



Emeriti News



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EMERITI COUNCIL OFFICERS:

Mary Lagerwey ~ *Chair, Emerita, Nursing*

Darryl Salisbury ~ *Newsletter Editor, Emeritus, CELCIS (the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students)*

EMERITI COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Sisay Asefa ~ *Emeritus, Economics Office*

Robert Dlouhy ~ *Emeritus, CELCIS (the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students)*

Barbara Hemphill ~ *Liaison with WMU Osher Life-Long Learning Institute (OLLI); Emerita, Occupational Therapy*

Peter Krawutschke ~ *Emeritus, German and Advisor Emeritus of German*

Stanley Robin ~ *Emeritus, Sociology*

FACULTY SENATE EMERITI COUNCIL MEMBERS (2023-2024):

Mary D. Lagerwey ~ *Emerita from the College of Health and Human Services and the WMU Bronson School of Nursing*

Lester Wright ~ *Emeritus, Psychology Department*

John Jellies ~ *Emeritus from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Biological Sciences*



Message from the Chair: Mary Lagerwey



As we near the end of 2024, the WMU Emeriti Council sends each of you and your families warm wishes for safe and happy holidays. We have compiled updates from across the university and items that may be of special interest to you as a member of WMU's emeriti faculty.



We hope you can join the Emeriti Council and other emeriti at the re-instituted Emeriti Holiday Celebration to meet with friends and colleagues and celebrate the season. It will be held on December 11, from 2:00-4:30 at the WMU Fetzer Center. There will be hors d'oeuvres, punch, music from WMU student vocalists, and ample round table seating, with parking near the center. We welcome two new members of the Emeriti Council:

- Peter Krawutschke, Professor Emeritus, German, a member of the WMU faculty for many years. He is a past president of the WMU Faculty Senate and past chair of the Emeriti Council.
- Stanley Robin, Professor Emeritus, Sociology, joined the WMU Emeriti Council in September 2024. While a member of the faculty at WMU, he taught and conducted research in the areas of Medical and Mental Health Sociology, Sociology of Science, and Statistics. He is a past president of the WMU Faculty Senate.

Emeriti who would like to nominate themselves or a colleague to serve on the Emeriti Council should send in nominations to emeriti.council@wmich.edu.

We also welcome the following Emeriti who retired in 2023 or 2024:

Ackerson, Kelly. 8.14.2023

José Antonio Brandao 8.14.2024

Manuel Bautista 7.8.2024

Jim Butterfield 12.31.2023

Susan Carlson 8.14.2023

William Cobern 5.14.2024, changed to 8.14.2024

Philip Egan 8.14.2023

Bruce Ferrin 12.31.2023

Timothy Greene 8.1.2024

Tetyana Koshmanova 8.14.2024

Joseph Kretoivics 8.31.2024

Sheldon Langsam 12.31.2023

HoSung Lee 4.30.2023

Debra Linstrom 4.30.2024

Larry Mallak 8.14.2024

John Martino 8.14.2024

Lisa Minnick 8.29.2023

Gwendolyn Rose 8.14.2024

Gilbert Sinclair 8.21.2023

Vivan Steemers 8.14.2024

Jacinda Swanson 9.2.2023

Ralph Tanner 1.1.2024

Vince Torano 8.14.2024

Jay Wood 4.23.2023

Donna Weinreich 12.31.2023



Information about the Emeriti Council

To introduce new (and established) emeriti to key aspects of the Emeriti Council and members and review its role in this phase of your professional life, we have included information about the history, functions, and mission of the Emeriti Council, and how emeriti can contribute to the strength of the WMU community and connections with the well-being of other emeriti.

Origins:

In October 1975, following suggestions from emeriti, President John T. Bernhard invited twelve emeriti to establish an ad hoc Emeriti Council and to formulate a permanent organization and procedures. By 1976, the provisional council had initiated some programs and recommended a plan for an on-going organization of and for the emeriti. The President approved, and the council elected its first officers and continued its work. As a guest of the council on June 1, 1980, President Bernhard “assured the council of active support in fostering the best possible relationships between the emeriti and Western Michigan University.” This support has continued under Presidents Diether Haenicke, Elson S. Floyd, Judith I. Bailey, John M. Dunn, and Edward B. Montgomery.

Functions:

The original concerns of the WMU Emeriti Council were to:

- Maintain open lines of communication between the emeriti, the administration, and the faculty of WMU
- Foster strong relationships between the emeriti and the University
- Support and serve the emeriti
- Support the growth and development of the University

WMU Emeriti Council Mission Statement:

To implement programs, events, and activities which enable emeriti to engage in Western Michigan University policy development, philanthropic funding, and other activities where they can make unique and valuable contributions.

New functions have been added, including fundraising for student scholarships, sponsoring presentations, coordinating social events, and collaboration with the Western Michigan Association of Retired Faculty (WARF) and Osher Life-Long Learning Institute (OLLI).



Wednesday II Events

Recent Events

September: Dr. Stan Robin, Professor Emeritus Sociology: Performed eleven new monologues.

October: Dr. Joan Herrington, director of the School of Theatre and Dance, presented and led a discussion on the work of the school with students studying theatre.

November: Dr. Whitney DeCamp, Professor of Sociology, spoke on “Discrimination in the Jury Selection Process.” Professor DeCamp provided an overview of the process by which some individuals are more or less likely to be removed from juries based on demographic characteristics, its history, and empirical findings about the continued presence of discrimination in jury selection.

Upcoming Events

December 11: Emeriti Holiday Celebration open house at the WMU Fetzer Center from 2:00-4:30.

~~**January 15: John Dunn, WMU President Emeritus.** “Being a University President.” 2:00 at the Heinig Emeriti Lounge in Walwood Hall. Note that this is the 3rd Wednesday in January. We have pushed back the date due to the holidays. [This event has been postponed as Dr. Dunn broke his leg and cannot travel now.](#)~~

February 12: Lisa Dechano-Cook. Professor, School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability. “Natural Disasters and Climate Change.” 2:00 at the Heinig Emeriti Lounge in Walwood Hall

March 12: Drew Arndt, Personal trainer at West Hills Athletic Club. “Exercise for Healthy Aging.” 2:00 at the Heinig Emeriti Lounge in Walwood Hall.

April 9: Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Dean, Graduate College and Professor, Biological Sciences. “Graduate Education at WMU: 73 Years and Going Strong.” 2:00 at the Heinig Emeriti Lounge in Walwood Hall

May 14: Remzi Seker, Vice President for Research and Innovation. “New Developments in Research and Innovation at WMU.” 2:00 at the Heinig Emeriti Lounge in Walwood Hall



University News (Information from *WMU Today* and University websites)

Higher Education for the Justice-Involved (HEJI)

Western Michigan University Higher Education for the Justice-Involved (HEJI; formerly Prison Education Outreach Program) has operated in close partnership with the Michigan Department of Corrections since 2017, offering coursework and mentoring sessions to incarcerated individuals at the Lakeland Correctional Facility, Coldwater, MI. With readings and assignments based on upper-level philosophy courses, the program administered the following sessions at the Lakeland facility during its successful pilot phase: Critical Thinking (Fall 2018); Introduction to Ethics (Spring 2019); Education and Human Flourishing (Fall 2019); and Ethical and Social Theory: Mass Incarceration in the U.S. (Spring 2020; COVID-impacted).

Last fall, WMU inaugurated a B.A. program at the Lakeland Correctional Facility in Coldwater, MI. Taught by WMU faculty, the program brings a humanities-rich liberal arts education to individuals who are incarcerated. We see every day the transformative power of a humanistic education as the men seeking to understand themselves, their potential, and the world we live in. College in prison programs transform the individual student; they have better employment options and are much less likely to commit crimes when released; they make prisons safer as there is much less violence when inmates are students; and these programs have generational effects on their children, siblings, and other family members. They are more likely to attend college! Many of our students have had lives of struggle, deprivation, violence, and

poverty, and this education has helped them to explore ideas and ways of being previously closed off to them. Students have been reading primary texts including Plato, Shakespeare, Langston Hughes, and Bonnie Jo Campbell. At a time when the humanities and arts education are threatened, this is a story of promise, of redemption, and of transformation through humanistic education. We've watched our students gain confidence and a sense of self in the past year as they struggle with texts, engage in conversation, and explore the richness of ideas.

There are opportunities for engagement for emeriti as classroom instructors, guest speakers or study hall "tutors." Contact Ann Miles, Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology, and Director of the University Center for the Humanities at ann.miles@wmich.edu for information on how you might become engaged with this program.

The Liberal Arts coursework, in which the HEJI program is rooted, provides students with the opportunity to engage with fundamental concerns of the human experience via the study of important texts in the humanities, social sciences, and beyond. The coursework (1) cultivates the critical thinking, analytic, and creative skills which enable students to more clearly think, read, write, and speak—skills which enable students to succeed as citizens, regardless of vocation; (2) prepares students to analyze evidence, synthesize conflicting points of view, evaluate assumptions and biases to attain a balanced perspective, and develop critical interpretations of their significance; and (3) provides students with a shared intellectual experience so often absent from institutions of higher education.



Through the study of important works in the humanities, social sciences, and beyond, Student Planned Major coursework will provide students with the opportunity to engage with many of life's key questions (What does it mean to be human? What is freedom? Who am I? What is love?) and themes (justice, truth, resilience, identity). In our search for understanding, we ask questions about things, of books, of people, and so on. But things, books, and people also ask questions of us; they question us right back. This type of education is not an alternative to professional or technical modes of education—it is the very foundation on which they stand.



Faculty Senate Updates

The Faculty Senate meetings are available to stream live at: <https://wmich.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Play/15ed2606f9884c43beded24b1642e6fc1d>

The WMU Faculty Senate reserves three seats for emeriti. This gives emeriti a voice in shared governance in WMU and facilitates communication between the Emeriti Council,

WMU faculty members, and WMU administrators. Please contact any of the representatives if you have anything you would like them to bring to the Faculty Senate. Representatives for the 2024-2025 year are:

- John Jellies, Professor Emeritus, Biological Sciences (John.Jellies@wmich.edu)
- Lester Wright, Professor Emeritus, Psychology Department (lester.wright@wmich.edu)
- Mary D. Lagerwey: Professor Emerita, College of Health, and Human Services and the WMU Bronson School of Nursing (mary.Lagerwey@wmich.edu)

John Jellies, Professor Emeritus, Biological Sciences

I joined the faculty of Western Michigan University in 1995 and retired in the summer of 2024. During my tenure at WMU, I was an active research professor of Biological Sciences. I mentored dozens of graduate students and hundreds of undergrads over the years. I published about 50 full manuscripts, including six with journal covers, made a couple hundred presentations, and secured approximately \$3.8 million in funding. I also enjoyed teaching, and developed and taught over 20 different classes, from freshman through doctoral levels, most recently concentrating on Zoology, Neurobiology and Human Physiology. My service to the University focused on service to the Faculty Senate, where I served in just about every role possible, including that of President of the Senate.

Post retirement, my priority is first to attend even more to my wife and family. With sons, a stepson, daughters-in-law, and six grandsons, all in the area I will enjoy being there for them and with them. I love to fish and will do more of that. I hope to expand my avocations even further in oil painting, artisan jewelry design and fabrication, lapidary (I specialize in cutting opals), and silver and goldsmithing. And then there are the bees. I have about half a dozen hives in my apiary and hope to add a few more. For at least another year, maybe longer, I am maintaining a lab presence on campus with a fully functioning electrophysiology lab that I plan to use to assist students in their projects, collaborations that remain ongoing, and perhaps even publish a bit more.

Lester Wright, Jr., Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology

I retired from the Department of Psychology at WMU in August 2020. I decided to retire two years early when WMU offered the buyout during the COVID pandemic. The courses I was scheduled to teach for the fall semester were already full, so I agreed to stay on and teach two undergraduate courses as partially synchronous online courses: Forensic Psychology and Human Sexuality. I have always enjoyed being an instructor and I think my courseload was the best at the University, so I still continue to be an instructor for those courses. In addition to my part-time WMU instructor duties, I also teach glass art classes at Glass Art Kalamazoo. I have been doing that for about 10 years. I work in the fusing studio. Glass Art Kalamazoo also hosts the Bronson Journey Bead Program. We create glass beads for children who go through treatment for cancer, hematology, cystic fibrosis, and the burn unit. Children receive a glass bead when they go through a diagnosis, treatment, or milestone. By the time they leave the hospital they have a string of beads to help them remember their journey. Please attend

an Art Hop or First Friday event to see the Journey Beaders in action. I also help out at WMU sporting events through Stadium People. In my free time I also volunteer at Miller Auditorium. If you would like to be a guest volunteer for the spring semester, please let me know. Lion King is coming early next year...just saying. I do plan to travel when I am done with my WMU teaching responsibilities.

Mary D. Lagerwey, Professor Emerita, WMU Bronson School of Nursing

I joined the faculty of WMU's new baccalaureate nursing program in 1995 and retired in 2021. During my time at WMU, I taught health care ethics, research, health care history, and community health at the undergraduate and master's levels in nursing, and at the Ph.D. level in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (HIS) Program in CHHS. I also served for several years on the Faculty Senate Executive Board, including a term as President of the Senate. I also served on the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board for 13 years, serving as chair for 5 of those years.

Since retirement, I have continued serving on comprehensive exam and dissertation committees for the HIS Program, chaired the Emeriti Council, and served as a member of the Faculty Senate, representing the emeriti. I have also enjoyed reading, book clubs, writing book reviews for "Choice," traveling with my husband Rich, and spending more time with our five grandchildren and their parents. Much of the work of the Faculty Senate is completed by its councils. There are seven councils: Academic & Information Technology, Campus Planning & Finance, Graduate Studies, International Education, Research Policies, and Undergraduate Education. Information on these council can be found at <https://wmich.edu/facultysenate/councils>. Complete agendas and minutes from Faculty Senate meetings can be found at <https://wmich.edu/facultysenate>.

As part of the Faculty Senate Action Plan, the University Strategic Plan and how it relates to the work of the Senate will be showcased at each Senate meeting this academic year.

[MOA-24/10](#), was passed over the summer while the Senate was on recess. A record of all MOAs approved since the year 2000 is available at: <https://wmich.edu/facultysenate/policies/moa>

[Constitutions](#) and [Bylaws](#) Amendments: Both lists of amendments were approved.

[WMU Presidential Search](#): The Search Advisory Committee has started meeting. To provide input on the requirements for the next WMU President, visit the website.

Western achieved its highest ever retention rate, reaching 81.1%, surpassing the previous record of 80.4% set in 1997.

[Enrollment](#): For the first time in a decade, WMU's overall enrollment has increased by 46 students this fall (+0.3%) there was also a 0.5% increase in FTIAC students.



Student Scholarships

WMU Emeriti have a strong tradition of supporting students by generously funding the Emeriti Medallion Scholarship and the Emeriti Book Scholarship. The Council encourages donations to these scholarship funds.

Thank you to all who have and continue supporting WMU students through generous contributions to the Emeriti Medallion and Emeriti Textbook Scholarships.

Emeriti Medallion Scholarship

This scholarship is funded by generous donations from emeriti. Sizable gifts have allowed for full Medallion Scholarships to be offered on a regular basis every three out of four years. The criteria and process for selecting awardees, and the amount awarded are the same as for other Medallion Scholarships.

Established in 1983, Western's Medallion Scholarship program awarded its first scholarships in 1984. Today, donations from emeriti and others continue to support prestigious four-year Emeriti Medallion Scholarships. The Emeriti Council seeks to maintain a relationship with Medallion Scholars sponsored by emeriti by meeting face-to-face.

Current Emeriti Medallion Scholars:

Meg Buckwalter, Emeriti Medallion Scholarship; Nursing; Okemos, MI. Incoming class of 2024.

Anastasiia Hrukach, Emeriti Medallion Scholarship; Chemical and Paper Engineering; Ukraine and Traverse City, MI. Incoming class of 2023.

Avery Molnar, Emeriti Medallion Scholarship in Honor of James. J. Bosco; Music Education: Instrumental; Zeeland, MI. Incoming class of 2021.

Rebecca Fraley, Emeriti Medallion Scholarship, Nursing, Webberville, MI. Incoming Class of 2020.

Textbook Scholarships

In past years, donations from emeriti have supported around 25 sophomores, juniors, and seniors each semester with \$250-\$400 to defray the cost of textbooks, with scholarships which have ranged from 3.85-4.00. Nationwide, the average cost to first-year undergraduate students at public four-year institutions for books and supplies in one academic year is over \$1,200. We know that without this scholarship some students are not able to continue their education, and others take on additional debt or increase their working hours until they cut into their time for studies.

Unfortunately, donations have declined significantly in the past few years; the fund balance at of August 31, 2024 was \$1,285, and no Emeriti Book Scholarships were given for fall semester 2024. The fund is in need of donations to continue supporting students.

How to Make a Gift to Support Scholarships for Our Students

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution of any size to support and help WMU students. Doing so not only helps students financially but also communicates belief in each student's potential and encouragement from those who have taught and done research at WMU for many years.

Tax-deductible donations for **Textbook and Medallion Scholarships** can be sent directly to Gift Processing, WMU Foundation, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008, using the form on the back of this newsletter or by using the link below.

Note that online donations are handled through an alumni web site:

[Give Now V2.0 \(wmualumni.org\)](https://wmualumni.org)

Go to the “Can't find what you're looking for? Search for something specific” box and type in “Emeriti” and choose from either Emeriti Council's Book Scholarship Fund or the Emeriti Medallion Scholarship by clicking on the plus sign (+) to the left. This will take you to a form that you can fill out to donate.



University News

Winner of the Fulbright Specialist Award

Dr. Kuanchin (KC) Chen, Professor of Business Information Systems and Director of the Center for Business Analytics at Western Michigan University, has been awarded his third Fulbright Specialist Award, leading Western faculty in this recognition. One of the most prolific researchers in the Haworth College of Business, Chen has initiated many AI and analytics projects, including a National Science Foundation award with an interdisciplinary team to create an AI-ready workforce. He is known for keynoting at conferences and revitalizing business theories. In his previous Fulbright Specialist Award, where he traveled to Poland, he assisted in building faculty expertise, curriculum re-design and collaborative research in business analytics and AI.



Chen is one of just over 400 U.S. citizens who share expertise with host institutions abroad through the Fulbright Specialist Program each year. His Fulbright Specialist Award will take him to EM Normandie Business School, a university with more than 150 years of history, which is ranked among the Top 90 European Business Schools by the Financial Times. The host institution has three campuses in France, as well as international campuses in Oxford, England; Dublin, Ireland; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and Boston. He will complete a project that aims to exchange knowledge and

establish partnerships benefiting participants, institutions, and communities both in the United States and overseas.

Dr. Chen is part of a WMU team that recently received a grant from the National Science Foundation for research on AI readiness through cyber training. He is also piloting a research and teaching project on AI and student interview skill development. Chen has received numerous awards for his research and teaching from journals and conferences, the U.S. government, local community, and WMU. He is this year's winner of the MAC Outstanding Faculty for Student Success Award.

About the Fulbright Specialist Award

The Fulbright Specialist Program, part of the larger Fulbright Program, was established in 2001 by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program pairs highly qualified U.S. academics and professionals with host institutions abroad to share their expertise, strengthen institutional linkages, hone their skills, gain international experience, and learn about other cultures while building capacity at their overseas host institutions. Specialists, who represent a wide range of professional and academic disciplines, are competitively selected to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster based on their knowledge, skill sets, and ability to make a significant contribution to projects overseas.



Research with Students on Carbon Sequestration

Students might not always expect their professors to admit to them, “I don’t know, nobody does.” But for Dr. Stephen Kaczmarek, Associate Professor of Geological and Environmental Sciences, the uncertainty inherent in discovery drives the innovation, experiential learning, and authentic research found in his classroom.

In his fall Sedimentation and Stratigraphy course, fourteen students are completing novel research on rock cores from Michigan as part of a much larger, ongoing study on carbon sequestration. Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing, concentrating, and pumping carbon dioxide deep into the earth. Emerging technology focused on carbon sequestration may provide an important way to mitigate the effects of climate change caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

“These carbon capture projects are aimed at trying to figure out, ‘Is this a good bet? Should we pump lots of carbon dioxide into the subsurface of Michigan? Will it stay there? What are the risks?’ These are the big societal issues,” Kaczmarek says. His students are helping to answer these questions by studying deep drill cores extracted from the subsurface of northern Michigan. Previous analyses of these cores were found incomplete. Students in Kaczmarek’s course are working to fill this knowledge gap through research they carry out during their lab sessions.

“For me, the difference between authentic research and a typical lab activity is that nobody knows the answer at the start of authentic research,” Kaczmarek says.

Using a new state-of-the-art X-Ray Fluorescence spectrometer, an analytical instrument funded by the Department of Education's STEM Workforce Collaboratory project, his student researchers are analyzing and describing the elemental composition of rock cores that are part of the St. Peter sandstone and overlying confining units. Determining the elemental composition of underground rock is crucial to carbon sequestration projects, as various materials react differently to being injected with fluids, Kaczmarek says.

He also notes that in addition to conducting real research, he hopes to provide students with the experiential learning that they cannot get just by reading or doing work online. This is not the first time Kaczmarek has run a course like this. Last spring, he taught Advanced Earth Materials, which provided students with experience in analytical data collection using advanced instruments, including an x-ray diffractometer and a scanning electron microscope. Kaczmarek notes that the students thoroughly enjoyed the class, and many were able to present their findings at a scientific conference. Kaczmarek plans to continue delivering research-driven courses, where he and his students can learn side-by-side.

Multi-year Grant for WMU Jazz & the Irving S. Gilmore School of Music

Western Michigan University Jazz and the Irving S. Gilmore School of Music have been awarded a significant multi-year grant from the John Stites Jazz Artist Organization. This generous support will enhance the University's renowned Invitational Jazz Festival, which will now be known as the "Western Michigan University John Stites Jazz Festival."

Beginning in 2025, the John Stites Jazz Artist Organization is providing support for Western's jazz festival, which brings high school students from across the Midwest to perform, receive feedback in clinics as well as instrument specific classes. A mainstay in Michigan for 47 years, these funds will be used to heighten the profile of the festival and enable WMU Jazz to invite some of the most important artists in jazz as guest performers.

"WMU Jazz was something near to John's heart, and I am so pleased that our two organizations are working together. I was only able to work with John on one record, but I have such fond memories of the sessions. We both used the same recording software, and we worked very closely on the recording together" says Dr. Andrew Rathbun, WMU Jazz Area representative. "It's so meaningful to get an opportunity to celebrate John and his contributions to the community of artists, and to get a chance to grow our festival, inviting the highest echelon of artists to participate and share their music with students from across the Midwest in addition to the WMU Jazz Studies area"

Two Innovative Dual-Enrollment Partnerships

Each will open doors for high school students to begin their college journey early.

A new partnership with the Kent Career Tech Center will offer students in aviation career and technical education programs a direct pathway into the College of Aviation after high school.

Collaboration between the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Spanish, and Kalamazoo Public Schools will allow KPS students to participate in a Spanish program that provides a new academic pathway.

Breaking down barriers to accessibility, Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Public Schools are launching a new dual enrollment partnership that provides KPS students the opportunity to take advanced Spanish courses at little to no cost. This agreement, aimed at enhancing student learning and creating new academic pathways, opens doors for students to earn college credits in Spanish while still in high school. "We are thrilled to offer this partnership to KPS students, helping them gain valuable college experience while expanding their language skills," says Dr. Jason Glass, Associate Vice President for Teaching and Learning at WMU. "This program aligns with WMU's mission, 'So that all may learn,' fostering equitable access to education and promoting pathways for student success."



Starting in fall 2025, KPS students will be able to take WMU's dual-enrollment Spanish courses on their high school campus, providing increased and seamless access to higher education.

Students were joined by WMU and KPS faculty and administrators at a celebration of the new partnership in Dunbar Hall. "The partnership between Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Public Schools will expand learning opportunities for our students,

allowing them to challenge themselves, gain exposure to college life, and envision their next level of educational success," says Dr. Darrin Slade, superintendent of Kalamazoo Public Schools. "The expanding dual enrollment program in Spanish will prepare students to graduate from high school with skills that will help them thrive in a global society."

This program allows eligible students to work toward the equivalent of a Spanish minor at WMU by the time they complete high school. During the 2024-25 academic year, dual-enrollment courses will be offered on WMU's Kalamazoo campus.

Dr. Pablo Pastrana-Pérez, Chair and Associate Professor of Spanish, adds, "We look forward to providing KPS students with an engaging, university-level experience in Spanish that not only challenges them academically but also gives them a head start on their future careers." The initiative will give KPS students unique access to college-level courses, accelerating their academic journey and helping them prepare for higher

education. Wessam Abdelaziz, coordinator of English as a Second Language and World Languages for KPS, calls it a step forward in equity and opportunity.

Dr. Pablo Pastrana-Pérez, Chair and Associate Professor of Spanish, talks with KPS students who will be taking courses through the dual enrollment partnership. “For years, financial costs have limited students’ access to advanced Spanish courses, but now,

with little to no out-of-pocket expenses, we are leveling the playing field,” he says. “This program not only saves families from significant financial burdens but also empowers students to achieve academic milestones that will open doors in college, careers, and beyond. This is the kind of access and opportunity that our students deserve.” This partnership underscores the commitment of both WMU and KPS to nurturing the next generation of bilingual professionals, helping students get ahead in their post-secondary plans while enhancing educational opportunities in the community.



Haenicke Institute Announces New Senior Director of International Student and Scholar Services

The Haenicke Institute for Global Education welcomes Dr. Brian Childs as its new Senior Director of International Student and Scholar Services. Childs brings 18 years of experience in higher education administration to the role, most of which has been in international education. He joins Western from California State University, Monterey Bay, where he worked for nearly a decade. There, he led the international student and scholar services office and also served as director of student services and international enrollment management. The Haenicke Institute’s International Student and Scholar Services unit is responsible for international student recruitment, admissions, and immigration support.

Working to say “Goodbye” to Forever Chemicals

Dr. Matt Reeves, Associate Professor of Hydrogeology is working with his students to root out toxins such as PFAS. He notes, “We haven’t found a PFAS yet that doesn’t cause adverse health impacts. Some require higher concentrations than others to cause adverse health impacts. Some are more acutely toxic than others. But as far as I know, a single PFAS that is safe has yet to be identified.”

Indigenous Heritage Month Events

From an indigenous music celebration to a discussion on environmental justice and the tribal community, a diverse array of events took place in November, Native American Heritage Month, at Western Michigan University. Observed nationally in November, Native American Heritage Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage of Native peoples;

their strengths, resilience, achievements; and their contributions to America's past, present, and future. Events included a by visiting scholar Dr. Evan Larson, Professor and Chair of Environmental Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, entitled "Reciprocity through the Flames." He spoke about emerging research that pairs tree-ring-based fire history with indigenous knowledge related to the evolution of Great Lakes forests as well as shared stories from his own family heritage.

Larson also joined tribal leaders and citizens as well as Western faculty and stakeholders for the first environmental and ecological gathering of its kind at the University. The event included will a discussion moderated by Shabanaa Bush, NASO President, and Dr. Dee Sherwood, NASO Advisor and Chair of Western's Native American Affairs Council.

Indigenous hip-hop artist Frank Waln, who is a faculty member and artist-in-residence this academic year in Western's Irving S. Gilmore School of Music, hosted an interactive musical presentation at Dalton as part of the Bullock Series.



NASO is also collaborated with Western Michigan University Homer Stryker, M.D. School of Medicine on a discussion with medical students about the importance of sage, sweetgrass, cedar, and tobacco—the four sacred medicines in Native American teachings—as important medicines when interacting with Native patients as

part of the healing process. For more information on opportunities to experience Native culture and education throughout the year, follow NASO on Instagram and Facebook.

WMU Department of Public Safety Re-Accredited

Western Michigan University Department of Public Safety (WMU DPS) was again accredited for its policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services, a position it retains with a select group of police agencies in Michigan and as just one of four in Kalamazoo County.

As one of nearly 80 departments out of almost 600 police agencies in the state, WMU DPS meets the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission's (MLEAC) "best practice" standards to achieve accreditation, an esteemed recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

WMU DPS first sought accreditation from the commission in 2019, and after undergoing the rigorous examination process, it became one of the small number of police agencies statewide to achieve accreditation in 2021.

Accreditation is valid for a three-year period, during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting to its continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited. The public safety department must comply with 108 standards to achieve accredited status, including standards for high-risk liability actions like use of force, vehicle pursuit, and search and seizure as well as internal operations such as officer and workplace training, command structure, and recruitment.

WMU DPS presented Sergeant Dustin Hubbell, Officer Charles Johnson, and Officer Sara Helmer, who were all accreditation managers during the process, with Awards of Excellence for their exceptional efforts.



In Memory

- **Marlene R. Breu, professor emerita of family and consumer sciences, Feb. 15, 2024, Kalamazoo, MI**
- **Richard J. DePeaux, professor emeritus of art, April 7, 2024, Kalamazoo, MI**
- **William H. Fenn, professor emeritus of physician assistants, Nov. 28, 2023**
- **Stephen B. Friedman, professor emeritus of biological sciences, Feb. 20, 2024, Kalamazoo, MI**
- **Edward J. Heinig, professor emeritus of education and professional development, March 15, 2024**
- **Robert C. Hinkel, associate professor emeritus of English, Sept. 30, 2023**
- **Shirley Sparks Greif, associate professor emerita of speech pathology and audiology, Dec. 14, 2023, Cupertino, CA**
- **Levern H. "Vern" Stillwell, associate professor emeritus of theatre, Jan. 2, 2024, Kalamazoo, MI**

The Emeriti also note the death of **Dean Kirk Honsberger**, a friend and colleague of many faculty members and emeriti. Dean worked at Western his entire career; first as a Budget Officer, then as the Director of Budget and Planning, and ending his 45-year career as the Associate Vice President of Budget and Planning in 2015. He was born on December 30, 1946, and passed on September 17, 2024. He is survived by the following immediate relatives: children: Sheryl (Steve) Cramer and Christy (Chris Carew) Honsberger; grandchildren: Oscar Cramer, Kai Carew, and Lucia Carew.





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