College of Fine Arts

Upcoming Events

The University Theatre will be presenting “MacBeth” by William Shakespeare on March 14 – 24. “By the prickling of thumbs, something wicked this way comes...” Deceit, vengeance and murder thrive in a nightmarish tale of temptation, ambition, and desire. This production contains mature themes, sexual situations, and strong language.

Faculty and Staff Accolades

Dr. Ken Prewitt, associate professor and chair of the Voice Area of the School of Music, will be joining the faculty at the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) this summer from July 5-Aug. 15 in Graz, Austria. AIMS, the leading summer vocal program and most comprehensive of its kind, brings future opera and concert performers together with an imminent faculty for an intensive training program in the study and performance of vocal music. Distinguished teachers, half from Europe and half from America, with extensive teaching and performing experience make up the AIMS Faculty.
College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty and Staff Accolades

The International Collaborations in Nuclear Theory Board has selected associate professor of physics, Dr. Michael Famiano’s proposal, "Element Genesis and Cosmic Evolution," for the 2013 conference held at RIKEN Institute in Japan.

Dr. Michael Famiano

Biological sciences professor, Dr. Bruce Bejcek’s paper, “The Tanapoxvirus 142R Protein Is a Serine-threonine Kinase that Phosphorylates the Tumor Suppressor p53," was published in the Open Virology Journal.

Dr. Bruce Bejcek

Student and Alumni Accolades

Film, video, and media studies alumna Heather Kasprzak ’05 is one of five finalists in the Doritos Crash The Super Bowl Contest! Two of the finalist ads will run during the Super Bowl. If Kasprzak’s ad, “Road Chip,” scores number one on USA Today’s AdMeter, she will win $1 million and the opportunity to work with Michael Bay on the next Transformers sequel. Kasprzak, a Marquette, MI native, is now living in Los Angeles, Calif.

College of Health and Human Services

Items of Academic Interest

On Friday, Jan. 11, the College of Health and Human Services hosted Field Placement and Career Social Services Day, an event co-sponsored by MRC Industries, the WMU School of Social Work, and WMU Career and Student Employment Services. From 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. that day, recent graduates and students majoring in areas such as social work, mental health, and social science gathered to discuss careers and internships with a number of community organizations representing those fields.

Information exchanged at Field Placement and Career Social Services Day

Student and Alumni Accolades

Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. student Jennifer Blackwood has been selected as a recipient of an Adopt-A-Doc Award from the American Physical Therapy Association’s Section on Geriatrics. The Adopt-A-Doc program recognizes outstanding doctoral students committed to geriatric physical therapy, providing them with support for pursuing faculty positions in physical therapy education and for completion of doctoral degrees in areas related to geriatric physical therapy. Ms. Blackwood’s research focuses on impairments in cognition and fall risk in community dwelling older adults. She is currently a physical therapy faculty member and the coordinator of the Post Professional Geriatric Certificate Residency program at the University of Michigan-Flint.

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College of Education and Human Development

Student and Alumni Accolades

For the past 15 years, special education students have had the unique opportunity to teach overseas during their special education internship in Germany. 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.

Evaluation Center

Faculty and Staff Accolades


Upcoming Events

Make sure to check out our spring Evaluation Café schedule, which is now posted at www.wmich.edu/evalctr/evaluation-cafe/upcoming-events. The Campus Beet will be catering every other Evaluation Café this spring.

Extended University Programs

Student and Alumni Accolades

On Dec. 13, 2012, students graduating from the General University Studies (GUS) program were honored at the Fetzer Center during the program’s first graduation ceremony. General University Studies is a degree completion program housed in Extended University Programs (EUP) that began in 1973. Students graduate with either a B.A. or B.S. with academic concentrations across the curricula. In fall 2012, 139 students received their degree in the GUS program. The occasion was marked by congratulatory presentations from EUP’s Associate Provost, Dr. Dawn Gaymer, and Dr. Adam Manley, assistant professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. The ceremony highlighted GUS alumna, Ann Gilchrist who is a 2010 graduate. During

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her presentation, she told how she dropped out of college to pursue a career in the automotive industry. When the industry hit difficult times, Ann lost her job and was unable to find work because she didn’t have a college degree. Through GUS, Ann was able to change careers and has found a new passion in geosciences. Since graduating, she has gone on to graduate work and will receive her master’s degree in April 2013, has participated in a variety of research projects, and is planning to pursue a Ph.D.

Graduate College

Upcoming Events

The Graduate College offers several fellowships for doctoral students, including the Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowship, The Patricia L. Thompson Dissertation Award, and the Dissertation Completion Fellowship. The Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowships are funded from an endowment made possible by the late poet, artist, and naturalist Gwen Frostic, a WMU alumna, Class of 1929. Awards are given to assist recipients with the completion of doctoral dissertations in the physical sciences, life sciences, or engineering at Western Michigan University. The Patricia L. Thompson Dissertation Award is made possible by a generous gift from Dr. Donald Thompson, former WMU vice president for research and dean of the graduate college. He is now retired, but his legacy, and that of his wife, Patricia, live on in this prestigious award, which assists WMU doctoral students in all fields of study with expenses associated with the dissertation. The third fellowship is the Dissertation Completion Fellowship, open to WMU doctoral students for up to one year, on the basis of superior scholarly achievement and quality of proposed dissertation project, to assist full-time doctoral students with the completion of their dissertations. On Thursday, Feb. 21, Dr. Marianne Di Pierro, director of the Graduate Center for Research and Retention, will present a workshop titled, “Gwen Frostic, Patricia Thompson, Dissertation Completion Fellowship Workshop: What Applicants Need to Know.” From 3 to 5 p.m. in the Walwood Commons of Walwood Hall, Dr. Di Pierro will discuss aspects of the application process for these competitive awards. Topics include following the directions for application, understanding the respective application requirements, and ensuring that a competitive proposal has been prepared. In addition, attendees will learn to include critical components of good writing, avoid common mistakes in proposal development, and how to confer directly with faculty who have been requested to write a letter of recommendation.

Jennifer Wendling Holm will be presenting, “Formatting Workshops for the Preparation of Doctoral Dissertations, Specialist Projects and Master’s Theses,” on Feb. 19 and 20, 2013. On Tuesday, Feb. 19, the workshop will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Emeriti Lounge, 211 West Walwood Hall on East Campus. On Wednesday, Feb. 20, the workshop will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the same location. The workshops are open to students, faculty, and word processors. If students are struggling with formatting their dissertation, project, or thesis, the Graduate College has a comprehensive list of word processors who will work for a fee to type, format, or edit. Please visit our webpage at http://www.wmich.edu/grad/wp-edit.html for more information. If you are going to do it yourself, you will find that attending one of these formatting workshops is invaluable for learning to interpret the University’s formatting requirements. Ms. Holm will present much helpful information on the paperwork requirements, fees, microfilming, and copyrighting processes. Participants in the formatting workshops must bring their own copy of “Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses, Projects and Dissertations,” which can be downloaded at http://www.wmich.edu/grad/guidelines/2010%20Guidelines.pdf. Advance registration is required, and space in each workshop is limited to 12 students so that personal attention can be given to individual cases. Please register by calling the Graduate College at (269) 387-8244 or by emailing jennifer.holm@wmich.edu.

The Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (HSIRB) was established as a local review board by the WMU Board of Trustees in accordance with Continued on next page
federal regulations, to oversee the use of human subjects in research. The HSIRB interprets and applies federal regulations, state law, and research sponsor requirements related to human subjects under the auspices of Western Michigan University. In order to inform potential researchers who might be using human subjects in research projects such as surveys, oral histories, or in physical studies, Dr. Amy Naugle, Chair of the HSIRB, and Julia Mays, Research Compliance Coordinator for HSIRB, will present a workshop on “Preparing to Write your HSIRB Protocol: What Researchers Need to Know.” Anyone who does research involving human subjects must have their research proposal approved by HSIRB. This includes faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The three basic ethical principles that guide the HSIRB are respect for persons, beneficence, and justice. By attending this workshop, students will become familiar with the distinct elements of the HSIRB application and understand the HSIRB process. They will also learn about mandatory training that exists for researchers using human subjects. Finally, they will learn how to manage and protect their data, as respect for the privacy of individuals is very much a factor in HSIRB protocols. Registration is required for the workshop that will be held on Thursday, Feb. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Walwood Commons of Walwood Hall on East Campus. Please contact Dr. Marianne Di Pierro, director of the Center for Graduate Research and Retention in the Graduate College, for more information and to register. She can be reached at (269) 387-8249 or marianne.dipierro@wmich.edu.

If you or your graduate students are challenged by statistics, Mr. Lincoln Jiang, doctoral student in statistics at WMU and a doctoral associate in the Graduate College, can help as you prepare your thesis or dissertation. If it has been years since your “Introduction to Stats” course, or you just need a refresher to move forward with confidence on your thesis, dissertation, or preparation for comprehensive exams, Lincoln can help. Along with his job offering personal statistical consultation in the Graduate College, he also leads workshops to provide graduate students with a renewed understanding of diagnostics of regression model, how to check methods assumptions, non-parametric methods. An overview of statistical concepts covers basic terms, collecting data, frequency tables, measures of central tendency and variation, the normal curve, Z score and confidence interval, correlation, linear regression, hypothesis testing, the T-test, one way analysis of variance, Chi-Square test, and presentation of data. There are 25 seats available for the workshop to be held on Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Computer Laboratory, Room 1416 of the College of Health and Human Services building. Registration for “Statistical Methods: The Next Level” is required, and attendees are expected to view a tutorial available on the Graduate College website at www.wmich.edu/grad. For more information, please visit our website or contact Dr. Marianne Di Pierro, director of the Center for Research and Retention in the Graduate College, at (269)387-8249 or marianne.dipierro@wmich.edu.

Office of the Provost

Items of Academic Interest

According to the 2011 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), what percentage of first-year students spend 10 or fewer hours per week preparing for class? The answer is located at the end of this article. First-year students and seniors are invited to participate in the 2013 NSSE administration, which runs from Feb. 5 through March 19. WMU uses data collected from the surveys to assist in making policy changes more consistent with good practices in undergraduate education. This information is also used by prospective college students and parents when seeking an institution with the “right fit.” Instructors are asked to remind their first-year students and seniors to participate in the 2013 NSSE administration. Select results are used in the VSA College Portrait (www.collegeportraits.org/MI/WMU). Results of past NSSE administrations, including a 6-year comparison by item, can be viewed at www.wmich.edu/assessment/inst-assess.html. The 2013 Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) will be administered March 26 through April 16. FSSE was designed to complement the NSSE. Results of past FSSE administrations, including a 5-year comparison by item, can be viewed at www.wmich.edu/assessment/inst-assess.html. The ICES Steering Committee is giving faculty another option this spring for course evaluations in hopes of increasing student response. We are suggesting that faculty might want to allow time in class for students to fill out the evaluations, as was the

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policy when the paper forms were used. Students can link to the evaluations on any device that can access the Internet (laptops, smart phones, etc.). We recommend that you check out the Internet connection in your classroom in advance since there are some dead zones on campus. We would also like to remind faculty that they should not be in the classroom while students are completing the evaluation. Answer to NSSE 2011 question 9a: 39% of first-year students spent 10 or fewer hours per week preparing for class. Additional items of interest related to class preparation or how students budget their time may be found at www.wmich.edu/assessment/inst-assess.html.

Student and Alumni Accolades

The Seita Scholars Program welcomed 47 new students to the WMU campus this past fall, bringing the total number of scholars supported to 160. In July, for the first time in the history of the program, incoming scholars spent a week on campus getting accustomed to campus living, developing academic plans for graduation, gaining awareness of WMU and Kalamazoo resources, and building relationships with one another and the Seita Scholars staff. Also during the summer, several state representatives including State Representative Bruce Caswell, Senator Tonya Schuitmaker, and State Budget Director John Nixon visited the Seita Scholars Program to learn more about the program and meet with scholars. The Seita Scholars Program showcased the evolution of the program from its beginning in 2008 through today and discussed the statistics of alumni of foster care at WMU as they relate to students in the general population. Additionally, Seita Scholars and staff members participated in the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth’s nationwide Listening Tour in July by sharing information about the program and personal stories of growing up in the foster care system and transitioning into a successful WMU student. The Program has a volunteer career-mentoring service to help Seita Scholars build networks of supportive individuals during their time as college students and as they transition into the workplace. The career mentoring service links Seita scholars to professionals who agree to volunteer by engaging mentees in a variety of activities such as job shadowing, networking, information sharing, and discussion about career plans. For more information on becoming a mentor, visit http://www.wmich.edu/fyit/Giving/volunteering.php. In October, the program received a $750,000 state grant to further enhance the program. As the semester came to a close, three students graduated from WMU with their bachelor’s degrees bringing the total number of graduates to 18. The Seita Scholars and staff members thank the WMU family for their continuous support.

University Libraries

Items of Academic Interest

A special new edition of the Gatherings’ newsletter is now available. The Gatherings’ newsletter about Western Michigan University Libraries is written and edited by Library staff and published one or two times a year. The Fall 2012/ Spring 2013 newsletter honors Jim Dexheimer, a beloved WMU Library staff member who passed away in January 2012, and features remarks from his retirement reception. In the words of his co-worker and friend, Sharon Carlson, his speech “summed up his life of people and books with interesting intersections of the two.” The second article called, “Shedding Light on Hidden Collections,” by Marianne Swieringa and Sheila Bair describes digitization projects to make the archives and special collections more readily accessible online. With the growth of electronic databases, the Archives & Regional History and Special Collections reach new heights in finding aids to organize and share information. The Gatherings’ newsletter is mailed to WMU on-site staff and faculty and is available through the Friends of University Libraries website at www.wmich.edu/library/about/friends/gatherings. It is also available through ScholarWorks@WMU database at http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/gatherings/.

Phase II of Zhang Legacy Collections Center configured for a guest scholar

The Archives and Regional History Collections support the research, teaching, and learning missions of WMU through its collections of letters, diaries, business and organizational records, oral histories, Continued on next page
and photographs. The collections underpin discovery knowledge with unique regional information on soil surveys, land use, population, government, education, agriculture, historic preservation, legal research, environmental history, and economic development. The provenance of typical users represents local, state, national, and even international locations. Construction began this past October to build Phase I. Here researchers can individually study unique documents and discover connections to the past. Building on the Oakland Drive site has now revealed the outlines of the reading room (quiet space), the superstructure for the high-bay mobile stacks and office spaces. At this stage of the building project, University Libraries is pursuing funds to establish a contemporary version of the “Athenaeum,” like that of Boston, founded in 1807, and long associated in American popular culture as a “venue for intellectual exchange.” Supporting such a venue, The Zhang Legacy Collections Center would grow into a highly valued “cultural institution” at WMU and in the region. To achieve this goal—a community of interactive study and verbal exchange—Phase II (loud space) will complete the educational mission of the Center. Such a multipurpose space would be designated for instruction, interactive workshops, archival training, and groups numbering up to 60. Such a multi-form, high-tech instruction area—tentatively to be called the “Oakland Drive Athenaeum”—would allow groups, WMU students of public history, state-wide meetings, and high-school classes, along with Girl Scouts working on merit badges, to gather and receive group instruction from the curators and guest lecturers. Information or data stations, using cutting-edge technologies would support the consulting of materials, both paper and digital, in the collections. Online donations: www.mywmu.com/givetolibraries

Over 50 years of “Reading Horizons” articles are now available online in ScholarWorks at WMU. This milestone was reached in a joint effort by the College of Education and Human Development and the University Libraries. Professor Maira Bundza, ScholarWorks librarian, and Lisa Kruse, graduate assistant, worked with Professor Allison Baer, editor of “Reading Horizons,” 2007-2011, to migrate the journal from print to online. Work continues with current editor Professor Karen Thomas. “Reading Horizons” began publishing as a local newsletter and developed into an international journal. By serving as a forum for sharing reports and discussions of research findings, the journal seeks to bring together education professors, literacy researchers, teachers, educators, parents, and community leaders to work toward expanding literacy and language arts awareness. Since 1960, “Reading Horizons” has published 51 volumes in 203 issues with 1,631 articles. The Digitization Center at University Libraries digitized all the back issues and ScholarWorks staff processed and uploaded all the articles by September 2012. It was the most downloaded group of articles in ScholarWorks with 90,800 downloads in 2012. A 2008 article on differentiated reading instruction is the second most popular article in ScholarWorks with 7,287 downloads last year. Five other articles have received over 1,000 downloads. The home page for the journal is here: http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/reading_horizons/. The digitization of the “Reading Horizons” back issues and their placement in the ScholarWorks open-access repository fulfills one of ScholarWorks’ goals: to increase the visibility and access to WMU’s scholarly work worldwide. To find out more, browse the ScholarWorks repository by department or unit, author, discipline (subject) or take a look at the journals currently online at ScholarWorks http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/. Please contact Maira Bundza maira.bundza@wmich.edu with potential projects or questions.

Faculty and Staff Accolades

For over a hundred years, WMU has enjoyed collegial town and gown relationships throughout the region. Many times the University and community come together in the arts or athletic arenas. A third area of growing interest involves the Archives and Regional History Collections, in particular the progress of the Zhang Legacy Collections Center. Since January, Dr. Sharon Carlson, Director of the Archives and Regional History Collections, has given talks to the West Side Kiwanis and the Oakland Drive Neighborhood Association. Future talks are scheduled for the Schoolcraft Historical Society, Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society, Keystone Breakfast Speakers Series, and Calhoun County Genealogical Society.
On Friday, Jan. 11, from 2 to 4:30 p.m., Dr. Elizabeth Teviotdale, assistant director of the Medieval Institute, and Edward Eckel, associate professor and engineering librarian, offered a workshop titled, “Writing Ethically and Well for Medievalists: A Workshop on Avoiding Plagiarism and Finding Authorial Voice.” This was a two and a half hour workshop that had 19 attendees. Fifteen were master’s students in the program and four were faculty and staff from the Medieval Institute and the English Department.

Upcoming Events

On April 9, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 1260 in the Chemistry Building, Dr. Diane Dillon will present “The Devil is in the Details: History and the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893.” Held in Chicago, the Columbian Exposition “commemorated a historic anniversary (the arrival of Columbus in America), its buildings emulated the grandeur of classical and Renaissance architecture, and the halls were filled with exhibits that traced the history of the world and the progress of mankind. In the years since 1893, the history of the exposition has fascinated historians and the general public alike,” according to Dr. Dillon. Because some attendees stayed in Kalamazoo, and many local citizens journeyed to the event, the Archives and Regional History Collections have artifacts from the Exposition which will be displayed to accompany Dr. Dillon’s talk. The exhibition will be on the Third Floor of the Upjohn Rotunda of Waldo Library. Dr. Dillon is Director of Scholarly and Undergraduate Programs at the Newberry Library. Her research encompasses American art, architecture, and visual culture; world’s fairs; the history of cartography; and Chicago’s history and culture. She is the co-author of “Mapping Manifest Destiny: Chicago and the American West” and has served as co-curator of an exhibition marking the centennial of the 1909 Plan of Chicago entitled, “Make Big Plans: Daniel Burnham’s Vision of an American Metropolis in 2009,” at the Newberry Library, and co-curator, “A Century of Progress: Architecture and Chicago’s 1933-34 World’s Fair,” an exhibition at the Chicago Architecture Foundation, Fall 2004. Dr. Dillon will also be speaking to classes in WMU’s public history program, Dr. Mitch Kachun’s graduate course in History and Memory and Dr. Sharon Carlson’s course in Archival Administration. (Supported by the Friends of the WMU Libraries, Department of History and WMU Visiting Scholars and Artists Program.)

Assessment at WMU has gained prominence in recent years with the focus on accountability. Since 2004 University Libraries has asked its users to rate its service, environment, collections, and access. Again this year the LibQUAL+™ assessment instrument for academic libraries will be administered after Spring Break. This widely-used and tested standardized web-based questionnaire is designed to measure patrons’ perceptions and expectations of library quality of service in three important areas: Affect of Service (customer service), Information Control (library collections, resources, and access to resources), and Library as Place (physical environment). The survey has a rating and comments sections. Library Task Forces use qualitative and quantitative LibQUAL+™ data in order to determine how to provide better service and environment for WMU students and faculty. Student, faculty, and staff input has been vital for University Libraries because we have heeded the ratings and comments to improve our profile of service. When you see the link in your e-mail, please take the time to complete the survey. It takes about 10 minutes. Prizes will reward your time and effort. University Libraries has made significant

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quality improvements and thus contributed to student learning at WMU. Past student comments reflect our past attention to user needs: 1) “The library system at WMU is phenomenal! I completed my comprehensive examinations using library resources and successfully defended my doctoral dissertation.” 2) “I used the interlibrary loan quite often and the materials that I ordered were always prompt, often the next business day.” 3) “The majority of my searches were conducted online from a remote source and I was always able to gain access to the information that I needed.” 4) “My doctorate is accomplished because of an excellent library system here at WMU.”

On Jan. 14, 2013, Rebecca Skloot, author of “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” gave a presentation in Shaw Theatre. Skloot’s book was this year’s selection for the University Common Read. Her presentation was followed by a question and answer session. Dr. Lofton L. Durham, assistant professor of theatre, was the moderator for this event. Attending the program were about 540 people representing students, faculty, staff, administration, and the Kalamazoo community. Immediately after the program, Rebecca Skloot was available for a book signing. This event was sponsored by the Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” tells the story of a young black woman who died of cancer in 1951 and left behind a line of cells known as HeLa. Combining detective work, scientific discovery, and family history, “The Immortal Life” multi-layered approach raises fascinating questions about race, class, and bioethics in America. David “Sonny” Lacks, one of Henrietta’s children, will be on campus along with another member of the Lacks family on Feb. 11, 2013. This event is being sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and will take place in the Fetzer Center, beginning at 4:30 p.m.