WMU hailed as top U.S. Fulbright producer

The University is one of the nation’s top producers of U.S. Fulbright Scholars, according to the U.S. Department of State’s annual ranking of its flagship program, which was just published by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

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, bit.ly/2JjiXMp. The report was compiled by the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

“It’s especially meaningful right now to be acknowledged for our success in producing Fulbright scholars,” says WMU 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 able to record numbers of Fulbright students from other nations. As a campus and community, we’re enjoying the best of both worlds.”

Wolfgang Schlöer and Jane E. Blyth, associate provost and executive director, respectively, of the Hark inneck Institute for Global Education, attended a Fulbright reception in Washington, D.C., Feb. 21 honoring top Fulbright colleges and universities.

WMU’s units with Fulbright Scholars for the 2016-17 year and their areas of focus include:
- Political science—James Butterfield, Vietnam in its global contest;
- Mathematics—Jon Davis, ethnomathematics and South Africa’s centralized educational systems;
- Chemistry—David Huffman, innate immune response, Denmark;
- Economics—James Hueng, economic reforms in China;
- Art—emeritus Albert LaVergne, sculpture in Nigeria;
- Career and Student Employment Services—Lynn Kelly Albertson, German-American Fulbright Commission.

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program operates in more than 125 countries throughout the world. Since its inception in 1946, it 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.

Over 1,100 U.S. college and university faculty and staff members are active internationally, we have been able to record numbers of Fulbright students from other nations. As a campus and community, we’re enjoying the best of both worlds.”

Professor wins prestigious Japanese literary prize

Jeffrey Angles, world languages and literatures, was honored during a formal ceremony in Tokyo Feb. 17 as the 2017 winner of the prestigious Yomiuri Prize for Literature in poetry.

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

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. All books published in the previous calendar year are considered for the award. Angles’ book won, 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,” said Natsuki Ikezawa, a prominent Japanese novelist and one of the judges for the award, of Angles’ book.

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Around campus and beyond

Concerts abound for music lovers
The music department has numerous concerts slated during the next couple of weeks, some as part of its annual spring festivals. Many of the events are free and all are listed on the Universitywide Events Calendar at wmich.edu/news/events.

They include a free performance by the University Chorale Saturday, Feb. 25; Western Invitational Jazz Festival opening and closing concerts Friday, March 10; and Saturday, March 11; and the free concert highlighting the 79th annual Southwestern Michigan Vocal Festival Thursday, March 16.

Hundreds of sixth-graders to visit WMU is again gearing up to welcome local middle school students to campus for a day to participate in free activities through Bronco BUDS—Building Unique Dynamic Students. The program, now in its eighth year, begins Thursday, March 9, and continues into April.

It is a partnership between WMU and the Kalamazoo Public Schools to bring all sixth-grade students to campus for a day to get a firsthand look at college life and the opportunities available with a college education. More than 1,000 sixth-graders are expected to participate this year.

Talk to focus on studying liberal arts Kristopher Phillips from Southern Utah University will present a talk titled “Do We Have a Moral Obligation to Study the Liberal Arts?” at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 16, in 213 Bernhard Center. Although some degree programs draw the ire of politicians and are the butt of jokes, Phillips argues that the focus on practicality is not merely misguided, but immoral.

Registration open for 5K walk/run Registration is open for a memorial 5K walk/run from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 1, in honor of an alumna who was killed in action while serving in Afghanistan. Capt. Drew Russell earned his Army commission through WMU’s ROTC program and was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal. All proceeds from the walk/run will go toward an endowed scholarship in his honor. Registration is $15 and may be done in advance at http://bit.ly/2mK6hch.

Broncos FIRST invites WMU administra
tors and faculty and staff members to attend its 2017 Spring Student Success Summit from noon to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, in the Bernhard Center’s South Ballroom.

It is being sponsored by Broncos FIRST and the Center for Research on Instructional Change in Postsecondary Education. Space is limited, so those planning to attend should RSVP by Friday, March 3, at wapps.wmich.edu/workshops.

A free workshop, the summit discusses the concept of the first-year student experience and student success at WMU. Susan Dynanki, a professor at the University of Michigan and a senior economic studies fellow at the Brookings Institution, will present a keynote talk on “Is College Still Worth It?” Attendees will be able to connect with colleagues from across the University and contribute their input through small- and large-group discussions facilitated by the Broncos FIRST team. There also will be a presentation from student financial aid and scholarship’s new unit, Financial Literacy Educational Planning and Outreach.

For more information, go to the Broncos First link on the Center for Research on Instructional Change website at wmich.edu/changereach.

Farwell reception
The timing of the farewell reception for Wolfgang Schöll, Haenicke Institute, has been changed from that reported in the previous issue of Western News. The event will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 2, in the Bernhard Center’s Bronco Global Lounge.

Exchange
For rent—Remodeled 1,200-square-foot bungalow in Westwood. Ten-minute walk to main campus. Three bedrooms, one bathroom, refurbished original hardwood floors, all new kitchen and stainless steel appliances, washer and dryer in basement, fenced-in backyard. Available now. Cost: $1,150 per month plus utilities. Contact: Alice at (904) 614-2598.

Jobs
Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/jobs. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Professor receives technology honor
Robert Bensley, interdisciplinary health programs, has received the 2017 Society for Public Health Education Technology Award. Bensley will receive the honor Friday, March 31, during the Society for Public Health Education’s 68th annual conference in Denver.

The award recognizes individuals or groups that have distinguished themselves by applying innovative, noncommercial technology in health education. This years’ award selection committee felt Bensley’s work in innovative technology-based solutions for the purpose of delivering health education and health behavior change strategies was particularly worthy of receiving the technology award.

SOPHE is an independent professional association that promotes healthy behaviors, healthy communities and healthy environments.

Educator earns leadership award
Wanda Hadley, educational leadership, research and technology, has been selected to receive the 2017 American College Personnel Association’s Disability Leadership Award for her research and scholarship on students with disabilities in higher education.

The award will be presented during ACPCA’s 84th Annual Conference April 26-29, in Columbus, Ohio. Hadley is an active member of ACPCA’s Coalition for (Dis)ability who, through the lens of student development theory, researches the academic issues first-year students with learning disabilities experience in their transition to college.

In the past few months, she presented a webinar on that subject and was invited to serve on the board of the Michigan Career and Technical Institute, a vocational training college in Plainwell, Michigan, for students with disabilities.

Endowed scholarship honors emeritus
Jack Michael, emeritus in psychology, is being honored through an endowed scholarship fund. The Dr. Jack Michael Endowment Fund serves as a tribute to Michael’s influential legacy in the field of behavior analysis.

The fund will support psychology doctoral students and external mentors from around the globe who can advise them in a way that is consistent with Michael’s work in applied research and conceptual training.

It was launched with the help of a committee consisting of Vincent Carbone, chief executive officer of New York’s Carbone Clinic; John and Barbara Esh, WMU alumni; and the psychology department’s Professor Alyce Dickinson and Chair Stephanie Peterson. A lead gift from Dickinson has paved the way toward the goal of raising $1.5 million for the endowment over five years. To make a gift or obtain more information, visit mywmu.com/jackmichaelfund.

Bensley

Hadley

Michael
Sports media students getting real-world experience with ESPN3

Students in the communication school’s new Sports Media course are gaining hands-on experience in live broadcasting under the tutelage of Wade Cutler.

Working with intercollegiate athletics’ Bronco Productions—a combination of ESPN3 and in-house productions—Cutler’s class recently had the opportunity to produce a streaming broadcast of a men’s basketball game on ESPN3.

The course, begun in fall 2016, takes advantage of a partnership with that network in which students are given the chance to develop several Bronco athletic events for live streaming, based on ESPN3’s deal to cover Mid-American Conference athletic events on its family of networks.

Athletics has invested in a state-of-the-art production trailer that houses a broadcast equipment control room, and Bronco Productions will be broadcasting more than 30 men’s and women’s basketball games and other events.

Students in the class learn the skills associated with producing live sports TV. As they show they are ready to advance, they can move into some of ESPN3’s production roles.

Cutler has done live sports production work with organizations such as ESPN and ABC, CBS and NBC Sports. In addition to teaching the fundamental instruction of sports broadcasting, he also helps students gain a deeper understanding of how to meet network expectations in the growing field.

“The benefit to our students is the experience of working with the latest broadcast equipment and the ability to include ESPN3 in their resumes,” Cutler says. “Our students are gaining so much ‘real world’ experience that I’m confident they’ll have no problems getting a job in this industry. It’s my goal as an instructor to make ESPN look at WMU as the premier MAC school for this type of educational training, and the exposure for our athletes on national television is exciting as well.”

New precollege programs office is up and running

WMU has created an Office of Precollege Programming to direct the University’s educational, outreach and extracurricular activities for youth both on campus and throughout the state.

The office, housed in Ellsworth Hall, is administered by the Office of Enrollment Management and was formally established in August when Erika Carr was hired as its director.

The new office brings together long-standing programs for middle and high school students, some of which Carr has managed for many years, as well as coordinates dual enrollment and comprehensive outreach services.

Another primary responsibility is providing leadership and direction for other individuals, programs and units involved with precollege students, especially when it comes to policies and procedures that concern minors on campus.

Falling under the Office of Precollege Programming are the Academically Talented Youth Program, or ATYP; Michigan’s Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, or MI GEAR UP; Upward Bound; Campus Compact; and WMU outreach services in the Metro Detroit area.

By combining these various programs, the office hopes to maximize the engagement and enrollment of precollege students while modeling best practices in the field of college access and serving as a campuswide resource and support system.

The office’s website is available at wmich.edu/precollege. A large precollege program database is being created, so all employees and units doing youth outreach are asked to register their programs, services and events at wmich.edu/precollege/program-registration.

Cutler, front, worked in the control room during the live-streamed basketball game. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Service anniversaries

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during February.

30 Years—T. Stemaly, power plant; Moore, maintenance services; Alexia N. Alexander, student database is being created, so all employees and units doing youth outreach are asked to register their programs, services and events at wmich.edu/precollege/program-registration.

10 Years—William Adams, building custodial and support services; Mary E. Fosburg, civil and construction engineering; Sally Jo Horton, building custodial and support services; Keith Lottme Hurt, construction; Pavlina Ivanova, building custodial and support services; and Venn Slater, building custodial and support services.

5 Years—Alexia N. Alexander, student financial aid and scholarships; Johnsonathan W. Buskirk, building custodial and support services; Kurtis R. Letterman, building custodial and support services; Gwen Ann Little, information technology; Karsina Marie Miller, building custodial and support services; Troy A. Moratti, public safety; Jane Louise Westra, Haworth College of Business; and Sean B. Williams, Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

15 Years—Dorothy H. Fanscher, Disability Services for Students.

HOMESTAND FOR DEPARTMENT—Calling it a homerun for the department, military science and leadership staged its 67th annual Military Ball Feb. 18 in the Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Kalamazoo. Some 350 people, including WMU ROTC cadets and guests, attended the social event. The evening’s guest speaker was former pitching standout, Curt Schilling, who won a World Series game with three different franchises and now spends much of his time fundraising for veterans groups and to combat ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). Other VIP in attendance included Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell and WMU’s Als (Lou Gehrig’s disease). Other VIP in attendance included Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell and WMU’s

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Christopher Richards will be remembered during a candlelight vigil of her life at noon Saturday, March 18, at Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens in Palos Heights, Illinois. As previously reported, Richards was a retired secretary who died Jan. 8 at age 58.
Variety of exciting camps offered on campus this summer for young people

Registration is underway for WMU’s summer camps for students in preschool, high school and beyond. They cover a wide variety of interests during June, July and August. Whether it’s aviation, athletics, art, music, entrepreneurship, archaeology, finance or writing, WMU faculty and staff members as well as community members are heading up programs to provide fun and educational experiences for learners of all ages.

A listing of all camps, with new items added as information becomes available, can be found at wmich.edu/admissions/camps. Some scholarships are available. Check with specific camps for more information.

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Professor wins prestigious Japanese literary prize

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

Angles has been a faculty member at WMU since 2004. He has been interested in the Japanese language since he first traveled to that nation as a 15-year-old.

He says he has loved poetry, and Japanese poetry in particular, for many years, but his experiences with his family, and his interactions with the Japanese poetry world, have been widely differing languages and cultures, his experiences with his family, and his memories of his childhood in Ohio.

Included this year are several long-running programs, such as those on writing, reading, science, computers and Japanese culture offered by the Academically Talented Youth Program; 12 themed weeks for preschool and elementary students at the Children’s Place Learning Center; writing and reading at the McGinnis Reading Center; and intensive performance instruction through SEMINAR at the School of Music.

In addition, sports camps offered through Bronco athletics and the West Hills Athletic Club are again planned.

Also continuing this year are camps for young people interested in entrepreneurship and on how to be financially savvy, as well as camps where youths, teachers and older adults can do hands-on archaeology excavations at the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project.

Among the most popular summer options is the Campus Kids Summer Program offered by WMU’s Children’s Place Learning Center. This year’s program will run from June 12 to Sept. 1, and each week will feature a different theme with special-interest topics.

It is open to children who have completed kindergarten, up to age 12. Parents may sign children up by the week or for the entire summer. Enrollment is limited, so those interested are urged to register early while space is available.

Participants will be able to learn about music, food and cultures from around the world; engage in the arts; become the next Children’s Place Idol; and more. A full list of all 12 weekly themes and their associated costs is available at wmich.edu/childcare/programs/campuskids. Children’s Place offers child care and other services. Visit wmich.edu/childcare for details.

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Top U.S. Fulbright producer

administrators and faculty, artists, journalists, scientists, lawyers, independent scholars, and professionals are awarded Fulbright grants annually to teach and/or conduct research.