THE BEACON of Academic Excellence

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Lee Honors College
Western Michigan University
Greetings Alumni and Friends of the Lee Honors College,

As I anticipate my first fall as dean, I am excited for a new academic year and about a range of great things happening in the honors college. We recently concluded a two-week visit with Dr. Maria Tarasova of Siberian Federal University who is leading efforts to establish one of the first honors programs in Russia. We are expecting a first-year class of more than 500, far exceeding the record 418 in the class last fall! Record numbers also participated in Thesis Celebration Days and graduated from the honors college last academic year. Last year we bade farewell to faculty member Scott Friesner, who retired, as well as the Academically Talented Youth Program, which was relocated to another campus unit. This fall we welcome a new advising staff member, who will allow us to maintain more reasonable advisor-to-student ratios, and continue to provide excellent services to our growing student population. This fall’s Lyceum Lecture Series is “LGBTQ+ at the Intersections,” and we are planning our spring 2018 series on college student mental health, a rising issue on college campuses. Details on these developments and other news appear throughout this publication. We hope that you might join us at some point this year. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Lee Honors College, a Beacon of Academic Excellence at WMU!

Best regards,

Gary H. Bischof, Ph.D.
2017

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Lee Honors College
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On the Cover: The South Manitou Island Lighthouse, 1872. The 100-foot lighthouse tower, active from 1871 to 1958, is located in Lake Michigan, part of Leelanau County and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Photo courtesy of Shari Dann.
Highlighting the brilliant work of honors alumni

**DR. JIM OLSON**  
*B.S. ’84, Biomedical Sciences*

Dr. Jim Olson has revolutionized how surgery is done on brain tumors. His research team at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle modified scorpion venom to create Tumor Paint. The Paint causes brain cancer cells to “light up” so surgeons can see tumor margins clearly and remove as much cancer as possible and leave healthy tissue. Currently a professor of pediatric hematology-oncology at the University of Washington, Dr. Olson and his colleagues launched Project Violet in 2013 to crowd fund research that develops new forms of anti-cancer compounds derived from natural sources to attack cancer cells while leaving healthy cells intact. Dr. Olson, who earned his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan, is also the author of “Clinical Pharmacology Made Simple,” the most frequently adopted pharmacology board review book for more than 20 years.

**DR. CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY**  
*B.A. ’94, Public Relations • M.A. ’99, Organizational Communication*

Dr. Christopher Tremblay received the honors college Outstanding Alumni Award in 2016. In addition to his WMU degrees, Dr. Tremblay earned a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Michigan. He served as the Associate Provost for Enrollment Management at WMU from 2013-2016 and is currently a Research and Marketing consultant for Michigan State University. In 2014, Dr. Tremblay created the exceedingly popular honors college Study in the States course, “Walt’s Pilgrimage: A Journey in the Life of Walt Disney,” and has led the course every year since that time. Among his many and varied accomplishments, Dr. Tremblay has launched, and serves as editor for, The Journal of College Access. He also co-founded TLC Productions in Canton, Michigan. Thank you Christopher for your continued involvement with the Lee Honors College and your contributions nationally to enrollment management and academia.

**ALEXANDRA (ALEX) FERGUSON**  
*B.S. ’16, Electrical Engineering • M.S. ’17, Electrical Engineering*

Alexandra Ferguson is a recent honors graduate on the move! After receiving her M.S. in April, Alex will be headed to MIT in September where she will pursue a Ph.D. in cognitive sciences. During her tenure at WMU, Alex was awarded the Medallion Scholarship in 2012, was named Presidential Scholar in electrical engineering and computer science in 2016, and was one of four master's students awarded the All-University Scholar designation by the Graduate College. As a student, she conducted research in the Neurobiology Engineering Lab led by her advisor, Dr. Damon Miller, and in conjunction with biology professor Dr. John Jellies. Alex was one of 180 students nationwide to win a prestigious, highly competitive 2016 National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship, covering three years of graduate study. We can't wait to hear about Alex's next steps in her career!

A beacon is a source of light or inspiration.
SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

6:30 p.m. - Distinguished Alumni Reception
North Ballroom, Bernhard Center

7 p.m. - Distinguished Alumni Awards
North Ballroom, Bernhard Center

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

9:30 to 11 a.m. - Medallion Reunion
Dean's Remarks at 10 a.m., Lee Honors College Lounge, RSVP: MyWMU.com/MedallionReunion

12:30 to 3 p.m. - WMU Pre-game Stampede Tailgate,
Heritage Hall Parking Lot, Honors College Tent
Great FUN and PRIZES

3:30 p.m. - 94th Homecoming Football Game Kick-Off, WMU vs. The University of Akron,
Waldo Stadium

Visit MyWMU.com/homecoming for complete details.
Fulfilling America’s Promise: Racial Equity and Justice, the spring 2017 Lyceum Lecture series, was conceived to respond to the sustained public support advocating for elimination of the reality of racial bias and promotion of a more just society. The series addressed issues including, but not limited to: racial bias in law enforcement on campus and in the community; the reality of racial bias in the criminal justice system; and why intentional confrontation regarding racism is necessary and important to society, especially in relation to higher education. The series was highlighted by keynote speaker, Sybrina Fulton, activist and mother of Trayvon Martin. Ms. Fulton is dedicating her life to transforming grief into advocacy for empowering youth. Since the death of her 17-year old son during a violent confrontation in 2012, Fulton has become an inspiring spokesperson for parents and concerned citizens across the country. Her message not only appeals to people’s hearts as it relates to children, but is also one of hope and change, exemplified by her personal experiences.

LGBTQ+ at the Intersections

The intersection of LGBTQ+ identities and other dimensions of diversity such as race, ethnicity, gender, and religion is a key focus of this series. Since marriage equality became the law of the land in 2015, the LGBTQ+ movement finds itself at a crossroads. This series examines the LGBTQ+ community pre-marriage equality, post-marriage equality, and looks toward the future regarding activism, justice and rights. Speakers will cover a broad range of topics related to LGBTQ+ individuals and highlight the intersectionality of this diverse and important part of our communities.

FALL 2017 LYCEUM LECTURE SERIES
September 13 to December 6
Wednesdays noon to 1 p.m.
Lee Honors College Lounge
Free and Open to the Public
Sack Lunches Welcome
bit.ly/17lyceum

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
ROBYN OCHS
Educator, Speaker, Grassroots
Activist and Editor of
Bi Women Quarterly
"Beyond Binaries: Identity and Sexuality"

October 18 at 7 p.m.
1920 Sangren Hall
WALT’S PILGRIMAGE
A Journey in the life of Walt Disney
Dr. Christopher W. Tremblay, honors college and WMU alumnus, took students on a biographical road trip through Walt Disney’s life. This magical journey began in Disney’s birthplace of Chicago and ended at his grave site in California.

LEARNING WITH VIDEO GAMES!
Really?
In this unique course, Dr. Jim Bosco, education professor emeritus, led an exploration into how some of the best video game companies in the United States are revolutionizing learning in the private sector and K-16 schools.

Summer 2017
SIS Celebrates 6 Years!

MEDIA LITERACY
in San Francisco
In this course, students traveled to San Francisco with Sue Ellen Christian, professor of journalism in the School of Communication, to study media literacy and what is missing from the narrative of this great American city.

THERAPEUTIC GARDENS
of the Pacific Northwest
Honors students traveled to the Pacific Northwest with Dr. Amy Wagenfeld, assistant professor of occupational therapy, to learn how therapeutic gardens and nature positively influence human behavior and improve health.

wmich.edu/honors
The idea for the Metropolitan Series grew out of the annual honors college trip to Chicago. Then graduate assistant, Fareed Shalhout (2015-17), pointed out that there are other major cities in our area aside from Chicago that have wonderful cultural attractions, and a tradition was born. Since 2015, students have visited the National Arab American Museum in Dearborn, sampled traditional Middle Eastern food and visited the Eastern Market, as well as the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit.

Honors THESIS

Did you know that honors theses have been downloaded more than 600,000 times from all over the world? You can see details here: scholarworks.wmich.edu/honors/. Check out your honors thesis history today.

Dr. Maria Tarasova (front, second from left) with honors college staff and students.
Newman Civic Fellow receives additional honor

In April, honors senior Alexis Lenderman of Oxford, MI, who has devoted countless hours to community engagement and service, was named a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow. In May, she was named a Leadership and the American Presidency Scholarship winner. She is one of 273 students who were selected as fellows from higher education institutions in 39 states and Washington, D.C., and one of only five 2017 fellows to also receive a scholarship from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute's fall 2017 Leadership and the American Presidency program. Alexis is working on dual majors in entrepreneurship and global and international studies.

Read more about Alexis: wmich.edu/news/2017/05/39772.

University Innovation Fellows

Two honors students are among 224 nationally and internationally named University Innovation Fellows, a global program run by Stanford University that empowers student leaders to increase campus engagement with innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity and design thinking.

Jill Puckett, a senior majoring in advertising and promotion, is from Marshall, MI, while Nathan LaWarre, also a senior, is majoring in electrical engineering and is from Saranac, MI.

Learn more here: wmich.edu/news/2017/03/38475.

Most Promising Multicultural Students Program for 2017

WMU advertising and promotion 2017 graduate, Venezia Jones, an honors aluma from Detroit, was one of only 50 selected by the American Advertising Federation to participate in its Most Promising Multicultural Students Program for 2017.

Learn more at: tinyurl.com/yb8fahv3.

Gary L. Buffington $10,000 National Scholarship Award

Congratulations to honors senior, Rachel Larson, on being awarded the 2017-18 Gary L. Buffington Memorial Scholarship by the Industrial Supply Association in the amount of $10,000.

Read more about Rachel and the Gary L. Buffington Scholarship here: wmich.edu/news/2017/03/38963.

Food marketing student strikes gold at national case competition

Recent honors graduate and food marketing major, Mariel Dehn, placed first with her team in the 2017 National Grocers Association Student Case Study Competition Feb. 12-15 in Las Vegas.

Honors

GRADUATION

THESIS AWARDS
As you may recall, the weeks leading up to graduation are exciting times in the Lee Honors College. Each semester honors students may elect to compete for the Best Honors Thesis Presentation awards by defending their theses during Thesis Celebration Days. Presentations are judged by faculty and staff teams on elements such as significance, innovation, originality, clarity, clear objectives, hypotheses, interpretation of findings and presentation quality. All presentations are open to the public and we invite you to join us as a presentation judge. Contact Dean Bischof to volunteer at gary.bischof@wmich.edu.

Fall 2016 Thesis Presentation Award Winners:
David Ajoku
Heather Bacon
Brady Biscorner

Spring 2017 Thesis Presentation Award Winners:
Harrison Bach
Marine Bolliet
Amanda Van Giesen
Natalie Hamilton

On the eve of graduation, the honors college hosts its own graduation and cording ceremony. You may have fond memories of being corded by a parent, sibling or mentor at this moving event. It is a joyful time as we celebrate the success of our graduates.

PILLAR AWARDS
Western Michigan University endeavors to distinguish itself as a learner centered, globally engaged and discovery driven university. The honors college also encourages our students to exemplify these three pillars, therefore we introduced the Pillar Awards in 2015. Each of our award recipients have demonstrated a deep commitment to these goals.

Spring 2017 Globally Engaged Pillar Award Winners:
Marine Bolliet
Kelly Brandon
Erin Caspers

Spring 2017 Discovery Driven Pillar Award Winners:
Giulia Avelar
Salma Mumuni
Jake Tholen

Spring 2017 Learner Centered Pillar Award Winners:
Madelyn Attama
Abbigail Griffith
Emily Scannell

The designation of the Lee Honors College Faculty Fellow Award was created in 2005 by the Provost and the WMU Dean’s Council. It is intended to honor those people who have made significant contributions as professors, thesis advisors and mentors.

SPRING 2017 FACULTY FELLOW AWARD RECIPIENTS:
Kevin Abbott
Michael Muhme

The Distinguished Service Award honors staff, faculty and friends of the honors college who take the time to create and offer honors courses, organize our speaker series, mentor honors theses, supervise student interns, advise our students and much more.

SPRING 2017 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS:
Dr. Linwood Cousins
Dr. Mariam Konaté
Dr. Kristina Wirtz
Scott Friesner

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
Each year, faculty members from across the University select the most outstanding senior in their various academic schools, departments and programs to represent their units as a WMU Presidential Scholar. This designation is the highest academic honor that WMU can bestow on its undergraduates. Selection is based on the students’ general academic excellence, academic and artistic excellence relative to their majors, and intellectual and artistic promise. This year, 50 scholars were chosen from a senior class of 5,900 students and fifty percent of the students chosen were members of the Lee Honors College! Read more here: wmich.edu/news/2017/03/39008.
MEDALLION
Scholarships

By Teresa Ventimiglia, Public Information Specialist, Office of University Relations, WMU

20 incoming students win $60,000 Medallion Scholarships

Twenty freshmen have won coveted Medallion Scholarships to begin their studies at Western Michigan University this fall.

Medallion Scholarships are the highest merit-based award WMU can bestowed on an incoming freshman. Valued at $60,000 each over four years, they constitute one of the largest merit-based awards in American higher education.

Some of this year’s incoming scholars received a WMU Presidential Medallion Scholarship, while others received awards that bear the names of their scholarships’ donors or the individuals for whom the scholarships were established.

These students were selected after competing for the awards in the 34th annual Medallion Scholarship Program event held during two December sessions at WMU. Invitations to compete were based on a combination of high GPAs and ACT scores, and were extended to students who had applied to WMU by Nov. 1, 2016.

Medallion Scholarship Competition

A total of 845 seniors from across Michigan and the United States participated in the competition for 2017-18. The daylong event included essay writing and a group problem-solving activity for the students as well as activities for their parents and families.

The 65 top-performing competitors returned to campus and were interviewed as finalists for the Medallion Scholarship, with 20 ultimately being selected to receive the honor. In addition to the $60,000 monetary award, Medallion Scholars become members of WMU’s Lee Honors College. The college, one of the oldest honors programs in the nation, enhances the undergraduate learning experience by providing such benefits as smaller class sizes, individualized academic advising and a freshman mentoring program.

The finalists not awarded Medallion Scholarships were offered a President’s Academic Excellence Scholarship valued at $25,000 over four years. All of the remaining competitors were offered a Dean’s Scholarship. This award totals $2,500 for in-state students and is given out during the freshman year. For out-of-state students, the Dean’s Scholarship totals $10,000, with recipients awarded $2,500 annually over four years.

2017-18 Medallion Scholarship Recipients:

The 2017-18 class of Medallion Scholars has an average GPA of 4.28. Its scores average 31 on the ACT and 1372 on the SAT. Sixteen class members are from Michigan and four are from other states. At least six come from under-represented minority groups. The following new class of scholars will begin their studies at WMU in the fall and are scheduled to graduate during the 2020-21 academic year:

SHINING FACULTY & STAFF

Anthony Helms named Alpha Lambda Delta’s 2016 Outstanding Advisor of the year

The National Council of Alpha Lambda Delta selected Anthony Helms, honors college director of academic advising, to be the recipient of the Outstanding Advisor of the Year Award for 2016. Helms has served as the ALD advisor since 2013 and is a newly-elected Professional Member-at-Large on the National Council. Helms was also honored as Western Michigan University’s Registered Student Organization (RSO) advisor of the month in November 2015.

Changes and transition around the honors college

The honors college bids farewell to advising graduate assistant, Trevon (Tre) Thomas, who graduated in April with a master’s in higher education and student affairs. We also welcome two new graduate assistants - Taylor Berry, who is working on a master’s in higher education and student affairs and, is joining us as an advising graduate assistant, and Alex Hamilton, an incoming master’s student in industrial/organization behavior management, who will work as a research graduate assistant. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome back advising graduate assistant, Mariam Mustafa, who continues to work toward a master’s in comparative religion. We are also pleased to welcome Katie Fox, who comes to the honors college as an academic advisor with several years of experience in residence life and advising in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Western Michigan University.

Fare thee well and best wishes to Scott Friesner, honors college faculty specialist, on his recent retirement

Scott Friesner retired from the honors college in April after a teaching career that spanned many institutions and ended with popular and exclusive honors courses, including Civil Rights and Jazz, Vietnam and Rock, and Utopian and Dystopian Fiction. Scott also served as writing mentor to many honors students as they applied for prestigious scholarships and graduate programs. Thank you, Scott, for your years of dedicated and inspiring teaching.

Dean Bischof and colleagues publish two scholarly papers

Dean Bischof and colleagues have recently published two scholarly papers. The first, titled “Positive connotation in couple and family therapy,” is published in the Encyclopedia of Couple and Family Therapy by Springer, and is co-authored by Family and Consumer Sciences faculty member Dr. Crystal Duncan Lane and part-time Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology faculty member Dr. Karen B. Helmeke. Dr. Bischof was also invited to update a previous article in the Michigan Family Review on transgender couple issues. This article has been one of the journal’s most downloaded articles for its 20-year anniversary edition. “Couple relationships of transgender individuals and their partners: A 2017 Update” is co-authored by WMU Sociology doctoral student Codie Stone, Lee Honors College graduate assistant Mariam Mustafa and honors student and Medallion Scholar Theodore Wampuszycz.

Staff members Jennifer Townsend and Ashleigh Watson recognized

In addition to holding a graduate certificate in alcohol and drug abuse, Academic Advisor Ashleigh Watson completed her master of arts degree in family and consumer sciences in April. She was promoted to academic advisor senior in July. Additionally, Jennifer Townsend’s position was reevaluated last fall to name her executive assistant to Dean Bischof. Congratulations Ashleigh and Jennifer, on your outstanding achievements and thank you for your valuable contributions to the honors college.
2017-18 National Graduate Fellowship

Congratulations to honors graduate and former PSST Mentor, Erin Caspers, on being awarded the Mary Jane Stevenson Alpha Lambda Delta National Graduate Fellowship in the amount of $6,000! Erin will be pursuing an advanced degree in occupational therapy.

Learn more here: nationalald.org/fellowships/.

WMU Alpha Lambda Delta Chapter wins 2017 national award

Eileen Merberg, Executive Director of Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD), a national honors society for first-year students, recently announced that the WMU chapter of ALD has won the prestigious national Maintaining the Flame Award, which celebrates outstanding chapters of ALD that have shown continued excellence in chapter programming, communications and service. Maintaining the Flame is a complementary award to the esteemed Order of the Torch Award (awarded every 4 years), which the WMU chapter won in 2015.

2017 Jo Anne J. Trow National Scholarships

Honors students Regina McLeod and Shaima Shebrain have each been awarded the Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) National Jo Anne J. Trow Scholarship for the 2017-18 academic year. McLeod, a WMU junior majoring in psychology was awarded the $2,000 scholarship, and Shebrain, a senior pursuing a biomedical sciences degree, was awarded the $1,000 scholarship.

Learn more here: nationalald.org/trow/.

2017 James G. Stemler Study Abroad Scholarships

Congratulations to honors students Audrey VanEssen, a junior pursuing a degree in occupational therapy, and Kelsey Ennis, a senior majoring in Public History, on being awarded the ALD James G. Stemler Study Abroad Scholarship in the amounts of $2,000 and $1,000 respectively. Audrey studied in Italy and Kelsey traveled to Germany.

History of the Award
The Jo Anne J. Trow Award was started in 1988 to honor a past National President of Alpha Lambda Delta. Originally, this scholarship was established to give collegiate chapters of the society an annual opportunity to reward an outstanding sophomore member of Alpha Lambda Delta with a stipend of $150. Now the scholarships range from $1,000 to $6,000.

History of the Award
In 2008, the National Council of Alpha Lambda Delta passed a resolution honoring retiring National President Dr. James G. Stemler by establishing ten new study abroad scholarships in his name. The number of scholarships has now been increased to twenty.


1977 - 2017

**Timothy V. Morse** (BA '77) has retired after 26 years as a federal employee with the United States Social Security Administration and the House of Representatives.

**Kurt Brunden** (BS '80) is a professor and director of drug discovery within the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. Prior to joining the Penn faculty in 2007, he held an executive position in two publicly-traded biotechnology companies where he led research programs focused on drug development in the areas of Alzheimer's disease, dementia, obesity, schizophrenia and cancer. He received a PhD in Biochemistry from Purdue University and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Mayo Clinic.

**Alexander Reed Wirth-Cauchon** (BA '82) is a chief information officer and executive director of library, information and technology services at Mount Holyoke College.

**Susan (Andonian) Dempsey** (BBA '83) is the senior director of global business services center (North America) for the Kellogg Company. She received an MBA from the University of Houston.

**Stephan Kyle** (BA, '87) is the founder of Kyle Law Corporation and Decimal, Inc. in San Francisco. He has received an AV Preeminent peer review rating from Martindale-Hubbell, was selected as a Northern California Super Lawyer (2015-16), and was recognized among San Francisco’s Legal Leaders in the San Francisco Chronicle.

**David J. Paul** (BA '89, MA '92) is an instructor of philosophy at Western Michigan University and the Lee Honors College. He received a master’s in philosophy from WMU and recently represented WMU at NCORE 2016 and 2017.

**Jim Thelen** (BA '92) was appointed general counsel of the University of Maine System in June 2015.

**John Bursch** (BA, BM ‘94) is the owner of Bursch Law PLLC in Caledonia, MI. He recently won a case before the United States Supreme Court, Lee v. United States. It is the 11th case that he has argued before the nation's highest court.

**Andrea (Meyer) Thomas** (BBA '94) was recently named director of marketing for InterVarsity USA.

**Christopher W. Tremblay** (BA '94, MA '99) is serving as a research and marketing consultant for Michigan State University.

**Nick (Walter) Sousanis** (BS '95) is an assistant professor in humanities and liberal studies at San Francisco State University. His first doctoral dissertation written and drawn in Comics form was published by Harvard University Press in 2015. The book version, titled Unflattening, received the 2016 American Publishers Award for Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE Award) in Humanities and the Lynd Ward Prize for Graphic Novel of the year for 2016.

**Jason Allen** (BS '97) is a sales representative for Stryker Corporation. He completed an MS in mechanical engineering at Western Michigan University.

**Christopher Lewis** (BA '97) is the director of enrollment programs and student services and associate director of admissions at Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He has used his expertise in admissions and higher education to publish a guidebook for college preparation: *Everything You Should Expect and Do When Planning for College*.

**Jamie Willis** (BA '99) is a realtor in the District of Columbia.

**Kyle R. Anderson** (BS '00) is a fifth grade teacher at Grandville Cummings Elementary School. He has been instrumental in launching Passion Projects, implementing a flexible classroom design for better comfort and engagement of students, and has "gamified" all elements of classroom management and many aspects of academic work in his classroom. He earned an MA in educational leadership from Grand Valley State University in 2014.

**Holly Holmes** (BM '00) is a certified Portuguese-English translator. Her translation work dovetails with her musical activities. Most recently, she translated and adapted a set of songs for the Brazilian songwriter, Kristoff Silva, to debut his music in New York.

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_**There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.**_  
_Edith Wharton_
A Beacon educates, influences, encourages and leads the way.

Laura Michele (Sardelli) Miesle (BS '01) is a global medical information consultant for Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis, IN. She earned a PhD in pharmacology from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy in May 2006. She and her husband, James, have three young children.

Michelle (Suppnick) Gallagher (BS '02) is a pediatrician, practicing pediatric dermatology at Messenger Dermatology in Lansing, MI. Additionally, she is a clinical associate professor at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

Jennifer (Delaney) Kowalkowski (BS '02) is a licensed clinical psychologist for the Department of Family Medicine at Beaumont Health, as well as an assistant professor in the William Beaumont School of Medicine at Oakland University. She received her master's in behavior analysis and therapy from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and her PhD was earned from Eastern Michigan University in clinical psychology with an emphasis in healthcare systems management. Additionally, she holds certification as a doctoral-level board certified behavior analyst.

Kathleen Teall (BS '02) is a sixth grade math teacher and Math and Science Department Chair at Hudsonville Public Schools. She is an OAISD FuturePrep Educator and a 2015-16 Presidential Awards nominee for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Diana Stout (BA '03) is retired from teaching and is a full time writer and writing coach, as well as owner of Sharpened Pencils Productions LLC. She recently published a novel titled Grendel's Mother. She also earned her MFA and PhD from Western Michigan University.

Erik Widman (BS '04) recently received dual PhDs in biomedical engineering and medical sciences from KTH Royal Institute of Technology and the Karolinska Institute, with specialties in cardiovascular diseases and imaging. His PhD thesis was titled "Ultrasonic Methods for Quantitative Carotid Plaque Characterization" and focused on developing innovative ultrasound-based imaging techniques to better diagnose strokes.

Ashley K. Owen (BA '08) is an event coordinator for the Purple Community at Van Andel Institute. Previously, she held positions at the American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids as a development associate; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago as a senior event coordinator; and Gilda’s Club Grand Rapids and Gilda’s LaughFest as event and corporate relations manager.

Hannah (Schubkegel) Elless (BFA '09) made her Broadway debut in New York City singing "Bless the Lord" in the revival of Stephen Schwartz's "Godspell" followed by a role in the Drama Desk-nominated "The Other Josh Cohen" under the direction of Tony Award-winner Ted Sperling. Additionally, she starred as Elise McKenna in the musical "Somewhere in Time," as well as Margo Crawford in Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's Broadway musical "Bright Star."

David VanDeusen (BA '09) is a training and development coordinator in Professional and Organizational Development at the University of Washington.

Eric Pacifici (BA '10) is an associate at Baker Botts L.L.P and graduated cum laude from the Duke University School of Law in 2015.

Ryan Timothy Jones (BS '11) is a resident physician in Dermatologic Medicine and Surgery at Lakeland Hospital in Saint Joseph, MI. He is a 2015 graduate of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his transitional year residency internship at St. John Providence Hospital in Southfield, MI.

Lasse Grunewald (BM '15) works in fundraising at Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf in Germany.

Kimberly (Smith) Inniger (BA '15) is a content coordinator in Engineering Events with SAE International. She married fellow alum, Joshua Inniger, in April 2016.

Alyssa Murray (BS '15) is enrolled in the physician assistant program at Wake Forest School of Medicine. She joined the Triad Area Medical Orchestra and accepted a position in the Interprofessionalism Volunteer Group through the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

James (Jayme) Hentig (BS '16) is currently a graduate student at the University of Notre Dame. He is a 2017 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships Program winner and published his first first-author primary research article in August 2016.

Iana Denise Fontanilla (BS '17) is a registered nurse at Borgess Medical Center in the cardiac surgical specialty unit. She has recently been named a Rising Star in nursing research by Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. She will be presenting her honors thesis at the International Nursing Honor Society Biennial Conference in October 2017.
ALUMNI MENTORING

Interested in being a virtual mentor to a current honors student? Share your experience with students interested in following a career path similar to your own. For more information, contact Jane Baas at jane.baas@wmich.edu.

HOW TO GIVE BACK

The Lee Honors College relies on the generosity of its friends and alumni to help support innovative programming, scholarships and special opportunities for its students. To learn more or to make a donation, please visit: wmich.edu/honors/giving.

Best wishes and farewell to Dr. John Dunn on his recent retirement. Thank you for your leadership and guidance over the past 10 years.

Extending a very warm welcome to WMU’s ninth president, Dr. Edward B. Montgomery beginning August 1, 2017.

A beacon offers guidance and hope to others.

The Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse, built in 1847, ranks among the ten oldest lighthouses in Michigan. It is an active lighthouse maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard remotely, located in Lighthouse Country Park on Lake Huron near Port Hope, Michigan in Huron County. “Pointe aux Barques” means “Point of Little Boats”, a descriptor of the shallow shoals and reefs that lurk beneath the waves, presenting a hazard to boats as they round Michigan’s thumb. Photo courtesy of Michigan Nut Photography.