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Haworth College of Business News (09/2016)

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HAWORTH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



COLLEGE TO HONOR ALUMNI

This year's award recipients include 15 leaders who are being recognized for their professional achievements and service.

[MEET THE RECIPIENTS](#)



HOMECOMING IS OCT. 8

Homecoming is Oct. 8, and the college is hosting a pancake breakfast during WMU's Official Pre-game Tailgate beginning at 1:30 p.m. Join the fun at the Haworth College of Business Tent.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



FROM FBI TO FREELANCE

Accountancy alumna Jane Rhodes Wolfe has a full spectrum of experience. From investigating terrorism, high-profile white collar crime and international criminal networks, to working as a consultant, Rhodes Wolfe has stories to tell.

[READ MORE](#)



PROMOTION CEREMONY

Brigadier General Rodney Faulk, B.B.A.'87, began his military training in WMU's ROTC and returned to campus for his promotion ceremony on June 26.

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- [Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Series](#)
- [Entrepreneurship Forum](#)
- [Distinguished Speaker Series](#)



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WMICH.EDU/BUSINESS

2016 Award Recipients

In 2016, Western Michigan University and the Haworth College of Business will honor alumni and industry partners with awards for outstanding leadership in business and service.

WMU Distinguished Alumni Award

James Field, II, B.B.A.'85

**President, Agriculture and Turf Division – Americas, Australia, and Global Harvesting & Turf Platforms
Deere & Company**

James Field is president of Deere & Company's agriculture and turf division – Americas, Australia, and Global Harvesting & Turf Platforms. He began his career with Deloitte & Touche before joining Deere & Company in 1994. Beginning as manager of consolidations, Field has served the company in various positions, including in accounting, treasury, and business development, and planning; as chief financial officer of Deere's former Timberjack Group; vice president and comptroller; and president, Worldwide Commercial and Consumer Equipment Division. In 2009, he was promoted to senior vice president and chief financial officer. In 2012, he accepted his current position.

[Biographical Information](#)



Haworth College of Business Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award

Jeanne Carlson, B.B.A.'68
President and CEO (retired)
Blue Care Network

Jeanne Carlson served as the president and chief executive officer for Blue Care Network of Michigan, a certified health maintenance organization, until retiring in 2010. Previously, she had served as BCN's chief operating officer and vice president for HIPAA Compliance and Operational Effectiveness for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. During her tenure, she was vice president of a number of key areas, including the General Motors account.

[Biographical Information](#)



Robert Herr, B.B.A.'67
Managing Partner (retired)
Crowe Horwath

After 40 years in public accounting with Crowe Horwath LLP, one of the largest public accounting and consulting firms in the U.S., Robert Herr retired. During his successful career with Crowe, he served private and public clients across many industries including financial, distribution, construction, service, retail and health care. An active community and business leader in Grand Rapids, Herr sits on the boards of several non-profit organizations.

[Biographical Information](#)



Milford McGuirt, B.B.A.'78
Atlanta Office Managing Partner
KPMG

Milford McGuirt is the managing partner of the Atlanta office of KPMG, an audit, tax and advisory firm. He is responsible for overseeing the delivery of high-quality client service, attracting and retaining key professional resources, execution of a growth and market expansion strategy, and representing the firm in the marketplace and community. McGuirt serves as the area managing partner for the mid-south region, including Birmingham, Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville and Jackson.

[Biographical Information](#)

Haworth College of Business
Outstanding Service Award



Michael Lewis, B.B.A.'71
Executive Vice President (retired)
BMO Harris Bank

Michael Lewis retired as executive vice president of BMO Harris N.A. in January 2013. His responsibilities included strategic integration and management of business segments across the network of BMO Harris branches in the city of Chicago, South Cook county and northwest Indiana. Lewis had specific accountability for growing the bank's commercial and retail business, community development and the consumer loans and services sector. Lewis is an active member of Chicago's business and civic communities.

[Biographical Information](#)

Haworth College of Business Young
Alumni Award



Trolisie D. Fletcher, B.B.A.'97
Financial Analyst III
City of Detroit

Born and raised in Detroit, Trolisie Fletcher has brought her love of the mitten state to her work for more than 15 years in several city of Detroit departments. Beginning as an accountant for the city's finance department in 2001, Fletcher now holds a position as financial analyst III for the city. Her responsibilities include supervising the strategic financial modeling and annual business planning process for city agencies, applying budget guidelines, cost and margin analysis, and more.

[Biographical Information](#)



Anthony M.T. Majewski, B.S.'00
Entrepreneur
Director, Publicis Groupe

Anthony Majewski is a jack-of-all-trades who has diverse experience in operational management, business ownership and marketing. A high-energy entrepreneur, he is an American award-winning children's book writer and music producer, songwriter, and 3D animation series creator. Majewski recently served as director at Publicis Groupe where he earned awards for marketing strategies for companies including General Motors.

[Biographical Information](#)



John Roa, B.B.A.'07
Principal of Roa Ventures
Founder of ÄKTA (acquired by Salesforce)
Co-Founder of Digital Hope

John Roa is a lifelong entrepreneur and thought leader in experience design, innovation and digital transformation. Roa started ÄKTA in 2010, a user-experience design consultancy in Chicago. ÄKTA went on to be one of the fastest growing companies in America in 2013 and 2014 and was fully acquired by Salesforce in fall 2015. His latest company, Roa Ventures, focuses on early-stage investments, projects, and experiments in lifestyle and technology companies.

[Biographical Information](#)

Department of Accountancy Outstanding Alumni Award

Ronald C. Edmonds, B.B.A.'79
Controller and Vice President of Controllers and Tax
The Dow Chemical Company

Joining The Dow Chemical Company in 1992, Ronald Edmonds has risen to progressively responsible positions. He began in the corporate audit department as the Latin America audit manager. Moving back to the states in 1997, Edmonds held several roles in the company before becoming global accounting director in 2001. In 2009, Edmonds was named vice president and controller. He assumed responsibility for the tax department in early 2016.

[Biographical Information](#)



Department of Business Information Systems Outstanding Alumni Award

Jennifer Rutledge, B.B.A.'04
Chief Operations Officer
SalesPage Technologies

Jennifer Rutledge joined SalesPage Technologies in 2014 as chief operations officer. During her time at the Kalamazoo-based software firm, she and her team have been successful in growing the company with new clients, improved product offerings and a 30 percent increase in staff— several straight from WMU. Providing data management, sales reporting and turnkey CRM solutions to the financial services industry, SalesPage clients include Allianz Global Investors, BlackRock, NEI Investments and Ridgeworth Investments.

[Biographical Information](#)



Department of Finance and Commercial Law Outstanding Alumni Award

Darrell Lindman, B.A.'75
Attorney
Fraser, Trebilcock, Davis, & Dunlap

Darrell Lindman has more than 35 years of experience in the field of employee benefits law. He represents numerous business entities and has a large concentration of exempt organization clients, including one of Michigan's largest health care systems, Michigan's largest church pension plan, governmental entities, associations and a national fraternal benefit society. Heavily involved in his community, he serves on the boards of multiple organizations.

[Biographical Information](#)



Department of Management Outstanding Alumni Award

Perry Watson, III, B.B.A.'73, MBA'76
President and Owner
Lexus of Mishawaka

Perry Watson, III, is the president of Lexus of Mishawaka. Before taking this role in 2001, Watson operated a Dodge dealership in Minnesota for nine years and was part of the Chrysler Minority Dealer Training Program from 1990 to 1993. Both dealerships have earned multiple awards for customer satisfaction and market leadership in sales. Prior to his time in the automotive industry, Watson held various positions with Xerox Corporation, Muskegon County and Keen Corporation.

[Biographical Information](#)



Department of Marketing Outstanding Alumni Award

Michael Doss, B.B.A.'89, MBA'91
President and COO
Graphic Packaging Corporation

Since joining Graphic Packaging Corporation in 1990, Doss has held positions of increasing management responsibility until taking the role of president and chief executive officer in 2015. Throughout his 25-year career at the company, he has managed multiple international and U.S. acquisitions and divestitures and held positions including executive vice president of commercial operations and senior vice president for the consumer packaging division.

[Biographical Information](#)



Food and Consumer Package Goods Marketing Adrian Trimpe Award

Tom Zatina
President
McLane Foodservice

Tom Zatina is president of McLane Foodservice, a supply chain services company that delivers food and non-food products to more than 20,000 restaurants across the country. Headquartered in Carrollton, Texas, the \$7 billion company operates 18 distribution centers nationwide and employs approximately 4,200 people. Zatina brings more than 30 years of experience to McLane.

[Biographical Information](#)



WMU ROTC Alumni Hall of Fame

Colonel Andrew McConachie, B.B.A.'87
Director, Army Financial Management Optimization
Task Force
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial
Management and Comptroller)

Colonel McConachie has served in a variety of leadership positions during his nearly 30-year military career. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Global War On Terrorism Service Medal.

[Biographical Information](#)



* Many of this year's recipients will be on campus for an all-college awards ceremony, which will take place on Oct. 7 at 4 p.m. in 2150 Schneider Hall. To RSVP, contact Stacey Markin: (269) 387-6936 | [Email Stacey Markin](#)

HAWORTH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

HOMECOMING PANCAKE BREAKFAST

HCOB Pancake Breakfast

When: Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016

Time: 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Where: *The Official WMU Tailgate Site, Lot 1 (next to Walwood Hall and Heritage Hall), off Oakland Drive.*

Parking: *Lawson Ice Arena (Lots 63, 64, 70, 74). A free shuttle will be available between Lawson Ice Arena, Waldo Stadium, and Lot 1*

Cost: *Free*

Join us for the Haworth College of Business Homecoming Pancake Breakfast! Complimentary all-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, hash browns, sausage, coffee and orange juice will be served by World Record Pancake Flippers, Chris Cakes, for all Haworth College of Business alumni, friends, students and families! Advance reservations required.

REGISTER

From FBI to Freelance

Jane Rhodes Wolfe, B.B.A. '81, has a full spectrum of experience. From investigating terrorism, high-profile white collar crime and international criminal networks, to working alongside first response efforts of a national tragedy, she has witnessed events far beyond what she could have ever imagined as a student at WMU.

The accountancy alumna started her career as a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the New York field office, investigating financial fraud and terrorism violations. From 2004 until 2011, Rhodes Wolfe held leadership roles in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. She served as supervisory special agent of a Joint Terrorism Task Force, assistant inspector and assistant special agent in charge.

In 2012, Rhodes Wolfe became a member of the Senior Executive Service in the FBI's Counterterrorism Division. She led national programs dedicated to the disruption and prosecution of terrorists. During this assignment she specialized in the identification of threat financing networks and worked to proactively collaborate with the financial industry to defeat corrupt financial networks. In 2014, she assumed responsibility for the Exploitation Threat Section where she was responsible for threat reporting and mitigation, terrorism communication analysis and crisis management.

Rhodes Wolfe retired from the FBI in March 2016 and is now a consultant, providing her expertise in enterprise risk management issues, business development, security, crisis planning, and employee misconduct and litigation support to private sector and government clients.

Take a look behind the scenes at some experiences that stand out to Rhodes Wolfe as she reflects on her career in her own words.

Mission Yemen

Throughout my career at the FBI, I have been honored to have played a role in many significant terrorism investigations. While assigned to the FBI's New York Field Office, I was a member of the FBI's Evidence Response Team, where we responded to crime scenes both domestically and internationally.

In October of 2000, the USS Cole was bombed in the port of Aden in Yemen. The New York office responded and I deployed as a member of the ERT to lead the efforts in collecting evidence. Within hours of the attack, we traveled to Yemen on military aircraft, landing late at



night under heavy security measures. Early the next morning, we began the arduous task of identifying and recovering the remains of the 17 victims and evidence of the attack.

For the next few weeks, our FBI team worked with the USS Cole sailors and other military members to complete our mission. During our time in Yemen, we were faced with security threats and a highly charged political environment. Together, as a team we were able to gather the remains of the sailors and collect evidence to aid in the investigation and identify those responsible. The bombing of the USS Cole was my first exposure to terrorism and little did I know what was to follow over the coming years.

Honoring first responders

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I was working in the FBI New York office and responded to the World Trade Center attack. Nearly all the special agents from our office headed towards the towers, located approximately eight blocks from our office. We worked to assist getting people out of the area to safety and began the investigation.

For the next two and half years I worked exclusively on the 9/11 attacks. I worked for months in New York, examining debris for evidence, human remains or personal property of victims. Later, I was transferred to Washington, D.C.

One of my roles on the D.C. team was to listen to and transcribe the 9-1-1 calls and radio transmissions of the responding police and fire personnel. Those calls and communications demonstrated great bravery, courage, strength, love and compassion. Many of the calls capture the final moments of the victims' lives. When possible, we would meet with family members and share the recording or images we had of their family members. Those calls framed the human loss—both short and long term—for families and friends.

I had the great honor of meeting with New York City 9-1-1 operators and first responders who are dedicated professionals who performed their duties in an exemplary manner in the wake of a murderous terrorist attack. Their efforts helped to save lives and comfort others trapped in the buildings. I encourage everyone to appreciate first responders, 9-1-1 operators and emergency personnel who serve our country every day under what are often challenging and unforgiving conditions.

Terrorism investigations

Between 2000 and 2016 I worked on more than 15 high-profile terrorism investigations. Each investigation highlighted the evil of terrorists and their desire to destroy our way of life. Over the years the threats have changed and now we are facing ISIS and home grown violence as they desire to continue attacks. I encourage everyone to educate themselves on the threats and look for ways to contribute to our national security.

Business fundamentals

The fundamentals of accounting and finance have been useful throughout my career at the FBI and in private industry. The ability to understand and communicate financial concepts have assisted me in conducting investigations or managing a large FBI business portfolio.

As a member of Alpha Kappa Psi while at WMU, I learned the necessity of networking. Although we didn't call it networking back then, the concept of teamwork and shared goals is key to finding the right career, opportunities and fulfillment in your work. Find ways to network across multiple platforms, industries, generation and social circles.

The ability to communicate is the key to success in any endeavor. Students should not be shy in looking for connections or opportunities—aspects of accounting, finance, marketing or other business functions can be used in any organization. There are opportunities within your network of family, friends, classmates and strangers alike; you just need to let people know what you're looking for and be open to new challenges.

I welcome the chance to help other Broncos—feel free to contact me.

jrhodeswolfe@ermconsults.com

Brigadier General Rodney Faulk



Brigadier General Rodney Faulk, B.B.A. '87, began his military training in WMU's ROTC and returned to campus for his promotion ceremony to Brigadier General in the U.S. Army on June 26. Faulk has had a distinguished military career.

Brigadier General Rodney Faulk was born in Battle Creek, Michigan. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant from Army ROTC in 1986 and graduated with a Bachelor's in Business Administration degree from Western Michigan University in December 1987 as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

Brigadier General Faulk has held numerous command and staff assignments from company to division level. His earliest assignments include service as Platoon Leader for the 755th Maintenance Company in Battle Creek, Michigan. He then served as Adjutant, 406th Maintenance Battalion in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and then as Commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 406th Maintenance Battalion. He served as Commander, 310th Maintenance Company in Jackson, Michigan. Following his company command tour, he served as Battalion S-2/S-3 and later as the Executive Officer for the 406th Corps Support Battalion in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In 2002, he deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where he served as the Deputy Inspector General for Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Upon return from active duty he served as Principal Inspector General for the 300th Military Police Brigade in Inkster, Michigan. In 2004, he assumed command of the 785th Military Police Battalion in Fraser, Michigan, and subsequently mobilized and deployed the battalion to Iraq to command the world's largest military detention facility at Camp Bucca in the Southern Iraqi desert. Upon return from Iraq in 2006, he assumed duties as the Chief of Staff for the 300th Military Police Brigade in Inkster, Michigan, and subsequently deployed with the brigade to Iraq to conduct detention operations as part of the Iraq "Surge" Campaign. At the conclusion of this mission, he was assigned as the Deputy Commander for the 300th Military Police Brigade in Inkster, Michigan. Brigadier General Faulk assumed command of the 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (Rear Detachment) in January 2011 and he helped the 310th ESC to become the top ranked General Officer command within the 377th Theater Sustainment Command in 2011. From 2013 to 2014, he served as the Chief of Staff for the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and then as acting commander for the 103rd ESC from July 2014 to December 2014. He then served as the Deputy Commanding Officer of the 103rd ESC in Des Moines, Iowa until May 2016. He is currently the Commanding General, Atlantic Division, 75th Training Command on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) in New Jersey.

Brigadier General Faulk's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with one silver and one bronze oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with one silver and two bronze oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Order of the Marechaussee in Bronze. In 2011, Brigadier General Faulk was inducted into the Western Michigan University ROTC Wall of Fame. In 2013, he was recognized as the Distinguished Alumni from Western Michigan University Haworth College of Business Department of Management.

Brigadier General Faulk was the distinguished graduate of his class at the U.S. Army Quartermaster Officer Basic Course in 1988. He also is a graduate of the U.S. Army Ordnance Officer Advanced Course, the U.S. Army Military Police Branch Qualification Course and the U.S. Army Inspector General Course. He earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Wayne State University in 1993 and graduated from the United States Army War College in 2009. His civilian career includes experience in project management and technology management with Comerica Bank and IBM. Currently his civilian position is in system acquisition and management for the United States Army.

Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series

Sponsored by Mercantile Bank of Michigan, this series provides an opportunity for the local community to hear top business leaders and Western Michigan University faculty, alumni and friends of the Haworth College of Business discuss current business-related topics. Please join us for any or all events. RSVP at (269) 387-5964 or at wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp.

Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Series presentations are available online following each event.

2016-17 speakers

- September 30: Mike Larson, president and CEO
Topic: "United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region"
- October 28: Toni Daniels, director of sales
Topic: "The Kalamazoo Wings and Wings Event Center"
- November 18: Tim Terrentine, vice president for development and alumni relations, Western Michigan University
Topic: "WMU Development and Alumni Relations"
- January 27: Amy Kutcha, executive director
Topic: "Big Brothers/Big Sisters"
- February 24: Sheriff Rick Fuller
Topic: "Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office"
- March 31: Belinda Tate, executive director
Topic: "Kalamazoo Institute of Arts"
- April 28: Bobby Hopewell, mayor
Topic: "City of Kalamazoo"
- May 19: Kathy Beauregard, director of athletics
Topic: "WMU Athletics"

2015-16 Speakers

- September 25: Jim Thomas, vice president of development and alumni relations, and Renee Pearl, director of engagement, Western Michigan University
Topic: "Heritage Hall: Our community's commitment to higher education" ([Video](#))
- October 30: Marilyn Schlack, president of Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Topic: "KVCC/Health Focused Campus" ([Video](#))
- November 20: Dan Jaqua, Jaqua Realtors
Topic: "Real Estate Update" ([Video](#))
- January 29: Dr. Steven Bertman, professor of chemistry, Western Michigan University
Topic: "Sustainable Craft Brewing Program" ([Video](#))

- February 26: Colleen Munson, head coach women's volleyball, Western Michigan University
Topic: "Western Michigan Volleyball: Equip and Empower" ([Video](#))
- March 25: Lieutenant Colonel Decker B. Hains, chair of military science and leadership, Western Michigan University
Topic: "Leadership in Action: WMU Army ROTC - Building Our Nation's Future Leaders" ([Video](#))
- April 29: Jennifer Johnson, executive director, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes
Topic: "Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes" ([Video](#))
- May 20: Diane Thompson, president and CEO, Binder Park Zoo
Topic: "Binder Park Zoo" ([Video](#))

2014-15 Speakers

- September 26: Laura Latiolais, director of community relations and development, Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan
Topic: "Care at the End of Life: What Hospice Provides" ([Video](#))
- October 31: Rob Harrison, assistant professor of marketing, WMU
Topic: "Black Friday Shopping: Understanding and Managing Extreme Consumer Behavior" ([Video](#))
- November 21: Bob Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach
Topic: "The Western Michigan University Business Technology and Research Park: An update and a view to the future" ([Video](#))
- January 30: Chris Harris, director of Seita Scholars Program, WMU Center for Fostering Success
Topic: "Fostering success through the Seita Scholars Program." ([Video](#))
- February 27: Jeana Koerber, clinical director, Residential Opportunities Inc. ([Video](#))
- March 27: Ed Mayo, professor emeritus, marketing, and John Weitzel, master faculty specialist, marketing
Topic: "Branding and the Baseball Fan Experience." ([Video](#))
- April 24: Linda Maupin and Fred Colgren
Topic: "The Gilmore Car Museum—America's Signature Collection®" ([Video](#))
- May 29: Martha Huckabee
Topic: Doctors Without Borders ([Video](#))

2013-14 Speakers

- Steve Glista, staff attorney, and Bea Swedlow, partner, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, discussed the "Pitfalls of Social Media in Business" on May 30, 2014. ([Video](#))
- Tracey Lawie, director of marketing and development, and Bethany Gauthier, assistant director of marketing, Miller Auditorium, presented "A Closer Look at Miller Auditorium" on April 25, 2014. ([Video](#))

- President John M. Dunn, Western Michigan University, and Lawrence P. Nolan, chair, Thomas M. Cooley Law School Board of Directors, discussed "The WMU and Cooley Law School Affiliation" on March 28, 2014. ([Video](#))
- Troy Thrash, president and CEO of the Air Zoo, discussed "Building a Museum's Value Proposition Toward a Thriving Community" on Feb. 28, 2014. ([Video](#))
- Tamara Homnick, program director of Cheff Therapeutic Riding Center, presented "My Therapist Weighs 1,200 Pounds: A Look at Equine-Facilitated Activities and Therapies" on Jan. 31, 2014. ([Video](#))
- Heather Ratliff, wellness coach and nurse, The Wellness RN, discussed "Dining Out: Finding a Healthy Place at the Table" on Nov. 22, 2013. ([Video](#))
- Sam Field and Connor Field, owners of Helios Solar, discussed "The Economics of Solar Power" on Oct. 25, 2013. ([Video](#))
- Andy Murray, WMU head hockey coach, discussed "WMU Hockey" on Sept. 27, 2013. ([Video](#))

2012-13 Speakers

- Sharon Carlson, director of archives and regional history, WMU, discussed the "Legacy Collection Center" on June 28, 2013.
- Bill Rose, president and CEO of the Kalamazoo Nature Center, discussed the "Kalamazoo Nature Center" on May 31, 2013. ([Video](#))
- Dan Gaydou, president of MLive, discussed "Strategies That Win in a Disrupted World" on April 26, 2013. ([Video](#))
- Lisa Garcia, director of WMU Business Connection office, discussed "WMU Business Connection" on March 22, 2013. ([Video](#))
- Hal Jenson, M.D., founding dean, discussed "WMU School of Medicine" on Feb. 22, 2013. ([Video](#))
- Jeanne Hess, Kalamazoo College volleyball coach, discussed "Sportuality" on Jan. 25, 2013. ([Video](#))
- Laurie Montgomery, assistant superintendent of special education and Angela Telfer, director, WoodsEdge Learning Center, discussed "WoodsEdge Program/Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency" on Nov. 30, 2012.
- Janice Brown, executive director, Kalamazoo Promise, updated on the Kalamazoo Promise on Oct. 26, 2012. ([Video](#))
- Dan Jaqua, owner, Jaqua Realtors, discussed "Setting the Pace in Today's Real Estate Market" on Sept. 21, 2012. ([Video](#))

2011-12 Speakers

- Steven H. Hilfinger, director, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, presented "Regulatory Reinvention in Michigan" on June 29, 2012.
- Dr. Robert H. DeWit, president and CEO, Southwest Michigan Innovation Center, on May 25, 2012. ([Video](#))
- Chris Tracy, attorney, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, discussed "Kalamazoo River Valley Trail: Going Places" on April 27, 2012. ([Video](#))

- Blaine Lam, owner, Lam and Associates; director, Kalamazoo Marathon, discussed the Kalamazoo Marathon on March 30, 2012.
- Dr. Frank Gambino, director, WMU Food and Consumer Package Goods Marketing Program, discussed WMU's FMK program and annual conference on Feb. 24, 2012. [Presentation Slides](#)
- John Shagonaby, chief executive officer, Gun Lake Tribal Gaming Authority, discussed the Gun Lake Casino in Wayland, Michigan on Jan. 27, 2012.
- Steve Hawkins, head coach, presented "WMU Bronco Basketball" on Dec. 2, 2011. [\(Video\)](#)
- Hon. William Schma, president of the board of directors for the Drug Treatment Court Foundation of Kalamazoo County, discussed "Drug Treatment Course: Smarter Justice" on Oct. 28, 2011. [\(Video\)](#)
- Bob Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach presented "An Update on East Campus" on Sept. 30, 2011.

2010-11 Speakers

- Ron Kitchens, CEO, Southwest Michigan First, discussed "Local and State Economic Update" on May 27, 2011.
- Greg Ayers, president, Kalamazoo County Convention and Visitors Bureau, discussed "Promoting Kalamazoo as a Visitor Destination on April 29, 2011. [\(Video\)](#)
- Ron Winter, an official with the National Football League, discussed "Inside the NFL's Third Team on the Field" on March 29, 2011. [\(Video\)](#)
- Tamara Davis, director of the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center for southwest Michigan, discussed "Tapping into Resources for the Entrepreneur" on Feb. 25, 2011. [\(Video\)](#)
- Neil Bremer, executive director of the Kalamazoo Arts Council, discussed "Enough Already" on Jan. 28, 2011.
- Dr. Jack Luderer, Western Michigan University's interim dean of the WMU School of Medicine, discussed "WMU's School of Medicine-Moving Forward" on Dec. 3, 2010.
- Jason Kehrner, chief problem solver at The Image Group, discussed "Leveraging Social Media for Business" on Oct. 29, 2010.
- Dr. Kay Palan, dean of Western Michigan University Haworth College of Business, discussed "Business Education: Moving Forward While Meeting Today's Challenges" on Sept. 24, 2010.

2009-10 Speakers

- Tim Terrentine, executive director of Douglass Community Association, discussed "Empowering Community, One Partnership at a Time" on April 23, 2010.
- Michael Newman, president/managing director of Michigan Aggregates Association and affiliated MAA Foundation, discussed "Transportation and Infrastructure Funding in Michigan – The Stimulus Impact and Future" on March 28, 2010.

- Sheldon L. Stone, partner of Amherst Partners and a nationally known author and speaker on the economy, automotive industry and corporate restructuring, discussed "Strategic Corporate Restructuring: 2010 and Beyond" on Feb. 26, 2010.
- Tim Welke, Major League Baseball umpire and crew chief, and Bill Welke, Major League Baseball umpire, discussed "The Business of Blue (Baseball Umpiring)" on Feb. 5, 2010.
- Dawn VanderPloeg, director of adult day services at Oakland Centre, and Laura Latiolais, director of community relations and development, discussed "Helping the Community Care for its Elders: Adult Day Services at Oakland Centre" on Dec. 4, 2009.
- John W. Allen, partner at Varnum LLP, discussed "Coming Soon to a Ballot Near You – The Michigan Constitution Convention: Opportunity in Reconstructure or Pandora's Box" on Oct. 30, 2009.
- Dr. Timothy Greene, provost and vice president of academic affairs, discussed "WMU – Providing Higher Education Leadership" on Oct. 2, 2009.

2008-09 Speakers

- Amy Knapp, president and owner of Calendar Systems USA, discussed "Advantages of Operating a Small Business During Difficult Economic Times" on May 29, 2009.
- Bob Miller, WMU's associate vice president for community outreach, "A Community Success Story" on April 24, 2009.
- Cathy McNulty, chief executive officer of the Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, presented "Your American Red Cross Today" on March 27, 2009.
- Rebecca Pierce, editor of the Kalamazoo Gazette, presented "For Those of You Who Can't Read" on Feb. 27, 2009.
- Juan Olivarez, president and chief executive officer of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, presented "Reach Higher, America; Reach Higher, Kalamazoo-Overcoming the literacy crisis" on Jan. 30, 2009.
- Steve Taplin, president of Terra Contracting, discussed "Environmental Contracting – A Local and National View" on Oct. 31, 2008.
- Cliff Moshoginis, director of the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, discussed "The Current Happenings and Future Plans of the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport" on Sept. 26, 2008.

2007-08 Speakers

- Dr. Christopher Korth, professor of finance and commercial law, Haworth College of Business, discussed "Sensible Tax Reform-Fair, Simple and Effective" on May 30, 2008.
- Fran Denny, executive director, Catholic Family Services, Kalamazoo, presented "The Ark: Somewhere to Run" on April 25, 2008.
- Dr. Michael F. Rice, superintendent of the Kalamazoo Public Schools, discussed "Kalamazoo Public Schools: The Transformation of an Urban Public School District" on March 28, 2008.
- T. Jefferson (Jeff) Murphy, Mediation Services of Southwest Michigan, discussed "Mediation, Not Litigation: You mean, I don't have to go to court?" on Feb. 29, 2008.

- Robert Jorth, executive administrator, Kalamazoo Promise, presented "Kalamazoo Promise: Where We Started, Where We Are" on Jan. 25, 2008.
- Dale Shugars, executive officer of The Home Builders Association of Greater Kalamazoo, presented "Building Homes-Strengthening Communities" on Nov. 30, 2007.
- Jill Hess, vice president for organization and program development, Heritage Community of Kalamazoo, presented "Got KNACK? A Workforce Development Initiative for Building a Culture of Excellence in Memory Care" on Oct. 26, 2007.
- Dr. John Dunn, president, Western Michigan University, discussed "The Western Edge" on Sept. 21, 2007.

2006-07 Speakers

- Ken Miller, chief operating officer, Havirco, presented "Process + Politics = Precedence" on May 25, 2007.
- Frank J. Sardone, president and chief executive officer, Bronson Healthcare Group, presented "Achieving Business Excellence the Baldrige Way" on April 27, 2007.
- Coleman Long, CFA, senior research analyst and vice president with Greenleaf Traust of Kalamazoo, presented "Is Socially Responsible Investing Right for You? The Risks and Rewards of Integrating Your Values into Your Wealth Management Plan" on March 30, 2007.
- Jim Kneen, president and chief executive officer of Heritage Community of Kalamazoo, presented "Older and Better" on Feb. 23, 2007.
- Thomas Beech, president and chief executive officer of the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo, presented "The Fetzer Institute's Work on Love and Forgiveness: Fluff or Substance" on Jan. 17, 2007.
- Bob Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach, presented "The BTR Park and the Downtown Science Center... a Community Success Story and Vision for the Future" on Dec. 1, 2006.
- Frank Weichlein, director of the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home, presented "Our Community's Kids, A Juvenile Justice Perspective—Present and Future" on Oct. 27, 2006.
- David Shields, dean of the Haworth College of Business, presented "A New Vision for the Haworth College of Business" on Sept. 29, 2006.

Previous speakers include-

- Greg DeHaan, senior vice president of Allen Edwin Homes
- Kalamazoo County Sheriff Michael J. Anderson
- Dr. Randall W. Eberts, executive director of the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
- Maurice Hovious, president of Hov-Aire, Inc.
- Robert L. Jansen, Jansen Valk Thompson Reahm P.C.
- William Johnston, president, director and chair of Greenleaf Companies
- Captain Wayne K. Kruger, deputy director and chief financial officer of the Kalamazoo Air Zoo
- Joshua Weiner, chief executive officer of Meyer C. Weiner Company

Entrepreneurship Forum

Entrepreneurship Forum is a monthly series hosted by Western Michigan University's Haworth College of Business to bring stories of entrepreneurial success to the greater Kalamazoo community. This series is devoted to entrepreneurs and unique stories of start-up success.

Reservations for the event can be made by calling (269) 387-5964 or at wmich.edu/business/e-rsvp. To recommend an entrepreneur for the series or request information, please contact [Alyssa Benson](#). Breakfast starts at 7:30 a.m.; presentations start at 8 a.m.

speakers 2016-17

September 16: Stephen John and Joseph Barnett, founders, [NeoVent](#)

October 14: Lucy Dilley, executive director and incubation partner, [Can-Do Kitchen](#)

November 11: Benjamin Gott, founder, [Boxed Water](#)

December 9: T.J. Waldofsky and Chris O'Neill, owners, [One Well Brewing](#)

January 13: Karen Smoots, founder, [The Green Glove Dryer](#)

February 10: Maria Brennan, co-owner, [The Victorian Bakery](#)

March 17: Rich Daniels, founder, [RNS Packaging](#)

April 14: Patrick Mixis, founder, [Feed the World Cafe](#)

Speakers 2015-16

September 11: Jeb Gast, president, [Fido Motors](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

October 2: Tim Suprise, founder, [Arcadia Ales](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

November 13: Garrick Pohl, co-founder and CEO, [Zipments](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

December 11: Ben Martin, owner, [Soil Friends](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

January 15: Ryan Vaughn, co-founder, [Varsity News Network](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

February 12: Chris Lampen-Crowell, founder and co-owner, [Gazelle Sports](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

March 18: Steve Laham, co-owner, [Chocolates by Grimaldi](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

April 15: Susan Sunday, [Emerald eCycling](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

Speakers 2014-15

September 12: Ryan Preisner, co-founder and CEO, and Ryan Roff, marketing and creative director, [BoldSOCKS](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

October 17: Cynthia Kay, owner and president, [Cynthia Kay and Company](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

November 14: Norm Braksick, [Foods Resource Bank](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

December 5: Matt and Rene Greff, co-founders, [Arbor Brewing Company](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

January 16: Dan Bowen, founder, [Dempsey Ventures](#)

February 20: Jim Lyon, managing director, [Separation Solutions](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

March 20: Daniel Jefferies, founder, [Newmind Group](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

April 10: Christy Malone, founder, [Smart Bottoms](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

Speakers 2013-14

September 13: Ernie Pang, founder, [Simply Eight](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

October 4: Andrew and Kathleen Widner, owners, [The Spirit of Kalamazoo](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

November 8: Joel Mueller, founder, [MacUpdate](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

December 6: Matthew Moersch, winemaker/distiller, [Entente Spirits](#)

January 10: Dale Anderson, owner, [Confections with Convictions](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

February 14: Robert Kennedy, chief scientific officer, [Vestaron](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

March 14: Amy Proos, owner and CEO, [Proos Manufacturing](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

April 11: Kevin Brozovich, president and chief people officer, [HRM Innovations, LLC](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

Speakers 2012-13

October 19: Jen Randall, president, [Maestro](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

November 9: Dr. Robert Gadwood, president and chief scientific officer, [Kalexsyn Inc.](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

December 14: Patti Reinholt and Susan Terranella-Hoffman, co-founders, [Cakes Boutique](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

January 11: Bridget Lorenz Lemberg, founder and lab director of [Forensic Fluids Laboratories](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

February 8: Rick DeKam, principal and director of asset management, [Midwest Realty Group](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

March 8: Bridget Blough, owner, [Organic Gypsy](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

April 12: Ed Bernard, CEO, [Bermo Enterprises](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)

May 10: Matt Mace, CEO and co-founder, [BlueGranite](#) | [Watch this presentation](#)