



## College of Arts and Sciences

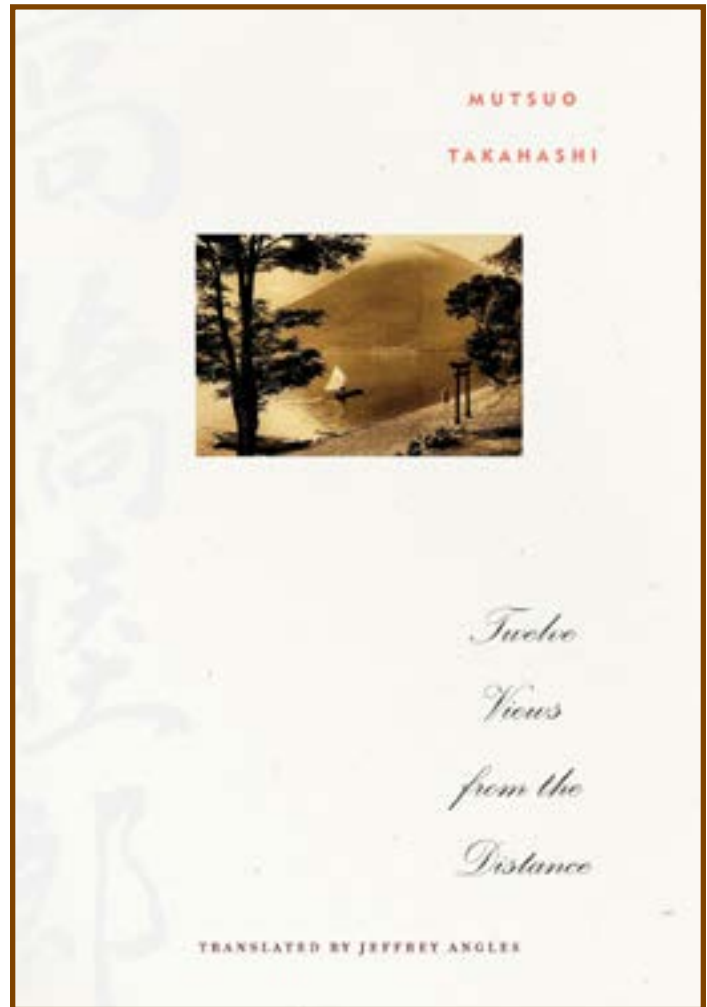
### Faculty and Staff Accolades



Dr. Jeffrey Angles

**Dr. Jeffrey Angles**, an associate professor of Japanese in the WMU Department of World Languages and Literatures and director of the Soga Japan Center, recently published the book "Twelve Views from the Distance" with University of Minnesota Press. This book is a translation of the memoirs of Mr. Mutsuo Takahashi, one of Japan's most important contemporary poets and writers, and it is the

seventh book that Dr. Angles has published since he joined the WMU faculty in 2004. The same week the translation was published, the journal, *World Literature Today*, named it as one of the year's 75 notable translations. Even more recently, it was named as a finalist for a 2013 Lambda Literary Award in the Gay Memoir/Biography category.



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Dr. Alyce Dickinson

**Dr. Alyce Dickinson**, professor of psychology, has been honored with a Lifetime Achievement award by the Organizational Behavior Management Network. The honor is given to an individual who has fundamentally advanced understanding and application of behavioral principles in organizational settings. Colleague and chief executive officer of the Association for Behavioral Analysis International, Dr. Maria Malott says that Alyce's "teaching is legendary in the WMU behavior analysis and I/O community, and she is the consummate educator. Alyce sees teaching not just as one of the responsibilities of an academic career but as central to her life. She is committed to the classroom and believes wholeheartedly in instilling the fundamentals of behavior analysis in her students. Her career is an especially well-rounded one, consisting not only of teaching but also of research and professional service... She is one of the vanguards of our field, and one of its most ardent cheerleaders and defenders." Dickinson also is one of the founders of the OBN Network, housed at WMU, which exists to develop, enhance, and support the growth and vitality of organizational behavior management through research, education, practice, and collaboration. This is the second time the organization has honored Dickinson, as she received its Outstanding Contributions Award in 1995. In 2000, she received the Teaching Excellence Award from WMU's Alumni Association. In 1982, she co-edited one of the first handbooks that examined the application of behavioral principles to business settings.



Dr. Robert Peters

**Dr. Robert Peters**, director of the Master of Public Administration program, delivered a compelling radio news service spot on appointing an emergency manager for Detroit. According to Dr. Peters, "An outside financial expert probably is needed to come up with substantive solutions to Detroit's severe budget problems." Listen to his radio spot by visiting <http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u44/2013/wmu130307.mp3>.

The College of Arts and Sciences awarded 21 individuals for their exemplary contributions. Recipients were honored at a special awards ceremony on Thursday, March 21, 2013, in the Humanities Center, Knauss Hall. The 2012-13 honorees were: **Dr. Sisay Asefa**, Department of Economics, Global Engagement Faculty Achievement Award; **Dr. Nora Berrah**, Department of Physics, Global Engagement Faculty Achievement Award; **Dr. Dwayne Channell**, Department of Mathematics, Professional and Community Service Faculty Achievement Award; **Dr. Lisa DeChano-Cook**, Department of Geography, Professional and Community Service Faculty Achievement Award; **Laura Decker**, Department of English, Staff Excellence Award; **Lauretta Eisenbach**, Department of Anthropology, Staff Excellence Award; **Dr. Lynne Heasley**, Department of History, Environmental Studies Program, Teaching Faculty Achievement Award; **Dr. Alan Kehew**, Department of Geosciences, Professional and Community Service Faculty Achievement Award; **Dr. Mariam Konaté**, Gender and Women's Studies, Diversity and Inclusion Recognition Award; **Dr. Carla Koretsky**, Department of Geosciences, Lee Honors College and Environmental Studies Program, Teaching Faculty Achievement Award; **Dr. Steven Lipkin**, School of Communication, Research and Creative Activity Faculty Achievement Award; **Dr. Ann Miles**, Department of Sociology, Gender Scholar Award; **Andrew Phelps**, Information Technology, Staff Excellence Award; **Dr. Susan Pozo**, Department of Economics, Research and Creative Activity Faculty Achievement Award; **Dr. Timothy Ready**, Department of Sociology and Director of Lewis Walker Institute, Diversity and Inclusion Recognition Award; **Sue Simons**, Department of Mathematics, Staff Excellence Award; **Yumi Takahashi-Ede**, CAS Advising Office, Staff Excellence Award; **Dr. Gwen Tarbox**, Department of English, Teaching Faculty Achievement Award; **Dr. Mercedes Tasende**, Department of Spanish, Global Engagement Faculty Achievement Award; **Dr. Allen Webb**, Department of English, Research and Creative Activity Faculty Achievement Award; and **Kathy Wright**, Department of Geosciences, Staff Excellence Award.



T. Geronimo Johnson

Visiting professor, **T. Geronimo Johnson**, has been named a finalist for the Pen/Faulkner Award for his debut novel, "Hold It 'Til It Hurts." Johnson is the only first-time novelist to be nominated for this year's award. The novel tells the story of Achilles Conroy and his brother Troy. After they return from a tour of duty in Afghanistan, their white mother presents them with the key to their past: envelopes

containing details about their respective birth parents. After Troy disappears, Achilles--always his brother's keeper--embarks on a harrowing journey in search of Troy, an experience that will change him forever. Heartbreaking, intimate, and at times disturbing, "Hold It 'Til It Hurts" is a modern-day odyssey through war, adventure, disaster, and love, and explores how people who do not define themselves by race make sense of a world that does.



Sarah Hulbert, President Scholar

**Sarah M. Hulbert** has been selected as the President Scholar for the Department of Physics. She is a physics major with minors in mathematics, astronomy, and philosophy. In addition to her rigorous academic schedule, Sarah is also working on a senior project with **Dr. Michael Famiano** on astro-biology, a new and rapidly developing field. She has been an excellent learning assistant in

introductory calculus-based physics courses and a remarkably enthusiastic student. Sarah has also been admitted to the Biophysics graduate program at The Ohio State University.

## Student and Alumni Accolades

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Chris Tremblay

School of Communication alumnus, **Chris Tremblay**, B.A. '94, M.A. '99, began his career working in WMU's Office of Admissions and is now returning to his alma mater to become the associate provost for enrollment management, effective May 6. Chris is currently the assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management at the

University of Michigan-Dearborn. Tremblay has been at UM-Dearborn since 2006, serving first as director of admissions and orientation, then as executive director of enrollment management and interim director of financial aid before being promoted to his current position in 2011. Under his watch, undergraduate enrollment has increased by 14 percent, and the school saw its four largest freshman classes in history. Tremblay is co-chair of the WMU School of Communication External Advisory Board, and he is active in a number of professional associations focused on admissions, financial aid, and college access. He also is the author or co-author of more than a dozen journal articles and is a frequent conference presenter.

For the first time the College of Arts and Sciences Diversity and Inclusion Committee announced a Diversity and Inclusion Essay Award to be given to one undergraduate and one graduate student. The essay must have been written during the 2012-13 academic year and demonstrated excellence in themes related to diversity and inclusion. This year's winners are: **Roxanna Gamble**, a Spanish and anthropology major for her essay, "'Your Silence Will Not Protect You': Calls for Lesbian Activism in Adrienne Rich's 'What Kind of Times are These' and Audre Lorde's 'A Litany for Survival,'" and **Becky De Oliveira**, an English education Ph.D. student, for her literary criticism essay, "Give Me Liberty: From Quiet Optimism to Loud Discontent in 'Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl.'"

Biological sciences graduate student, **Michael Buchalski**, is a contributing author of a paper that was published in PLOS ONE, a peer-reviewed, open access journal. His research examines bat activity in burned and unburned areas after a major wildfire in the southern Sierra Nevada mountains. The findings are relevant to understanding how wildlife responds to fire. This collaborative research involved student representation from Western Michigan University, Murdoch University, University of California, Santa Cruz, and University of Florida. Central Coast Bat Research Group also contributed to the study.

# College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

## Items of Academic Interest



Workshop participants, instructors, and support staff

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Center of Excellence on Structural Durability at the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE) conducted a two-day national workshop on Finite Element Modeling & Analysis of Highway Bridges for 10 bridge engineers and consultants at the state and county level. Six MDOT Engineers attended the workshop. **Dr. Upul Attanayake**, CCE assistant professor, and **Dr. Yufeng Hu**, CCE research assistant professor, were the instructors. **Dr. Haluk Aktan**, CCE professor and director of the Center for Structural Durability, helped with the event organization held at the Parkview Campus computer center on March 7 and 8. This is the seventh workshop conducted as an outreach activity of the Center for Structural Durability to help professional engineers fulfill their continuing education requirements. The workshop content was developed for bridge engineers working at public agencies and consultants, and the purpose was to provide them with the opportunity for hands on experience on finite element modeling to gain knowledge in analyzing complex bridge structural systems. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Michigan's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) and Western Michigan University (WMU). Numerous people assisted in coordinating and organizing the workshop. Timothy Colling, director of Michigan's Local Technical Assistance Program, disseminated the workshop information. **Ramzi Muftah Abdulllah** and **Lindsay Mukans**, WMU graduate students, provided technical support for the workshop participants. **Burak Kicikoglu**, WMU graduate student, helped with other activities related to the workshop. **Nancy Landsberger**, CCE office coordinator, and **Carrie Baker**, CCE office assistant, contributed

to numerous tasks related to the workshop. **Mr. Christopher Rand**, director of information technology at the College of Engineering and Applied Science, prepared and managed the computer facilities for the workshop activities.

The WMU Chapter of the engineering honor society Tau Beta Pi constructed a wheelchair ramp last November for a family in southwest Michigan. Former chapter president **Andrew Peruski** initiated this project by securing a 2011 Greater Interest in Government Award from Tau Beta Pi national headquarters. The project was coordinated by chapter student officer **Thomas Wheeler**, engineering faculty member and chapter advisor **Dr. Damon Miller**, and **David Orchanian** from the College of Health and Human Services, who used his contacts to locate a family in need of a ramp. The 28-foot ramp and a set of stairs were completed in a single day of construction by chapter members with the invaluable assistance of carpenter Dennis Uhler. The project was supported by a hydraulic post-hole digger loaned by Neil's Hardware in Mattawan, Mich., vehicles from the WMU College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and by the local township and building inspector, who provided a free inspection.



Some of the volunteers pictured next to the nearly completed wheelchair ramp.

## Student and Alumni Accolades

Congratulations to **Benjamin Ochoa** and **Lexi Pierce**, 2013 Engineers Week scholarship winners. Ben shared that he is thankful to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and especially to the Southwest and WMU chapters. He stated that the scholarship meant a lot to him, that it was nice to be recognized for his academic and extracurricular work, and that the scholarship will definitely help financially to continue his

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education. Lexi shared that it meant a lot to her to have been given this award and that she is thankful for all of the opportunities that the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) has provided her. Lexi is a sophomore who is studying pre-engineering and is expected to graduate in June 2016. Ben is a senior who is studying civil engineering and is expected to graduate in June 2014.



Lexi Pierce and Benjamin Ochoa

## Assessment of Student Learning



Chelsea Griffith



Adam Mueller

Recently, the National Science Foundation awarded fellowships to current and former civil engineering students, **Chelsea Griffith** and **Adam Mueller**. Chelsea Griffith, who graduated in December, described how participating in the 2012 Summer Institute in Taiwan (SIT) program was an excellent opportunity to see how research was conducted at a state-of-the-art facility under highly respected host researchers. Professor Keh-Chyuan Tsai and Dr. Kung-Juin Wang were very welcoming and helpful in finding a place in the lab where Chelsea's research interests were best matched. The opportunity to share her own research and previous laboratory experiences helped Chelsea feel that she was contributing, as well as learning, from the National Center for Research on Earthquake Engineering (NCREE).

The work ethic and enthusiasm of students and staff at the NCREE and National Taiwan University was not only impressive, but it was also an inspiration to take back to her own laboratory. She is sincerely grateful to Professor Tsai for the opportunity to conduct research and learn from everyone at NCREE. Chelsea said, "Taiwan is a truly amazing country, and I would like to thank the SIT staff for the dedication it took to make our visit what it was." Adam Mueller is a graduate student and said that his plans for the summer included traveling to Harbin, China to perform research under Dr. Bin Wu of the Harbin Institute of Technology.

## College of Fine Arts

### Faculty and Staff Accolades

Professor **Carl Ratner**, School of Music, performed the world premiere of American Pierrot: A Langston Hughes Songbook by composer Robert G. Patterson. Maestro Raymond Harvey, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, performed as collaborative pianist. The premiere took place in the Dalton Center Recital Hall in February. The composer was in attendance.

**Dr. David Smith**, School of Music, was invited to co-author a chapter on older adult learning and music in the recently released "Oxford Handbook of Music Education." This two volume resource updates and redefines the discipline, and demonstrates how individuals across the world learn, enjoy, and share the power and uniqueness of music. The chapter, "Elders and Music: Empowering Learning, Valuing Life Experience, and Considering the Needs of Aging Adult Learners," focuses on learning and teaching in relation to older adults and music, highlighting model programs and practices worldwide. Dr. Smith was also invited to write an article on his year-long experience as a Senior Band member, based on a presentation given at the 2012 Music and Lifelong Learning Symposium. "A Year with the Senior Center Band: Facing Aging Head On" was recently published in the International Journal of Community Music.

WMU Assistant Professor of Dance **Kirsten Harvey's** choreography received the top award at the 2014 Choreographic Sponsorship Event hosted by Inside Chicago Dance. Harvey's Black Iris was performed by WMU dance students at the competition. Professor Harvey specializes in jazz dance and musical theatre. As

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part of her award, Harvey will set her choreography on Inaside Chicago Dance for their 2013-14 season. Inaside Chicago Dance, a professional jazz dance company, advances innovative artistry through choreography, performances, and educational programs to heighten the state of the art in the Midwest. The vision of Inaside Chicago Dance is to enrich the art form of dance by nurturing the dancer as a performer, choreographer, and teacher and by making dance accessible to all ages through performances, workshops, and outreach.

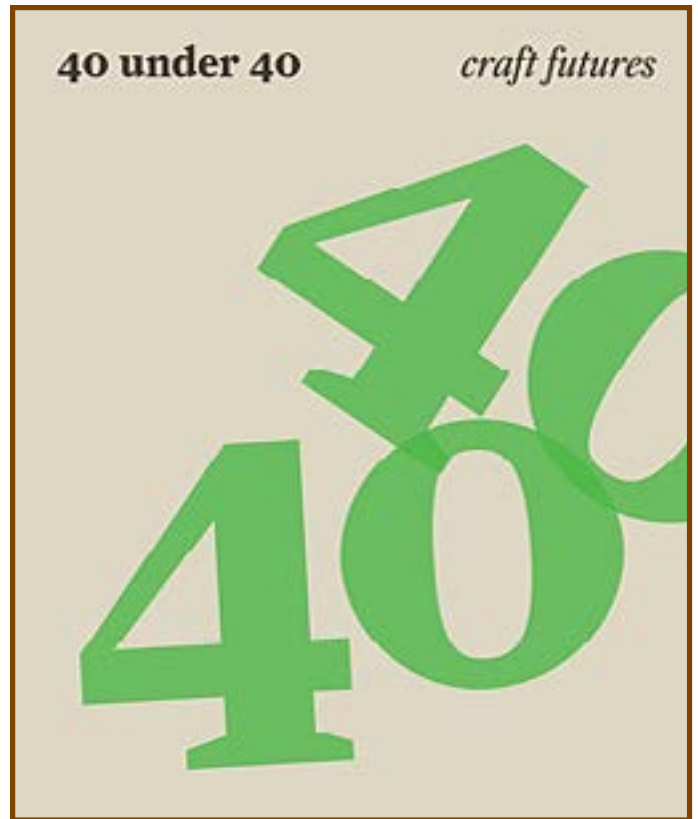


*Black Iris, Choreographed by Kirsten Harvey. Photo by John Lacko.*

## Student and Alumni Accolades

**Nate Musch**, M.A. '12, was named one of three finalists in the ITA Alto Trombone Solo Competition. Nate will be traveling to Columbus, Ga. to compete against two other finalists. **Cecilia Kozlowski**, B.M. '08, plays in the ten-member horn section of the highly prestigious "The President's Own" United States Marine Band.

**Gabriel Craig**, B.F.A '06, was featured in the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery 40 under 40: Craft Futures (<http://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/archive/2012/renwick40/>).



*Gabriel Craig is featured in the Smithsonian Channel's documentary 40 Under 40.*



*Sculpture by Joel Fisher awarded first prize.*

**Joel Fisher**, B.F.A '11, was awarded first prize in the First Annual Art Competition at Bridgeport Art Gallery, Chicago. The competition was entered by 220 artists living and working within 100 miles of the City of

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Chicago. An article titled "Artist Joel Fisher Chooses to See the Bright Side" was featured in the Chicago Reader, which can be viewed at <http://www.chicagoreader.com/Bleader/archives/2013/01/15/artist-joel-fisher-chooses-to-see-the-bright-side>.

**Luke Marlowe**, sophomore in the School of Music, has been recognized as an honorable mention selection in the International Trombone Association's Larry Wiehe Trombone Solo Competition. Marlowe is a student of Professor **Steve Wolfnbarger**.



Luke Marlowe won honorable mention at the International Trombone Association competition.

The Annual Opera Grand Rapids Collegiate Vocal Competition provides an opportunity for the finest student vocalists being trained full-time at Greater Grand Rapids area colleges and universities to compete in a professional competition and to be recognized for excellence by a professional opera company. **Alicia Renney**, junior in the School of Music, was the Division 2 winner. Division 1 finalists are School of Music students **Chelsea Helm** (senior), **Emm Katrovvas** (senior), **Sarah Mikulski** (senior), and **Brian Schneider** (senior). Finalists will sing in a gala concert on April 14.

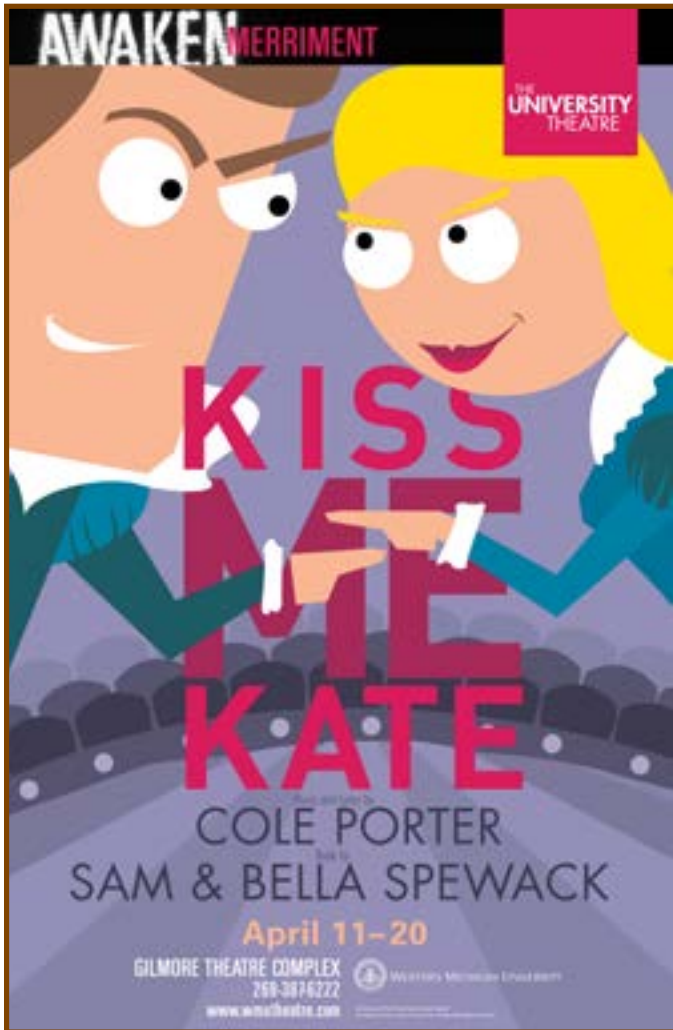


"If the circumstances require it, you surround your heart with what you know is true, pack what little you need and walk to where you can build a life. The shield is the faith that we will arrive unharmed. I believe you need this resolve in order to take the first step on any journey." Shield #1, by Molly Mitchell (Materials: road remnant, brass, goat leather, wood)

**Molly Mitchell**, B.F.A '12, was recently accepted in La Frontera, an international traveling exhibition juried by Lorena Lazard, Mike Holmes, and Elizabeth Shypertt addressing La Frontera (The Borderlands), the physical space where the relationship between Mexico and the US is most evident. Additionally, Mitchell was awarded best in show in the exhibition, Faktura. Faktura, the origin of Russian Constructivism, is the visual demonstration of properties inherent to materials.

## Upcoming Events

The Tony Award-winning *Kiss Me Kate* has become one of the most beloved musical comedies of the century. Directed by New York City director and choreographer Christopher George Patterson, *Kiss Me Kate* will run from April 11 - 20 in Shaw Theatre. For show times and ticket information, please visit [www.wmich.edu/theatre](http://www.wmich.edu/theatre).



*Kiss Me Kate*

# College of Health and Human Services

## Items of Academic Interest



School of Social Work student Myiesha Anderson

On Feb. 28, child welfare professionals, educators, students, and alumni of foster care gathered for a discussion hosted by the Center for Fostering Success, the WMU School of Social Work, and the Kalamazoo County Department of Human Services. Welcomed by **Dr. Yvonne Unrau**, professor of social work and director of the Center for Fostering Success, a panel of three

Kalamazoo DHS professionals, who have lived the client experience through foster or shelter care, discussed how the experience as a client in the system contributes to their work as helping professionals. The event, "Looking Back to See Ahead," was inspired and moderated by **Myiesha Anderson**, who aged out of the foster care system and is now a WMU senior majoring in social work. The panel addressed topics such as: mandated reporting involving family members, maintaining professional boundaries when family members continue to struggle, and the importance of self-care. Through the discussion, strengths and challenges faced by foster care alumni who work in helping professions emerged. Common strengths included a drive to succeed, great appreciation for life, and high levels of empathy. Challenges included experiencing transference and struggling to maintain boundaries due to a deep understanding of the vulnerability of children and families involved in the child welfare system. Dedicated commitment to do what is in the best interest of children and families, regardless of personal ties, was a clear theme that emerged from the discussion. **Jamie Crandell**, M.S.W. and alumnus of foster care, attended the event and stated, "Being in foster care as a kid frames much of the work I do as a social worker. This conversation is the first I've witnessed that honestly talks about what it's like to manage professional responsibilities while managing family struggles."

WMU School of Social Work Assistant Professor **Duntley-Matos** organized the Community/Faculty Seminar, "Cultural Humility, Child Welfare and Latino

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Community Organizing” on Feb. 19, 2013. The intent of the seminar was to bridge community and scholarly knowledge. The featured speaker was Robert M. Ortega, Ph.D., Director of the Family Assessment Clinic and Associate Professor, University of Michigan (U of M) School of Social Work. The seminar also presented Latino community organizers from Detroit (Norman Bent: Executive Director of the Consortium of Hispanic Agencies) and Kalamazoo (Adrian Vázquez: Director of Association of Kalamazoo for Social Justice; Lori Mercedes: Director of the Hispanic American Council; Allison Colberg: Organizer of Michigan Organizing Project; and José Aguilera: Organizer of the Michigan Organizing Project). WMU social work students **Sarah Beu, Elizabeth Brass, and Royanda Amos** participated as discussants. Ms. Amos is also a foster care supervisor with the Kalamazoo County Department of Human Services. Presenters and participants plan to continue the positive scholarly exchange among WMU and U of M faculty, students, and community members with future collaborations.

### Faculty and Staff Accolades

School of Social Work Assistant Professor **Dolly Daftary** will present on her ongoing field research in India at a Research Brown Bag event at the College of Health and Human Services on March 27 at noon. The title of the talk is, “Neoliberal Development in the Drylands: The Politics of Watershed Development in India.” Dr. Daftary will also serve as a judge at the Seventh Annual Research and Creative Activities Poster Day at Bernhard Center on April 5.



Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies  
Assistant Professor Dae Kim

Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies Assistant Professor **Dae Kim** has been selected to receive the 2013 University Assessment Steering Committee (UASC) Assessment Excellence Individual Award. The award recognizes research in student learning and work in assessment for program improvement, resulting in an article in a peer review journal. Dr. Kim will be presented with the award at an

event in Sangren Hall the morning of Friday, March 22, the final day of the WMU Assessment in Action Days Conference.

On March 15-16, 2013, several faculty members and graduate students represented The WMU Department of Occupational Therapy (OT) at the 26th Annual Midwest Dean's Research Conference at Saginaw Valley State University. OT Professor **Diane Dirette** delivered the keynote address. In keeping with the theme of the conference, “Research Dissemination in the 21st Century,” Dr. Dirette presented data from an extensive literature search that she and graduate students completed. She covered the history of research and practice themes published in occupational therapy and provided a historical perspective of the dissemination of OT research and practice information—from the earliest dates of print publication to the ubiquitous nature of electronic publications today. As the Executive Editor of the Open Journal of Occupational Therapy (OJOT), the first online journal in the profession, Dr. Dirette described in detail the features of this publication, emphasizing how there is wide acceptance of electronic formats for dissemination of information across many professions, including occupational therapy. Also representing WMU OT at the conference, Assistant Professor **Ann Chapeau** presented a paper, “Using Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS): Clinical, Academic, and Research Applications.” At poster presentation sessions, Assistant Professor **Michelle Suarez** and second year graduate student **Amber Grosser** presented “Finicky Feeders Food Selectivity Clinic: An Innovative Fieldwork Experience Focused on the Treatment of Food Selectivity in Children.”



Occupational Therapy Professor Dr. Diane Dirette

Bronson School of Nursing Associate Professor **Mary Ann Stark** has been named Reviewer of the Year for the Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing.



Dr. Way, left, and Dr. Duntley-Matos

At the first WMU College of Health and Human Services interdisciplinary conference, "Diversity and Inclusion: Preparing Ourselves to Advance Health Equity," School of Social Work faculty members, **Dr. Roxanna Duntley-Matos** and **Dr. Ineke Way**, presented the workshop, "Cultural

Genograms: Promoting Cultural Humility, Awareness of Intersecting Identities, and Transformative Complicity as Prerequisites to Culturally-Responsive Health Services." The conference took place on Feb. 2, 2013, with WMU faculty and students and community agency representatives attending.

## Student and Alumni Accolades

**Theresa Green**, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences doctoral student and director of community health policy and education at the University of Rochester in Lexington, Kentucky, was recently awarded the \$10,000, one-year grant by the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services and Systems Research (PHSSR). The Center's sixth round of Junior Investigator Awards will not only produce evidence needed by the public health community, but also will help develop new qualified investigators in PHSSR. The field aims to examine the organization, financing, and delivery of public health services. The goal of Green's research is to explore common methods for financially quantifying value in the public health system, applying these methods to real-world examples, including a quality improvement intervention, an academic-public health partnership, and a new model of care delivery for high blood pressure. Made possible by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the awards to doctoral candidates and junior faculty give awardees an opportunity to work closely with prominent PHSSR experts as they launch their careers. The studies are set to be completed by spring 2014.

Congratulations to **Demetria Jones**, a graduate assistant in the School of Social Work field education office who has been selected from among 66 nominees and over 3,900 student employees as the 2012-13 Western Michigan University Student Employee of the Year. Since May 2012, Ms. Jones has worked with her nominator, Field Education Coordinator **Jennifer Harrison**, to manage, place, and monitor over 300 undergraduate and graduate students in field internships. Through her employment, Ms. Jones has helped advance the department in many ways. She is skilled regarding utility, records security, and database management, and has led other student employees in compiling many years of paper files into a searchable electronic data base. She is also the primary manager of a field education e-learning course, which works as an intranet for students, faculty, and field instructors. This resource keeps stakeholders informed of events, job postings, and forms, and has unique features including an FAQ. "In her role, Demetria is often approached by fellow students for problem-solving on field issues," notes her nominator, "and she has that unique blend of respect for positional authority and empowering students to be actors in their own." Harrison also stated, "Demetria is a consummate social worker who speaks up tactfully and effectively to advocate for social and economic justice. I look forward to being her colleague in the field upon her graduation with her M.S.W. in April this year." The student employee of the year honor is sponsored by WMU Career and Student Employment Services as part of the annual celebration of Gary L. Belleville Student Employee Appreciation Week. Ms. Jones was honored in February at WMU, and her nomination will be submitted for a Midwest university competition, and potentially national competition.



Student Employee of the Year Demetria Jones

**Dr. Shannon McMorro**, a graduate of the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program, has had one of her dissertation papers, "Coverage and Representation of Condoms in Conjunction with HIV/AIDS in the Kenyan Daily Nation Newspaper from 1989-2003: A Qualitative Content Analysis to Inform Health Promotion," accepted for publication in the International Quarterly of Community Health Education. Co-authors of the article are WMU Bronson School of Nursing **Professor Dr. Mary Lagerwey** and WMU School of Communication Director **Dr. Leigh Ford**. Dr. McMorro is an assistant professor of health science at Saginaw Valley State University.

Ten second year physician assistant students have completed community service projects during their clinical rotations in health professional shortage areas this academic year. M-SEARCH is a state of Michigan program that provides students with stipends for their service. The program is designed to address the health service needs of underserved populations by establishing and strengthening community-academic linkages and by facilitating the recruitment and retention of health professionals in underserved areas. This year the following students have participated in M-SEARCH: **Dayna Battermann, Susan Cogswell, Emily Dickinson, Dan Ebenhoeh, Daniel Lomasney, Trisha Manion, Amanda Rathburn, Timothy Taylor, Adam Toomey, and Annalee Wood**. To review the students' projects and learn more about the M-search program visit [www.michigan.gov/msearch](http://www.michigan.gov/msearch).

Interdisciplinary Health Sciences doctoral student **Joshua Scott** was invited to participate in the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Working Group with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The group consists of over 30 of the nation's leaders in firefighting injury and safety research. The NORA Working Group will assist NIOSH in developing its national research agenda. The meetings will be held in Colorado beginning in March 2013.

## College of Aviation

### Items of Academic Interest

Students, faculty, and staff of the WMU College of Aviation attended the 24th Annual International Women in Aviation (WAI) Conference from March 14-16, 2013, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn. Participants in the 2013 WAI Conference were immersed in the tactics and strategies necessary for successful aviation careers. More than 3,000 women and men from all segments of the aviation industry were in attendance. Faculty Specialist - Lecturer, **Gail Rouscher**, was moderator during the educational session, Reconciling Academia with the "Real World." Panelists included alumni from the program who provided tips and advice on how to deal with the differences of what you are taught in the classroom, versus what you find and experience once on the job. This subject can range from "how the work is actually accomplished" to how to navigate the political "minefield" you can sometimes encounter, while keeping the work environment positive. Students and staff also participated as exhibitors, joining hundreds of other aviation related organizations and institutions to promote Western Michigan University and the outstanding programs offered by the college.



*Students and staff proudly representing WMU.*

### Student and Alumni Accolades

Assistant Professor **Lori Brown** and WMU College of Aviation's Multicultural Association of Aviation Professionals (MAAP) RSO student members will engage community youth using kites to enhance math and science curriculum. MAAP is a non-profit, student managed organization to enhance, promote, and

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educate the multicultural aviation community and to mentor youth so their full potential can be reached. The "Reach for Stars" program was created to address the need for more effective mentoring of community youth at highest risk. The program engages youth in one-on-one educational and leisure activities that are exciting, engaging, stimulating, inspiring, empowering, interactive, and mobile to allow active dynamic learning and mentorships. The Meemic Foundation has generously supported this outreach program at Starr Commonwealth, an Albion-based residential, community-based program for at-risk youth and vulnerable families. Starr is internationally recognized as a leader in transformational programs for children and communities. Founded in 1913, Starr's community-based programs represent the international standard of excellence in identifying, treating, and healing trauma and pain-based behavior, and building resiliency in children and adolescents. The Starr residential program for boys, grades 7-12, does not generally allow the students to leave the campus. To make sure every child has access to exciting aviation-based math and science, Western Michigan University, College of Aviation will bring aviation to students at Starr and other community schools and programs. Many of the high-risk youth at Starr have suffered abuse and neglect. This is an opportunity for WMU MAAP students to contribute to a positive peer culture, which allows children to build confidence and benefit from the collective strengths and experiences of the college mentors. The kites will offer exciting hands-on experiences to teach aerodynamics, Newton's Laws, and the Bernoulli principle.



Students from MAAP, Professor Lori Brown, and Robert Redman, Meemic Insurance - Redman Agency

Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards, funded by the MEEMIC Foundation, were presented to two outstanding Western Michigan University (WMU) College of Aviation students, **Billy Corder** and **Joel Alvey**. Billy Corder will present research at the World Aviation Training Conference in Orlando, Fla. on "Kites for Change." MAAP student members will engage community youth using kites to enhance math and science curriculum through an outreach program called "Reach for Stars." They will engage high-risk youth in the community, starting with Starr Commonwealth, an Albion based residential community program for at-risk youth and vulnerable families. Starr is internationally recognized as a leader in transformational programs for children and communities. Founded in 1913, Starr's community-based programs, represents the international standard of excellence in identifying, treating, and healing trauma and pain-based behavior and building resiliency in children and adolescents. Joel Alvey will present research at the World Aviation Training Conference in Orlando, Fla. on the integration of tablet technologies in aviation. Technologies such as the Apple iPad® have prompted a transition from paper maintenance manuals, checklists, flight manuals, and navigational charts. While it is easy to see the sustainability advantages and cost savings, these new technologies can be used to develop leading-edge training solutions. Engaging training solutions can ignite the imagination of the next generation of aviation professionals and give additional skills and knowledge to enrich educational experiences. WMU College of Aviation is conducting a study, with support from the Alfred L. and Constance C. Wolf Aviation Fund ([www.wolf-aviation.org](http://www.wolf-aviation.org)), to look at best practices for integrating technology into aviation specific curriculum, from a global perspective. Evolving education cultures and training methodologies can create dynamic learning

Continued on next page



Representatives from Meemic Insurance - Redman Agency, Starr Commonwealth and COA pose during the check presentation.

spaces that embrace modern cultures of learning. Purposeful learning experiences that integrate relevant technologies can be used to attract and retain the best and the brightest aerospace professionals.

## College of Education and Human Development

### Items of Academic Interest

Last fall, the WMU board of trustees approved changing the name of the Human Resources Development master's program in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology to the Master of Arts in Leadership for Organizational Learning and Performance (OLP). In addition, the program has moved to the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology. The curriculum was refined and the name changed to reflect contemporary practice in the field. December of 2012 was the first graduating class in the new program. The following are capstone projects that OLP students completed this semester: A Process Improvement Project: Cross Functional Billing Processes in a Nationally Recognized Insurance Company, **Doni B. Robertson**, December 2012; Implementing Employee Onboarding and Student Orientation Programs: An Analysis of Change Management, Project Planning, and Program Design, **Carrie Rhein**, December 2012; New Hire Orientation Transformation: An Evaluation of the New Hire Training Program and Recommendations for Improvement, **Britany Depore Levin**, December 2012; Behavior Based Interviewing: The Key To Selecting Highly Qualified Staff, **Gaoqi Hu**, December 2012; and Designing and Implementing an Evaluation Plan for a Physician Leadership Program, **Thomas B. Morley**, December 2012. For more information about these capstone projects, the program, or professional opportunities in the field of Organizational Learning and Performance, please contact **Dr. Larry Buzas**, program coordinator for the Master of Arts in Leadership for Organizational Learning and Performance, at 3571 Sangren Hall, (269) 387-3881, or [larry.buzas@wmich.edu](mailto:larry.buzas@wmich.edu).

### Faculty and Staff Accolades



Allison Downey

"The Living Room," a 1-hour Michigan Radio show, created and hosted by **Allison Downey**, recently won the Excellence in Broadcasting Award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters for the Special Interest and Cultural Programming category. The pilot radio show aired twice on Michigan Radio (NPR affiliate) in the fall. The winners were selected by a team of

judges that comprised of broadcasting peers who live outside of Michigan. Downey, a performer and associate professor of teaching, learning, and educational studies served as host, storyteller, and songwriter for this episode, produced by Zak Rosen. "The Living Room" celebrates the cultural fabric of Michigan through stories, song, and writing. For this episode, Downey takes a look at how stories of migrations are interwoven into the lives of Michigan residents. The pilot features Allison's own stories and songs, a piece from writer Zilka Joseph, a look at the history of Covert, Michigan, and music from songwriter, Joshua Davis. The podcast of the show and more information can be found on the Michigan Radio website: <http://www.michiganradio.org/post/living-room-explores-stories-migration>. Based on the success of the pilot show, Downey and Zak Rosen have teamed up to bring monthly installments of shorter segments of "The Living Room" to be aired during Michigan Radio's talk show, "Stateside with Cynthia Canty." The St. Patrick's Day episode of "The Living Room" aired on Thursday, March 14. It features Yvonne Healy, a Michigan-based Irish-American storyteller, and her story of becoming a "naturalized" American citizen in the 1950s and ultimately reclaiming her full Irish-American identity years later. Downey developed and produced this piece with Zak Rosen. The program is available at <http://www.michiganradio.org/post/st-patricks-day-story-allison-downey-and-yvonne-healy>. The podcast and Downey's song, "Ireland for You," are posted on the "Stateside" website at <http://www.michiganradio.org/programs/stateside-cynthia-canty>. "The Living Room" segments began airing in February of 2013 and are slated to air through October of 2013.

## Student and Alumni Accolades

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 the following 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!!"



*Ben Hill receives teacher of the month award*

Four master's students in the higher education and student affairs leadership program within the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology won first place in the 12th Annual Virtual Case Study Competition from The Journal of Technology in Student Affairs. **Jaclyn Rivard**, **Meredith Atchison**, **Kira Dow**, and **Emily Lott** presented on the topic of using social media in student affairs. The team's presentation can be viewed at [http://studentaffairs.com/ejournal/Spring\\_2013/](http://studentaffairs.com/ejournal/Spring_2013/).

**Katie Sniegowski**, special education undergraduate student, presented, "The Educational Needs of Students with Disabilities in West Africa," at the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Grand Rapids, Mich. in March. This presentation is from her honor's thesis. Her research was completed during the Cultural Connections Study Abroad experience to Dekar, Senegal during summer session 2012. The Cultural Connections Study Abroad is co-directed by **Dr. Sarah Summy**, **Dr. Yvette Hyter**, and **Dr. Santiago Valles**.



*Katie Sniegowski lends a helping hand*

## Graduate College

### Student and Alumni Accolades

**Jiangang Xia** is a Ph.D. candidate in the educational leadership program with a concentration in organizational analysis and a focus on quantitative research methods. Currently, Jiangang is completing his dissertation and expects to graduate this summer. He has been working as a doctoral associate in the Graduate College for two semesters with **Dr. Marianne Di Pierro**, director of the Graduate Center for Research and Retention. Jiangang has worked as a doctoral research associate and statistical consultant for the Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology, as well. He also worked as a volunteer teaching assistant for an advanced doctoral research seminar, EDLD 7250. He worked with faculty members **Dr. Andrea Beach**, **Dr. Brian Horvitz**, and **Dr. Mary L. Anderson** on an interdisciplinary research project. The team has produced one conference presentation and three

*Continued on next page*

journal manuscripts. He also worked with his advisor, **Dr. Jianping Shen**, and **Dr. Van Cooley**, **Dr. Louann Bierlein Palmer**, and **Dr. Xin Ma**, and doctoral students **Dr. Masashi Izumi**, **Dr. Alandra Washington**, and **Xingyan Gao** on a number of research projects. These collaborations have produced three journal articles, two book chapters, and five conference presentations. A citation for one of his book chapters follows: Xia, J., Shen, J., & Cooley, V. E. (2013). Coherent Curriculum. In J. Shen, & V. E. Cooley (Eds.), *A Resource Book for Improving Principals' Learning-centered Leadership*. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing. He will be presenting several research projects at the 2013 annual meeting of the American Education Research Association, April 27–May 1 in San Francisco, Calif. Jiangang was the department-level Graduate Research and Creative Scholar for the 2011–2012 school year. We wish him the best as he prepares to graduate and search for a job in the world of academe.

Four students won Graduate Student Research Grants in the award cycle of January 2013. The Graduate Student Research Fund was established to support graduate students engaged in independent scholarly research, scientific inquiry, inventive technology, and original artistic/creative activity. Graduate Student Research Grants are intended to help students pay extraordinary or unusual costs incurred in research projects. The exceptional students who won the Graduate Student Research Grants and their departments are: **Anna Conrad**, Psychology; **Amanda McKenna**, Biological Sciences; **Davina Wyman**, Geosciences; and **Tiantian Zhang**, Biological Sciences. Four times a year, the Graduate College also awards Graduate Student Travel Grants, established to support graduate student travel to meetings or events sponsored by professional organizations. Winners will attend conferences for the purpose of reporting the results of research, exhibiting or performing creative works, or otherwise disseminating results of their scholarly activity. Ten outstanding students received travel grants in January 2013. They are **Stephen Abrokwah**, Economics; **Liyana Awajira Ariyadasa**, Chemistry; **Ali Bolandi**, Chemistry; **Elizabyth Hiscox**, English; **Yumeizhi Jia**, Chemical and Paper Engineering; **Patrick Kreun**, Mechanical Engineering; **Setare Tahmasebi Nick**, Chemistry; **Syed Hammad Rasheed**, Construction Engineering and Management; **Carl Westine**, Interdisciplinary Evaluation; and **Stephanie VanderGalien**, Speech Pathology. The Graduate College congratulates these graduate students who are the recipients of the January 2013 Graduate Student

Research and Travel Grant awards and wishes them continued success in their research and scholarly career.

## Upcoming Events

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The Graduate College is partnering with University Libraries to sponsor a new workshop for graduate student and faculty researchers. "Advancing Your Research Skills in a Digital Age" is a workshop that will introduce students to the library's digital resources and services and demonstrate online databases to show how you can use them in your own research. It will also get students thinking about options for publishing articles and dissertations and allow students to start their own online scholarly profiles. Attendees will also learn tools for tracking how many people are reading and citing their work. The workshop will be held on Thursday, March 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Sangren Education Library. Breakout sessions will take place in Sangren Hall Technology Classrooms. There are 12 breakout sessions: Session 1: "Beyond JSTOR (for the humanities)"; Session 2: "Beyond JSTOR (for the social sciences & education)"; Session 3: "Beyond Web of Science (for the sciences)"; Session 4: "Dissertations Before & After: Has Your Topic 'Been Done Before,' and What to Do with It Once It's Written"; Session 5: "Books Beyond the Library Walls"; Session 6: "Mapping Services"; Session 7: "Digital Scholarship"; Session 8: "Making Your Publications Count!"; Session 9: "Start Your Professional Digital Portfolio"; Session 10: "Patent Searching"; Session 11: "Census Data Resources"; Session 12: "Congressional Sources." If you can't make it on March 21, look for videos on the Graduate College website at [www.wmich.edu/grad/](http://www.wmich.edu/grad/). If you would like to see this type of workshop offered again, please e-mail [ilse.a.schweitzer@wmich.edu](mailto:ilse.a.schweitzer@wmich.edu).

**Mr. Tony Dennis** has organized and the Graduate College is sponsoring a recruitment and informational event in Battle Creek at the Fort Custer Education Center "Pentagon" Building. To be held on Saturday, March 23, the event will be attended by representatives from WMU's Admissions, Financial Aid, Extended University Programs, Graduate College, Haworth College of Business, and several other departments, including Educational Leadership, Research and Technology, the School of Public Affairs and Administration, and the Specialty Program in Drug and Alcohol Abuse. Representatives of KVCC and Kellogg Community College are co-sponsoring this recruiting and informational program. As members of the WMU community probably know already, Western has

*Continued on next page*

been named one of the top institutions in the United States for serving veterans and military populations for the third consecutive year by Military Times Edge Magazine. Ranking number 49 out of the 650 schools rated, Western is the only Michigan four-year school on the publication's list of top colleges in the U.S. The event in Battle Creek is designed to reach active duty, National Guard, State Police and others in the service. This will be a great opportunity to serve our veterans who are looking at further education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Many of our military personal are seeking advancement or looking to retire into a productive career. Additionally, we have invited employees from the Veterans Administration Hospital and the Federal Center to attend and look at what Western Michigan University has to offer. Security clearance is required to enter Fort Custer. The official location is Room A181C and the event will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those interested in attending should contact Tony Dennis at [tony.dennis@wmich.edu](mailto:tony.dennis@wmich.edu) or **Carson Leftwich** at [carson.leftwich@wmich.edu](mailto:carson.leftwich@wmich.edu).

## Haworth College of Business

### Items of Academic Interest

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A Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC) workshop titled "Starting a Restaurant/Food Service Business" will be held Tuesday, April 16, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the WMU Haworth College of Business. Please register at <https://www.misbtdc.net/workshop.aspx?ekey=110320083>, or call (269) 387-6004.

A Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC) workshop titled "Starting a Business/Writing a Business Plan" will be held Monday, April 29, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the WMU Haworth College of Business. Please register at <https://www.misbtdc.net/workshop.aspx?ekey=110330002>, or call (269) 387-6004.

"Doing Business in China Seminar and Study Tour" is designed to be an international experience for MBA students and undergraduate students majoring in business, economics, or Asian study. The program is offered in cooperation with Shanghai Jiao Tung University, and Beijing Jiao Tung University. The program includes seminars on business in China and U.S.- China relations, corporate visits, cultural tours, and sightseeing. Partial funding is provided by the WMU Haworth College of Business and Haenicke Institute of Global Education. The tour will take place July 6 to 22, 2013. For more information, <http://www.wmich.edu/businessnews/newsletter/articles/china.pdf>, or contact Dr. Roger Tang, professor of accountancy and Upjohn Chair, at (269) 387-5247 or [roger.tang@wmich.edu](mailto:roger.tang@wmich.edu).

### Faculty and Staff Accolades

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**Dr. Laurel Ofstein**, assistant professor of management, has successfully defended her dissertation, "Boundary Spanning in the Entrepreneurial Firm: Effects on Innovation and Firm Performance." Dr. Ofstein earned her Ph.D. in Business Administration from University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Mohammed Hariz Mohammed Shazalli**, graduate student, and **Dr. Karen M. Lancendorfer**, professor of marketing, had their paper, "A Tale of Two Crises: Domino's Pizza U.S.A. and KFC Malaysia's Use of Online Image Repair Strategies in Food Tampering Crises," accepted for presentation at the 2013 Global American Academy of Advertising (AAA) Conference.

**Dr. Nancy Schullery**, professor of business information systems, was installed in October 2012 as president of the Association for Business Communication (ABC) at the organization's annual international convention, held in Honolulu, HI. The ABC has approximately 700 members and publishes two well-known journals. The Journal of Business Communication is the premier journal in its field, while Business Communication Quarterly is known for its pedagogical expertise. In her leadership role, Dr. Schullery has attended two conferences during March: the ABC Midwest/Southeast Regional Conference in Louisville, KY, where she presented recent research, and the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Kyoto, Japan.



## Student and Alumni Accolades

A team of students enrolled in Western Michigan University's integrated supply management program was the top undergraduate team and finished fourth overall at the 2013 APICS Great Lakes District case competition. A total of 24 teams, including several teams of graduate students, competed Feb. 23 - 24 in Downers Grove, Ill. The competition challenged students to find new ways to improve inventory control and increase customer service for a turboprop spare parts supplier known as Airflow Aircraft Inc. Part of the challenge was the short time frame. Teams were given the case at 6 p.m. on Friday and had to submit and be prepared to present their solution by 9 a.m. Saturday. The WMU team found ways to cut inventory out of warehouses and move the remaining inventory high up the supply chain. "The real breakthrough came when we all stepped back from the small parts of the case and looked at it as a whole," says senior **Jordan Kuhl**. "We realized that we could have 20 percent of our inventory built to order. From that moment on, everything fell into place." "Our curriculum gave us the background knowledge we needed to make sense of the case and understand what was happening and what needed to be done," says junior **Hanna Downs**, who credits the experience of four team members who currently hold internships with Kellogg Co. with bringing knowledge and insight from the industry that related to the solution. "Our students demonstrated to the judges the comprehensiveness of the 43-credit-hour ISM major and that they were job-ready," says **Dr. Sime Curkovic**, professor of management and director of the ISM program. "We are extremely proud of them."



ISM Team

## Upcoming Events

WMU will host the first annual PITCH: A WMU Business Pitch Competition on Friday, April 5, 2013. Students from across the University are invited to present their business ideas in the form of a three-minute pitch for an audience of potential investors. Competitors will be evaluated in progressive rounds by panels of judges

comprised of faculty, entrepreneurs, and members of the business community. The event will run from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. in 2150 Schneider Hall. The competition is open to individuals or teams. A maximum of 32, five-person teams may compete, with one student from each team delivering the pitch. The final round of the competition will take place Saturday, April 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in 2150 Schneider Hall. For more information <http://www.wmich.edu/management/pitch/>.

## University Libraries

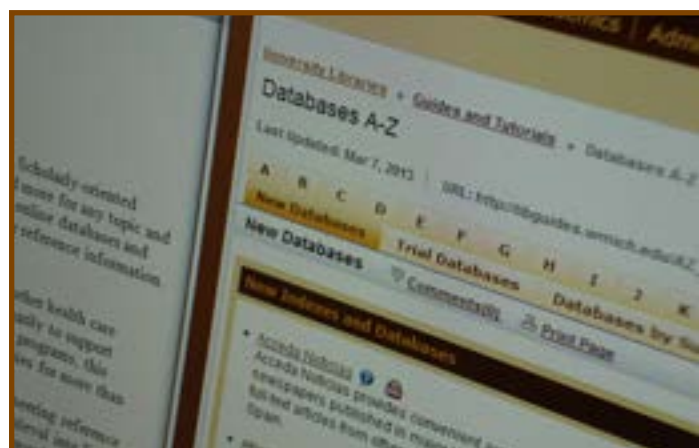
### Items of Academic Interest

The new comprehensive Graduate Student Research Workshop is organized by University Libraries: "Advancing Your Research Skills for the Digital Age" was the title of a workshop held on March 21 for graduate students seeking knowledge of the myriad research tools at WMU for exploring today's digital library. Topics were: starting the literature search with comprehensive databases such as the "Web of Science"; finding resources located at WMU or accessible through owned or leased ejournals; looking into previous dissertations to find if one's topic has been researched before; locating the helpful assistance of faculty and professionals staff to render service to the research; taking advantage of University Libraries' interlibrary loan, mapping services, patent searching, census data, congressional sources, and faculty digital scholarship in "ScholarWorks at WMU"; and discovering how as a professional in a field to make publications retrievable for other specialists through a digital portfolio. A team of eight librarians shared their expertise in the new Sangren Hall Library Lab and breakout rooms. The workshop sprang from the fall Research Dessert event held by the Office of the Vice President for Research. Those attending thought that more graduate students would greatly benefit from the University Libraries' presentation on digital resources and scholarship. The Graduate College partnered with University Libraries to stage the workshop.

University Libraries offers a new and expanding collection of databases. Scholarly-oriented databases present a selection of instantly accessible articles, journals, and more for any topic and discipline. Currently, WMU has 50,229 electronic subscriptions and 388 online databases and frequently subscribes to new databases for patrons to receive authoritative

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reference information. Recently acquired databases include: 1) "DynaMed" is a clinical reference tool created for physicians and other health care professionals for use primarily at the point-of-care. Purchased primarily to support WMU's Occupational Therapy, Physician's Assistant, and Nursing programs, this evidence based reference tool provides clinically-organized summaries for more than 3,200 topics. 2) "Knovel E-books" provides access to hundreds of authoritative engineering reference books with interactive capabilities that include data searching and retrieval into Excel, interactive graphing, unit conversation and a widget for easy access anywhere. 3) "Going Global" provides employment and career information for the US and abroad. It includes country career guides, USA/ Canada city guides, corporate profiles, more than 100,000 international internship and job openings, and information about work permits, visa regulations, and more. 4) "VAST" academic streaming video collection extends WMU's access to online videos across all disciplines. Instructors can create personalized clips with persistent links for use in class and in the e-learning environment. See <http://libguides.wmich.edu/video> for more information. 5) "Mango Languages," an interactive language learning system, provides lessons in practical conversation skills, and most recently has been upgraded to include dozens of foreign languages from Arabic through Vietnamese. It also teaches Basic English conversation from a variety of other languages. 6) "Passport GMID" is a market research tool that provides in depth industry reports, company profiles, market data and forecasts, trends, statistical analysis, and merger & acquisitions, for fast-moving consumer goods in both the domestic and international marketplaces. These database collections and more are available through the databases A-Z list on the WMU Libraries home page (red button, then click New Databases).



New Databases webpage tab lists all of the new resources.

## Faculty and Staff Accolades



Two award winners from University Libraries, Faizan Haq and Alison Thor

University Libraries is proud to have two staff named as "Western Michigan University's 2013 Make a Difference Award Winners." Receiving awards are **Ms. Alison Thor**, coordinator of reference services, and **Mr. Faizan Haq**, coordinator of science reference. The award recognizes their dedication to their positions and positive impact on those served by University Libraries. The pair will be honored at the Award Ceremony Reception on Monday, April 15, at 2 p.m. in the Bernhard Center. Alison Thor was nominated for her efficiency and commitment as a department coordinator. She has been instrumental in helping manage Reference Services by going the extra mile every day. Leading by example, she demonstrates the service mission of the department and does so with a great smile. Her service has inspired others and has made University Libraries an inviting, personable venue. Faizan Haq was nominated for his major contributions to University Libraries' CMS web project and for his making the Science Reference department an efficient functioning service. His extra efforts in both areas are a testament to his service-orientated focus most essential to both University Libraries and the University. The "WMU Make a Difference" initiative is a campus-wide program that recognizes WMU staff for exceptional service and accomplishments. Up to fifteen members may be selected for each of the semiannual award periods. The winners are selected by a committee of peers from the participating employee groups, including AFSCME, APA, MSEA, POA, and PSSO.



Dr. Susan Steuer

**Dr. Susan Steuer**, Special Collections librarian, has recently published an article in *Against the Grain*, vol. 24:6, titled "Collection to the Core -- Manuscripts in Medieval Studies," which discusses the growth of library collections in the context of new pedagogical developments in medieval studies.

## Upcoming Events

There is an ongoing desire to highlight research services that help students through one-on-one contact with librarians and teaching faculty. University Libraries and the Writing Center are looking at ways to reach out to writers of research papers, inquiring students, and the intellectually curious during the crunch-time of every upcoming fall and spring semester. Input, collaborators, and sponsors are welcome to participate in this endeavor. Please contact [susan.steuer@wmich.edu](mailto:susan.steuer@wmich.edu). Much appreciation to the current sponsors: College of Education and Human Development, College of Arts and Sciences, Lee Honors College, Haworth College of Business, University Libraries' personnel, and Friends of University Libraries.

### \*Reprinted article with corrected photo.

The construction of the Zhang Legacy Collections Center moves forward in spite of winter thaws, spring lake-effect snows, and the curious who just want to keep abreast of the growth of the project. Friday, March 15, **Dean Reish** accompanied colleagues from the Office of Development and Alumni on their first visit to the building site. Matt Brecker, site manager of The Christman Company, served as the guide. The walk-through took them by the field of 28 bore-holes extending 420 feet down into the earth. Here the pipes of the geo-thermal unit will bring up and take down the exchange of air providing energy to control a limited vacillation in temperature for the Center. The heat/cooling system will contribute to establishing the Center as "green" building with the goal of a silver+ LEED certification. The visit to the west side of the structure showed the brick facing resembling in color the hues of the Gothic Water Tower at the State Hospital. Penetrating inside the structure, the visitors saw the reading room, the office space, and the high-bay shelving area taking shape. The attached picture comes from the 3-story mobile-storage area where a "man-on-board lift" will

raise the driver into the air and then allow the operator to pluck and deposit books, documents, and archival boxes. The shelving will move over guide tracks and the lift along wires. The temperature will be kept at 55 degrees with 40 percent humidity. The Dean maintains that if he were to spend 5 hours in this climatically controlled environment per diem, then he would not age physically. The mind, he admits, might well be a different story.\* The transition into the new facility should be completed in early October. \*Editor's note: "April Fools' Day will soon be upon us."



From left to right: Jason Long, Matt Brecker, Catherine VanDerMaas, and Joe Reish

## Office of the Provost

### Upcoming Events

Western Michigan University faculty and staff are invited to attend the fourth annual Assessment in Action Days Conference from March 20-22, which will take place at various venues around campus. The conference, sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies, is free of charge and registration for the sessions is not required. Dr. Barbara Walvoord, Professor Emerita at the University of Notre Dame, Ind., will be facilitating the workshop sessions for targeted audiences on the topic of assessment of student learning on March 20 and 21. She will also be providing a keynote address on Friday, March 22. Dr. Walvoord has consulted or led workshops at more than 350 institutions of higher education throughout the U.S., on topics of assessment, teaching and learning, and writing across the curriculum. She has also written several books on the topic of assessment and is highly recognized as an expert in this field. Included in the conference offerings are workshop sessions geared toward department, program and college/division level assessment of student learning. Each session is targeted

*Continued on next page*

toward a certain audience, but all are invited to attend the sessions that are of interest to them. Attendees should plan to bring any current assessment-related documents, (syllabi, assessment plans, rubrics, surveys, other tools etc.), along to the sessions. There will be time to edit/improve upon these tools with the guidance and feedback of Dr. Walvoord, and attendees will come away with something useful to move assessment efforts forward. And for those new to assessment, guidance will be provided on how to start this process. The program also includes opportunities to find out more about the assessment resources at WMU, concurrent symposium sessions highlighting the assessment work of faculty and staff at WMU, as well as a poster session highlighting the work of the 2012-2013 Assessment Fellows. Please visit the following website under the Assessment Calendar for more details and the complete schedule:[www.wmich.edu/assessment](http://www.wmich.edu/assessment).

# Prism Newsletter

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