middle-school classroom where the room is real but the students are digital avatars, allowing teachers to practice their skills on virtual children instead of actual students. The focus of the research study is on practicing teachers and their personalized professional development and how the virtual environment could be used to change teacher behaviors to positively impact student learning.

Special education’s chair published

Dr. Daniel Morgan, chair of the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies, has a new book published. The second edition of The Tough Kid Principal’s Briefcase was published by Pacific Northwest Publishing; authors William R. Jenson, Ginger Rhode, Cal Evans, and Daniel Morgan. The Tough Kid Principal’s Briefcase takes the most current research on supporting school wide and individual student behavior and translates it into a concise, practical guide.

Spybrook to conduct half-day workshop

Jessaca Spybrook, assistant professor of educational leadership, research and technology, will be conducting a half-day workshop entitled Optimal Design Plus Empirical Evidence at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness in March. Jessaca is a co-author of the Optimal Design software and documentation that will be featured in the workshop.
Spybrook awarded $27,000 contract

Jessaca Spybrook, assistant professor in evaluation, measurement and research, was recently awarded a $27,000 contract from the University of Chicago. The contract is part of a grant from the William T. Grant Foundation. The purpose of the project is to improve studies of the impact of group level interventions on program quality and youth outcomes. Professor Spybrook’s primary role is the development and support of the Optimal Design Software, a program for calculating statistical power for single level and multilevel studies.

Professor published in The Family Journal

Dr. Carla Adkison-Bradley, professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, had a paper published in the October 2012 issue of The Family Journal on Postadoption Services Utilization Among African American, Transracial, and White American Parents: Counseling and Legal Implications. The study explored the extent of the use of nonfinancial support services (e.g., participation in support groups or individual/family counseling) by African American, transracial, and White American adoptive families. Implications for family counselors are discussed.

Counseling Psychology team published in Aging and Mental Health

Dr. Jody Tomko, Professor and Dr. Patrick Munley, Chair of the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, have published a research paper in Aging & Mental Health. The article is on predicting counseling psychologists attitudes and clinical judgments with respect to older adults. Dr. Tomko is a graduate of the counseling psychology doctoral program and the research is based on her dissertation under the supervision of Dr. Munley. Currently Dr. Tomko is employed as a psychologist with the VA Pittsburgh Health Care System.

Online Nutrition Behavior Change System reaches 1,000,000th WIC client

On June 8, 2012 wichealth.org reached a major milestone. The 1,000,000th client lesson was completed by a participant associated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). One million lessons in just 10 years. At present pace, wichealth.org is expected to reach the next million mark in a little over 2.3 years.

“This is a really exciting accomplishment,” said Director Robert Bensley, a professor of Community Health Education at Western Michigan University. “To reach 1,000,000 clients in any environment, especially one associated with behavior change, is an accomplishment few projects ever reach.”

Originally developed in partnership with the six Midwest region states, wichealth.org focuses on parent-child feeding behavior as part of the nutrition education component of the WIC program. This robust behavior change system is now being used in agencies located in 19 states across the country. Many agencies use the program as their primary form of secondary nutrition education contact. According to Jason Rivas, Creative and Technical Director for the project, “Our state partners have been extremely supportive in pursuing our visions. We truly have a unique working relationship with our funders.” Wichealth.org is based on the eHealth Behavior Management Model developed by Bensley, and uses unique tailoring techniques to provide individualized behavior change education to WIC clients across numerous parent-child feeding behaviors. Starting its 11th year, wichealth.org has consistently been found to be highly successful among WIC clients, especially in terms of impacting client beliefs associated with their likelihood to enhance parent-child feeding behaviors. To learn more about this initiative, visit www.joinwichealth.org.

Special education co-hosts Family Disability Resource Day

The 3rd Annual Family Disability Resource Day was held in October at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Kalamazoo. This was a co-sponsored event with the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies and Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Dr. Luchara Wallace coordinated the event. Workshops included: early childhood development featuring the KidBuilders curriculum; the Michigan Merit Curriculum and the differences between the certificate of completion and diploma; self-advocacy in higher education and the workplace; and the connection between health, nutrition, and exercise for individuals with disabilities. Following the workshops, a resource fair was held during lunch. Lunch was sponsored by Park Street Market and the People’s Food Co-op. WMU SCEC (Student Council for Exceptional Children) provided child/respite care for participants who needed it. This was a free community event and will remain so because of the wonderful partnerships with community organizations, local businesses, student groups, and the university.

Family studies faculty present at symposium

Family studies faculty members Bryce Dickey, Linda Dove, Dr. John McElroy and Dr. Karen Blaisure presented a symposium entitled, “Function and value of advisory boards for academic programs” at the annual conference of the National Council of Family Relations in Phoenix, AZ in early November.
Athletic training program reaccredited

The Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program received re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Athletic Training Education (CAATE) for 10 years.

FCS faculty member appointed to CFLE Board

Bryce Dickey, family studies faculty specialist II, has been elected to a three-year term on the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) Advisory Board. This board develops and implements policies regarding the promotion and advancement of the profession of family life education and the CFLE program at the National Council on Family Relations. Western Michigan University is the only institution of higher education in the state of Michigan to have approved CFLE programs at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Nelson presents paper in Bali

Regena Fails Nelson, interim chair of teaching, learning and educational studies, presented a paper titled: The Use of Video as a Reflective Tool in Early Childhood Teacher Preparation at the annual Education and E-Learning Conference in Bali, Indonesia in September.

Secondary education professor presents in Spain

Dr. Tetyana Koshmanova, professor in secondary education, presented at the 2012 European Conference on Educational Research held in Cadiz, Spain in September. The intent of this conference was to promote the need for educational research to champion freedom, education, and development for all. Dr. Koshmanova presented her mixed-method study titled, “Teaching Cultural Diversity of Ukrainian Teacher Candidates: Research Evidence that Matters.” Several months earlier, Dr. Koshmanova was featured as a guest speaker at the International Conference on Professional Education in the Twenty First Century in Siberia, Russia where she identified factors of productive learning environment in teacher education classrooms for pre-service teacher self-development in the United States. Additionally, she presented her qualitative research titled, “Central Challenges and Prospects of Teaching Democratic Citizenship in the Emerging Civil Society” in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Dietetics program reaccredited

The undergraduate Didactic Program in Dietetics and the graduate Dietetics Internship program received re-accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) for 10 years.

Welcome New Faculty and Staff

Glenn Schrauben is the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology Office Manager

Nicole Leffler is an imaging specialist for the College of Education and Human Development

Tonya Dean is an office associate in the Office of Student Services

Lori Farrer is a faculty specialist, Early Childhood Education

Retirements

Marian Rosser, Office Coordinator for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, 37 years, effective June 30, 2013

Dr. Karen Thomas, professor of Literacy Studies, 18 years, effective December 31, 2013

Dr. Charles Warfield, associate professor of Educational Leadership, 40+ years, effective December 31, 2013

Dr. Paul Wilson, associate professor of Literacy Studies, 27 years, effective August 31, 2013
Ayers appointed to 21st-Century Student Initiative

Dr. Suzan Ayers, Associate Professor of Physical Education/Teacher Education, has been named Chair of the 21st-Century Student Initiative. This university-wide committee focuses on helping instructors and advisors better serve our millennial learners.

Outstanding Career and Technical Education research journal article award

Dr. Adam Manley, assistant professor in Career and Technical Education (CTE), recently received The Outstanding Career and Technical Education Research Journal Article Award. This is an award granted by the Association of CTE Research (ACTER). The journal is the top research journal in the CTE field. It is an honor bestowed to one individual each year.

Manley also had a research paper accepted by Youth Education and Employment in Russia and Abroad, a new journal that deals with emerging issues in CTE in Russia, where they are undergoing a major evolution in CTE; the research involves understanding how to teach career and employability skills to youth.

In addition, Manley also recently signed a data sharing agreement with the Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) housed at Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville. This involves helping analyze data related to the out-migration of high school graduates. Illinois ranks second regarding the number of high school graduates that leave the state to go to college elsewhere. They are trying to determine why this is occurring. Manley and colleagues have already submitted a research paper to AERA that analyzes some peripheral data.

Doctoral student and professor present

Dr. Dave Louis, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology, and doctoral student Scott Michel will be presenting at the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education (AABHE) in Atlanta this February. The presentation addresses the experiences of black and white faculty as they mentor students of other ethnicities. The presentation is an extension of their article entitled “Frantz Fanon ambivalence revisited in America’s faculty: Narratives of black and white faculty struggles with cross cultural mentoring” which was published in the Winter 2013 issue of the National Journal of Urban Education & Practice.

Allison Downey launches monthly storytelling segment

Allison Downey, associate professor of teaching, learning and educational studies, has launched a monthly storytelling segment to be aired on Michigan Radio’s daily talk show, “Stateside with Cynthia Canty”. The March segment will focus on St. Patrick’s Day and feature an Irish storyteller’s journey to becoming Irish-American in Michigan.

These segments are produced by independent media producer, Zak Rosen, and are an offshoot of their pilot one-hour radio show, “The Living Room.” Downey spent 2010-2011 on sabbatical in NYC researching contemporary storytelling formats. Below are links to past segments that resulted from her work.

Valentine’s Day show: http://www.michiganradio.org/post/stateside-stories-valentines-day

Link to The Living Room: http://www.michiganradio.org/post/living-room-explores-stories-migration


TLES professor published

Dr. Jill Hermann-Wilmarth, associate professor in teaching, learning and educational studies, has recently had an article published in Language Arts, Vol. 90, No. 3, January 2013. Likewise, there is a podcast of this conversation available at: http://www.ncta.org/la/podcasts.


Abstract: Two literacy leaders acknowledge the challenges of teaching LGBT issues in the classroom. While children come from a variety of family structures, it is necessary to acknowledge that a gay individual was once a child sitting in a classroom. An argument against marginalization and an advocacy for inclusion of all learners is discussed.

Graduate student and faculty member to present

Carl Westine (interdisciplinary program in evaluation graduate student) and Jessaca Spybrook (assistant professor of educational leadership, research and technology) will be presenting a paper at the upcoming meeting for the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness. The paper, “Improving the Design of Science Intervention Studies: An Empirical Investigation of Design Parameters for Planning Group Randomized Trials” is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.
We like to keep in touch with our Alumni. What’s new with you? Promotion? Marriage? Retirement? Whatever your achievement or accomplishment, we’d like to hear about it and post it in the class notes section of our quarterly newsletter.

Please send us information about address changes, career changes, recognitions received and other news you would like to share with your former classmates, friends, colleagues and professors in our class notes section. E-mail updates to jillian.grosscup@wmich.edu.

The College of Education and Human Development Newsletter is published for alumni, emeriti and friends of the College of Education and Human Development at Western Michigan University. If you would like more information about the programs in the CoEHD, have questions or suggestions, or if you have a submission for the newsletter, please contact:

Jillian Grosscup, Coordinator of Marketing and Communications I 1903 W. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5229 telephone: (269) 387-2971 I fax: (269) 387-2882

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Thank you for making a gift to the College of Education and Human Development. You can direct your gift to a specific department, program or scholarship or you can give an unrestricted gift that can be used where it is needed most. It’s up to you. If you like, you can call and discuss your interests or ideas. We’re happy to talk to you about where you would like to direct your gift.

Here are just a few ways that annual gifts have helped students:

• Providing funds for travel to professional conferences
• Helping to fund student teaching internships
• Supporting the general scholarship fund for the CoEHD (over $300,000 was awarded in scholarships last year)
• Funding student research projects

Here’s how to give:
http://www.wmich.edu/education/giving/index.html to donate online. If you prefer, you can use the form below.

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