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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# M Magazine



## Dunn: In a decade

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### Also inside

- Can biologists cure what's ailing bats?
- Foiling fake news

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Because of President John M. Dunn, WMU moves into the future with an international reputation for student success, valuable partnerships, innovation and sustainability. His July retirement marks the culmination of a productive presidency.

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# Pure GOLD

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Goldsworth Valley Pond  
under the rising sun



## Dear Friends,

It has been 10 months since I announced my plan to retire after 10 years as president. Linda and I have been heartened by the outpouring of well wishes during our encounters with members of the Western Michigan University community, on campus and beyond.

Often, these conversations turn to how the University has progressed over the past decade, along with expressions of gratitude. And as my July retirement draws closer, staff members and others have held events honoring my tenure. I'm even on the cover of this magazine!

While I take to heart the thanks and the commendations, I know and would like to emphasize that advancing this

University has been a "we" endeavor.

We as a Bronco community—alumni, board members, donors, emeriti, faculty members, friends of the University, staff and students—have worked together to elevate what was already a world-class higher education institution to even greater heights.

Today, we have a more diverse, including more international, student body. Our students have access to both a law school and medical school that bear the WMU name. We have many nationally ranked academic programs in a wide variety of disciplines. We have ramped up our environmental stewardship while extensively improving campus facilities for current and future generations of Broncos. And, bottom line, endowed with WMU's well-rounded educational experience, students leave here able to compete on equal footing with anybody anywhere in the world.

These grand results have been the work of many hands, of many minds, of myriad contributions and even sacrifices. For this, I will be forever grateful.

I am also pleased that the communal efforts and collective dedication that have moved this institution continuously forward over these years will remain intact as the University begins a new chapter with the leadership of President-elect Edward Montgomery. Together, we can go higher. And we will.

Best regards,

John M. Dunn, Ed.D.

President



Dr. Ming Li

## Li feted as diversity champion

Dr. Ming Li, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, is among 39 national higher education leaders honored by *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education.

Recipients were honored with the magazine's 2017 Giving Back Award in April. The annual award program recognizes college and university administrators who go above and beyond their everyday leadership duties and "give back" to their campuses and communities.

# INSIGHT<sup>®</sup> Into Diversity<sup>®</sup>

Giving Back Award recipients were nominated by their colleagues and selected by *INSIGHT Into Diversity* based on their outstanding demonstration of social responsibility; involvement with students, faculty, staff and the community; and commitment to serving underrepresented populations.

Li, who has served as education dean at WMU since 2013, was specifically honored because he has focused his career on diversifying the K-12 teacher workforce by making teacher preparation programs more accessible to underrepresented students. ■



Dr. Jeffrey M. Angles

## Professor wins prestigious Japanese literary prize

Dr. Jeffrey M. Angles, professor of world languages and literatures, has been awarded the prestigious Yomiuri Prize for Literature in poetry.

Angles won the prize—comparable to America’s Pulitzer Prize—for his book of Japanese-language poetry “*Watashi no hizukehen sen*” (“My International Date Line”), which was published by Shich sha in 2016.

He is one of just a handful of non-native speakers ever to win the award, a fact due in large part to the difficulty of mastering the Japanese language. And the professor is the first American ever to win in the poetry category.

The Yomiuri Prize for Literature, now in its 68th year, is given out in six categories annually: poetry, fiction, playwriting, criticism/biography, essays, and research/translation.

Angles’ book was, in the eyes of the judges, the best book of poetry published in Japan in 2016.

“This book of poetry taught me that there are special territories that only people who have two languages embedded deeply within themselves can reach,” Natsuki Ikezawa, a prominent Japanese novelist and one of the judges for the award, said of Angles’ book.

The Yomiuri Prize began in 1949, and like the Pulitzer Prize, is sponsored by a newspaper—the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, Japan’s best-selling newspaper, which has a circulation of 9 million.

Yomiuri winners receive a cash prize and an inkstone, an item that is used in East Asia when writing with a brush. For that reason, the inkstone has come to symbolize the act of writing.

“I couldn’t be more astounded by all of this,” Angles says. “This prize is usually reserved for extremely well-established writers. The list of past winners is like a who’s-who in the world of Japanese literature.”

Angles book was published in December, but it has sold well enough that it is already going into a second edition. ■

## Generous gift to establish construction research institute

WMU will be at the forefront of innovative construction research with the establishment of the new Georgeau Construction Research Institute, housed in the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The newly created institute was made possible by a generous \$5 million gift from Phil and Betty Georgeau. Phil Georgeau is a graduate of WMU and founder of Chem Link, a company based in Schoolcraft, Michigan, that manufactures products for the construction industry.

The vision of the institute is to advance the construction industry through research focused on addressing global construction challenges and creating better, stronger, sustainable, safer and more resilient construction systems and materials.

Dr. Osama Abudayyeh, chair of WMU’s civil and construction engineering department, will serve as the institute’s director.

“We greatly appreciate this substantial gift from the Georgeau family and are excited about the opportunities to address the challenges of the construction industry and enhance its global competitiveness,” Abudayyeh says.

He notes that advanced construction techniques, smart materials, energy efficiency, renewable energy, green and sustainability issues, and evolving regulatory requirements have created the need for higher levels of training for construction professionals.

“Today’s construction companies must respond to these challenges and to the demands of private and public owners who continually expect more for their money,” Abudayyeh adds. “We will focus on innovative research, address best practices that can be implemented by industry and help educate the next generation of construction researchers by engaging students at all levels in construction research.”

Plans are in the works for the institute to offer mini-courses, seminars and workshops.

Abudayyeh and Associate Director Dr. William Rantz, currently interim chair of the Department of Chemistry, will work closely with the institute’s advisory board and technical committee to define research projects and solicit proposals for projects. Initial funding for projects will be in the areas of construction methods and safety, innovative construction materials, and smart buildings. ■

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## WMU hailed for producing U.S. Fulbright Scholars



According to the U.S. Department of State's annual ranking, WMU is one of the nation's top producers of U.S. Fulbright Scholars.

With six WMU Fulbright Scholars awarded grants for 2016-17, the University is tied in 10th place as a top producer among the nation's research universities.

"It's especially meaningful right now to be acknowledged for our success in producing Fulbright Scholars," says President John M. Dunn. "Global engagement has been central to this University's identity for decades, and at the same time our faculty members are active internationally, we have been host to record numbers of Fulbright students from other nations. As a campus and community, we're enjoying the best of both worlds."

WMU's Fulbright Scholars for the 2016-17 year and their areas of focus include:

- Dr. James Butterfield, professor of political science, Vietnam in its global contest;
- Dr. Jon Davis, associate professor of mathematics, ethnomathematics and South Africa's centralized educational system;
- Dr. David Huffman, professor of chemistry, innate immune response, Denmark;
- Dr. James Hueng, professor of economics, economic reforms in China;
- Albert LaVergne, professor emeritus of art, sculpture in Nigeria; and
- Lynn Kelly-Albertson, director of Career and Student Employment Services, the German-American Fulbright Commission.

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program operates in more than 125 countries. Since its inception in 1946, the program has provided more than 370,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential—with the opportunity to exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. ■

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# IT'S BACK!



WMU NIGHT AT COMERICA PARK • JUNE 28, 2017 • [MYWMU.COM/TIGERS](http://MYWMU.COM/TIGERS)

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## Economist, labor expert is WMU's new president

**D**r. Edward B. Montgomery, a Georgetown University dean and noted labor economist who served two U.S. presidents, will become WMU's ninth president Aug. 1.

Montgomery's selection follows a national search to find a successor to Dr. John M. Dunn, who retires at the end of July.

"We were fortunate to have a number of gifted candidates emerge through the search process," said WMU Trustee William Johnston, who led the 22-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee that helped identify Montgomery as the successful finalist.

"Edward Montgomery's personal demeanor, commitment to transformational change and extensive academic background resonated with all of us involved in the search and spoke directly to the themes that emerged from our numerous listening sessions with university stakeholders."

The initial pool of candidates was 78. Through the work of the campuswide search committee, that number was narrowed to three finalists who were then interviewed by the Board of Trustees. The board selected Montgomery by unanimous vote on April 12.

"I am both humbled and completely delighted at the prospect of becoming the ninth president of Western Michigan

University," Montgomery said during a short talk following the board's vote. "For a university to have had just eight presidents in a history spanning over 100 years is a remarkable testament to the board and to the Western Michigan faculty, staff, student and alumni community."

Montgomery is currently a professor of economics and the founding dean of Georgetown's McCourt School of Public

*"Job No. 1 for me is getting to know the faculty, staff, students and alumni communities."*

*"Working together, I know we can build on the strong foundation laid by President Dunn and*

*make WMU the institution of choice for students from the state and region."*

Policy. His higher education career spans more than 35 years, with faculty positions at Carnegie Mellon and Michigan State universities as well as the University of Maryland, where he also was a dean.

In government, he played major roles in both the Clinton and Obama administrations. Under President Bill Clinton, Montgomery served as chief economist, then counselor and assistant secretary for the Department of Labor before being named deputy secretary of labor. In the latter role, the department's second highest position, he oversaw operations of a \$33 billion department.

And prior to joining Georgetown in 2010, he was informally known as the nation's "car czar" under President Barack Obama. In the Obama administration, he was executive director of the White House Council for Auto Communities and Workers.

Montgomery says the potential impact of a high-quality university is enormous and is a key reason the WMU presidency was so attractive to him.

"I was drawn to the opportunity to lead an up-and-coming student-centric comprehensive university with deep ties to the local and regional economy and community. Its strengths in the traditional arts and sciences, coupled with strong programs in such areas as aviation, engineering, business, medicine and others make it an institution with enormous potential," Montgomery said.

Montgomery's own degrees are from Pennsylvania State University, where he earned a bachelor's, and Harvard University, from which he holds both master's and doctoral degrees in economics.

His five-year contract with WMU calls for an annual salary of \$450,000 and a deferred compensation/retirement package will provide \$50,000 per year.

Montgomery and his wife, Kari, a Michigan native, have three grown children—E.J., Lindsay and Elizabeth. Just as his father's appointment was announced, E.J. was finishing a degree in finance at WMU. ■

# A students' prez. A big-idea leader.



Dunn has been popular among students throughout his tenure, and a selfie with the president is a sought-after souvenir. As one alumna noted: "Having school pride meant getting a picture with Dr. Dunn."

## Dunn presidency timeline

**2007**

**July 1**

Dr. John M. Dunn becomes the eighth president of Western Michigan University.

**2008**

**January 2008**

WMU, Dominican Republic ink agreement that brings scores of D.R. students to campus annually.

**May 2008**

First WMU Day at Capitol brings more than 700 Broncos to Lansing for a massive demonstration of Bronco pride.

**September 2008**

First Class of 54 Seitza Scholars launches WMU program for former foster care youth.

**2009**

**March 2009**

WMU becomes one of the nation's first "Tree Campuses."

**July 2009**

WMU named one of *Chronicle of Higher Education's* Great Colleges to Work For.

**2010**

**February 2010**

Eaton, WMU join forces for hybrid vehicle research.

**June 2010**

John and Linda Dunn serve as hosts to President Barack Obama, who visited campus to deliver a Kalamazoo Central High School graduation address and honor the city's focus on education.

# A Dunn deal.

**C**hristopher Sell was a senior when Dr. John M. Dunn was tapped to lead WMU in 2007.

Right away, he noticed the president did something repeatedly that Sell thought was surprising. It initially caused some University staff to raise eyebrows, too.

President Dunn gave out his email address to students “like it was candy,” Sell recalls, even in settings with hundreds of students. And he would urge them to contact him about anything.

Does the president of a major university really have time to answer students’ emails? Didn’t he know that could open floodgates?

But that level of engagement with students has been a closely held value for WMU’s eighth president.

**Engaged, visionary**

“From day one when he was hired, it was completely clear that one of Dr. Dunn’s primary goals, if not his most important goal, was to develop a strong connection with the student body,” Sell remembers. “He let them know that he was here to serve students.”

Adds former Western Student Association president and alumna Erin Kaplan: “He made it a point to be where the students were,” whether that be at an open forum, community march or Bronco sporting event.

With those frequent appearances, capturing a selfie with the president quickly became sought after. “Having school pride,” Kaplan says, “meant getting a picture with Dr. Dunn.”

As his presidential tenure comes to a close, it’s clear that Dunn has carved out a reputation for prioritizing engagement with students while operating as a chief executive who envisions and carries out big ideas to advance WMU overall.

That means on a wintry Saturday, he’s taken a dip and swim in the frigid waters of Goldsworth Valley Pond as part of a student government fundraiser for Special Olympics.

And it also means as the big-idea president, he started pushing for the creation of a medical school within months of his arrival, an idea that was not on anyone else’s radar, says Kenneth Miller, who serves on the WMU Board of Trustees and chaired the search team that recommended Dunn’s appointment a decade ago.

“I thought it sounded ambitious and was a vision that would probably die in the shadow, but, lo and behold, it never died,” Miller says.

To the contrary, after years of groundwork and an extraordinary \$100 million gift from Ronda Stryker and William Johnston, the vision resulted in the thriving, privately funded Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. This fall, the school welcomes its fourth class of students.

**The WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine was funded with a \$100 million gift from Ronda Stryker and William Johnston.**



## 2011

**August 2010**  
WMU included in expanded top tier of *U.S. News*’ list of best national universities.

**September 2010**  
*Military Times* ranks WMU 16th in the nation on its first “Best for Vets Colleges” list.

**March 2011**  
Record \$100 million gift supports new WMU School of Medicine.

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow helps unveil electric vehicle charging stations.

**May 2011**  
Western View apartment-style student housing opens for fall.

**October 2011**  
Michigan Legislature designates WMU as new home to Michigan Geological Survey.

**December 2011**  
Research facility donated to WMU to house new medical school.

## 2012

**March 2012**  
WMU electronic vehicle infrastructure called most extensive on campuses nationwide.

**April 2012**  
U.S. Rep. Fred Upton announces VetSuccess program for WMU, Kalamazoo Valley and Kellogg community colleges.

**June 2012**  
New WMU School of Medicine campus named for W.E. Upjohn.

**September 2012**  
New Sangren Hall grand opening held.

“John will be the first to shy away from taking glory, and there’s quite a team behind the medical school,” Miller says. “But part of his legacy is going to be that school.”

### 10 productive years

There’s much talk these days about *The Dunn Legacy*, as the president—who still encourages students to email him—draws closer to his July retirement.

His decade at WMU’s helm has been marked by transformation in multiple major facets of the University. So much so, Miller opines, Dunn’s legacy probably means different things to different people.

Many may point to the medical school and to the University’s affiliation with what’s now known as the WMU Cooley Law School. With both of these relatively new additions, WMU is among just 90 universities in the U.S. whose students have access to a medical school and a law school.

Others may cite WMU’s reputation in sustainability, which has grown dramatically in the past decade, with widespread recognition for a commitment to energy savings, LEED certification for all new construction and use of solar arrays. WMU has earned recognition

from the U.S. Green Building Council, Princeton Review, Second Nature and the Michigan Governor’s office for environmental stewardship.

And “if you were to take a look at the physical plant now versus 10 years ago, it’s been a magnificent transformation,” Miller says.

Since 2007, WMU has been reshaped by \$500 million in building and infrastructure improvements.

Among those developments: Sangren Hall, one of the most heavily used classroom facilities on campus, was razed in 2010 and built anew, opening in 2012.

Though not without controversy, East Hall, WMU’s first building, was extensively remodeled after languishing largely unused for years. Now an alumni center, the University’s birthplace was renamed Heritage Hall.

And before Dunn’s tenure, it had been decades since the University erected any new campus housing. In 2015, Western Heights, the first new residence hall in 50 years, opened, while the Western View apartments were completed in 2011 and 2013.

But beyond facilities that meet students’ educational needs once they get to WMU, championing access, particularly for underserved populations, also has been a major Dunn priority that leaves a lasting legacy.

Perhaps that goes back to his own roots.

### Opportunity U

Dunn grew up in a small town in southern Illinois coal country. His mother provided for the family by holding multiple jobs. Despite thin resources, his big idea back then was to seek a college degree, made possible, in part, from scholarship funding and his hardworking mother.

He says college opened up a new world to him; he went on to earn three degrees, including a doctorate, in physical education. He pursued research and developed expert knowledge in the long-term health of individuals with disabilities. In higher education leadership, he’s worked at all levels of administration.

But, he says, “If it had not been for others who opened the doors, who provided opportunities, who encouraged me and corrected me, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

## Definitively Dunn

#### Most-said remark:

“It’s a great day to be a Bronco!”

#### Favorite pun: “Consider it Dunn!”

#### Hands shaken in 10 years of commencements:

An estimated 50,000

#### Selfies with students:

An untold multitude

#### One regret:

Not discovering WMU sooner



## 2013 >>>

#### March 2013

WMU’s 100-year-old music school becomes All Steinway School.

Newell Brands commits to building product design center at WMU Business Technology and Research Park.

#### August 2013

*Washington Monthly* lauds WMU as one of nation’s best values.

Business accelerator launched to help student entrepreneurs.

WMU on DoED and VA short list of schools offering exemplary service to vets.

#### September 2013

WMU, Cooley Law School formally ink long-discussed affiliation accord.

#### October 2013

New Sangren Hall grand opening held.

Dedication of new Zhang Legacy Collections Center takes place.

#### November 2013

WMU receives \$1.4 million to start transportation research center.

## 2014

#### March 2014

Dunn elected to American Council on Education board.

WMU School of Medicine named for medical device pioneer Homer Stryker.

#### August 2014

WMU Stryker School of Medicine welcomes inaugural class.

WMU becomes tobacco free.

He's spent a career valuing the opportunities higher learning provides, and that encompasses one of his favorite descriptions of WMU.

"We are—and always hold on to this—an opportunity university," Dunn told a crowd gathered at a stop on a farewell tour organized by the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

As examples, he went on to cite the University's nationally recognized initiative to enroll former foster youths and its array of services designed to address the special needs of student veterans.

"There is no other university that has made the commitment to our veterans as we have," he boasted. "WMU has more Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans on our campus pursuing higher education than any other university in the state of Michigan.

"And they're making great progress. Why is that? Because we made a commitment... We need to make sure that they go immediately from service to our country to an opportunity to continue their education. And they're doing extremely well."

Several years ago, a professor and two other administrators brought to the president's attention a sometimes-overlooked population of students.

They told him that though a majority of the hundreds of youths who age out of Michigan's foster care system desired higher education, just a fraction pursued their ambition, lacking the financial wherewithal and other resources.

The statistics left Dunn stunned and somewhat embarrassed, he revealed, "because I've spent most of my life working with individuals who have disabilities and other forgotten populations.

"When they brought that to my attention, I said, 'Wow. We can do better.' The good news is we've found a way to create an opportunity for those students to continue their education, have a place to live and food on the table. The results speak for themselves."



As part of a farewell tour, Dunn traveled to several cities by bus.

The Seita Scholars program was established in 2008 to provide financial support and year-round housing to former foster youths. They meet the same academic standards as any other student, but often come lacking a permanent home and parental support.

This academic year, WMU marked the graduation of the 100th student to benefit from the initiative.

"If you invest in young people," Dunn said, "they are not only going to reap the benefits as an individual in what they will do, but it benefits all of us."

As he prepares to retire, he is frequently asked to reflect on what he is proud of and what he will miss after decades in education.

His response: "I'm most proud of students and their successes. The relationship with the students is probably the thing I'll miss the most. I don't mean to offend anyone else, but seeing students succeed is just very rewarding." ■

## 2015

### September 2014

Boston event recognizes WMU climate leadership status.

### November 2014

Two new additions bring total number of WMU LEED buildings to 12.

### December 2014

Dunn answers White House summit invitation, travels to D.C.

### April 2015

Iconic sculpture representing WMU seal dedicated as "The Gathering Tree."

### June 2015

Campus adopts proactive new sexual assault policy.

### August 2015

\$5.5 million renovation unveiled at WMU-Grand Rapids Beltline location.

### September 2015

Western Heights, first new student residence hall in 50 years, opens with start of fall semester.

New Michigan autism resource launched at WMU with \$4 million in state funding.

### November 2015

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU gets \$1 million endowment.

### October 2015

Heritage Hall, birthplace of WMU, opens as alumni center after massive renovation.

## 2016

### June 2016

Business Technology and Research Park Phase 2 funded; design begins.

### August 2016

Revolutionary campus eatery, the Valley Dining Center, opens.

### December 2016

100th Seita Scholar graduate awarded degree.

# WMU

## GRADUATES SUCCEED

[92 percent]  
2016 GRADUATES  
-are working  
-in grad school  
-in service

**S**adarra Fields had no intention of staying in Michigan when she graduated in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in music education.

Some interviews, a mentor counseled, would just be practice.

But Fields made quite an impression on officials from a Michigan performing arts academy who attended a WMU career fair looking for a music teacher.

"They invited me to come for a second interview, and that's when I kind of freaked out," she says. "They offered me the job on the spot."

The new graduate was so in love with the school—it has an entire wing dedicated to the performing arts—she accepted.

Fields now directs vocal music at the Marvin L. Winans Academy of Performing Arts in Detroit, teaching general music to students in kindergarten through second grade and vocal music to children in third through eighth grade. She also leads three choirs and an afterschool vocal club.

"I love it here because the kids are getting what they need academically, but they are also being exposed to the arts," she says. "I feel that this is exactly where I'm supposed to be."

### Degreed to succeed

Fields is among the thousands of newly minted alumni who exemplify data demonstrating the immediate success so many WMU students have found after graduating.

A full 92 percent of 2015-16 alumni were employed or in graduate school within three months of commencement, new data compiled by campus employment services officials show.

For those employed, 84 percent were employed in jobs related to their academic discipline, 88 percent were satisfied with their jobs and 76 percent were employed in Michigan. The median salary range for all respondents was \$40,000 to \$45,000.

Figures for the 2015-16 year that ended June 30 included responses from a full 75 percent of the year's 5,000-plus graduates.

With that high percentage of respondents and the 90-day timeframe reflected in the data, the WMU annual report has emerged as the most comprehensive documentation of postgraduate success found at any Michigan university.

The survey is the product of six years of work by Dr. Ewa Urban, associate director for assessment in WMU's Career and Student Employment Services.

Starting with responses from just 25 percent of graduates in 2009-10, she has built a survey and outreach program that for the most recent report netted responses from 3,766 of the 5,049 students who earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in 2015-16.

Working with Amy Galick, who is a graduate assistant working on a master's degree in applied mathematics, and data analyst Christopher Shank, Urban says her team was able to make the most recently completed report the most thorough to date.

"Overall, 72 percent of our data in this report was obtained through an online questionnaire, and 28 percent was gathered through LinkedIn or information shared by department chairs, faculty and staff," Urban says.

### Other key findings

In addition to active engagement and salaries, the survey results showcase a wealth of additional important information.

Findings from the 2015-16 assessment include:

WMU grads found employment in 44 other states, but the majority—76 percent—stayed in Michigan.

Internships play a critical role in postgraduate employment. Some 80 percent of grads completed an internship or other experiential opportunity while in school.

Forty-four percent of alumni were employed after graduation by a pre-graduation employer.

Those continuing their education were enrolled at WMU and at 128 other graduate schools around the world, ranging from Harvard and the Boston Conservancy to the University of Belfast and the University of Australia Melbourne.

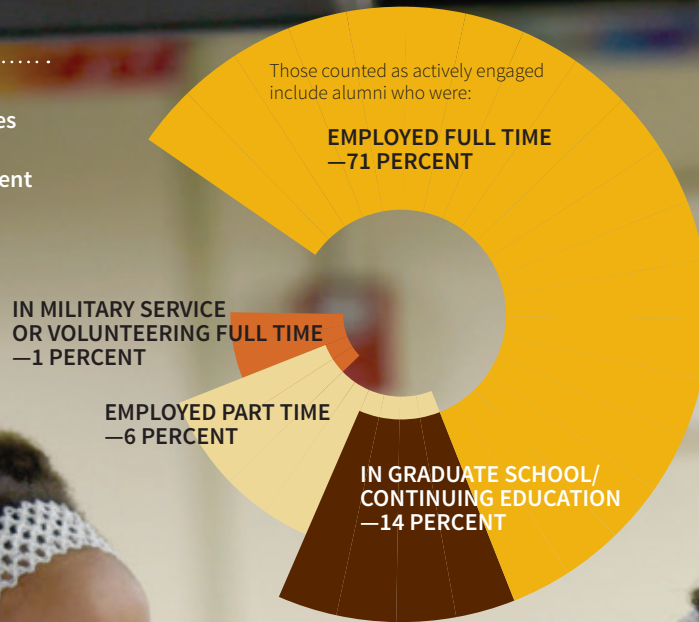
The comprehensive data is available online. It is broken out by college and major within colleges and by degree level. The report includes all majors for which sufficient data was collected to be considered valid. Each category includes detailed information on active engagement and salary as well as a sample of the organizations in which graduates in those majors are now employed. ■

To download the entire report, visit [wmich.edu/career/planning](http://wmich.edu/career/planning).



View a short video from Sadarra Fields' classroom at [youtube.com/user/wmunews/videos](https://youtube.com/user/wmunews/videos)

The postgraduate data show that for 2015-16, 92 percent of WMU graduates were “actively engaged” in the next steps of their professional development within three months of graduation.



Sadarra Fields, a 2016 WMU graduate, is the director of vocal music at Marvin L. Winans Performing Arts Academy in Detroit.

# AIMING TO BEAT A BAT KI

## BATS IN NORTH AMERICA affected by white nose syndrome:

- Big brown bat
- Eastern small-footed bat
- Gray bat (endangered species)
- Indiana bat (endangered species)
- Little brown bat
- Northern long-eared bat (threatened species)
- Tricolored bat

Source: [whitenosesyndrome.org](http://whitenosesyndrome.org)

## Vonhof's favorite and other bat facts:

- There are more than 1,200 bat species worldwide.
- Bats are the only flying mammals.
- Though bats can see, bat fleas are blind.
- Bats are among the few animals that use echolocation.
- The world's biggest bat, the giant golden-crowned flying fox, has a wingspan of 6 feet.
- The world's smallest bat, Kitti's hog-nosed bat, is about the size of a bumblebee.
- Bats can live for a long time—the record is 35 years in the wild.
- Most bats have only one pup per year.



# LLER

It's springtime, and the animals that hibernate through winter are active again, including bats.

But in North America, due to an emergent fungal disease called white nose syndrome, there are fewer bats eating insects, pollinating spring flowers or dispersing seeds than there was a decade ago.

That's because this burgeoning disease has been killing some species of hibernating bats at an alarmingly high rate.

"Millions of bats have died," says Dr. Maarten Vonhof, a WMU bat biologist who is among a corps of scientists across the country searching for solutions to this outbreak.

"Take the little brown bat, for instance. The average mortality rate is over 95 percent."

Vonhof's research using a compound called chitosan has shown some promise halting the effects of this disease that takes hold when bats are sleeping through winter and their immune response is thus diminished.

## Awakened and unwell

A bat in flight should be a beautiful sight for a bat biologist.

But when researchers approach a roosting location in the dead of winter and see bats flying around, it can be a morbid sign that a cave or mine has been infiltrated by white nose syndrome, or WNS.

"Bats are true hibernators," Vonhof explains. "They find a very cold spot to hibernate and that's because there is no food or water available for them during the entire winter."

Particularly in northern latitudes, some bats hibernate for half the year. In preparation for this long period of torpor, they fatten up devouring insects during the summer and fall and then hunker down when the weather is cold.

It happens that *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, the fungus that causes WNS, flourishes especially well in cold temperatures.

The fungus—also known as Pd—was first documented on the North American continent 11 years ago in New York.

Since its discovery, Pd has been found in 30 U.S. states and five Canadian provinces, and the disease it causes has killed more than 6 million bats.

The disease has now affected seven of North America's 47 bat species, including two designated as endangered and another as threatened.

And in recent news, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that the fungus was documented in Washington state in 2016—1,300 miles from any previous detection of it at that time. Then, in March, Texas Parks & Wildlife officials announced they had detected the fungus in the Lone Star State for the first time.

When this white-colored fungus marches across a bat's body, it triggers a raft of symptoms that some afflicted bats can't overcome, including lesions on their noses, ears and wings.

Its body under attack, an infected bat—which normally rouses from torpor temporarily from time to time—wakes up far more often than it should. The more it rouses, the more calories it burns, using precious

stored energy when there's not a lot of food or water around.

As the disease progresses, "the tissue on their wings and their nasal passages dies," Vonhof explains. "They get holes in their wings. They lose all kinds of electrolytes and fluids. It's just really bad for them."

So, scientists sometimes find the sites with infected bats by observing the creatures flying around the entrances of caves and mines when the bats should be hibernating.

"It'll be the middle of winter—January, February—and there will be snow on the ground and bats flying around. And they just don't do that naturally," Vonhof says.

"It's one last desperate attempt on their part to try to find food or water."

A bat that succumbs to WNS dies because its immune system can't curtail escalating inflammation or it starves, or a combination of both.

## Why should we care?

Though tiny, furtive creatures that generally stay out of sight until nightfall, bats have a big job in the ecosystem as the major predators of nighttime flying insects, including bugs that prey upon people—think mosquitoes—and agriculture.

"You remove bats, and what else is going to eat them? If you related that to the pesticides that would be required, it's in the billions of dollars. There is a lot of evidence demonstrating the economic benefits bats provide to humans."

So, while many of us may recoil in fear from the flying mammals, bats provide a valuable service

Vonhof's research team is shown here in a defunct silica mine in southern Illinois.



by dining on insects as well as through flower pollination and seed dispersal.

There's also the ecological balance argument to be made.

"Nature is made up of a complex set of interactions between a wide diversity of species, and for natural systems to function properly, we need all of those interactions to function normally. We can't just choose the parts we like. We need it all," Vonhof says.

But isn't nature itself, evidenced by the proliferation of the fungus that causes WNS, choosing winners and losers?

Not intentionally, says the WMU researcher.

"There's good evidence that the fungus was brought to North America by humans, and so we have a responsibility to then try to maintain (bat) populations over time, and that requires intervention in some cases."

## Research inroads

In the fall of 2015, Dr. Robert Eversole, one of Vonhof's WMU biology colleagues, suggested he try treating infected bats with chitosan, a natural, non-toxic and biodegradable compound used in human medicine and for other purposes.

From staunching blood flow to tissue repair and reformation, chitosan is an effective tissue healer. It also reduces the growth of fungi.

Could this combination combat WNS? If so, to reduce the death rate, the compound could be applied to bats in sites where disease is found.

In an early lab study, Vonhof and his

research team applied little brown bats—a species that has a nearly 100 percent mortality rate when infected—with chitosan at various concentrations.

"The best performing chitosan we had resulted in 80 percent survival, whereas our controls (untreated bats) in that experiment had around 50 percent survival," Vonhof says.

Based on the study's improvement in survival in the lab, he took the experimentation into the field with his research partner, Dr. Tim Carter of Ball State University. They ran a joint experiment in a Wisconsin mine with Dr. A. Marm Kilpatrick from the University of California-Santa Cruz.

Vonhof and Carter treated little brown bats with chitosan while Kilpatrick's study involved applying the bats with a bacterium that is naturally found on them, but not in the experimentally high doses used in his study. Kilpatrick was looking to learn whether or not an enhanced dose of bacteria would inhibit fungal growth.

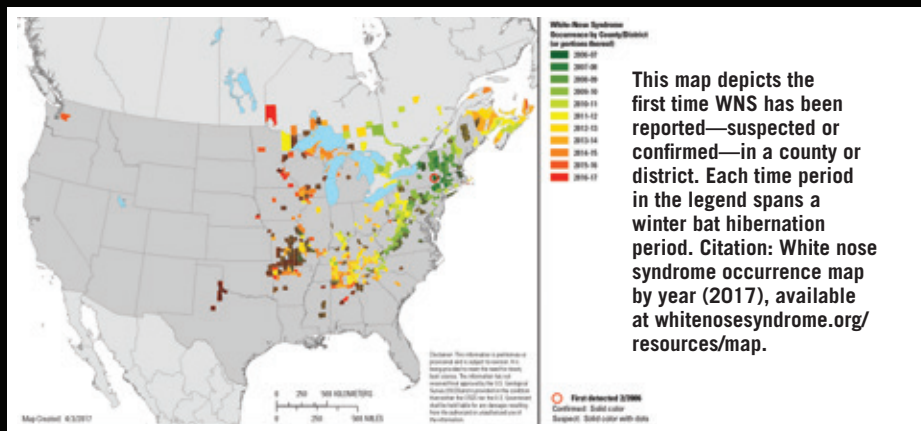
"It turned out that chitosan doubled survival relative to controls. Whereas, the bacterium had no effect," Vonhof says.

Encouraged by their study's results, late last fall, Vonhof and Carter set up another experiment, this time in two mines in Michigan's Upper Peninsula as well as in a mine in southern Illinois.

After revisiting the sites and combing through the resulting data, the researchers expect to publish their findings later this year. Stay tuned. The *WMU Magazine* will report on their discoveries in an upcoming edition. What they learn may impact us all. ■

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**Studying bats where they live requires biologists to spend a lot of time in caves and mines. This mine is in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.**



In February 2006, 40 miles west of Albany, New York, a caver photographed hibernating bats with an unusual white substance on their muzzles. He also noticed several dead bats. The following winter, New York Department of Environmental Conservation biologists were alerted to hundreds of dead bats in several caves as well as bats with white noses. They ultimately documented white nose syndrome in January 2007. Millions of bats have died since then.



WMU bat biologist Dr. Maarten Vonhof, left, and his research partner, Dr. Tim Carter of Ball State University, spray a bat with a solution containing chitosan during one of their field studies. They hope chitosan's wound-healing and fungicidal properties combat the effects of WNS. They are among a corps of scientists across the country diligently searching for solutions to combat this deadly disease. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is one of the federal agencies at the forefront of fighting WNS. The agency has funded Vonhof's research with more than \$400,000 in grants. His research also has been supported by The Nature Conservancy, Bat Conservation International, the Organization for Bat Conservation and the Center for Bat Research, Outreach, and Conservation.

Photos: Courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Find out more about white nose syndrome:  
[whitenosesyndrome.org](http://whitenosesyndrome.org) • [facebook.com/usfwswns](https://www.facebook.com/usfwswns)

USFWS Northeast on social:  
[facebook.com/usfwsnortheast](https://www.facebook.com/usfwsnortheast) • [twitter.com/USFWSNortheast](https://twitter.com/USFWSNortheast)



## SCENE ON CAMPUS

Though it is lush with a diverse array of plant life that is appealing to the eye, the Finch Plant Science Greenhouse in the Department of Biological Sciences is devoted to productivity—in academics, plant propagation, and scientific investigation pursued by WMU and outside researchers. Students also use the greenhouse for various projects. And many plants that adorn campus and the University's natural areas, such as the Kleinstuck and Asylum Lake preserves, began life in the greenhouse. Some of the plants grown in the facility are donated to area conservation groups.





Archaeological Institute scholarship winner Anne Volpe has often assisted Dr. Michael Nassaney, Fort St. Joseph principal investigator, with sorting animal bones and artifacts recovered from the Fort St. Joseph archaeological site.

## Archaeological aspirations unearthed

**A**t least temporarily, Anne Volpe's career aspirations died one day during honors English.

"It was a teacher in high school who told me that being an archaeologist was too far-fetched and that I should come up with something more feasible," Volpe remembers.

Was it a little fanciful to love unearthing old things, endeavoring to discern the past, the stories, even the civilizations that long buried artifacts may reveal?

Not at all.

### True path

After being diverted for a few years following a path she wasn't as passionate about, Volpe came to WMU in 2015 to pursue what she really wanted to do. And the double major in anthropology and geography has been rewarded for her hard work in the pursuit of her true ambition.

Volpe is the first WMU student to win the Archaeological Institute of America's Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship. Nationwide, 21 students were selected for the scholarship in 2016.

The funding was key because it enabled the now-senior to get her hands dirty digging into the past at the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, a collaboration of WMU, the city of Niles, Michigan, and various community groups.

With other students, Volpe spent last summer at Fort St. Joseph in WMU's 41<sup>st</sup> annual archaeological field school, one of the longest running programs in the country. She learned how to process, analyze and interpret items found in the dig. Students also helped educate visitors, as the site is a public attraction. Visitors learn about the fort's history through lectures, camps and open houses.

### About the fort

Located about 60 miles southwest of the Kalamazoo area, the fort was once an important Colonial trading post, mission and military garrison before it was deserted in the late 1780s.



**Animal bones from meals eaten long ago at Fort St. Joseph are a common find.**

Since 1998, WMU faculty and student researchers have been carefully recovering artifacts from this internationally recognized site; it abounds in materials that bring to light the activities of the British, French and Native American people who inhabited the area.

"Each artifact that you recover has a story behind it," Volpe says, adding that a lot of what archaeology is about is making inferences about what life was like at the time an artifact was in use.

Site investigation at the fort has unearthed the remnants of jewelry, tools, weaponry, religious items and other evidence of daily life and culture from hundreds of years ago.

"My pit partner found a religious medallion in our pit," Volpe says. "We don't find those very often in the archaeological record. There are a lot of religious items, but as far as religious medallions go, that was only the second found at Fort St. Joseph."

"It's cool to find rare items like that; it's meaningful," she says. "You just learn so much."

The medallion also was an exciting find because it is evidence of the Jesuit presence at the fort, which was originally established as a mission for French Jesuits.

"Still, we're left with the question of who owned it (the medallion) and how it ended up in the ground," says Dr. Michael Nassaney, principal investigator of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project who has not only served as Volpe's professor, but an important mentor as well.

"There are no shortages of mysteries at Fort St. Joseph waiting to be solved," he adds.

But it's not mysterious at all to Nassaney that the Archaeological Institute selected Volpe for a scholarship. He says she's a conscientious student, earns top grades and has been a great Fort St. Joseph ambassador.

"She dedicates so much time to her classwork. She's always there and consistently well-prepared."

Volpe continues to sort artifacts from the fort in an on-campus laboratory. She loves the work. And the fact that she was sidetracked for a period not following her passion continues to be a meaningful lesson.

"My advice to high school students would be to chase after your dreams, even if they do seem far-fetched, and even if other people tell you they are; in the end, you will only truly be happy if you are doing what you're passionate about." ■



**EnRico Montalvo**

## **Student receives prestigious Gilman award to study abroad**

EnRico Montalvo, a senior with double majors in Spanish and exercise science, received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program to study in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Montalvo is among 926 undergraduate awardees out of more than 2,800 U.S. applicants to receive a Gilman scholarship for the spring 2017 semester.

The congressionally funded program offers study abroad grants for undergraduate students who demonstrate high financial need. The scholarship defrays such costs as tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance and international airfare.

Montalvo, a Kalamazoo native who plans to graduate in June, is pursuing programs of study that reflect two significant personal interests that play into his career plans.

"Exercise and sports are a big part of my life, so exercise science was the right fit for me. Also, I have always had an interest in foreign languages, but my family's Mexican background drove me towards Spanish," he says. "After graduation, I plan on applying to physical therapy school. It's a great way to connect with people and assist them in their time of need."

While studying abroad, Montalvo says he plans to polish his Spanish skills and continue to improve his networking abilities. He also wants to share his experience with others, so he will be keeping in touch with a Spanish class at Loy Norrix High School in Kalamazoo to inspire younger students to study abroad and chase their passions.

"When I began my academic career, I never thought I could study abroad due to financial reasons. Receiving the Gilman is a realization that it is possible to accomplish goals which may seem unobtainable at first glance," he says. ■



# Foiling **fake news**



View the full discussion at [wmich.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Catalogcatalogs/FakeNews](http://wmich.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Catalogcatalogs/FakeNews)

Last fall, an article circulating on the internet and shared on social media reported that former President Barack Obama issued an executive order on a controversial topic.

It appeared to be the reportage of a well-known news outlet and included a link to a White House web page.

But the article wasn't from the news outlet it imitated. There was no such executive order. And the link to the White House website was an apparent attempt to lend the story credibility.

Those who believed the write-up weren't informed, they were fooled, the victims of fake news.

The so-called fake news phenomenon that gained traction online during the presidential campaigns of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, and continues, has misinformed its victims, worried both consumers and purveyors of fact-based news, and spurred Facebook into action against its spread.

## **A rising phenomenon**

At WMU, fake news was the topic of a packed panel discussion that included arming attendees with tips on how to avoid being fooled as online news consumers.

Among the suggestions of the journalists and WMU professors on the panel:

- Research the sources referenced in articles;
- Seek reporting from a diversity of news outlets on a given topic; and
- Use multiple fact-checking websites to verify an article's assertions.

"Be critical news consumers. Don't just take one source as gospel," advised Mickey Ciokajlo, panelist and a regional news manager for MLive Media Group,

which produces print and online news content in Michigan. He was joined on the panel by Sue Ellen Christian, professor of communication, and Dr. Peter Wielhouwer, associate professor of political science.

The discussion in the Lee Honors College lounge in February, like the discourse surrounding fake news in society, quickly turned to the other side of the coin—the practice of professional journalism—as well as to the public's media-literacy responsibilities.

Fake news has risen up during a time, one panelist said, in which everybody is a publisher.

Anyone can put up a website, create articles and promote them on social media. And for both authentic news organizations and creators of fake news, news consumers aren't just consumers; they become co-publishers by sharing content on sites such as Facebook and Twitter, where a story can take on a life of its own.

In the context of this highly diversified and complex media landscape, the general public is faced with the fraught task of correctly divining fact from fiction.

"No longer are people seeking information only tied to just going to a few big news stations, like they were when I was a kid. Or, to just a handful of 24-hour news channels like when our students were kids," Wielhouwer remarked.

"Now, we're looking at everybody being able to distribute any information that they come across, and I don't think we're exactly sure about what the impact of that is going to be (long term) when people distributing information don't have... journalistic ethics."

Even the seemingly narrow topic of defining fake news becomes complex and murky in a hurry.

Home Tools Fake News

# How to Catch Fake News Before It Catches You

## Media Citizenship in a Divided Time

For more resources: [libguides.wmich.edu/MediaLiteracy](http://libguides.wmich.edu/MediaLiteracy)

Host:  
WMU Libraries

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
University Libraries

Please hold questions

A Panelist  
Sue Ellen Christian, Department of Geography and Department of Geology, Western Michigan University  
Mickey Ciokajlo, Regional News Director, Kalamazoo and Muskegon, Michigan  
Peter W. Wielhouwer, Associate Professor of Political Science, Director of the Institute for Public Policy, Western Michigan University  
Moderated by Dianna E. ...  
Instructional Services Librarian

The panel was hosted by University Libraries and co-sponsored by the Lee Honors College, the School of Communication and the Department of Political Science.





.....  
The educational panel on fake news attracted a capacity crowd in the Lee Honors College lounge.

### So, what is fake news?

“Fake news” means different things to different people, said Ciokajlo. He characterized the term as a misnomer.

“At its core, journalism is about seeking the truth. If someone is peddling falsity intentionally, then that’s not news. Those are called lies,” he said.

To some, fake news is a wholly fabricated article from a spurious source designed to attract attention and mislead. To others, fake news is a story that omits their point of view. “I’m trying to remember to call it something like ‘purposeful misinformation,’ because it’s designed to deceive,” Christian said. “That’s its point.”

Christian, formerly a staff writer for the *Chicago Tribune*, teaches journalism and media literacy at WMU. She worries about the potential far-reaching effects of “purposeful misinformation” that masquerades as journalism.

“I feel like the consequences of the proliferation of fake news are that there’s a further erosion of trust in journalism and a further erosion of trust in credible news sources. People are more confused than ever about whom do I trust...

“I think that’s really a profound impact on people who are already busy, and it’s a real burden on the citizenry to stay informed,” she said.

### Reliable sources?

So, how does one determine what’s credible and what’s not? And what are reliable sources of fact-based news?

Christian advises using fact-checking sites such as [factcheck.org](http://factcheck.org), [Politifact](http://Politifact), the *Washington Post* fact checker and the Center for Responsive Politics’ [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org).

“I’ve heard conservative friends say that those have a liberal spin to them, (that) they’re not really checking all the facts. But I think that the four big ones, taken together, give you a pretty accurate view of what’s not true,” she said. “So, if you’re really questioning, it’s a great place to start.”

Wielhouwer, the political science faculty member, considers the online news outlet *Politico* “fairly reliable” for political news. He also reads the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times* and gets news from NPR.

“But, here’s the thing, I don’t go in thinking that because it’s on these

particular sites that it’s by definition true,” he said. “I always try to keep a skeptical view, not so much because I think journalists are out to present a skewed view of the world. But I think the kinds of questions that they ask, the kinds of stories that they write, do reflect a certain point of view.”

Ciokajlo said his first rule of thumb is to scrutinize the web address of a story. If he doesn’t recognize it, “I look at it pretty cautiously, and that’s kind of my starting point.”

During the discussion, he also suggested that news consumers have a responsibility to be critical thinkers and seekers of fact.

“Don’t just read a bunch of opinions—whether it’s left or right,” he advised.

“Search out good factual articles or news sources. And how do you know they’re factual? Look at the sourcing. Look who they’re talking to. Are they sourcing credible bodies of information? ... Don’t just get caught up in political talking points and opinions. Look, opinion is cheap. Facts are hard to come by and should be cherished.” ■



As part of Bronco Force, Shaen Hawkins, right, now an ISM graduate, worked with Kevin Grossheim, a vice president at Sigma Machine Corp.

## Biz college programs lauded

Haworth College of Business programs continue to receive national acclaim.

Already recognized nationally for its innovative curriculum and technology components, the Integrated Supply Management program was recently ranked No. 2 on a listing of the top 100 universities for supply chain talent produced by SCM World, ahead of MIT, Harvard, Penn State, University of Michigan and many other programs. Perennial rival Michigan State placed first.

Cited for its focus on hands-on experiences, WMU's program offers students such immersive learning opportunities as special projects courses, simulations, internships and Bronco Force, an innovative student and faculty consultancy that aids companies with their supply chain challenges.

And, in another lauded program, Food and Consumer Package Goods Marketing, students Mariel Dehn and Sarah Hamilton, and Rustin Rice earned the top spot and \$8,000, competing against teams from 13 other universities at the 2017 National Grocers Association Student Case Study Competition.

Evaluated by industry professionals, student teams developed solutions to a case focused on developing a marketing strategy that would increase basket size, frequency of store visits and volume of higher margin purchases among millennial consumers for Harps Food Stores, an independent retailer.

The WMU team advanced to the final round where judges determined there was a tie and WMU shared first place with St. Joseph's University. ■



Spinning up mud, WMU's all-terrain vehicle tore through the track during a durability race at Michigan Tech.

## SAE Baja team blazed the Blizzard Baja

The University's Baja SAE team successfully shredded the track in February at Michigan Tech's Blizzard Baja, where the team's all-terrain vehicle performed well in a four-hour durability race.

College teams from across the country design and build single-seat off-road vehicles and compete in national Baja SAE events.

"The Blizzard Baja is a way for us to test our vehicle before our big national competition in June," said Alyssa Hartsig, a mechanical engineering student and member of WMU's Baja team.

"It was so much fun to race the car in the snow and slush and see how it performed."

Nearly 20 universities and 50 vehicles competed at the event, which is organized and hosted by Michigan Tech annually.

"Being involved in these competitions exposes students to real-world engineering design projects and their related challenges," says Dr. Andy Kline, associate dean for research and graduate education, who serves as advisor to the team. "Team members have to design and build an off-road vehicle that will survive the severe punishment of rough terrain."

In June, the WMU team will compete against 100 other universities at the national competition at the Caterpillar Edwards proving grounds in Illinois. ■

## Social work students publish in leading journal

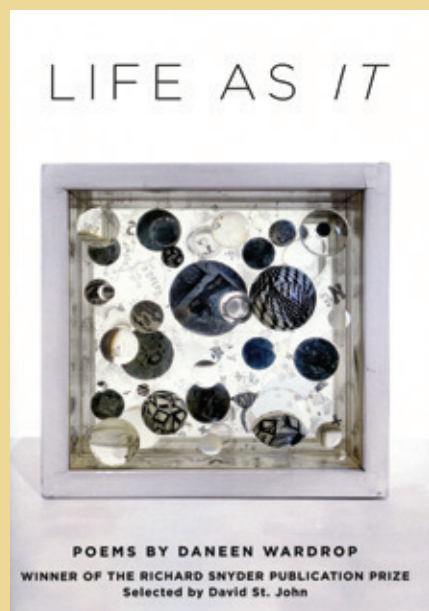
An unusual examination of the practical therapeutic applications of mindfulness combined with a senior faculty member's commitment to community service led seven graduate social work students to have their first professional paper accepted for publication in one of their discipline's most prestigious journals.

"An Environmental Scan of Mindfulness-Based Interventions on University and College Campuses" was published in the December 2016 issue of the internationally acclaimed *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*.

The newly published researchers are Kaley J. Cieslak, Lehanna E. Hardy, Natalie S. Kyles, Erika L. Miller, Becky L. Mullins, Katelyn M. Root and Christina M. Smith. The seven were students last spring in Dr. Rick Grinnell's section of the course Evaluation of Social Work Practice.

The students found that colleges and universities are increasing the mental health interventions they offer to their students, and mindfulness-based interventions seem to be being used with an increasing frequency. Such interventions include mindfulness-based cognitive therapy, mindfulness-based stress reduction, guided meditations and yoga, compassion training, mindfulness-based technology, and mindful eating. ■

# Compelled to write



**W**ords hold magic for Dr. Daneen Wardrop. Words seed light and life.

The professor of English is the author of seven books, three of which are poetry. Her newest collection is called “Life as *It*,” published in 2016 by The Ashland Poetry Press.

“Writers... we can’t help ourselves, we have it bad,” Wardrop says.

As a child, she recalls, she would attempt to duplicate newspapers, writing stories and even illustrating them to look like print photographs. The first-grader would go from door to door in her neighborhood, selling her homemade newspapers for a penny each.

“In fourth grade, I cut out these inspirational sayings that were printed in the corner of our newspaper and saved them in a bag,” Wardrop says. “I think that may have been my introduction to more poetic language.”

She’s come a long way since clipping newspapers.

Wardrop’s latest poetry collection, “Life as *It*,” was awarded the Richard Snyder Publication Prize in 2015. Hers was among approximately 600 entries.

She is also the recipient of the Robert H. Winner Award from the Poetry Society of America, the Seattle Review Bentley Prize and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry. Her previous collections include “Cyclorama” and “The Odds of Being.”

“If there’s any theme that runs through all my books,” says Wardrop, “it is the women’s voices, the maternal.”

In “Cyclorama,” Wardrop’s poetry is inspired by the art and history of the American Civil War. She won the 2014 Poets Out Loud Prize for the collection, which sometimes describes historical figures (nurse, slave, immigrant, woman soldier), other times imaginary, but always intimate. In “The Odds of Being,” the poet writes about her delight in a new, adopted daughter.

“Life as *It*” is comprised of prose poems—poems written without the traditional line breaks associated with poetry, but with the same lyrical qualities of poetry, heightened imagery and compactness.

“Prose poems are often referred to as postcard poems,” Wardrop says. “I like what a prose poem can do, the pressure it creates to condense into a block form. I would write a poem, and I could see that the lines were stilted. When I put it into a prose format, it would really bring it out.

I couldn’t allow it anymore. It’s a format that keeps me honest.”

Wardrop describes her writing process as “dreamlike,” out of that stage between wakefulness and sleep when creativity seems to float up almost effortlessly, without inhibition. She transcribes that creativity quickly, writing because she feels compelled to do so, and writing only for herself.

“In the next stage of revision, however, I become conscious of my audience,” she says. “I revise obsessively, continually.”

The cadence and rhythm in her work, Wardrop says, taps into her musical roots. For a decade of her growing-up years, Wardrop played in various bands, and it was during those musical performances that she developed a love for not only music but the song lyrics that accompanied the music.

Appearing again and again throughout her new collection are Saint Teresa and Buddha, each symbolizing one of two polarities.

“While Buddha has no preferences, but accepts all, Saint Teresa is a very sensual figure, consumed by her desire for the Christ,” Wardrop says. “While I wasn’t raised within the church, I have always felt a spiritual longing, and I’m attracted to Bernini’s sculpture, The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa. But then, I’m also attracted to the Zen state of acceptance.”

## Her WMU career

Wardrop has taught American literature at WMU since 1990, coming to the University soon after earning her



# Public Health Defenders

*New degree program meets critical need*



Wardrop

doctorate at the University of Virginia.

She gives a nod to her colleagues, Nancy Eimers and Bill Olsen, both also English professors and poets, as an ongoing source of inspiration and encouragement, and to the Kalamazoo community in general, which, she says, is so rich in the arts.

In 2013, Wardrop's colleagues from WMU and elsewhere gave a formal nod to her. She was named that year's Distinguished Faculty Scholar, WMU's highest honor for a faculty member, the recognition of a significant body of achievement.

One nominator wrote that the professor had an "astonishing singularity of style" in both her prose and poetry. "Never mere adornment. It is instead the audacious means of original thought coming into being and of an unforgettable voice entering, expanding, shifting and enriching the conversation among scholars." ■

There are times Rachel Sabin drives 400 miles to get to class.

But that occasional trek is worth it to the Northern Michigan resident who is thrilled to be part of the new master's degree program in public health offered through WMU's downtown Grand Rapids campus.

As a health education consultant in the state's Upper Peninsula, Sabin travels to elementary schools teaching nutrition as well as promoting physical activity and other aspects of healthy living.

Two semesters into WMU's degree, and she's already seeing the benefits.

"It's expanding my knowledge of what's happening around Michigan and across the nation as far as programs and policies... It's interesting tying my work together with what's happening in public health elsewhere."

The new degree program was launched last September with a cohort of 25 students from across the state. It was designed specifically to serve busy contemporary adult students already working in public health fields who need night and weekend class times to pursue continued education.

The course work is carried out mostly online, but students convene for face-to-face studies twice each semester in Grand Rapids.

The degree is based on the idea that health encompasses "physical, mental and social well-being, not just the absence of illness and disability," says Dr. Vivian Valdmanis, director of the program.

"We're looking at public health from a very broad perspective."

To prepare students for a variety of public health careers in such settings as health departments, medical clinics, non-governmental organizations and private industry, the curriculum focuses on five core areas—biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, health services administration, and social and behavioral sciences.

Sabin began thinking about pursuing a master's degree four years ago, soon after

she completed her undergraduate studies in community health education at Northern Michigan University. But she wanted to get experience in the field first.

As a consultant for a regional educational service agency covering two U.P. counties, she travels to some 70 classrooms teaching youths about healthy habits.

"I hope to continue my education and start up a Ph.D. program in either health education/promotion or community health," Sabin says. "I would like to do research and work on school-based health, employee wellness, and farm-to-school programs."

Another student in the program, Khadijah Johnson, works as an instructional designer for Ford Credit where she develops training materials for dealerships and the sales team.

She holds dual Bachelor of Science degrees in health communication and public and nonprofit administration. She also earned a public health graduate certificate from the University of Michigan.

"With my master's, I plan to further work in policy to develop change on the national level," Johnson says.

"It is very important to me to help create increased access to good health care and to influence communities to work together to make this world a healthier place."

The MPH program runs two years including a one-week long intensive face-to-face learning experience in June.

This summer, the graduate students will work in small groups and present their findings on opioid abuse at a public health summit to local medical leaders and dignitaries as part of a case studies class.

Learn more about the MPH degree program at [wmich.edu/healthprograms](http://wmich.edu/healthprograms). ■



Sabin

Wrapping up  
cross-cultural love

**H**eads turn when Zarinah El-Amin Naeem walks into the room. It's not just the warmth of her smile, although that's part of it. From head to foot, she is dressed in vibrant colors, but it is perhaps her head covering that is the most striking.

Everything about her draws and holds the eye.

El-Amin Naeem is an author, a publisher, a consultant, a cultural specialist and global presenter, known especially for her presentations about head-wrapping. The Detroit native earned her master's in anthropology at WMU in 2008. It was during her graduate years at WMU that she found her career path.

"During my Thurgood Marshall Fellowship years, I worked with Kristina Wirtz, a professor in the Spanish department," El-Amin Naeem says. "That's where my whole line of working with issues of diversity began. I was assigned to work in community development and build interest in the RACE Exhibit Initiative. Working with Dr. Wirtz and, later, Dr. Martha Warfield in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, taught me how to negotiate multiple interests and make big projects like that happen."

The admiration is mutual. Says Professor Wirtz: "Zarinah conveys such personal warmth and genuineness that she can put an entire room at ease with a few words or defuse tensions with a laugh. I may have been her professor, but I learned a great deal from her about how to effectively bring people together and make it safe and positive to discuss thorny topics like racism."

El-Amin Naeem found herself on the path to community service. She attributes it to her family roots.

"My family was always community-minded and active in the Muslim and interfaith community of Detroit, so that was a natural for me," she says. "I was good at technology, and when I first went to college, computer science was my major, but social action was always important to me, too."

The pull was irresistible. She worked on various environmental issues, signed up for AmeriCorps, and in her senior year turned down job offers so that she might travel to Cairo, Egypt, instead, to teach English as a second language. She then moved to Sierra Leone, where she worked to



"My goal is to be a vehicle toward the creation of a global culture of love. I believe that through personal development and recognizing the humanity in each person we meet, we can achieve this goal."

—Zarinah El-Amin Naeem





**“Head-wrapologist” Asya Ziyad of Detroit adorns Professor Kristina Wirtz with a wrap in the Trimpe Building’s Multicultural Center. Alumna Zarinah El-Amin Naeem, founder of Beautifully Wrapped, visited campus to talk about and demonstrate head-wrapping as practiced by many cultures around the world.**



**Graduate student Siobhan Williams models a gele, a wrap worn by Nigerian women for festive occasions.**

restructure programs that helped people learn how to bring in life-supporting income.

“I was in Sierra Leone when the country was emerging from civil war,” El-Amin Naeem recalls. “I remember hearing horror stories about the bodies that littered the street right outside my office. It was difficult, but I learned about forgiveness and the power of human resilience. Later, I noticed the girls who stood along the streets outside the building where I worked, selling oranges. When I talked to them, I found out they didn’t have money to go to school, to buy uniforms or supplies.”

When El-Amin Naeem returned home to Detroit, she spoke with her family about sponsoring some of these girls. From that family effort was born the Enliven Your Soul Foundation for Global Advancement. Along with sponsoring young women in Sierra Leone, another idea developed from this effort—Beautifully Wrapped.

“Beautifully Wrapped is an international, interfaith project that taps into the global art of head-wrapping as a way to strengthen human relations across cultures,” she says.

El-Amin Naeem wears a head covering every day, and from the many comments and questions she would receive daily about it, she realized she could use it as a tool to reach out and educate others.

“My goal was to open people’s minds,” she says. “Fashion fit that goal—I am able to pull people in through fashion, to something bigger that is educational and fun.”

She offers head-wrapping workshops and tutorials, organizes traveling exhibits, and sponsors a Headwrap Expo. To raise funds, she sells a calendar with images of women wearing colorful head-wrappings.

El-Amin Naeem also has founded Niyah Press and Self-publishing System to help Muslim and spiritually guided individuals publish and market their books. She is the author of “Jihad of the Soul: Singlehood and the Search for Love in Muslim America.” ■

# An apology 500 years past due?

An internationally known historian who has spent six decades focusing on the history of Christianity, sees this year as the perfect time for Catholic and Anglican leaders to ask for forgiveness and bring closure to a dark period in Western European religious history—the Reformation.

Dr. Paul Maier, professor emeritus of history, has published a newly edited version of “Foxy’s Book of Martyrs.” The compilation of the deaths of Catholic and Protestant martyrs was written by John Foxe.

Foxy’s near-impossible attempt to record the names and circumstances of all Christian martyrs made him the author of a 3,000-page, 16th-century bestseller, the longest single book ever written, outpacing even the version of the Bible in use during that period.

Maier’s work in bringing the Foxy book to light again left him profoundly troubled by the sheer numbers—3,721—of people tortured and burned alive by both sides of a religious divide in the 16th century.

The horrific violence and bloodshed Foxy documented led Maier to petition both Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, asking them to take the dramatic step of asking for the world’s forgiveness for the wrongs carried out in the name of their respective religious organizations so long ago.

“While you can’t expect apologies from innocents for the mistakes of their

predecessors,” Maier says, “this can happen when great institutions are involved. Pope Francis, for example, apologized to the Protestant Waldensians for their persecution by the Medieval Catholic Church.”

## The Reformation

The religious violence focused upon by Maier occurred during the period known as The Reformation. English victims were most often martyred by Roman Catholics during the reign of “Bloody” Queen Mary, while Catholics were



*Maier sees 2017—the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and Foxy’s original publication—as a perfect time for Christendom to set an example for the world by recognizing mistakes and affirming the courage of thousands of Christians martyred for their faith by other Christians.*

subsequently persecuted, on a smaller scale, by Protestants during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Martyrs listed include people like William Tyndale, who was persecuted simply for translating the Bible into English. And Maier reminds observers that, in addition to the thousands killed, as recounted by Foxy, many more were imprisoned, tortured, stripped of their property, humiliated and forced to recant their religious beliefs.

Maier sees the timing—the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and Foxy’s original

publication—as a perfect time for Christendom to set an example for the world by recognizing mistakes and affirming the courage of thousands of Christians murdered by other Christians—martyred for their faith.

“What better time to put this tragic period to rest than in 2017, the 500th anniversary of the start of Reformation?” asks Maier. He notes Pope Francis is a pope with a history of acknowledging earlier wrongs and could easily add this outreach to his

accomplishments. “This could very well evoke a period of ecumenical celebration.”

Maier has not received a response from either of the church leaders he has petitioned, but he is hopeful that the anniversary of the Reformation will raise the profile of the issues he has brought forward.

Maier’s edited version of “Foxy’s Book of Martyrs,” was compiled with the assistance of one of his former graduate students, Rita C. Linnenkugel. Though abridged, the entire list of martyrs remains and is accompanied by updated

language, commentary and illustrations.

The illustrations are of particular note, Maier says, because they include a number of woodcuts from Foxy’s original editions. These are reprinted in the new book with permission from Ohio State University’s Rare Books and Manuscripts collection.

The Reformation was a period of religious, political, intellectual and cultural upheaval that splintered Catholic Europe. It started in 1517, when Martin Luther posted his “Ninety-Five Theses” in Germany. The new movement influenced the Church of England decisively after 1547 under Edward VI and Elizabeth I, although the Church of England had been made independent under Henry VIII in the early 1530s. The period lasted through the middle of the 18th century.

Maier retired in 2011 as the Russell H. Siebert Professor of Ancient History after more than a 50-year career as a WMU faculty member. He remains WMU’s longest-serving faculty member ever, and his expansive research findings and prolific writing career have put him in demand among scholars and reporters as an internationally known expert on the history of Christianity.

He is a four-term vice president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and a widely published author of both scholarly and popular works. He lectures widely and appears frequently on national radio and television programs. ■

# Giving banks freedom to operate or courting another financial crisis?

**P**resident Donald J. Trump has proposed a comprehensive review of financial regulation including provisions included in the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

While it is doubtful the government will repeal all the provisions of the act, the reforms could open the floodgates for renewed financial trouble, says Dr. J. Kevin Corder, professor of political science.

Dodd-Frank is a complex collection of financial regulations that addresses deficiencies revealed in the 2008 financial crisis. Critics of the law want to reduce the regulatory burden on smaller banks and to specifically reduce the compliance costs associated with consumer protection laws.

Federal agencies are working on proposals and are to report back in coming months.

“I think the basic structure is going to remain in place to try to prevent the next financial crisis,” Corder says, “but the people in charge of running the agencies and the rules that guide the staff are going to lead to more limited regulation.”

He says this raises the prospect that some forms of toxic lending practices from the past—such as sub-prime loans or credit card debt marketing to consumers who cannot manage debt—might creep back into the financial system.

Corder is an expert on federal financial regulation. For his 2012 book, “The Fed & the Credit Crisis,” he investigated the role the Federal Reserve played in the financial market meltdown that began in 2008 and led to a deep economic downswing in the United States and beyond. In the wake of that financial crisis, regulations were put in place with the intention of protecting the economy and consumers.

These days on Capitol Hill, Corder says, lowering requirements for small banks so they can lend more freely has a lot of traction. But it could open the door for large banks to lobby for greater freedoms, too.

“Whenever you open the door for financial regulatory reform with the argument that we need to protect small banks, the most aggressive lobbyists are the big banks,” Corder says.

“So, they walk through the door and get the changes they need and, in fact, what you end up with might not exactly be more relief for community banks. It might be more relief for community banks and a lot of relief for big banks.”

Corder says banks stand to make a lot more money with less regulation. Proponents of reform not only see benefits for banks, but they also claim that a deregulated financial sector would generate more lending activity and a better variety of products for consumers. But there are dangers involved.

“The downside is less capital and more risky lending practices amplifies the risk of a financial crisis,” he says. “So, the other side of this regulatory reform story is making sure that we don’t have more taxpayer-funded bailouts.” ■



# Classnotes

Send submissions to: [teresa.ventimiglia@wmich.edu](mailto:teresa.ventimiglia@wmich.edu). Include your name (first, middle, last, maiden), degree(s), year(s) graduated and a daytime phone number by which we can reach you. We will publish photos as space permits.

**Patricia (Conor) Hodapp, BA '65, MSLS '67**, is the author of a new book titled "The Complete Bucket List 100 Things to do in Santa Fe Before You Die," published by Rio Grande Books. It was named the Best Book in Arizona and New Mexico at the 2016 New Mexico Book Coop Awards. Hodapp is the director of the Santa Fe Public Libraries.

**Dave Studer, BS '68**, celebrated 50 years as the wrestling coach for Harper Creek High School in Battle Creek, Michigan.

**Stephen T. Davis, BA '69**, has retired after 23 years as a Delta County (Michigan) Circuit Court Judge.

**Linda Lee Wolven, BS '69**, has been named the American Legion Auxiliary Woman of the Year for Michigan for her accomplishments with veterans and their families.

**Fred Anderson, BBA '70**, has retired after 24 years as an Allegan County (Michigan) prosecutor.

**David C. Maturen, BBA '70, MPA '78**, was elected to a second term in the Michigan Legislature. He is the former chairman of the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners.

**Linda L. Ward, BS '70**, has retired after 52 years with McLaren Northern Michigan, a hospital in Petoskey. Her most recent position was as senior director of hospitality services.

**Vicki Scannell Erdmann, BS '73**, is the recipient of the John and Sueann Roueche Excellence Award for outstanding contributions as a community college faculty member. She is an instructor of nutrition and dietetics for Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minnesota.

**James McIntyre, BBA '73, MBA '77**, has been chosen by the WMU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Varsity "W" Club Board of Directors as the 2016 Person of the Year for his volunteerism and fundraising efforts.

**David Roush, MA '73, EdS '78**, has retired as compliance monitor and protection from harm expert for the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He continues to be active in juvenile justice consulting.

**Stephan Waltman, BS '74**, has retired after 35 years with Stiles Machinery in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His most recent position was as vice president of communication.

**Darrell A. Lindman, BA '75**, received the WMU Department of Finance and Commercial Law Outstanding Alumni Award from the Haworth College of Business. He is a shareholder with Fraser Trebilcock in its Lansing, Michigan, office.

**Andrew Bruex, BBA '76**, is chief executive officer of AgTonik, a manufacturer of an organic compound used by farms, greenhouses and hydroponics operations. It has facilities in Kalamazoo and Portage, Michigan.

**George Livingston MSLS '77**, has retired after 17 years as the local history librarian for Willard Library in Battle Creek, Michigan.

**Timothy N. Trainor, MA '77**, a retired computer and psychology instructor, has been awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award by Muskegon (Michigan) Community College.

**Diane Seuss, BA '81, MSW '83**, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in poetry 2016 for her book "Four-Legged Girl." Seuss, author of three books of poetry, is writer-in-residence at Kalamazoo College.

**Mary Lynn Foster, BBA '83**, has been selected to serve as the chief executive officer for the Ohio Buckeye Region of the American Red Cross.

**Daniel Bitzer, MA '84**, has been promoted to president and chief executive officer of the Kalamazoo-based First National Bank of Michigan.

**Anthony Forlini, BBA '84**, has been appointed operations manager for the Macomb County (Michigan) Public Works office.

**Tom Glaser, BS '84**, has authored a new book titled "Full Heart Living: Conversations with the Happiest People I Know." He is a psychologist in Minnesota.

**Dan Kelly, BS '84**, has been elected to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees.

**Al Pscholka, BS '84**, is the new budget director for the state of Michigan. Pscholka previously served as a legislator in the state's House of Representatives.

**Laura Doering, BA '86**, is the new associate vice president for enrollment management and student success at Iowa State University.

**Blaine Koops, MPA '86**, retired as Allegan County (Michigan) sheriff in 2016 and is now the executive director of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association.

**A.G. Mark Lucas, BA '86**, has been promoted to an operations analyst for Kelly Services in Troy, Michigan.

**Paul J. Brake, MPA '88**, is the new city manager of Morgantown, West Virginia.

**Rex James Tucker, BA '88**, has been appointed lead teacher at Family Centered Services of Alaska's Youth Education Support Services School in Fairbanks.

**John Archangeault, BSM '89**, is a physician assistant for Negaunee (Michigan) Family Medicine.

**Craig Richard DeRusha, BBA '89**, is vice president, paper for PubWorX, a company in New York.

**Laura B. Large, BBA '89**, is an office coordinator for the WMU Department of World Languages and Literatures.

**David Ladd, BBA '90**, is the new vice president and chief financial officer for Art Van Furniture, a company based in Warren, Michigan.

**Wayne Roberts, BBA '90**, a tax attorney, has been named a partner for Varnum LLP, in its Grand Rapids and Novi, Michigan, offices.

**Christina L. Corl, BS '91**, a partner with Plunkett Cooney, will serve as the managing partner of the firm's office in Columbus, Ohio, office. Corl was recently named a 2017 Super Lawyer by *Ohio Super Lawyers* magazine.

**Walter Cade, BS '92**, has been promoted to senior vice president of sales for NBC Sports Regional Networks in New York.

**David Diedrich, BBA '92**, is president of Berkshire CFO Partners in Washington, DC. He helps associations and nonprofits manage their financial resources.

**Carey Pachla, BBA '92**, is the new president of the Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation. She is president of Fast Switch Ltd., an Ohio-based information technology consulting firm.

**Jase Bolger, BBA '94**, has been appointed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to the Michigan Civil Service Commission. The four-member body sets compensation and working condition for the state workers.

**Jeffrey Alan Clark, BS '94, BS '98**, is a middle school science teacher and athletic director for Schoolcraft (Michigan) Community Schools.

**Melinda Gruber, MBA '94, PhD '16**, is vice president of continued care services for Lakeland Health, which has locations throughout southwest Michigan.

**Adam Korzeniewski, BBA '96**, is head football coach for Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

**Thomas R. Groh, BBA '97**, was promoted to partner at Altus Capital Partners in the investment firm's office in Lincolnshire, Illinois.

**Idris Rashid, BBA '01, MA '02**, is the owner of the new Chick-fil-A restaurant in Portage, Michigan.

**Alex Schaeffer, BBA '01**, was the recipient of the first Young Business Leader of the Year Award from the Cornerstone Alliance and Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce. He is a certified public accountant and senior manager for Kruggel Lawton in St. Joseph, Michigan.

**Amy Lassiter-Halsapple, BS '02**, is director of emergency services for Tulane Health System in New Orleans.

**Julie Loncharte, BS '02, MA '16**, is a donor relations officer for the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

**Jason Parker, MBA '02**, has been promoted to vice president and commercial loan officer for ChoiceOne Bank in Sparta, Michigan.

**Anthony Aillsbury, BBA '03**, was inducted into the Bronson High School Hall of Fame for his participation in varsity basketball, baseball and football.

**Nicholas W. Angel, BA '03**, is the principal of Beach Middle School in Chelsea, Michigan.

**Kelli Esteves, MA '03, EdD '07**, has been named the Richard W. Guyer Chair in the College of Education at Butler University in Indianapolis.

**Psyche Terry, BBA '03**, was given a key to the city of Benton Harbor for her success as founder of UI Global Brands, a company headquartered in Frisco, Texas.

**Steve Long, BA '04, MA '09**, was named the 2016 Michigan Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. He is coach of the Otsego (Michigan) High School's girls cross country team.

**Patrick D. Crandell, BA '05**, has been elected partner of Collins Einhorn Farrell PC, Southfield, Michigan, in the firm's insurance coverage group.

**Patrick Kelly Host, BA '06**, has been elected to the board of governors of the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

**Amanda Warren, PhD '06**, has been awarded the Carrie McCray Nickens Poetry Fellowship from the South Carolina Academy of Authors.

**Amanda Craig, BBA '07**, has been promoted to chief operations officer for Honor Credit Union in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

**Adam Losinski, BBA '07**, has been promoted to vice president, commercial loan officer for Southern Michigan Bank & Trust at its main office in Coldwater, Michigan.

**Ryan Long, BSE '09**, has been appointed to the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority Board of Directors. He is director of marketing segment leader for Triangle Associates, a construction company in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Greg Jennings BA '10**, Super Bowl XLV champ, former NFL wide receiver and Bronco football standout, has joined FOX Sports as an NFL analyst, contributing to a number of FOX Sports studio shows.

**Kelsey Ford, BBA '11**, is a marketing coordinator for Triangle Associates, a construction company in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Angela Ozar, BBA '11**, has been promoted to market manager for Bad Girl Ventures, a business incubator devoted to helping women-owned startups and small business, covering the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region.

**Xialing Lin, MA '12**, is a new assistant professor of corporate communication for Penn State Worthington Scranton in Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

**Charles Ludlow, BBA '14**, is a residential construction framer for AVB construction in Portage, Michigan.

**Ryan Petersmark, BFA '14**, was named Teacher of the Year at Clewiston (Florida) High School, where he teaches art.

**Krysta Coleman, BA '15**, is director of alumni relations for Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Michigan.

**Danielle Frank, BBA '15**, has been promoted to manager for ABC Supply Company, Inc., in its Manteno, Illinois, office.

**Christina Bagley, MM '16**, will be singing with the U.S. Air Force touring band, Full Spectrum. She recently completed basic training and will be stationed at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.

**Daniel Burns, BSE '16**, is a commercial construction project engineer for AVB construction in Portage, Michigan.

**Ben Larson, BSE '16**, is a commercial construction project engineer and assistant superintendent for AVB construction in Portage, Michigan.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Cora A. (Landenberger) Landsburg**, TC '33, LT '65, Nov. 13, 2016, Fennville, MI

**Barbara B. Zwiers**, BA '36, Dec. 9, 2016, Boulder Junction, WI

**Vivian B. (Paulus) Chandler**, BS '38, Feb. 7, 2017, Kalamazoo

**Robert S. Mickey**, BA '42, Dec. 12, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Caroline L. (Gauss) Farnsworth**, BS '43, Oct. 20, 2016, Bonners Ferry, ID

**Doris M. (Cordier) Bradley**, BS '45, Dec. 25, 2016, Pittsburg, KS

**Susan (Ward) Schau**, ZTC '45, BS '45, Jan. 18, 2017, Kalamazoo

**Irene M. (Brozovich) Skipper**, BA '46, Nov. 21, 2016, Orleans, MI

**Everett C. Greiner**, BS '48, Dec. 22, 2016, Holland, MI

**Lois P. (Patterson) Ryan**, BA '48, Oct. 4, 2016, Royal Oak, MI

**Marjorie (Myers) Leeson**, BS '49, Jan. 19, 2017, San Diego

**Irving H. Neubauer**, BS '49, Feb. 21, 2017, St. Joseph, MI

**Gordon E. Peckham**, BS '49, EDS '64, Jan. 13, 2017, Battle Creek, MI

**David E. Proud**, BA '49, MA '55, Jan. 28, 2017, Oregon, IL

**William W. Randall**, BA '49, MA '59, Jan. 9, 2017, Plano, IL

**Elsie M. (Nisper) Tuleja**, BS '49, Nov. 22, 2016, Spring Lake, MI

**Duane M. Allen**, BS '50, Dec. 9, 2016, Midland, MI

**Loren P. Haverkamp**, BBA '50, Dec. 14, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Douglas G. Murdoch**, BS '50, Dec. 8, 2016, South Haven, MI

**John C. Worrell**, BA '50, Feb. 15, 2017, Racine, WI

**Edward A. Campbell**, BA '51, Feb. 1, 2017, Apple Valley, MN

**Beverly (Austin) Bixler**, BA '52, Feb. 5, 2017, Ashland, OH

**Rosemary (Callan) Grubb**, BA '52, Jan. 24, 2017, Muskegon, MI

**Merritt M. Miller**, BA '52, Nov. 20, 2016, Middlebury, IN

**John C. Myers**, BA '52, MA '55, April 15, 2016, Spring Arbor, MI

**Darlene E. (West) Sederlund**, BA '52, Jan. 4, 2017, Eaton Rapids, MI

**Janice L. Barr**, TC '53, Feb. 15, 2017, Grand Rapids, MI

**Susan C. (Howes) Haynes**, BS '53, Nov. 18, 2016, Pasadena, CA

**Joan M. (Mulder) Kent**, BS '53, MA '80, Jan. 27, 2017, Delton, MI

**Robert L. Morrow**, BS '53, Jan. 1, 2017, Livonia, MI

**Marilyn J. (Brown) Urban**, BS '53, Feb. 12, 2017, Flint, MI

**Carl I. Shafer**, BS '53, MS '55, Jan. 5, 2017, Midland, MI

**Marilyn A. Chase**, BA '54, Dec. 9, 2016, Howell, MI

**Shirley L. Kadow**, BS '54, Dec. 15, 2016, West Hempfield, PA

**William W. Lett**, BS '54, Feb. 10, 2017, Battle Creek, MI

**Edward O. Saur**, BS '54, Dec. 29, 2016, Auburndale, FL

**Dixie L. (Pike) Smith**, BS '54, Jan. 2, 2017, Norfolk, NE

**Virginia M. (Robinson) Sorenson**, BS '55, MA '56, Nov. 7, 2016, Grand Rapids, MI

**Bernice I. (Franz) Wicker**, TC '43, BA '56, Dec. 5, 2016, Berrien Springs, MI

**Edward L. Yoder**, MA '53, Dec. 21, 2016, Charlotte, MI

**Joan E. Gray**, MA '56, Jan. 11, 2017, Lawrenceville, NJ

**Diane Hicks**, BA '56, Nov. 20, 2016, Tucson, AZ

**Vilmars Kukainis**, BS '57, Jan. 31, 2017, Sagamore Hills, OH

**Donna M. Olney**, MA '57, Jan. 4, 2017, Stevensville, MI

**Terry E. Quinn**, BA '57, MA '64, Jan. 26, 2017, Marcellus, MI

**Marie R. Sivak**, BA '57, MA '62, SPA '72, Dec. 2, 2016, Chicago

**Gail E. (Stuart) Sanford**, BBA '58, Jan. 21, 2017, Grand Isle, VT

**Linda I. (Volfarts) Carlson**, BA '59, Feb. 16, 2017, Kalamazoo, MI

**R. Jack Durian**, BBA '59, Feb. 5, 2017, Kalamazoo

**Roderick C. Halstad**, MA '59, Nov. 22, 2016, South Haven, MI

**Dolores V. Hershey**, BS '59, MA '61, Nov. 19, 2016, Suttons Bay, MI

**Timothy G. Lewis**, BS '59, Jan. 5, 2017, Empire, MI

**Gary E. Forsleff**, BM '60, Nov. 30, 2016, Flint, MI

**Edgar F. Ross**, BBA '60, Jan. 9, 2017, St. Joseph, MI

**Suzanne M. (Ballantyne) Sheridan**, BS '61, Dec. 10, 2016, Waters, MI

**Austin M. Buege**, BBA '61, Nov. 26, 2016, Green Bay, WI

**Kenneth B. Haas**, MA '61, Dec. 13, 2016, Bloomingdale, MI

**James F. Nadeau**, BS '61, Feb. 3, 2017, Traverse City, MI

**Diane K. (Floutz) Eccles**, BS '62, Nov. 29, 2016, Battle Creek, MI

**Ronald M. Lude**, MA '62, Nov. 27, 2016, Oro Valley, AZ

**Kenneth E. Meyer**, BS '62, Nov. 14, 2016, Ann Arbor, MI

**Marie D. Morrow**, BS '62, Dec. 27, 2016, Salt Springs, FL

**James F. Pearson**, BA '62, Nov. 17, 2016, Grandville, MI

**Marian T. (Burt) Underwood**, BA '62, TC '64, MA '69, Nov. 30, 2016, Chula Vista, CA

**Glen L. Bachelder**, MA '63, Jan. 10, 2017, East Lansing, MI

**Shelby R. Houston**, BS '63, Nov. 10, 2016, Port Charlotte, FL

**Alice J. (Walter) Weber**, BS '63, MA '68, Dec. 27, 2016, Indianapolis

**Linda S. (Berry) Armstrong**, BS '64, Sept. 15, 2016, Portland, OR

**Joan M. (Robinson) Bergman**, MA '64, Feb. 11, 2017, Estherville, IA

**K. Robert Boroff**, BBA '64, Dec. 26, 2016, Fort Worth, TX

**Keith C. Mead**, BS '64, Dec. 23, 2016, Midland, MI

**Larry H. Pattison**, BS '64, Jan. 5, 2017, Hudsonville, MI

**Mary L. (Lewis) Brylowski**, MA '65, Jan. 6, 2017, Holland, MI

**Charles F. Cook**, BS '65, Feb. 15, 2017, Marcellus, MI

**James P. Fleming**, BA '65, Dec. 16, 2016, Port Huron, MI

**Donald C. Gruber**, MA '65, Feb. 5, 2017, Sturgis, MI

**Taylor V. Mayou**, BS '65, Dec. 13, 2016, Sarasota, FL

**Vernon G. McCormick**, BBA '65, Nov. 5, 2016, Montague, MI

**Sharon D. Nelson**, BS '65, Nov. 23, 2016, Beaverton, MI

**Jerome L. Weurding**, BS '65, Jan. 12, 2017, Ann Arbor, MI

**Roberta P. (Howell) Ackels**, BA '66, Dec. 22, 2016, Spring, TX

**Virginia J. Bontrager**, BBA '66, MA '71, Jan. 23, 2017, Dowagiac, MI

**James W. Cook**, BS '66, Dec. 7, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Nancy C. Darling**, MA '66, Nov. 17, 2016, Mountain View, CA

**Leroy E. Densmore**, BS '66, Dec. 15, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Robert E. Griese**, BS '66, Nov. 10, 2016, Benton Harbor, MI

**Robert E. Heidrich**, BBA '66, Jan. 20, 2017, Romeo, MI

**Stephen R. Kusenda**, BBA '66, Nov. 29, 2016, Powell, TN

**Lawrence L. Osiecki**, BBA '66, Nov. 28, 2016, Northville, MI

**Paula M. Rowe**, BS '66, Jan. 22, 2017, Towson, MD

**Arthur J. Walker**, BS '66, MPA '76, Dec. 9, 2016, Lansing, MI

**Barbara S. (Green) Anglin**, BS '67, MA '73, Jan. 10, 2017, Bronson, MI

**William J. Douglas**, MA '67, Feb. 1, 2017, Fawn River Township, MI

**L. Duane Dove**, MA '67, Nov. 13, 2016, Santa Rosa, CA

**Janice I. (Bothamley) Girton**, MA '67, Jan. 11, 2017, Sturgis, MI

**Jerry Holwerda**, MBA '67, Jan. 5, 2017, Jackson, MI

**Sherry L. Mullen**, BA '67, Nov. 12, 2016, Muncie, IN

**William D. Solomon**, BS '67, June 15, 2016, Baldwinsville, NY

**Sharilyn L. (Oliver) Surine**, BBA '67, Feb. 3, 2017, Vicksburg, MI

**Carol E. Tyler**, BS '67, Nov. 3, 2016, Brownstown, MI

**Sandra S. Wilson-Lueth**, BA '67, Nov. 15, 2016, Muskegon, MI

**David W. Conzelmann**, BS '68, Jan. 26, 2017, Gladwin, MI

**John A. Cook**, BS '68, Jan. 14, 2017, Sturgis, MI

**Paul R. Erickson**, BBA '68, Jan. 15, 2017, Clarkston, MI

**Gary J. Karasinski**, BS '68, Jan. 5, 2017, Grand Rapids, MI

**Susan M. (Blake) Maston**, BS '68, Nov. 27, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Joyce A. Schafer**, BA '68, Jan. 16, 2017, Marshall, MI

**Miriam (Hoag) Vanderwal**, BA '68, MA '74, Nov. 23, 2016, Grand Rapids, MI

**Henry K. Wagner**, BS '68, Feb. 20, 2017, Charlevoix, MI

**Lyle M. Whiteman**, MA '68, Jan. 6, 2017, Yakima, WA

**Daniel W. Bridgeman**, BBA '69, MBA '71, Feb. 2, 2017, Allegan, MI

**A. Blair Cook**, BS '69, July 20, 2016, Rochester, NY

**Kenneth H. Dietzel**, BS '69, Jan. 28, 2017, Saginaw, MI

**Karla M. Gray**, BA '69, MA '72, Feb. 19, 2017, Helena, MT

**Karen L. (VanStelle) Knapp**, BS '69, MA '77, Dec. 22, 2016, Mattawan, MI

**Jonatha Maystead**, MLS '69, Dec. 24, 2016, Napa, CA

**Edward F. McCoy**, MA '69, Jan. 1, 2017, Atlanta

**Colletta J. (Eckelberry) McHugh**, BA '69, Nov. 11, 2016, Grand Rapids, MI

**Deanna J. (Doyle) Thompson**, BS '69, MA '96, Jan. 28, 2017, Holland, MI

**Theodore D. Brundidge**, MBA '70, Feb. 16, 2017, Grand Rapids, MI

**Gary A. Caspers**, BS '70, Dec. 19, 2016, Bay City, MI

**Terry L. Harvey**, BA '70, MSW '72, Dec. 4, 2016, Caledonia, MI

**Douglas H. Thompson**, BA '70, Jan. 13, 2017, Kalamazoo

**George H. Hosko**, MLS '72, Dec. 25, 2016, Houston, TX

**Thomas J. Klitch**, BS '71, Jan. 31, 2017, Jacksonville, FL

**George L. Peacock**, BS '71, Dec. 6, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Richard W. Shaw**, BBA '71, Dec. 4, 2016, Kawkawlin, MI

**Norma G. (Crips) Stadt**, BS '71, MA '74, Nov. 27, 2016, Grand Rapids, MI

**Richard L. Voss**, BSE '71, Nov. 30, 2016, Muskegon, MI

**Max G. Wilcox**, BM '51, Jan. 20, 2017, Seattle

**Thomas A. Working**, MM '71, Jan. 13, 2017, Zeeland, MI

**Deborah J. (Hovinen) Dockweiler**, BS '72, MA '88, Dec. 2, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Robert M. Herman**, '72, Oct. 31, 2016, Port Orchard, WA

**Colette A. (Hurd) King**, BS '72, Dec. 25, 2016, West Burlington, IA

**Thomas E. Rossi**, BA '72, Jan. 31, 2017, Garland, TX

**Rose M. (Smigelski) Salenski**, BS '72, Jan. 12, 2017, Grand Blanc, MI

**Charles W. Vincent**, BSE '72, Oct. 31, 2016, Phoenix

**Edward Woods**, MA '72, Dec. 9, 2016, Berrien Springs, MI

**Sherri L. (Dykema) Bashaw**, BA '73, MA '96, Nov. 26, 2016, Loveland, CO

**Michael H. Boyle**, MBA '73, Dec. 4, 2016, Fernandina Beach, FL

**Barbara A. VanderMark**, BA '73, Jan. 15, 2017, Grand Rapids, MI

**Deborah E. (Wendt) Boes**, BS '74, Jan. 13, 2017, Kalamazoo

**Delores D. Flowers**, BA '74, Dec. 12, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Keith T. Garrison**, BS '74, Dec. 21, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Clarence A. Hamann**, BS '74, Feb. 21, 2017, Bridgman, MI

**David E. Handley**, BBA '74, Feb. 11, 2017, Kalamazoo

**Wendy C. (Reish) O'Reilly**, BS '74, MA '95, Feb. 12, 2017, Union City, MI

**Maxine L. (Farnham) Rossi**, BS '74, Nov. 24, 2016, Quincy, MI

**Stanley Zygadlo**, BA '74, MBA '80, Jan. 13, 2016, Paw Paw, MI

**Esther V. Bartocci**, BS '75, Jan. 22, 2017, Battle Creek, MI

**Cynthia A. (Meade) Buchanan**, BS '75, Feb. 12, 2017, Troy, MI

## IN MEMORIAM

**Douglas R. Hendrix**, BBA '75, Dec. 19, 2016, St. Joseph, MI

**Constance J. Jilek**, MA '75, Jan. 30, 2017, Kalamazoo

**Theodore L. Morgan**, BFA '75, Dec. 7, 2016, Huron, OH

**Julia E. (Bergman) Scholand**, MLS '75, Jan. 9, 2017, Grass Valley, CA

**Henrietta A. Stover**, BS '75, Dec. 1, 2016, Ypsilanti, MI

**William A. Verhoeven**, BA '75, MA '78, Jan. 2, 2017, Monroe, MI

**Jacqueline L. Bonn**, BS '76, Nov. 29, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Steven M. Budde**, BS '76, April 28, 2016, Shelby Township, MI

**Mary L. Haab**, MA '76, Feb. 8, 2017, Port Sheldon, MI

**Jerry J. Brower**, MPA '77, Dec. 2, 2016, Whitehall, MI

**James M. Kloac**, BA '77, Nov. 5, 2016, Tupelo, MS

**Karen R. (Miller) Stiger**, BS '77, Nov. 29, 2016, Ossineke, MI

**H. Dean Dixon**, BS '78, Nov. 12, 2016, Coldwater, MI

**Jane M. Janes**, BS '79, Nov. 9, 2016, Marinette, WI

**Kevin J. Sykes**, BBA '79, Nov. 21, 2016, Niles, MI

**Michael J. Tomczak**, BBA '79, Dec. 4, 2016, Stockton, CA

**Karen M. Blonde**, BS '80, MA '89, Nov. 20, 2016, Constantine, MI

**Matthew M. Lyons**, BS '80, Dec. 6, 2016, Traverse City, MI

**Gary S. Tessmer**, BBA '80, Dec. 7, 2016, Clinton Township, MI

**Joel B. Brahce**, BA '81, Nov. 28, 2016, Auburn, CA

**John P. Clark**, BS '81, Feb. 13, 2017, Sherwood, MI

**Miriam M. Fletcher**, BBA '81, MBA '83, Jan. 16, 2017, Litchfield Beach, SC

**Kathryn I. (Lynch) Jacobitz**, BS '81, Dec. 23, 2016, Ann Arbor, MI

**Linda K. Danks**, BS '81, Jan. 4, 2017, Pigeon, MI

**Paul C. Wilsens**, MA '81, Jan. 20, 2017, Traverse City, MI

**Joseph H. Chillers**, BS '82, Dec. 24, 2016, Las Cruces, NM

**Michael J. Ezzo**, MA '82, EdD '86, Feb. 5, 2017, Lansing, MI

**Douglas S. Hartough**, BBA '82, Feb. 9, 2017, Delton, MI

**Gene A. Hibberd**, BS '82, Dec. 1, 2016, Ventura, CA

**Steven E. McCoy**, BS '82, Jan. 1, 2017, East Lansing, MI

**Peggy L. Reed**, MOT '82, Nov. 27, 2016, Grand Rapids, MI

**David J. Adent**, BBA '84, Dec. 23, 2016, Charleston, SC

**Lewis P. Ellis**, BS '84, MA '99, Jan. 28, 2017, Kalamazoo

**Theodore C. Redlaczky**, MA '84, Feb. 13, 2017, Bella Vista, AR

**Dave A. Rue**, BS '84, Feb. 11, 2017, Holland, MI

**Leslie D. Treece-Sinclair**, MPA '84, Dec. 27, 2016, Elk Grove, CA

**Thomas D. Whitledge**, BS '84, Nov. 18, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Daniel V. Fronczek**, MS '86, Jan. 21, 2017, Oneida, NY

**Curtis C. Conrad**, BSE '87, Jan. 11, 2017, Lapeer, MI

**Rebecca A. (Ramsdell) Ploch**, BS '87, Jan. 28, 2017, Climax, MI

**Terrance D. Lewis**, BS '88, Jan. 9, 2017, Toledo, OH

**Mark S. Moot**, BS '88, Nov. 19, 2016, Altmar, NY

**Nora J. Jefferson**, MA '89, Nov. 10, 2016, Benton Harbor, MI

**William F. Landt**, BA '89, Feb. 10, 2017, Orlando, FL

**Richard H. Roth**, MA '89, Dec. 10, 2016, Spring Arbor, MI

**Ellen F. Sisco**, MA '89, Oct. 24, 2016, Brunswick, GA

**Joyce N. (Hudson) Butler**, BS '90, MA '98, Dec. 7, 2016, Benton Harbor, MI

**Thomas W. Crawford**, BS '91, Jan. 19, 2017, Jacksonville, FL

**Gregory R. Kolankowski**, BS '91, July 21, 2016, Haslett, MI

**Sandra L. (Steiner) Gregg**, BBA '92, Jan. 14, 2017, Lake Forest, IL

**Andrea E. (Sheely) Seratti**, BS '96, Jan. 5, 2017, Mason, MI

**Bryce L. Hoekenga**, MA '97, July 1, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Chrysa K. Richards**, BA '97, Jan. 8, 2017, Park Forest, IL

**Ruthann M. Lawrence**, MA '98, Jan. 15, 2017, Montague, MI

**Gregory L. Beckelhymer**, MA '00, Nov. 28, 2016, Seattle, WA

**Jennifer (Horn) Maher**, BA '00, Jan. 15, 2017, Wendell, NC

**Beth M. (Janiak) Geoghegan**, BS '01, Nov. 30, 2016, Chicago

**Bree A. Sutherland**, BA '01, Dec. 26, 2016, Niles, MI

**Jeffrey A. Vandenboss**, MPA '02, Jan. 14, 2017, Dowling, MI

**James A. Koning**, BBA '03, Jan. 26, 2017, Portage, MI

**Joyce A. Kaplan**, BBA '07, Jan. 29, 2017, Marshall, MI

**Danielle D. (Maurer) Moore**, MA '08, August 14, 2016, Toledo, OH

**Martin J. Groom**, MSW '09, Dec. 31, 2016, Bellevue, MI

**Patrick C. Kelly**, BA '14, Dec. 30, 2016, Monroe, MI

### Faculty

**Chuck Comer**, assistant professor emeritus, health, physical education and recreation, and assistant football coach, Dec. 13, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Kamlesh Sharma**, assistant professor emerita, biological sciences, Dec. 21, 2016, Kalamazoo

**Bill Morris Chambers**, associate professor emeritus, health, physical education and recreation, and former head football coach, Jan. 10, 2017, Crossville, TN

**Ross Gregory**, professor emeritus, history, Feb. 10, 2017, Portage, MI



### Miller, former WMU first lady, passed away

**Barbara Jane Miller**, WMU's first lady for 13 years, died Feb. 14. She was 98. Services have taken place.

Miller, of Palm Desert, California, has been described as a remarkable, self-effacing individual with a passion for civil rights and also for adventure and tackling new challenges.

The Celina, Ohio, native came to WMU in 1961 when her husband, James W. Miller, was named president. President Miller, who led the University until 1975, died in 1993.

Barbara Jane Miller grew up in Minneapolis, where she attended the University of Minnesota, studied pre-medicine and met her future husband. When they moved to Kalamazoo, she volunteered at WMU, helping to set up a program teaching people who were newly blind techniques to navigate their homes and relearn basic life skills.

She also volunteered at local hospitals and was involved with numerous presidential functions, receiving such notable WMU guests as Coretta and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Betty and former president Gerald Ford and the Baroness von Trapp, along with many other foreign and educational dignitaries. ■



## WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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**A frequenter of campus events and active supporter of the arts in Kalamazoo, WMU's first lady Linda Dunn will be missed for her grace and good humor when she and President Dunn explore retirement life.**