Established in 1960, the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program (VSAP) significantly contributes to the intellectual life of Western Michigan University. This program provides funds for academic units to bring distinguished scholars and artists to campus. These visitors meet with faculty and students in their fields and address the community at large. Since the program began, it has supported over 600 visits by scholars and artists representing more than 60 academic disciplines. Following are biographical sketches of the scholars and artists participating in the 2014-2015 Visiting Scholars and Artists Program. Dates are subject to change. For information about specific topics, detailed schedules for each scholar or artist, and specific times and locations of events, please contact the corresponding host or the sponsoring departments as outlined below.

VISITING SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS PROGRAM

KATE TEALE
Co-Sponsors: Frostic School of Art, and the James W. and Lois I. Richmond Center for Visual Arts

Kate Teale was born in England, and received her B.A. at Oxford University, her Painting Diploma at City and Guilds of London Art School and her MFA at C.U.N.Y Hunter College. She is an internationally recognized artist and author who has contributed work in the fields of studio painting, performance, and installation. She currently lives in New York City. She is a co-founder and director of the Greenwich Workshop, a non-profit organization that produces limited edition prints of original paintings by accomplished artists. In August 2014, Kate will be in residence at WMU for a two-week residency where she will present a workshop on social practice art. She will discuss the topic of her professional journey and share with students the process of organizing an exhibition of her work. Kate Teale is the recipient of the 2014 Kohnen Visiting Artist Fellowship.

DATE: August 10 to 14, 2014 and September 3 to 4, 2014
HOST: Mr. Don Desmett (donald.desmett@wmich.edu)

HIROMI ITO
Co-Sponsors: World Languages and Literatures, and the Soga Japan Center

Hiromi Ito is one of Japan’s most important feminist writers. After bursting onto the poetic scene in the 1980s, she quickly became the leader of the wave of “women’s poetry” that redefined the ways that women wrote about their bodies, feelings, and social expectations. (Selections of this work have appeared in Killing Kanoko: Selected Poems of Hiromi Ito [Action Books, 2009], translated by WMU associate professor Jeffrey Angles.) In the 1990s, Ito relocated to southern California, where she has been writing about her experiences as an immigrant and the implications of migrancy for language and identity. This visit to WMU will celebrate the fall 2014 publication of Angles’ translation of Ito’s award-winning Wild Grass on the Riverbank, a book-length narrative poem about transnational adoption.

DATES: September 22 to 24, 2014
HOST: Dr. Jeffrey Angles (jeffrey.angles@wmich.edu)

PATRICK BRANTLINGER
Sponsor: Department of English

Dr. Patrick Brantlinger BA in English and History, Antioch College; MA. and Ph.D., Harvard University, 1964; Ph.D in English at Harvard University, minor in History and Literature, 1965, 1968. Professor Brantlinger was the director of the Victorian Studies Program at Indiana University, and the editor of Victorian Studies. Dr. Brantlinger is one of the world’s leading authorities on the history of race and gender relations in the Victorian period. His published research has investigated the relationships between colonialism, violence, and sexuality. Dr. Brantlinger will deliver a public lecture on the influences of classical and enlightenment ideas on race in science, and the pragmatic convergence between gender and identity in recent cultural studies.

DATE: October 21 to 22, 2014
HOST: Dr. Mustafa Mirzeler (mustafa.mirzeler@wmich.edu)

VÂN-ÁNH VANESSA VÕ
Sponsors: Music

Vân-Ánh Vanessa Võ is an award-winning artist of Vietnamese traditional music. Trained at the Hanoi Conservatory and a winner of the 1995 National Zither Competition, she has performed the Vietnamese zither, monochord and bamboo xylophone at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center, and with the Kronos Quartet. She is also an active composer, lending her music to the soundtracks of the Emmy Award-winning documentary Bolinao 52 and the Academy Award-nominated film Daughter from Danang. At WMU, she will undertake two mini-residencies in October 2014 and February 2015. She will visit world music classes on October 29, 2014 and February 4, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Dalton Recital Hall.

DATES: October 28 to 30, 2014 and February 2 to 5, 2015
HOST: Dr. Alexander Cannon (alexander.cannon@wmich.edu)

BRIAN VAUGHN
Co-Sponsors: Departments of Theatre and English

As the artistic director of one of the oldest Shakespeare Festivals in the United States, Brian Vaughn presides over one of only a handful of theatres focused on Shakespeare to win the coveted Tony Award for Regional Theatre. In addition to his role as artistic director, Brian has extensive experience as a director in venues across the country, and he is a veteran actor with 20 seasons at Utah, as well as 14 years as a member of the resident company of actors at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, one of the only remaining actors companies left in the country. He will be bringing this wealth of industry experience to students during his visit, which will include hands-on workshops, career information sessions, auditions for his upcoming season at Utah, and class visits in both Theatre and English.

DATE: November 2014
HOST: Dr. Lofton L. Durham (lofton.durham@wmich.edu)

SARAH MCGRATH
Co-Sponsors: Ethics Center, Philosophy, Western Student Association, and Graduate Student Association

Sarah McGrath is currently an assistant Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University with primary research interests in metaethics, metaphysics, epistemology, and the philosophy of mind. Dr. McGrath is well-published in the areas of metaethics and metaphysics on topics such as moral disagreement, moral realism, and moral expertise. Dr. McGrath’s visit will coincide with the Eighth Annual WMU Philosophy Graduate Conference, which will run from December 4 to 7, and will take place in the Fetzer Center. In addition to a presentation she will give on Saturday, December 6, at the Fetzer Center, she will give a public lecture on Thursday, December 4, in Moore 1115. All those who are interested in either presentation are encouraged to join.

DATE: December 4 to 7, 2014
HOST: Mr. Dustin M. Sigisbee (dustin.m.sigisbee@wmich.edu)

MOLLIE STONE
Co-Sponsors: College of Fine Arts and School of Music

Mollie Stone is a choral conductor and ethnomusicologist from the University of Chicago whose research explores how South Africans are using choral music in the struggle against HIV. Stone has produced a series of teaching DVDs on Georgian, South African, and Bulgarian music that have been acclaimed and presented at conferences throughout the United States. Stone currently serves as Director of World Music and conductor at Chicago Children’s Chorus, co-director/founder
of the Brooklyn and Chicago World Music Choruses, and teacher with Village Harmony. Her residency at WMU will include several South African song workshops with integrated lectures inclusive of culture, history, and politics as well as a presentation on HIV awareness through music. She will also give introductory workshops on Georgian music.

DATE: February 4 to 5, 2015
HOST: Dr. Kimberly Adams (kimberly.adams@wmich.edu)

KATHERINE MILLER
Sponsor: School of Communication

Katherine Miller is currently a professor at the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at Arizona State University. Dr. Miller’s research stands at the crossroads of organizational communication, health communication, and family communication and past research has investigated processes of stress and support, compassionate communication, and caregiving. She has published over 60 journal articles and book chapters. Dr. Miller is the author of several textbooks and is the current editor of the Journal of Applied Communication Research. She is currently working on a book manuscript examining women, work, and family during the 1960s and 1970s by considering the work of her mother and other women journalists and columnists during that era.

DATES: February 17 to 19, 2015
HOST: Dr. Chad Edwards (chad.edwards@wmich.edu)

CHARLES “ANDY” ANDERSON
Co-Sponsors: Mallinson Institute for Science Education, and the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies

Andy Anderson is a professor of teacher education at Michigan State University whose research centers on the classroom teaching and learning of science. He studies how students’ prior knowledge, language, and social relationships affect their engagement in science learning and the development of scientific literacy. His current work focuses on learning progressions leading to the development of environmental science literacy. During his visit he will give a public lecture on his current research open to all members of the WMU community on the evening of March 23 in a large lecture room in Sangren Hall. He will also meet with graduate students from the Mallinson Institute for Science Education and other departments on Tuesday, March 24 in one of the conference rooms in Wood Hall.

DATES: March 23 to 25, 2015
HOST: Dr. David W. Rudge (david.rudge@wmich.edu)

MARGARET A. WEITEKAMP
Co-Sponsors: Friends of University Libraries, Archives and Regional History Collections, and the Departments of History and Gender Studies

Dr. Weitekamp curates the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum’s Social and Cultural Dimensions of Spaceflight collection. She has written about women in the space program and a children’s book on the planet Pluto. Her background in artifact curation, gender and women’s studies, and as an historian of space flight will be of interest to students, faculty, and the greater Kalamazoo community.

DATE: April 6 to 9, 2015
HOST: Dr. Sharon Carlson (sharon.carlson@wmich.edu)

DOUGLAS HOLLAN
Sponsor: Department of Anthropology

Douglas Hollan is a cultural and psychological anthropologist whose primary focus is on how social experience affects health. Using person-centered interviews and observation, he is particularly interested in how emotional health and well-being are conceptualized in different times and places, and the extent to which these conceptualizations feed into the experience of health and well-being. Currently, he is co-director of the FPR (Foundation for Psychocultural Research)-UCLA Culture, Brain, Development, and Mental Health Program, which attempts to integrate ethnography and neuroscience in the study of global mental health issues. He is the recipient of the 2013 Boyer Prize from the Society for Psychological Anthropology. On Thursday, April 9, 2015, Dr. Hollan will give a public lecture with reception, a luncheon speaking engagement, and will dine with faculty and students.

DATE: April 8 to 9, 2015
HOST: Dr. Bilinda Straight (bilinda.straight@wmich.edu)