

W Magazine

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



WAGING PEACE

Dr. Rudolf Siebert:

From unwilling German soldier
to catalyst for civility

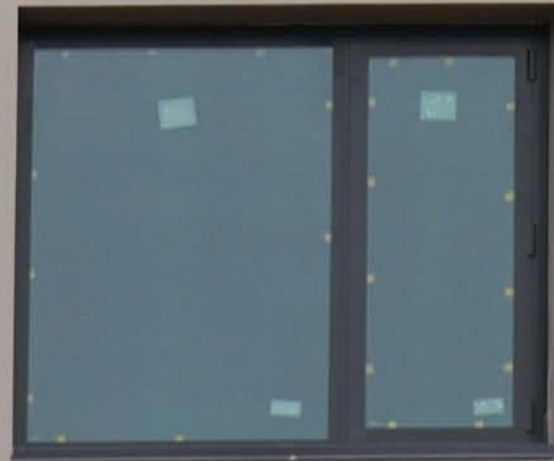
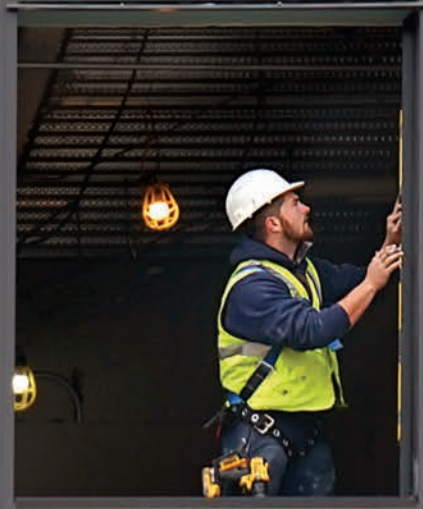
Also inside

Think Big initiative moves to action

WINDOWS TO THE FUTURE

Student housing is getting a facelift on campus. Construction crews are making great progress on the Arcadia Flats project, which will welcome its first residents in fall 2020. This is the first building project underway in the transformation of the University's Hilltop Village neighborhood.

Learn more at wmich.edu/capitalprojects/hilltopvillage.



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EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Paula M. Davis

CONTRIBUTING EDITORIAL STAFF
Erin Flynn
Deanne Puca
Teresa Ventimiglia

ART DIRECTOR
Kim C. Nelson

CREATIVE TEAM
Mark Bugnaski
Madeleine Fojtik, M.A. '12
Debbi Kreps, B.S. '88
Shelli Osterhout

PRODUCTION STAFF
Bradley Horstman

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Jennifer Clements
Sydney Fernandez
Allen Kee, ESPN Images
Tyler Williams

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
Contact Paula M. Davis at paula.davis@wmich.edu

UPDATES
For address changes, please send updated information to alumni-donor-update@wmich.edu.

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STEPPING UP

Hayley Midea, a dance major, won the prestigious Maggie Allesee Choreography Award. Her original piece, “Dear Larry,” was inspired by her cousin, a survivor of sports doctor Larry Nassar’s abuse. Midea set her cousin’s court testimony to music and choreographed a powerful performance to take a stand against sexual assault.





DEAR FRIENDS,

Increasingly, our focus at WMU is on helping our students grasp their purpose and passion in life on a parallel track with helping them build skills for the world of work.

To be sure, our graduates find that the skills they develop at WMU quickly lead to jobs in their chosen fields; our 91% post-graduation success rate attests to this fact. But a Bronco's potential far exceeds a single job after graduation. Broncos are preparing for a lifetime of meaning and of great impact, both personally and professionally.

Recently, College Gazette picked up on what makes this place so special, calling WMU one of the top "hidden gems" in the nation. Once upon a time, it may have been enough for us to be great and let people discover this on their own. But those days are gone.

Today, we must be great and make sure everyone knows how great we are. As legendary football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant said, "It ain't braggin' if it's true." WMU has the programs and, more importantly, the people to effectively compete for the dwindling population of high school graduates in Michigan by offering a flexible and innovative educational experience that prepares students for the jobs of today and for the jobs of the future.

By building on our existing strengths while flexibly reimagining our future, WMU is positioned to prepare students to face the challenges of a world that is changing at a breathtaking pace. That's the goal of our Think Big initiative, a bold plan enabling us to become even better at helping bright, inquisitive students use their innate curiosity to expand their horizons and create their futures. Read more about this on page 12.

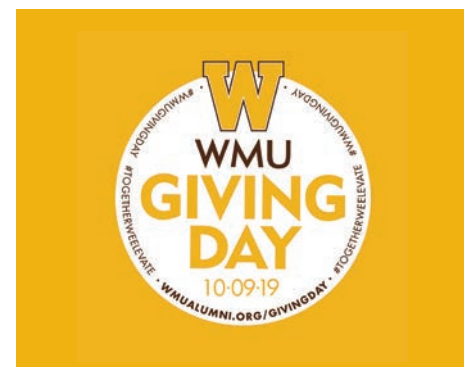
Across this campus, we are proving that WMU is a place for students to become. We don't expect freshmen to know their life's passion. But we do aim for our graduates to walk across the stage knowing their purpose and how the degree in their hands will make it possible. With a solid disciplinary backing, we give students the space to imagine their futures and the guidance to develop critical thinking skills. We bring the experience and wisdom, and they bring the drive to develop their abilities, unleash their creativity, and get an education that empowers them to make a difference in the world.

We hope you're thinking big, too, and are as excited about what's to come as I am.

Edward Montgomery, Ph.D.
President

Giving Day 2019 garnered more than \$1.5M

Generous donors from as far from campus as Australia and from 46 states came together on the University's third Giving Day to raise more than \$1.5 million. The Universitywide effort was led by the WMU Alumni Association, which was recently reinstated by the school's Office of University Advancement.



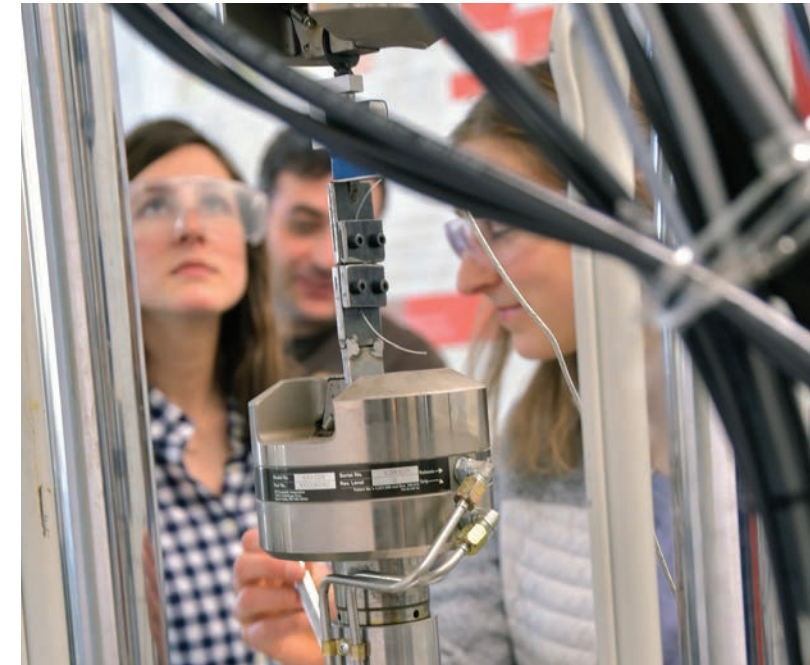
"Giving is just the tool," said Kristen DeVries, vice president for University Advancement. "It's the impact that we care about. Giving magnifies our ability to transform the lives of our students so they can transform the communities where they live, all around the globe. What philanthropy is doing at WMU is way beyond campus impact. Gifts made on WMU Giving Day will positively impact students for decades to come."

The one-day giving campaign on Oct. 9 surpassed last year's efforts by more than 391% and is helping the University refocus its fundraising strategy.

"This campaign is about ... the impact we can have regionally, statewide, nationwide and globally; whether it's working to solve the opioid crisis or fostering job creation in Kalamazoo," DeVries said.

In all, WMU Giving Day had 2,190 donors who contributed to more than 330 of the 2,000 funds available to give to at the University.

Learn more about WMU's third Giving Day results at wmualumni.org/givingday. ■



Mechanical engineer graduates Kelsey Pitschel, left, and Erika Mallery received their undergraduate degrees in 2016 and master's degrees in 2017. Pitschel is a mechanical designer in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mallery is a senior mechanical engineer in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

NSF initiative aims to boost women in STEM fields

WMU is leading the charge in diversifying science, technology, engineering and math fields.

The University, in collaboration with three other research institutions, was awarded a three-year, \$996,000 ADVANCE grant from the National Science Foundation to develop strategies to increase the number of female STEM faculty across the country.

"It is so exciting," says Dr. Carla Koretsky, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "I think it is something that can really create such significant, systemic, institutional change at Western Michigan University and other institutions like it."

Koretsky and other WMU faculty will be working with lead institution Iowa State University, as well as Michigan Technological University and North Dakota State University, to focus on challenges facing women of color and women with family responsibilities.

The project will examine a number of strategies, including developing and implementing training programs for campus leaders; training and developing campus advocates and allies; and developing mentor communities to support female faculty members.

The goal is to begin implementing some of the strategies this year. Evaluators both within and outside of the universities will collect and analyze data to determine which actions are having the most impact and have the potential to be successfully implemented at other institutions. ■



Dr. Ann Chapleau



Dr. Jennifer Harrison



Dr. Bridget Weller

Team secures \$1.35M federal grant to battle the opioid epidemic

A major funding boost will give students hands-on experience in combating the opioid epidemic that is ravaging communities across Michigan.

The \$1.35 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration supports the Michigan Youth Prevention and Recovery from Opioid Use Disorders—MY-PROUD—program at WMU.

"This grant presents WMU with an opportunity to make far-reaching impacts through health care workforce expansion in the state," says Dr. Ron Cisler, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, who calls this a critical time to address the opioid epidemic in Michigan.

"Our students will participate in hands-on educational experiences that will guide them throughout their professional lives, while also meeting an immediate, crucial need for families in our region."

Dr. Ann Chapleau, associate professor of occupational therapy, Dr. Jennifer Harrison, associate professor of social work, and Dr. Bridget Weller, assistant professor of social work, created MY-PROUD to enhance interdisciplinary education for social work and occupational therapy students and to expand the number of professionals available to serve rural and medically underserved communities.

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton advocated for the funding, emphasizing that opioid and substance abuse touches every community.

"We have all seen the horrendous impact caused by the opioid epidemic," says Upton. "We can all be encouraged that Western Michigan University is showing commitment to address this epidemic and that they will be given more resources to do so." ■

Geography professor recognized for watershed hydrology work

Helping protect water resources and predict potential contamination issues is important work, and it's earned a geography professor recognition among the nation's leading scientists.



Dr. Chansheng He The American Association for the Advancement of Sciences has named Dr. Chansheng He a 2019 AAAS Fellow, citing his distinguished contributions to the field of watershed hydrology, particularly using models and spatial technology to study the dynamics of water and nonpoint source pollution.

The hydrological models He has developed with his collaborators have been successfully applied to over 40 watersheds in the Great Lakes basin, as well as watersheds in China and other countries.

"This is a wonderful and well-deserved recognition of Chansheng's outstanding scholarship," says Dr. Carla Koretsky, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

More than 400 members of the AAAS have earned the lifetime distinction of AAAS Fellow, in honor of their invaluable contributions to science and technology. The newly elected fellows represent sections ranging from neuroscience and psychology to social, economic and political sciences. Beginning in 1874, thousands of scientists have been elected, including Maria Mitchell, Margaret Mead and Thomas Edison.

He and other fellows will receive an official certificate and a gold-and-blue rosette pin at the annual AAAS meeting in Seattle in February. ■



Jon Wassink poses with the Wuerffel Trophy during the Home Depot College Football Awards Red Carpet Show.

Bronco footballer scores accolades for impact off the field

Bronco quarterback Jon Wassink has been honored with the Wuerffel Trophy, college football's premier community service award. Named for Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Danny Wuerffel, it's given to one college football player every year who best combines exemplary community service with athletic and academic achievement.

"What he has done serving others off the field, along with his work in the classroom and on the playing field, represents what the Wuerffel Trophy is all about," Wuerffel says.

"It's always something I've tried to take very seriously," says Wassink, who earned a bachelor's degree in accountancy in the spring and is currently pursuing a master's degree in the field, carrying a 3.95 GPA. "I've always tried to work hard in school and give back to the community. That's just the way that I was raised and what I believe in."

Wassink volunteers with his teammates at organizations like Ministry with Community and mentors youth through the Bronco Buddies program at Tree of Life School. He also completed a spring break mission trip to the Dominican Republic in 2016, helping build a basketball court and repair fences in a small village.

He credits the coaching staff with encouraging him and his teammates to use their influence for good.

"They really push us to give back and also take academics very seriously."

Along with the Wuerffel Trophy, Wassink was also a finalist for the Willam V. Campbell Trophy—considered the academic Heisman—and the Senior CLASS Award, which recognizes athletes in their final year of eligibility who demonstrate excellence in four areas: community, classroom, character and competition.

"Jon maximizes everything he does. He's a joy to have on the team," says head football coach Tim Lester. "He's making a difference with teachers and in the community and is a joy to have around."

He's not the only Bronco earning big praise this year. Senior running back LeVante Bellamy was voted 2019 Mid-American Conference Vern Smith Leadership award winner as well as the league's most valuable player and offensive player of the year. ■

Hidden gem. Innovation leader.

WMU is garnering national accolades for its programs propelling students to success. Whether it's the University's commitment to student experiences, dedication to sustainability or emphasis on embracing diversity, Broncos are earning high praise.



**BEST PUBLIC UNIVERSITY
IN MICHIGAN FOR MOVING
UP IN THE WORLD.**
—U.S. News & World Report

TOP U.S. SALES SCHOOL
—Study.com

**TOP 10 INTEGRATED SUPPLY
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**
—Gartner

2019 SILVER AWARD
—STARS

**HIGHER EDUCATION
EXCELLENCE IN
DIVERSITY HONOREE**
—INSIGHT into Diversity Magazine

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM AWARD
—NASPA Region IV-East

**TOP COMMUNICATION
MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM
IN MICHIGAN**
—Journal of the Association for
Communication Administration

**MICHIGAN TEACHER OF
THE YEAR**
—WMU alumna Cara Lougheed

**EXCELLENCE IN PILOT
TRAINING**
—National Air Transportation
Association

Finding Common Ground

In our politically polarized reality, civil conversations may seem like a utopian fantasy. Dr. Rudolf Siebert, professor emeritus of comparative religion, is looking for the light at the end of the tunnel.

“Our political discourse has really declined in the world. What we want to do is see it come to a level where people can quietly and rationally talk about these things.”

A pioneer in the critical theory of religion, Siebert—who retired in August after 54 years at the University—has spent decades working to bridge the ideological divide.

“There’s tension. We have all of these culture wars, whether it’s stem cell research or abortion or whatever,” Siebert says. “These culture wars come from that split between secular and religious, and they go deeper and deeper.”

“His life’s work has been trying to bring people together and talk through their problems, and to come to some sort of common understanding and agreement so they can proceed forward in a peaceful manner that makes for a better world for everybody,” says Dr. Stephen Covell, chair of the Department of Comparative Religion.

LIVING HISTORY

Siebert’s unique perspective was forged as a child. Growing up in Frankfurt, Germany, he was just 6 years old when Hitler came to power.

“The antagonism between the religious and the secular was there from the beginning. On one side there was the religious people, and on the other side there was the fascist state,” Siebert says. “They were in continual conflict with each other. So the critical theory grew out of this fundamental experience.”

“His biography is inseparable from his teaching or from his philosophy,” says Dustin Byrd, an alumnus who considers Siebert a mentor. “He learned at a very early age what power was, what corruption was, what racism was.”

An encounter with an elderly woman on a walk to elementary school as a boy still haunts him.



Siebert

“She was carrying two suitcases and kept stopping. I thought, as a good Catholic boy, I had to help her,” recalls Siebert, who loaded the suitcases onto his bike and walked alongside her, noticing the yellow star on her coat. “She said police had been to her house and told her to carry everything she could to the basement of my school.

“We rolled down to the air shelter where already hundreds of Jews had been collected to be transported east. The police had told her she would be brought to a nice village, free from the bustle of the city, and she would have a nice place to live out her life. We did not know that they were going to death camps.”

An SS man at the school scolded Siebert for helping the woman, whom he was forbidden to talk to because of her Jewish faith. But all he could see was a woman who looked like his grandmother.

Siebert knew what was happening wasn’t right.

“(Upstairs) at the school they read Plato in Greek and read the Torah in Hebrew, and teaching was highly humanistic,”

Living History

1943

At 15, Siebert was drafted into the German Air Force to defend Frankfurt and other German cities.

He initially refused to go, but an officer showed up at his house and escorted him to the airport at gunpoint.

1944

At 17, with no more German airplanes flying, Siebert trained to become a lieutenant to fight on the eastern front.

After training, he fought Patton’s tank army marching towards Berlin.

1945

Prisoner of war—After surrendering to American officers, Siebert was transported to Worms and then Marseille by railway car.

He then boarded a ship and, after a stop in Northern Africa, eventually arrived at Camp Allen in Norfolk, Virginia.

1946

Democratic Mission—Siebert began studying economics and political science with American professors.

Identified as anti-fascist, he was trained and sent back to Germany in an effort to spread democracy there after the war.

1962

Return to the U.S.—Siebert first taught at St. Agnes College and Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland.

1965

Hired at WMU. Siebert moves to Kalamazoo with his wife and six children.

1970

In 1970, he was selected as an Outstanding Educator of America for his contributions to the advancement of higher education and services to the community, and in this same year he received the WMU Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award.

Illuminating a path to civility

Recently retired professor Dr. Rudolf Siebert sits in his study, which is lined with hundreds of books that he’s either collected or written over the past several decades.



Captured German soldiers at the end of WWII, National Archives.

says Siebert, “but down in the basement there was this degradation of human beings and people sitting and waiting for the gas chambers.”

As a member of the Catholic youth movement, Siebert spoke against fascism but was ultimately drafted and—after refusing the order—forced to join the German Air Force at gunpoint in World War II, at the age of 15. He justified his service with the obligation he felt to protect the innocent people in his city from airstrikes by allied forces.

“You have to make ethical decisions,” says Siebert. “You know so little of the circumstance in which you make this decision, and that is scary in a certain sense that one knows so little when one has to make such big decisions.”

A TURNING POINT

Eventually taken as a prisoner of war on Easter Sunday 1945, the theme of religion is indelibly woven into the fabric of Siebert’s life story. While being transferred between prison camps, a gesture of kindness forever changed him.

“We were stowed in an animal car through Alsace-Lorraine, and I became unconscious because I hadn’t eaten or drank anything in days and was hit by a stone thrown from outside,” remembers Siebert. “A Protestant minister gave me his last water, and that woke me up again. I became an ecumenical person for the rest of my life.”

Siebert traveled with other prisoners of war to Africa and was eventually brought to Camp Allen in Norfolk, Virginia. Along with tens of thousands of others, he was tried to determine his role in the war.

“The Frankfurt School, which was an institute for social research at Columbia University, argued there were Germans who had not been Nazis, and maybe one could get help and train them in order to transform the fascist state into a liberal state,” Siebert says. “As members of the Catholic youth movement, we had helped Jewish people by hiding them in the basement and (secretly) spread the letter of a bishop who was protesting concentration camps and saturation bombing.”

Siebert was among about 20,000 captured troops deemed unsympathetic to the Nazi cause who were trained and sent back to Germany to spread democratic ideals.

“I taught in the German school system, taught for working class people in the trade schools, taught in university,” says Siebert, who also continued his own education, obtaining master’s and doctoral degrees while also moving forward the critical theory of religion.

“He’s well known around the world for what he’s done,” says Byrd. “He took what (the Frankfurt School) began, their critical analysis of religion, and developed it well beyond what they had done. He opened up the doors to understanding religion from a critical, philosophical perspective.”

A NEW MISSION

In the early 1960s, a social theorist involved with the Frankfurt School—which had moved back to Germany after the war—made a grim observation.

“Maybe this whole hellish thing that we had in Europe, this fascism, could happen in the United States,” Siebert says. “I had worked in Germany as much as possible, so I decided with my wife and family that we would come back here because we wanted to fight it.”

So, the family moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where Siebert taught with Jesuits. Through his work there, he was connected with a Jesuit at WMU interested in starting a religion department.

Siebert came to WMU in 1965. During his tenure, he helped found WMU’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors, directed the Center for Humanistic Future Studies, founded two international conferences and wrote dozens of books and articles. He also taught thousands of students.

“He really teaches his students how to think critically about the world,” says Byrd. “It begins with thinking critically about religion, but then it expands into politics, economics, philosophy, law and all these other things.”

Siebert’s investment in his students extended far beyond the classroom—inviting students to international conferences to

help them network, co-publishing books and editing volumes with them.

“He did a lot,” says Covell. “For him, it’s not about him. It’s about something much bigger.”

Siebert has also hosted a weekly lunch for decades, inviting students, friends and family to come for fellowship and discussion. He even built an addition onto his house for students to live in while they studied with him.

“Knowing you’ve got a faculty member that’s going the extra mile and is really supportive and wants to see you succeed and taking those extra efforts is something students really thrive on,” Covell says.

THE FUTURE

Some argue the work Siebert’s done is more important now than ever.

“Part of what critical theory is trying to do is to bring two sides of these antagonisms together in discourse so that they can come to understand each other’s position,” says Byrd. “By understanding each other’s position, they can lay a foundation not for unity of opinion, but for a friendly living together.”

In order to continue his work, and to ensure WMU remains a driving force in advancing the field, the Department of Comparative Religion is looking into the possibility of creating an endowed position in Siebert’s name.

“He’s such an important person in the field, and he’s influenced so many disciplines,” Byrd says. “It’s imperative that Western finds a way to continue his legacy.” ■

THINK BIG INITIATIVE SHIFTS FROM THOUGHT TO ACTION

Western Michigan University is not a place to go, it's a place to become. That's the mantra emerging from the Think Big initiative, which is reimagining the University's brand and its promise to students.

"I love the fact that we're trying to differentiate ourselves," says Claire Herhold, a doctoral candidate studying public history.

That differentiation isn't just about exploring new concepts, says Tony Proudfoot, vice president for marketing and strategic communications. WMU, like institutions across the country, is facing a stark trilogy of challenges: changing demographics, the rising cost of tuition and the changing nature of work.

THE CHALLENGES

Nationwide, the number of public high school graduates is on the decline. That challenge is even more pronounced in Michigan, where high school graduate rates are expected to slide 14% through the year 2031—nearly triple the national average.

"Western has prepared me to follow my dreams by giving me a well-rounded training in all aspects of musical theatre, as well as making sure I am prepared for the business side of performing."

Kobe Brown
Theatre major

"Our enrollment is perfectly correlated with this trend," Proudfoot says. "We must do something different, and we must become more competitive, and break free of demographics being our destiny."

On top of that, the funding structure has dramatically changed for Michigan's public universities. Decades ago, about three quarters of funding came from the state. Today, only about a quarter of a public university's budget is supported by the state—the rest comes from tuition and fees.

Along with that rising financial burden, students are facing a career future that's changing faster than ever before. According to a study by the Brookings Institution, 25% of jobs in the United States are threatened by automation, and 85% of the jobs that will be available in 2030 don't even exist yet.

"A lifetime of change is coming for our students, and we need to prepare them," says Provost Jennifer Bott, highlighting the benefits of a liberal arts education in making students better critical thinkers and problem solvers and more effective communicators. "We have the ability to prepare our students to constantly adapt."

THE METHOD

The five-phase Think Big process has been far-reaching and intensive, enlisting the expertise and experience of students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members and other WMU stakeholders. More than 6,000 people have participated in various town hall sessions, design groups and surveys since November 2018.

"This is not our work, this is your work," says Proudfoot, who is leading the initiative alongside Dr. Jennifer Bott, provost and vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs. "We are just the facilitators."

Throughout the process, participants have distilled more than 300 ideas to create a shared vision that encompasses four core

values: a WMU student journey will focus on purpose, career and well-being, all rooted in a foundation of flexibility.

The University plans to differentiate itself by making student mental, physical and academic well-being its top priorities. It also aims to increase career preparedness by ensuring that students get an opportunity every year to have an experience they can add to their resume.

Now that they have direction and the "Big Idea" is taking shape, University leaders are beginning to create plans to put big aspirations into action.

"This part, about what we can do if we realize this promise, is incredible," says President Edward Montgomery. "It can offer us the kind of hope and vision for where we want to go as a University that keeps the things that make Western special and builds on them and delivers them across the educational experience.

"We will become that rare university that is a high-quality research institution that cares about its students and its teaching, about their experience and their growth, and prepares them for the rest of their lives."

TAKING ACTION

There are some plans that are already being developed and implemented in alignment with Think Big.

In fall 2020, the Counseling Services at Sindecuse Health Center will introduce a stepped-care model to better address increasing student mental health needs.

"The good news is the stigma of going to the counselor is no longer real; students are fully utilizing our counseling center," says Anderson. "We just need to make sure that we get students the resources they need."

Counseling Services will add four intake counselors to connect students with the most effective and least resource-intensive intervention available for their

specific needs.

Another concept expected to launch in fall 2020 is One WMU. It will consolidate centralized career counseling and advising to provide resources to students who have not declared a major or who are transitioning between majors.

"I changed my major in college my senior year," says Herhold. "I wasn't student teaching until my senior year, so I wasn't really in the classroom figuring out if I liked it. I also had an outside job at a museum. Those two components helped me realize I didn't want to be in classroom education. It would have saved a lot of heartache if I would have had those in-classroom or field experiences early on."

One WMU could also involve the creation of "meta-majors" so that students can explore a broader field of study without being locked into a specific major early on.

"One of the things that is very important to this effort is the acknowledgment that exploratory is not a sign of lack of preparation," says Bott. "Our students are uncertain (about their major) and their parents are increasingly okay with that. We need to celebrate that so students can find their passion without having to extend their time here."

WHAT'S NEXT

Now in the fifth and final phase of the Think Big initiative comes the work of developing the creative platform to launch the brand. In this phase, the Think Big team will put the finishing touches on the Big Idea by responding to feedback from town halls and expert reviews, and begin implementation and promotion. Phase 5 and the Think Big initiative will conclude with the brand launch at the start of the next school year. ■

**WE BELIEVE
COLLEGE IS
A PLACE TO GO;
WESTERN IS
A PLACE TO
BECOME.**

WMU professor’s research paves the way to improving pedestrian safety nationwide



Hochmuth, left, and Van Houten have done extensive research on ways to reduce pedestrian deaths on roadways across the country.



Professor Dr. Ron Van Houten talks about his pedestrian traffic safety research.

wmich.edu/magazine

It’s not why the chicken crossed the road, but how drivers behaved when it did, that interests Dr. Ron Van Houten. The professor’s pedestrian traffic safety research is garnering national attention—and saving lives in the process.

“EVERYBODY KNOWS SPEEDING IS WRONG AND HITTING PEOPLE IS BAD, BUT THERE ARE STILL A RECORD NUMBER OF PEDESTRIAN INJURIES AND FATALITIES,” SAYS VAN HOUTEN, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY, WHOSE RESEARCH EARNED HIM AN OUTSTANDING TRAFFIC SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE GOVERNOR’S TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION IN MICHIGAN AS WELL AS THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS.

Much of the recognition Van Houten is receiving is for his work developing the gateway treatment—placing signs on the edge of the road near crosswalks that drivers have to travel between.

“It not only increases yielding, it reduces speed at crosswalks,” says Van Houten. “We went from baseline at some sites of 3% to 80% of drivers yielding to pedestrians.”

SAVING LIVES

His research, which has yielded remarkable results, includes a first-of-its-kind study years ago in Orange City, Florida, where a troubling number of children had been hit by cars going to and from school.

One major contributing factor, says Van Houten, was a lack of sidewalks. But he also noticed that hardly any drivers were actually following the posted speed limits. So, he suggested enlisting police to strictly enforce the law when children were walking to and from school, along with an education campaign that highlighted the current crash statistics.

Some worried about pushback and public outcry, but Van Houten drove home the motivating factor of the enforcement: child safety. Turns out, he was right.

“Not one more kid was hit going to and from school in the next three years. That was the end of the speeding. That’s what it takes to make a change. You’ve got to get people to believe first, because if they don’t, they’re going to fight it,” Van Houten says.

Word quickly spread, putting Van Houten and his students in high demand. He’s since trained police on pedestrian operation enforcement across the country, from New Mexico to New York.

THREE 'E' FORMULA

Education, engineering and enforcement make up the recipe for success Van Houten has implemented time and time again. In fact, his gateway treatments increasing the yielding distance for drivers around crosswalks have driven such impressive results that the Federal Highway Administration is considering modifying standards in the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices to reflect his findings. That change could happen once Van Houten wraps up a yearlong study with the Florida Department of Transportation, analyzing gateways at 30 different sites across the state.

“We’re doing this study to prove it’s not just a regional effect,” Van Houten says.

Jon Hochmuth, a doctoral student, has been helping Van Houten with the research.

“A lot of the reason the research has had such an impact is the difference in our methodology from what people typically do,” says Hochmuth. “It’s much more detailed and targeted. We put these signs in the road and you watch behavior change right away. It’s crazy. And that’s not something that you see in a lot of research; it usually takes a lot of time.”

The research also seems to have lasting results. Four years after a study in Florida, yielding continued to increase even though no more signs were added near crosswalks around the city.

“In a sense, what’s changed is culture,” says Hochmuth. “When you make a certain thing the most common behavior, even people who never experienced the treatment or intervention are going to learn from what’s being modeled.”

OTHER RESEARCH

Van Houten and his student-researchers have also worked extensively with rectangular rapid flashing beacon—RRFB—technology, which involves placing a flashing light at crosswalks. It’s a treatment that has become popular across the country.

“They reduce crashes by half,” says Van Houten. “One of my graduate students, Jim Shurbutt, who led that study under my direction was hired by the Federal Highway Administration.”

Hochmuth also helped Van Houten with a project in Grand Rapids, Michigan, involving the enforcement of a five-foot passing law for bicycles.

“Ron is doing work that produces real change in communities which, if I could only do one thing, is what I want to do: help people. And on the biggest possible scale I can.” ■



1970

WMU Alliance for
Gay & Lesbian
Support created

2006

WMU Board of Trustees
passes nondiscrimination
policy to include
gender identity

2016

Spectrum
House created

LBGT office celebrates 30 years of inclusion, diversity on campus

“We value our LBGT students, faculty, staff and alumni, and we work to provide all members of the community with resources, support and opportunities to grow, learn and connect with others. We strive to ensure that WMU is a safe and welcoming environment to everyone and that all Broncos can feel comfortable in expressing themselves and their ideas.”

—President Edward Montgomery, in a message for the
30th anniversary of the Office of LBGT Student Services

The nation’s largest conference for LBGTQ+ college students is coming to WMU. The Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Asexual College Conference is expected to draw more than 2,000 people to Kalamazoo in February, and will focus on empowerment and education within the community.

It’s a celebration of diversity that follows a milestone for inclusion at WMU, where the Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services recently celebrated 30 years on campus. Created by graduate assistant Ronald DeVrou in 1989, the office was just the sixth of its kind in the nation at the time, and the second in the state. And its influence has blossomed over the decades.

MAKING HISTORY

“I really have seen it grow from everything done underground and working to make strides, and I think we’ve really done that well in making those strides as society has made those strides,” says Dr. Suzie Nagel-Bennett, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students. “Absolutely we have work that we still need to do, but it has come a long way in what I consider to be a short amount of time.”

Nagel-Bennett remembers being in the room with the WMU Board of Trustees in 2006 when it voted to add gender identity and sexual orientation to the University’s nondiscrimination clause—a giant leap forward for the LBGT community on campus, led by the tolerance and acceptance the Office of LBGT Student Services had been working to foster for decades prior.



Jayden Martin, Nathan Nguyễn, David Hoskins and Lily Zultowski sit at the Office of LBGT Student Services’ table at Kalamazoo Pride.

“That was huge; that was game-changing,” Nagel-Bennett says. “The institution at its highest level said we’re going to include these people, and we’re going to do it by a matter of policy.”

WMU prides itself on being a leader in celebrating the diversity of its campus community.

FINDING ACCEPTANCE

College is a place of self discovery, a place where students find their independence and decide the direction their life will take.

“You can’t go through academia and get your degree without feeling comfortable with who you are,” says Marshall Kilgore, an openly bisexual WMU student, “because (your sexuality) is something that you don’t get to turn on and off.”

The openness Kilgore found on WMU’s campus helped him choose the University over 16 other colleges he was accepted to.

“Out of 17 colleges, only one had an Office of LBGT Student Services that was broadcasted and supported,” says Kilgore, who remembers seeing the Out at WMU: Faces of Pride poster on the wall of the Bernhard Center as a pivotal moment in his college decision process. “Everyone was smiling, had their pronouns, sexual orientation and major. It moved something inside me. I was amazed.”

By all measures, he is a remarkable young man. A junior majoring in political science as well as communication, the Comstock Park, Michigan, native holds leadership roles in a number of organizations, both on and off campus. It’s a success story that might be much different had he not found the courage to be honest about his identity—both to himself and to others.

“I have been bullied, knocked unconscious, called every name in the book. I can go on and on about the terrible experiences



Students sit and talk in Spectrum House, a living learning community on campus that provides an empowering, inclusive and supportive environment for students of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

that I've had that made me want to hide and hate that aspect of myself. If there was not the Office of LGBT Student Services, and if I had not decided to go to WMU, I would have been in hiding because I didn't have any support."

BUILDING COMMUNITY

"I think a lot of the work we're doing right now involves awareness and advocacy, as well as creating spaces for LGBT students to figure out their identities," says Nathan Nguyễn, who directs the office.

That openness is something many students say they've found comfort and courage in.

"Without my experiences at Western, and especially without the Office of LGBT Student Services, I wouldn't be the same person I am today," says Chris Mattix, a history major from Bangor, Michigan.

"A lot of the time, college makes you feel like you're on your own. That can be great for creating independence, but when you're also coming to terms with your identity, it can be very isolating. So it's important to have the resources of the office."

Winston Lewis III graduated from WMU in 2015 and now works on campus as a faith and spiritual advisor.

"As humans, we're communal creatures. We're social creatures. We need that support from people around us, and it's even harder when you're marginalized," says Lewis. "I think the Office of LGBT Student Services is an example of what it looks like to bring together people who, for whatever reason, society has pushed away and reminding them that they have a place, they have a purpose."

INCREASING AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

"When I first started on campus (in 2016), a lot of the work I would do is how to be inclusive, how to be an ally," Nguyễn says. "But what's the next step?"

The Office of LGBT Student Services has developed programming aimed at emphasizing intersectionality and diversity, like Trans Thursdays and POSE—People of Shades Exclusively—which offer a variety of ways to get involved.

WMU also offers a number of programs aimed at educating and creating safe spaces for students, faculty and staff.

Safe on Campus, a training program launched in 1997, offers information about addressing homophobia, supporting students who are coming out, and understanding respectful language as it relates to the LGBTQ+ community. Participants who complete three hours of training get a door sign to display in their campus living or work space.

The WMU LGBT Advocate program offers more extensive education on a number of topics involving identity and intersectional social justice. Workshops in the program also fulfill some pathway requirements for the WMU Signature Program.

Sindecuse Health Center offers gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals to align with their true self. That includes mental health evaluations and care, screening tests and gender-affirming hormone treatment.

"We are working feverishly to make sure that people know that they have a home here," says Kilgore. "The Office of LGBT Student Services is a catalyst for all this change and inclusion that Western really drives home." ■

Students help lead cutting-edge automation research at WMU



Pratt & Miller engineers Chris Ferone and Jeff Reece stand outside the shuttle alongside WMU students Nick Goberville and Johan Rojas.

Automation and *sustainability* are driving the future of the auto industry and two graduate students are leading the charge.

Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist visited WMU's campus in October to help launch the testing of accessible autonomous shuttles aimed at improving transportation options for people with disabilities. WMU collaborated with a number of partners on this project, including project lead Pratt & Miller Engineering, based in New Hudson, Michigan.

"Right now, Michigan is in a race with companies in Silicon Valley and in countries around the world to revolutionize the future of mobility through autonomous technology," Gilchrist says. "The research that WMU and Pratt & Miller are doing will give us a competitive advantage and help solidify our position as the car capital of the world for generations to come."

Nick Goberville, a mechanical engineering doctoral student, and Johan Rojas, a mechanical engineering master's student, are helping coordinate and carry out this multimillion-dollar project. The accessible autonomous shuttle pilot was in operation on campus for two weeks in the fall.

The students are working under the guidance of Dr. Zach Asher, assistant professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and director of WMU's Modeling, Control and Optimization Laboratory.

"This research is important because individuals with disabilities encounter many challenges when it comes to transportation," Asher says. "Autonomous vehicles, which require no human-machine interaction, have the potential to enable new independence for them."

Rojas always had a fascination with the automotive industry, but he didn't discover his interest in automation until coming to WMU. A native of the Dominican Republic, he studied mechanical engineering and worked at a power plant for four years before deciding to pursue a master's degree in the United States.

"Western has a lot of research in the automotive field," says Rojas, whose research related to this project is now being published in the Transportation Research Board's national journal. "When I got here, I saw this opportunity to work with autonomous vehicles. It's great for my future."

Goberville arrived at WMU as an undergrad from suburban Chicago. While he knew his strengths were in science and math, he didn't solidify his path in engineering until he took a course involving electronics.

"Being able to do stuff like that is what really got me interested in what I was doing," says Goberville, who found his passion in robotics before getting involved with Asher's lab. "I wouldn't be able to have the experience I have now if I went to a bigger school. There's no way I'd be involved this closely with this project or even other research we're doing in our lab, trying to integrate an autonomous system into a Kia."

The team drew on the expertise of WMU students with disabilities for their accessibility research. Travis Waker advised them on better accommodating different types of wheelchairs in the shuttles.

"I think self-driving/autonomous vehicles are just the beginning of an easier future for people with disabilities and people in general," says Waker, a Howell, Michigan, native in WMU's counseling psychology graduate program. "I really admire the work the engineers are doing at Western, and I'm really glad I can contribute." ■



Painted by refugees and volunteers at the Greek island Lesbos.

LEARNING AND LEADING

GLOBAL LEADERS USE THEIR SKILLS TO HELP REFUGEES

Surrounded by the crystal blue waters of the Aegean Sea, the Greek island of Lesbos is idyllic. But growing among the olive groves and fishing villages is Moria Refugee Camp, an encampment where some 15,000 people fleeing from war, terrorism and poverty in places like Syria and Afghanistan have sought refuge.

“Refugees risk their lives sailing on a boat there, trying to get to Greece so they can claim asylum,” says Riley Richardson, who is majoring in global international studies and environmental sustainability. “It still shakes me to my core thinking about what they’ve gone through and how they are just trying to have a better life.”

Richardson is involved in the WMU Global Leaders program, a registered student organization focused on leadership through service. The group spent the summer volunteering in and around Moria.

“We are building a new generation of leaders driven by compassion for the world’s most vulnerable and bolstered by competence in humanitarian skills,” says Sydney Fernandez, the organization’s founder and director.



Adriana Echols directed the construction of an office for an NGO on Lesbos.

Allyson Dykstra, left, and Haley Ritsema explored the desert in Wadi Rum, Jordan, during their study abroad experience with the Global Leaders program.



A MOVING EXPERIENCE

A Kalamazoo Promise Scholar, Fernandez came to WMU in 2015 with plans to study Arabic and ultimately become a diplomat. Those plans changed spring semester during an immersive study abroad experience in Jordan, when a friend returning from Lesbos suggested he volunteer there.

“I planned to go for two weeks and come back to Jordan,” says Fernandez, who arrived at Moria Camp as an interpreter. “By the end of the first day I knew I was not going back to Jordan. I ended up spending a whole year working in the refugee camps that dot Europe.”

Fernandez traveled around, volunteering with various nongovernmental organizations that provided food, medical care and other services to refugees. By the end of the year, he’d changed.

“My skin was a different color from all my time in the sun. I had long hair. I was in shape from lifting hundred-pound pots of boiling water. I spoke Arabic like it was a true second language. I was a different person.”

He made a couple other detours before returning to WMU, but when he did, he was driven to share his passion for helping refugees with other students. After establishing relationships with partner nongovernmental organizations on Lesbos and rallying support from faculty, the Global Leaders RSO was born.

LEADING THROUGH SERVICE

Beginning in fall 2018, Fernandez spent two semesters training students in leadership and humanitarian skills. They volunteered in Kalamazoo and learned the principles of compassion through service while also developing humanitarian projects—vetted by social work professors in a multi-step review process—that they could implement in Moria Refugee Camp. Then, in May 2019, Fernandez and a group of 14 other students made the trip to Lesbos.

“I think the international, intercultural experience is one of the most important things that a student can experience,” says Dr. Jessica Gladden, assistant professor of social work at WMU, who traveled with the Global Leaders. “You have to really see the situations that people are living in and talk to them and hear their stories in person to really understand that it’s not the same everywhere in the world.”

The WMU contingent completed a number of projects in and around Moria—many of which put the skills they’d honed at Western to the test.

“Everyone got a chance to do something roughly related to their academic skills, personal skills, and, of course, they did tons of adapting,” Fernandez says.

“We had a music therapy student running a music therapy program (at the camp). A dancer did athletics with the refugees. We had a biomed major who is also a Division I track athlete for Western who ran with the refugees in the morning and, for

the rest of the day, did clinical triage with an NGO. So everyone’s skills are valuable.”

Richardson, who grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, used her environmental studies background to help build a community garden, creating a sustainable food source for people living in the camp.

Adriana Echols, a geography major from Detroit, rolled up her sleeves and directed the construction of an office for an NGO that provides legal services to refugees seeking asylum.

“It changed my perspective about the world and what we can actually do,” she says. “To use the skills I had and help people that are displaced in the face of the refugee crisis that was happening in Lesbos was eye-opening to me.”

The experience also helped solidify Echols’ future—she now works for Habitat for Humanity in Oakland, California.

“What this program did for me is help figure out what I want to do and how I can make an impact,” Echols says.

In Lesbos, the impact stretched beyond the people Echols and her fellow global leaders set out to help.

“It’s always valuable for the refugees because they need those programs. They need something to fill their time and attention and give them hope,” says Gladden. “But for the students, they actually got to see and talk to and meet and explore different cultures and situations refugees were in. So, I’m not sure who it was more important for.” ■

Bridging Barriers

A group of honors students is learning about immigration issues at the U.S.-Mexico border. They're getting an inside look at what some are calling the "border crisis," examining the driving forces behind record numbers of migrants making credible fear claims, hoping to be granted asylum in the United States. It's part of the Study in the States program offered by the Lee Honors College.

Feet away and worlds apart, a small group of WMU students speaks to two young brothers through the bars of a tall, rust-covered fence separating El Paso, Texas, from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

"We were just chatting about school, what they do for fun," says Dakota McCracken, an economics major from Kalamazoo. "One of the little boys asked me, 'Are there bad guys over there?' I said, 'Yes, we do have some bad guys,' and he said, 'Oh, we have a lot of bad guys over here.' Then he just kept playing and wrestling with his brother."

McCracken is among a group of honors students learning about immigration issues at the U.S.-Mexico border. They're getting an inside look at what some are calling the "border crisis," examining the driving forces behind record numbers of migrants making credible fear claims, hoping to be granted asylum in the United States. It's part of the Study in the States program offered by Lee Honors College.

"It's a hands-on learning experience," says Kaylee Tegethoff, a political science major from Bloomingdale, Michigan. "You make connections and you get to develop yourself as a person versus just as a student."

Denise Bowen, associate professor emerita of physician assistant studies at WMU, organized the trip. She designed the course to give students a front-row seat to the immigration issues making headlines and sparking debate across the country.

"I wanted them to be able to engage with people later, to talk about this and to maybe get rid of some of their misconceptions and help other people do that, too," Bowen says. "It was definitely an immersion experience."

"We were right there," Tegethoff says. "You hear on the news thousands of people are coming to the border, and then you walk through the refugee center and there are hundreds of cots, hundreds of people, and it's just, like, 'Whoa!'"

MEETING MIGRANTS

Students stayed for a week at Annunciation House, a Catholic charity in El Paso that offers temporary shelter for refugees and migrants. As detention facilities along the border soar past capacity, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement releases people into the organization's care—sometimes to the tune of 700 per day. Most, says Bowen, are from what's been dubbed the "northern triangle," which consists of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

"There are groups of hundreds of people that are coming. They're coming with their families. They want their families out of there; they just don't want to be raising kids there anymore," Bowen says. "The majority of the driving factors pushing people here are violence and poverty, I would say."

The WMU students helped out at the shelter, cooking meals and handing out items to people as they were processed. The experience gave students the opportunity to interact with people in various stages of the immigration process.

"We talked with people who were just released from detention, who had ankle bracelets on (awaiting court dates), who were just granted asylum or who just got here from another country and were undocumented and were going to turn themselves in," Tegethoff says.

"There were two little boys on the other side (of the wall). When they saw us, they came up and started talking to us. They asked us, 'Are there any bad people on your side? Because there's a lot on our side.' That was just so sad."

Jazemine Hairston

Studying social work and sociology





Of the 10 students in the class, only two were fluent in Spanish. Bowen prepared them for culture shock when they first arrived at the border.

“I tried to warn them that they’re going to feel uncomfortable,” says Bowen, stressing the fact that students would be surrounded by people who speak a different language. “But it didn’t mean that they couldn’t engage. There are a number of ways you can engage someone.”

It turned out, the key to breaking down those barriers was playing games with the people in the shelter.

“The kids were taking blocks and building towers. Pretty soon all these women came over and they all wanted to do it,” says Bowen. “So, there were all these teams of women who were building towers. Then the students would come and ask them questions and see them the next day and engage.”

Students were able to get to know some of the migrants, staying with them and hearing their stories of hope and heartbreak.

“One pregnant woman who was there toward the beginning of the trip was really excited because her husband and older child were already in Florida and she was going to meet them,” says McCracken. “She hadn’t seen them in months.”

“There was a young father and his baby staying at the house we were at. The baby’s mother had gotten deported again, but the little baby was there and had some serious health issues,” Tegethoff says. “The dad let me hold the baby, and I love little kids! But just to be there and know that they don’t necessarily know what’s going to happen to them next was sad.”

THE PROCESS

From touring the border fence and Border Patrol Museum to observing immigrant court proceedings, students were able to examine immigration issues from a variety of perspectives.

“We saw some different immigration courtrooms. They’re so backed up. In the detention center, there are four rooms and four judges,” says Tegethoff. “They hear over 25 cases a day. Every morning, that’s just their daily workload, and it just grinds on and on. They’re backed up for months.”

The sheer volume of people detained at the border is overwhelming. Bowen originally set up an interview with border patrol for her class, but officers were so busy while they were in El Paso that the meeting was canceled.

“Border patrol is overwhelmed,” says Bowen. “I think the majority are just outside of their comfort zone, and they can’t do their regular job, either, because they’re dealing with this mass amount of people coming over.”

A PROBLEM WITH NO EASY SOLUTION

“The whole issue is radically more complicated than I ever realized,” Tegethoff says. “Mentally and physically and emotionally it was just exhausting. You saw all these people you wanted to help, you saw all these issues and you wanted to help, and you know the policy implications and want to do something, but it’s not clear how.”

Bowen says the situation at the border is much different today than it was the last time she visited several years ago.

“I read in one day alone, 1,700 people were apprehended at the border just in the El Paso sector, where we were staying,” says Bowen. “They’re coming with their hands up in the air saying, ‘Take me, please. We need to get to the United States.’ They’re not being chased down or anything, which was the case a year ago. Now it’s just this whole voluntary thing and the people who are coming are different. It’s family units.”

Once migrants attempt to claim asylum, they’re detained and given a credible fear hearing in a matter of days. If ICE officials determine their fear is justified, they’ll place the person on a list for an asylum hearing and send them to a detention center.

“If they’re not deported right away, and they have someone in the United States that’s a sponsor and they have children with them, then they’ll be released to their sponsors,” says Bowen, who goes on to say that many of those people stay at facilities like Annunciation House while they work out transportation to get to their sponsors. Then, they wait for their hearing. The process can take weeks or months.

“As somebody who’s rather impatient—I don’t like waiting six weeks for my passport to be mailed to me, and these people are waiting weeks, months, maybe even years to find out where their next home is going to be—that was kind of shocking and just makes me really think about it,” Tegethoff says.

AN EMOTIONAL JOURNEY

The students also had a chance to hear the stories of young lives lost to violence across the border.

“That wrecked me,” says McCracken, whose ultimate goal is to be an economic development consultant working on policies to stop human trafficking. “I’m a youth group leader, and when I started my group was all 15-year-old girls. And the name on the paper I was given, she was also 15. I bawled like a baby.”

The victim Tegethoff learned about was 26 years old—not much older than her.

“This person died because of the violence in their city, with rampant crime and drugs and gangs and corruption in the government and enforcement. I just thought, ‘Wow,’ because I don’t have to worry about that, and I’m thankful for that,” Tegethoff says. “This is why rule of law and security are important, so that isn’t my story. But it was her story, so how can we help keep more people from experiencing that?”

THE TAKEAWAYS

The politically charged climate surrounding immigration and border security often puts people on one side of the fence or the other. Students on this trip—who all had very different views on the issue going into the class—came away seeing the lines are much more blurred.

“I’ve had some of the best conversations I’ve ever had with students during this trip, because we actually wanted to learn and we actually cared about the situation that was going on there. Even though we maybe had different core values or different beliefs, we just came together,” Tegethoff says. “I was definitely inspired and realized you actually can have discussions, believe completely different things and have good, helpful discussions that get you both to a better place.”

Bowen says while many students came away with different views on the priorities of the problems on the border, they all believe refugees deserve to be treated with dignity.

“If you stop treating people with dignity and respect, then everything falls apart,” Bowen says. “I don’t think anyone walked away thinking that they shouldn’t be helped somehow. There was no agreement on how, but at least some agreement that they’re all human beings and they all have these very real issues.”

“I learned more in the week I was in El Paso than I have in my whole life about immigration,” Tegethoff says. “I do think that everybody should go to the border who can. But if you can’t actually make it down there, you can still have conversations. You can still look at reputable sources. You can still talk to people on both sides of the issue to see where they’re coming from, even if you don’t agree with them.” ■

From heartbreak to hope



Samath Him Sprung, second from left, with his wife and two sons.

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

—Lao Tzu, Chinese philosopher

Samath Him Sprung’s life has taken him around the world and back several times. The WMU alumnus has impacted thousands of lives with the school in Cambodia he helped found. But his accomplishments did not come easily.

A journey born from heartbreak and hope, Sprung grew up in a tumultuous time in Cambodia, when the Khmer Rouge ignited a bloody civil war. Facing an uncertain future, he saw his fortune change in 1975 when he stepped into a Buddhist temple with his father.

A priest told him he had a golden opportunity, he remembers, as American troops came to rescue orphans. His father made a gut-wrenching decision.

“I remember my father told me, ‘Son, if you have an opportunity to leave this war-torn country, go and never look back,’” Sprung says. “This was the last time I would ever see my father.

He made a sacrifice for the betterment of my life. Those last few words would stick with me for the rest of my life.”

Sprung remembers the truck he was on being ambushed by insurgents on the road to the airport, but he and other young political refugees escaped and hid in a military bunker until a plane arrived to take them to the United States.

STARTING OVER

Just 14 years old in a country he knew nothing about, Sprung drifted through foster homes until he settled in with a family in Michigan. He learned English and graduated high school, but he struggled to find his place in higher education. Then, he found a home at WMU.

“It gave me a sense of direction, a sense of being professional and a sense of prosperity,” says Sprung, who earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering, as well as master’s degrees in economics and business administration. “Without Western, I don’t think I could be where I am today. Western really gave me the birth of a new dawn of opportunity in life.”

WMU also laid the foundation for a job opportunity that helped him reconnect with his family in Cambodia. It was something he never thought possible until a chance encounter with a friend led to the discovery of a letter from his mother. She’d sent copies of the note out 10 years earlier to connections in several countries, desperately searching for the son she lost that day at the temple.

AN EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Sprung moved back to Cambodia and pursued business opportunities before starting a family of his own. When his oldest son began primary school, however, he found a new mission.

“The lack of quality education for my children forced me to open my own school.”

With the help of some other interested parents, the CIA First International School opened in Phnom Penh in 2004 with 12 students. Today, it has grown to a PK-12 international school with more than 3,000 students. Many of its graduates, including Sprung’s own children, have gone on to success at universities around the world.

A LASTING LEGACY

Two of Sprung’s sons have followed in his footsteps and become Broncos. His eldest, Seth, earned a bachelor’s degree in entrepreneurship in 2018. Now, he’s helping his mother launch a restaurant and catering business.

“I find myself always working there when I go back, helping with ideas and bringing what I learned from WMU and my travels through all of Europe while studying abroad at Western,” says Seth Sprung. “I’m transforming what I’ve learned . . . and making it work for our operation in Cambodia.”

Sprung’s youngest son, Ravi, is a freshman at WMU. Like his brother, he says he hopes to follow his dad’s lead and become a successful businessman. His father has high hopes, too.

“WMU will certainly teach him the tools he needs,” Sprung says. ■

WMU faculty team uncovers racial bias in jury selection

Research uncovering inherent racial bias among prosecutors in jury selection could have broader implications on court cases nationwide. In fact, a faculty team hopes it does.

“Even though my research has covered many topics before, this one feels like the work that could make the most tangible difference in someone’s life,” says Dr. Whitney DeCamp, professor of sociology, “and that makes me feel good about it.”

DeCamp’s initial curiosity in the court system was sparked by a podcast focusing on the case of Curtis Flowers, a Mississippi man who was on death row. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court threw out his 2010 murder conviction related to a quadruple murder in Mississippi. Justices found the prosecutor in Mississippi’s 5th circuit court intentionally removed African Americans from the jury, violating Flowers’ constitutional rights.

It was the fourth time Flowers—who posted bail in December—had seen a murder conviction reversed, in a case where he’s been tried six times. If it had happened so many times in this particular case, DeCamp wondered, could there be a larger issue within that same court district?

BUILDING A TEAM

Deciphering data and synthesizing statistics are in DeCamp’s wheelhouse as a researcher, and with 20 years’ worth of the district’s court cases available, he had plenty to work with. But he needed some help understanding racial bias.

He didn’t have to look far.

“I approached my wife, because I’m not an expert in race, but she is,” says DeCamp, who also serves as director of WMU’s Kercher Center for Social Research. “Her dissertation involved race, so I thought we’d be a good team on this.”

DeCamp’s wife, Dr. Elise DeCamp, is an instructor in WMU’s Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies. She began looking into the Batson challenge, which is invoked to argue that someone has been unconstitutionally removed from a jury pool based on their race.

“(Prosecutors) can still come up with a number of race-neutral justifications,” says Elise DeCamp. “One of the things I noticed when I was looking into it is, a lot of race-neutral justifications were often socioeconomic indicators, like education or occupation, which are connected directly to structural racism and legacies of inequality. So, they can say it’s race-neutral, but that’s not exactly the case when you look at it.”

THE FINDINGS

What the DeCamps found in that particular court district, in 89 different trials, is that black members of the jury pool were four times as likely to be removed with a peremptory strike for no specific reason than their white counterparts.

One reason that disparity is so important, says Whitney DeCamp, is that participating in the criminal justice system is a right. Excluding someone based on their race denies that right. Another potentially more problematic implication is the outcome.

“There have been studies that have shown that the more diverse a jury is, the longer they spend deliberating and the less likely they are to reach a guilty verdict,” says Whitney DeCamp. “So, by changing the makeup of the jury and making it more white, it does result in a jury that is more likely to reach a guilty verdict, which is favorable to the prosecution.

“It is artificially changing the outcome, and that’s the big concern here.”

The team’s findings have been published in the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency.

BROADER IMPLICATIONS

“A lot of media coverage has focused on racial profiling and some other examples of the reason why we have disproportionate numbers of African American men in the criminal justice system, but this is something that doesn’t get a lot of attention,” says Elise DeCamp.

This study in particular could get more attention, though, because of the Supreme Court’s ruling on the Flowers case. In its decision, justices said attorneys can use information from other trials when making an argument that there’s been racial discrimination in a particular case.

“I’ve done research on suicide, drug use, reentry from prison, lots of things that could theoretically impact people’s lives in some way,” Whitney DeCamp says. “I feel like this has the potential to have a more direct impact.” ■



Alumni Profile



Experiences at WMU served her well in professional life

Business alumna Karen Feller Baldwin pauses with emotion when she speaks of her experience as a WMU summer orientation leader. The relationships she forged with incoming students as they passed through the program continued during the school year and had a profound impact on the human resources professional she is today.

“I was very quiet and shy, so I decided to challenge myself and do something out of my comfort zone. I applied for, and was fortunate to be selected as, an orientation leader. It was an amazing journey for me, and I discovered, if I followed my heart, I could really help the students I was meeting,” she says, reflecting on her junior year in 1987. “Most of who I am, personally and as an HR professional, comes from that experience.

“You build strong relationships with the people you are working with. A new, young group of students and their families are coming in every four days, and you are trying to connect and understand what they want, putting them on a path that will lead them to the rest of their lives.”

A figure skater since she was 5 years old, Baldwin says she was originally drawn to WMU because the college had an ice rink. While her interests at the University grew on her path to earning a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance, she still enjoys competing with an area adult figure skating team.

She, along with several family members, attended WMU. Her daughter, Carly Baldwin, graduated in December with a degree in early childhood education and Spanish.

Baldwin, vice president and director of human resources at Greenleaf Trust, a wealth management firm in Kalamazoo, was recently named one of Crain’s Notable Women in Human Resources. She is instrumental in making a difference and evolving the company’s recruiting, employee engagement, diversity and inclusion, and retention strategies.

Her efforts have helped the company grow by more than double digits every year for 10 years to more than 130 employees today. Besides actively seeking diverse talent and creating a culture of inclusion, she’s organized cutting-edge training for team members and new channels for employee feedback that resulted in increasing maternity and paternity leave to 12 paid weeks.

Baldwin also proactively encourages discussion of talent diversity challenges in the financial industry, arranging for training for the Greenleaf Trust leadership team, as well as for the entire company, including topics of micro-aggression, bias and harassment.

“In order to be really great at what we do, we need to be able to give to our entire community,” she says.

“The challenge is changing the landscape of the financial industry and making it attractive to those who have never considered our industry, so we’re inclusive in our hiring and those being served.”

Her advice to students and graduates echoes her own journey at WMU and mantra in her professional life.

“Do not be afraid to start off doing something that might not be the exact role you want to do in the long run. Challenge yourself and your talents. Learn and grow from each experience. There are a lot of people who find their personal niche by trying something new,” she says. ■

Charlie Valluzzo, BBA '62, was honored with the Baton Rouge Epicurean Society's Grace "Mama" Marino Lifetime Achievement Award. He has retired after almost 60 years in the restaurant industry.

James Leisenring, MBA '64, received the 2019 Gold Medal Award of Distinction from the American Institute of CPAs.

Darwin L. Johnson, BS '66, has been elected to the Board of Directors for The Loan Fund, a nonprofit that serves small businesses, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Robert James Chaprnka, BS '69, was inducted into the Michigan Transportation Hall of Honor for his contributions to the railroad industry in Michigan. He was president of the Michigan Railroads Association for 23 years.

Pamela Cameron, BA '73, MLS '74, is the author of the children's book, "Sport – Ship Dog of the Great Lakes," published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press.

Richard Hewitt, BS '73, MA '74, has received the Portage (Michigan) Rotary Club's Community Service Award for his involvement with Boy Scouts of America and for counseling youth through various organizations. He was also instrumental in the development of Matrix Campus Ministry.

Carol Cramer Brooks, BS '82, MPA '92, was presented with the David Roush Distinguished Service Award by the Michigan Juvenile Detention Association.



Roush

David Roush, MA '73, EdS '78, is the author of "Recalibrating Juvenile Detention: Lessons Learned from the Court-Ordered Reform of the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center." The Michigan Juvenile Detention Association has honored Roush by renaming its highest award as the David Roush Distinguished Service Award.

Clyde J. Robinson, BS '76, was recently presented with the Michigan Municipal League's 2019 Outstanding Service Award for his work in educating and informing local officials of the regulatory challenges faced by municipalities from the adoption of the November 2018 voter initiative that legalized the use and commercialization of recreational marijuana in Michigan.

Christopher Womack, BS '79, has been appointed to the board of directors for Aqua America, the second-largest traded water utility based in the United States. He is the president of external affairs for Southern Company, a leading gas and electric utility holding company based in Atlanta.

Robert P. Burke, BSE '84, an admiral in the U.S. Navy, is the vice chief of naval operations.

Shenandoah Cardwell, BA '87, MA '89, has established her private practice, Counseling Office of Shenandoah Cardwell LLC, in Lake Villa/Gurnee, Illinois.

Kathleen Spehar, BM '87, is the new executive director of the Council on Culture & Arts in Tallahassee, Florida.

Kathryn Pardue, MA '89, has joined Elmhurst (Illinois) Clinic as an audiologist.

David L. Stone, BBA '90, was chosen to represent the Michigan-Northwest Ohio region at the EY Entrepreneur of the Year national awards. He is president and co-founder of Trion Solutions in Troy, Michigan.

Kenneth Durgans, EdD '92, is the associate provost for diversity and inclusion at Kansas City University.

Marc Hatton, BS '92, is a project manager for the environmental team of Wightman, an architecture, civil engineering, environmental and surveying firm, in its Kalamazoo office.

Casey J. Thomas, BS '93, is the chief medical officer for The Surgicalist Group in Tampa, Florida.

Robert Herrera, MA '94, EdD '10, is the new superintendent of Farmington Hills (Michigan) Public Schools.

Lisa Lund, MSW '94, has joined the Central Montcalm (Michigan) Public School Board of Education.

Julie Sheppard, MA '94, was presented with the 2019 Education and Service Award by the South Haven (Michigan) Rotary Club. She is a fifth-grade teacher at North Elementary School.

Molly Baker Veling, BA '94, is the new executive director of Harbor Springs (Michigan) Chamber of Commerce.



Devers

James Devers, BA '95, is the new executive director of Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo.

Luke Swager, BS '95, is the manager of customer service for Duncan Aviation in its Battle Creek, Michigan, location.

Rhae-Ann Booker, MSW '96, MA '04, PhD '08, is the new vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion for Metro Health in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Cara Lougheed, BA '96, has been named the 2019-20 Michigan Teacher of the Year. She is an English, language arts and history teacher at Stoney Creek High School in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Lougheed was also appointed to the Governor's Educator Advisory Council by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Kelly Miller, BS '96, is publisher of the Williston Herald in Williston, North Dakota.

Holly Parmley, BBA '96, is senior credit analyst at Edgewater Bank in St. Joseph, Michigan.

Francena Purchase-Owens, BS '97, MA '04, was selected as a Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievement recipients for 2018. She is a board member for Cherry Health in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Sheila Bolda, BA '98, is the executive director of Sturges-Young Auditorium in Sturgis, Michigan.

Mark Linder, BBA '99, is director of the West Region for Allison Transmission in Portland, Oregon.



Tischer

Janelle (Sebald) Tischer, BBA '00, joined The Walt Disney Company as vice president, client solutions. She also is first vice president of Adcraft Detroit in Southfield, Michigan.

Joe Cugnetti, BBA '01, BS '13, joined Duncan Aviation's Aircraft Service Sales team as a Bombardier Service sales representative in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Kara Sawarynski, BS '01, is vice chair of Foundational Medical Studies at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Stephen Scholler, MBA '01, senior financial advisor of Wells Fargo Advisors in Grand Rapids, Michigan, was recognized as a 2019 Best in State Wealth Advisor by Forbes magazine.

Lindsey (Kraft) Dorfman, BA '02, director of branch services and operations for Kent District Library in Comstock Park, Michigan, was recognized as one of the Library Journal's 2019 Movers & Shakers.



Davis

Asa Davis, BBA '03, was promoted to senior business process analyst for Greenleaf Trust in Kalamazoo.

Katie Farrell, BA '03, MA '08, a first-grade teacher at Bauer Elementary in Hudsonville, Michigan, is a 2019-20 regional Teacher of the Year, according to the Michigan Department of Education.

Timothy Zajaros, BBA '03, experienced the Midwest premier of his film "The Peanut Butter Falcon" at the Traverse City (Michigan) Film Festival this past summer.

Ken Springer, BA '04, president of the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development, was recognized by the Galesburg (Illinois) Area Chamber of Commerce in a "20 Under 40" listing of people who have achieved success in the business community.

David White, BFA '04, plays Dwight D. Eisenhower in "Quezon's Game," a film that won the WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival Best Foreign Movie of the Year award. The movie also has won awards in Canada and the Philippines, where it was filmed, and is based on a true story.

Mark Christner, MA '05, is head women's basketball coach at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Cathy Longstreet, MA '06, was appointed to Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Governor's Educator Advisory Council. Longstreet is a counselor at Hastings (Michigan) High School, chair of the K-12 Counseling Department and instructor at Michigan College Success Network's school counselor post-secondary planning course.

Rebecca Tregerman, BA '06, joined the Jewish Foundation of Greater Orlando as director of outreach and engagement. In that role, she oversees the federation's PJ Library, PJ Our Way and Jewish Teen Education Network programs.

Alison (Hunter) Wynne, BS '08, assistant vice president of Hays Aviation, was voted by a group of her peers as treasurer of the Minnesota Business Aviation Association.

Andrew Kline, BA '09, a sculptor, has one of his pieces, "Springs Eternal," permanently adorning Cedar Springs, Michigan, near an amphitheater. He is assistant conservator at Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Shannon Lapsley, BBA '09, is the director of special projects and campus planning for the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County in Franklin, Tennessee.

Samuel Marshall, BA '09, is principal of Jackson Elementary School in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Tererai Trent, PhD '09, a Zimbabwe-born academic based in the United States, was named as one of the World's Top 10 Most Inspiring Women "Sculpted for Equal Rights," and has her life-size bronze statue on display at Rockefeller Center in New York City. Her life story is featured in the book "Half the Sky." She founded the Tinogona Foundation, later renamed Tererai Trent International, which has built several schools in Zimbabwe.



Ammerman

Virgie Ammerman, MBA '10, is executive director of Affordable Independent Living & Services at Hope Network in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Jacqueline Luedtke Boroza, BA '11, is a disaster program specialist with the American Red Cross-Indiana Region.

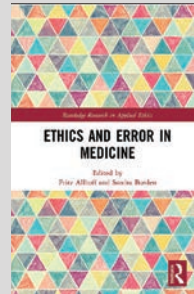
Kimberly Hayworth, PhD '14, is vice chancellor for Student Access and Success for Montana State University Billings. In this position, she oversees much of the institution's student recruitment and retention strategy.

Bobby Hopewell, MA '14, former mayor of Kalamazoo, is a member of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Ben Werne, MM '12, is marching band director at Greenwood (Indiana) Community High School.

Christopher Gothberg, BS '11, joined Wightman in the company's Benton Harbor, Michigan, office as an environmental specialist.

Abhishek Prodduturi, MSE '16, is a senior civil engineer for the city of Kalamazoo's Department of Public Services.



Ethics and Error in Medicine

(Routledge, 2019)

The result of a mini-conference held by WMU's Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, this book—edited by **Drs. Fritz Allhoff** and **Sandra Borden**—is a collection of original, interdisciplinary essays on the topic of medical error. Given the complexities of understanding, preventing and responding to medical error in ethically responsible ways, the scope of the book is fairly broad.

The contributors include top scholars and practitioners working in bioethics, communication, law, medicine and philosophy. Their contributions examine preventable causes of medical error, disproportionate impacts of errors on vulnerable populations, disclosure and apology after discovering medical errors, and ethical issues arising in specific medical contexts, such as radiation oncology, psychopathy and palliative care. They also offer practical recommendations for respecting autonomy, distributing burdens and benefits justly, and minimizing injury to patients and other stakeholders.

The book is dedicated to the memory of Shirley Bach, who co-founded WMU's Center for the Study of Ethics and Society. ■

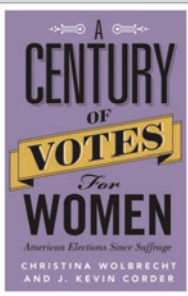
Allhoff is a professor of philosophy and director of the Medical Humanities Workgroup at WMU. Borden is a professor of communication and co-director of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society.

A Century of Votes for Women

(Cambridge University Press, January 2020)

How have American women voted in the first 100 years since the ratification of the 19th Amendment? How have popular understandings of women as voters both persisted and changed over time? In "A Century of Votes for Women," political science professors **Drs. J. Kevin Corder** of WMU and **Christina Wolbrecht** of the University of Notre Dame offer an unprecedented account of women voters in American politics over the last 10 decades. Bringing together new and existing data, the book provides unique insight into women's—and men's—voting behavior, and traces how women's turnout and vote choice evolved across a century of enormous transformation overall and for women in particular. Wolbrecht and Corder show that there is no such thing as "the woman voter." They instead reveal considerable variation in how different groups of women voted in response to changing political, social and economic realities. The book also demonstrates how assumptions about women as voters influenced politicians, the press and scholars. ■

Corder, a WMU faculty member for some 25 years, has authored other books, including "The Fed and the Credit Crisis."



In Memoriam

Henry Collins, BA '32, July 6, 2004, Winter Haven, FL

Donald Clifford Weaver, TC '38, Aug. 26, 2019, Kalamazoo

Elva (Anderson) Root, BS v40, Aug. 16, 2019, Burr Oak, MI

Frances Ruth (Deroos) Barons, BS v42, TC '53, MA '69, June 7, 2019, Zeeland, MI

Julie Arnette (Denison) Lerke, BS '44, Jan. 24, 2019, Whitehouse, NJ

Betty M. (Holton) Brower, BA '46, May 7, 2019, Saline, MI

Francis Lloyd Hiscock, BS '46, July 15, 2019, Ludington, MI

Marian Dykshoorn, BS '47, Jan. 1, 2019, Waukegan, IL

Elinor June Wells, BA '48, June 28, 2019, Fenton, MI

Alice (Swenson) Bennett, BS '49, Jan. 27, 2019, Muncie, IN

Mary Ellen Green, BA '49, July 21, 2019, Warren, MI

Ernest Paul Markovich, BA '49, TC '50, May 4, 2019, Paw Paw, MI

David John Miller, BA '49, May 30, 2019, Vero Beach, FL

Virginia Marie (Totzke) Radewald, BS '49, TC '45, Feb. 28, 2019, Niles, MI

John F. Adams, BS '50, May 10, 2019, Tavares, FL

Katharine (Gorrell) Butler, BA '50, MA '53, Specialist of Education '61, June 17, 2019, Monterey, CA

Barbara Louise Davis, BS '50, June 13, 2019, Kalamazoo

Anthony I. Gianunzio, BA '50, MA '57, June 29, 2019, Orlando, FL

Lucille Esther Grieser, BA '50, MA '69, Aug. 19, 2019, Bainbridge Township, MI

Suzanne Meinke, BS '50, June 30, 2019, Ortonville, MI

William J. Petter, BS '50, July 20, 2019, South Haven, MI

Janet (Lyon) Vandervoort, Secretarial Certificate '50, June 15, 2019, South Bend, IN

Robert Lewis Ball, BS '51, May 13, 2019, Kalamazoo

Otto J. Cerda, BA '51, MA '55, Aug. 13, 2019, Kalamazoo

Fletcher Cooper, BS '51, MA '54, May 31, 2019, Hanover, NH

Max Owen Ambs, BM '52, MA '56, May 10, 2018, Williamston, Michigan

Daniel Edward Bergsma, BS '52, Sept. 6, 2019, Appleton, MI

Nancy Ellen (Dunn) Petruska, BS '52, June 15, 2019, Fenton, MI

Audrey R. Zmudka, BM '52, July 22, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

Muriel J. (Phenix) Armstrong, BS '53, May 18, 2019, Brighton, MI

Charles Eugene Mikulas, BS '53, May 14, 2019, Englewood, FL

Marcia A. Price, BS '53, June 17, 2019, Kalamazoo

Joan Elizabeth (Gault) Towery, BA '53, June 6, 2019, Homer, MI

Delores E. (Thorson) Stevens, BA '54, TC '54, May 25, 2019, Wooster, OH

John Van Liere Jr., BBA '54, July 19, 2019, Kalamazoo

Pearl (Trestrail) Boshoven, BA '55, MA '74, Jan. 15, 2019, Kalamazoo

James W. Fleser, BBA '55, May 23, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

Ronald L. Houtman, BS '55, April 21, 2019, Gobles, MI

Jean L. (Jeffers) Meyer, BS '55, April 2, 2019, Orlando, MI

Donald Z. Thall, BA '55, Aug. 3, 2019, Kalamazoo

Barbara Ellen Van Ess, BS '55, June 8, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

Robert E. VanGiesen, BBA '55, April 25, 2019, Hendersonville, NC

Jack Carl Clifford, BA '56, July 28, 2019, Bonita, CA

Theodore M. Holman, BA '56, July 21, 2019, Englewood, FL

John Edwin Arnold, BS '57, MA '63, Jan. 30, 2019, Kalamazoo

Gerald L. Bottema, BA '57, MA '61, Aug. 27, 2019, Spring Lake, MI

Donald Lee Boyer, BBA '57, Aug. 18, 2019, South Bend, IN

Carolyn Jane (Ehrnstrom) Ehrnstrom, MA '57, Feb. 28, 2019, Kalamazoo

Charles T. Grainger, BBA '57, April 10, 2019, Kalamazoo

Elvert Richard Lee Jr., BS '57, May 2, 2019, Kalamazoo

Ferd Robert Macholz, BBA '57, May 1, 2019, Kalamazoo

Gilbert E. Reinkensmeyer, MA '57, May 24, 2019, Portage, MI

Nancy L. (Kivisaari) Sannar, BA '57, Jan. 18, 2019, Livonia, MI

Albert W. Warnement, BS '57, May 7, 2019, Sturgis, MI

Kathryn Emma (Leech) Bartlam, BS '58, Aug. 8, 2019, Kalamazoo

Nancy Clare (Hoffman) Blackwell, Secretarial Certificate '58, April 12, 2019, Northville, MI

Curtis Leroy Butters, BS '58, Aug. 1, 2019, Kalamazoo

Donald J. Ferguson, BBA '58, April 3, 2019, Phoenix, AZ

Maxine Johnson, BS '58, Aug. 5, 2019, Hingham, MA

Robert G. Musselman, BS '58, May 24, 2019, Portage, MI

Elizabeth L. O'Dell, BS '58, April 11, 2019, Waukesha, WI

Marlene R. Prince, BA '58, June 13, 2019, Ann Arbor, MI

William Richard Rafferty, BA '58, June 18, 2019, Schoolcraft, MI

Jane C. Trudell, BA '58, Aug. 15, 2019, Cape Girardeau, MO

Mary Lou Zimmer, BS '58, July 4, 2019, Gig Harbor, WA

Elaine M. (Mensinger) Boersma, BS '59, April 16, 2019, Iowa City, IA

Frank W. Knoll, BS '59, May 5, 2019, Longwood, FL

C'Ella Mae O'Neil, BA '59, May 12, 2019, Mishawaka, IN

David E. Osmun, BA '59, Jan. 30, 2019, Kalamazoo

George Portfleet, BA '59, MA '63, Feb. 4, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

Peter M. Rhein, BS '59, May 5, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

Bert B. Rowe II, BS '59, June 8, 2019, Buchanan, MI

Gertrude M. Swain, BS '59, Aug. 23, 2019, Charlotte, MI

John E. Ashley, BM '60, July 24, 2019, Manitou Beach, MI

Eugene E. Downie, BS '60, July 12, 2019, Waterford, MI

Katherine Dorothy Eggermont, BA '60, May 6, 2019, South Bend, IN

Philip C. Gabriel, BBA '60, June 4, 2019, Phoenix, AZ

James E. Miller, MA '60, Feb. 10, 2019, Olivet, MI

Thomas Philip Patterson, BS '60, June 14, 2019, Thompson's Station, TN

Sheila Noreen Pihlstrand, BS '60, Feb. 28, 2019, Traverse City, MI

Harlow Wayne Redding Jr., BBA '60, MBA '74, July 3, 2019, Ada, MI

Lewis C. Secory, BS '60, April 25, 2019, Port Huron, MI

James Gustave Shedd, BBA '60, April 10, 2019, Ypsilanti, MI

Anda Maija (Zidars) Silhanek, BA '60, May 19, 2019, Bethlehem, PA

John E. Chadderdon, BBA '61, Sept. 2, 2019, Hales Corners, WI

James Carl Duram, BA '61, MA '63, Feb. 25, 2019, Wichita, KS

Ronald K. Ferris, BS '61, April 30, 2019, Belmont, MI

Joyce Arlene (Brassington) Fitch, BA '61, Jan. 15, 2019, Berrien Springs, MI

Marilyn (Miller) Harrison, BS '61, June 30, 2019, Belleair, FL

Jack Warren Kammeraad, MA '61, May 16, 2019, Mason, MI

Charles E. Richards, BM '61, April 11, 2019, Norton Shores, MI

Donald Lee Starkey, BBA '61, April 14, 2019, Leesburg, FL

John Gordon Strickland, BBA '61, April 2, 2019, Battle Creek, MI

Donald E. Taylor, BS '61, July 17, 2019, Kalamazoo

Elaine M. (Mosny) Alexander, BS '62, Jan. 28, 2019, Peoria, IL

Wayne A. Boylan, BM '62, April 19, 2019, Trenton, MI

William J. Caldwell, BA '62, TC '62, MA '67, June 1, 2019, Battle Creek, MI

Jayne E. Dunham, BS '62, Feb. 20, 2019, Niles, MI

Richard B. Hanna, BBA '62, Jan. 26, 2019, Big Rapids, MI

Kenneth Ray Hosang, BS '62, March 23, 2019, New Braunfels, TX

Miriam Jeanne Kodicek, MA '62, April 20, 2019, Munster, IN

Mary Lou (Cole) Kuhn, BS '62, Jan. 23, 2019, Ludington, MI

Jean Carolyn (Benton) Leedy, BA '62, June 4, 2019, Fairlawn, OH

Carla Jo (Hudson) Miller, BA '62, Aug. 17, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

Carl Morrison Monroe, BS '62, Aug. 6, 2019, Midland, MI

Thomas Hugh O'Neill, BS '62, July 29, 2019, St Joseph, MI

David Payne Owen, BS '62, May 9, 2019, Ft Myers, FL

Donald James Phillips, BBA '62, June 3, 2019, Dallas, TX

Richard Ribbens, BS '62, June 25, 2019, Hudsonville, MI

Ronald E. Shoup, BM '62, April 23, 2019, Byron Center, MI

Robert Nathan Swart, BS '62, Feb. 28, 2019, Grand Haven, MI

Douglas J. Harper, BA '63, June 26, 2019, Kalamazoo

Ardath (Wynne) McNutt, BS '63, Jan. 12, 2019, Allegan, MI

Gordon L. Rinard, BS '63, May 5, 2019, Muskegon, MI

John Robert Wedding, MA '63, June 10, 2019, Lansing, MI

James J. Johansen, BS Engineering Industrial '64, July 11, 2019, Toledo, OH

Beverly Joan (Baker) Keicher, BA '64, Aug. 10, 2019, Midland, MI

Lawrence E. Miller, MA '64, Aug. 2, 2019, Port Orange, FL

Donald Gene Northuis, BS '64, July 25, 2019, Grand Haven, MI

Phyllis A. Olmsted, BS '64, Aug. 1, 2019, Hastings, MI

James Anthony Skura, BM '64, Feb. 5, 2019, Southgate, MI

Thomas Lee Suboski, BBA '64, April 26, 2019, Lapeer, MI

JoAnn Zimmerman, BS '64, Feb. 10, 2019, Bay City, MI

Mary Louise (Sheehan) Avery, BA '65, June 12, 2019, Holland, MI

Robert A. Bateman, MA '65, May 21, 2019, LaCrosse, WI

W. Duane Bodfish, BS '65, April 19, 2019, Stevensville, MI

Robert K. Christensen, BS '65, Feb. 3, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

Doris M. Havens, MA '65, Feb. 14, 2019, Elkhart, IN

Ronald W. Karatkiewicz, BS '65, June 8, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

Michael Ohara Leavy, BS '65, April 4, 2019, Jackson, MI

Thomas James McAllister, BA '65, June 21, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

Gregory Alon Preston, BA '65, MA '68, April 6, 2019, Grand Haven, MI

William John Ross, MA '65, April 18, 2019, Adrian, MI

A. Christian Schauer, BBA '65, May 13, 2019, Kalamazoo

Ginger L. Schoen, BM '65, June 11, 2019, Williamston, MI

Gary Ralph Stewart, BM '65, MA '71, May 17, 2019, Rockford, MI

Eugene Gilman Toornman, BS '65, May 10, 2019, Kalamazoo

Richard Lee Akers, BS '66, MA '74, Aug. 2, 2019, Sallisaw, OK

George B. Brooks, MBA '66, July 31, 2019, Kalamazoo

Carl E. Bruer, BBA '66, Aug. 17, 2019, Colorado Springs, CO

Richard Graham Miner, BS '66, Feb. 18, 2019, Columbia, SC

Pamela Ann (Wright) Pomeroy, BA '66, March 15, 2019, Muskegon, MI

Loulease Sellers, BS '66, July 20, 2019, Battle Creek, MI

Marla Dell (Miller) Smith, SC '66, Feb. 19, 2019, Indianapolis, IN

Paul D. VanDerWeide, BBA '66, May 15, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

James Bruce Young, BS '66, MA '69, March 8, 2019, Kalamazoo

Barbara S. (Spelman) Allen, BA '67, MLS '72, July 25, 2019, Battle Creek, MI

Catherine Laverne (Hooker) Ampey, BS '67, MA '76, March 31, 2019, Kalamazoo

Gary Jay Beers, BS '67, Master Degree Unknown '71, Aug. 24, 2019, Montgomery, AL

Karen A. VanWagner, BA '70, PhD '73, MA '71, May 30, 2014, Arlington, TX

Harry Mead Conway, BS '72, Feb. 11, 2019, Battle Creek, MI

Jesse Wayne Engle, BS '72, MA '74, MA '83, April 22, 2019, Ceresco, MI

Peter Charles Katt, BS '72, Oct. 24, 2015, Kalamazoo, MI

William C. Lake Sr., BBA '72, March 4, 2019, Pulaski, WI

Steven W. Minor, BS '72, MA '74, March 4, 2019, Swartz Creek, MI

Luther R. Dease, EdD '79, MA '65, Sept. 7, 2018, Muskegon, MI

Christopher G. Dallas, BA '81, Nov. 14, 2018, Hoboken, NJ

Ann Frances Lemaire, BS '81, July 5, 2019, Battle Creek, MI

Philip A. Marcinek, BS '81, May 11, 2019, San Antonio, TX

Linda Kaye Munoz, BSW '81, June 12, 2019, Springfield, MI

Roderick E. Walker, BS '81, Feb. 2, 2019, Hazelwood, MO

Joseph Fredrick Dreibelbis, BBA '82, July 14, 2019, Niles, MI

Patrick Charles McBride, BBA '82, May 4, 2019, Plainwell, MI

Wendy Ann Meyer, MLS '82, July 6, 2019, Royal Oak, MI

Karen L. (Peet) Szyrotchen, BBA '82, Dec. 17, 2018, Kalamazoo

Joan Louise (Bostic) Thompkins, MA '82, June 26, 2019, Kalamazoo

Darius Henry Wilson, BS '82, March 18, 2019, Cleveland, OH

Lynda Joy (Jordan) Blaising, BBA '83, Feb. 12, 2019, Columbia City, IN

Glen Jenkins, BBA '83, Jan. 30, 2019, Muskegon, MI

Mary D. Yore, BS '83, March 6, 2019, Indianapolis, IN

Laverne Mae (Harper) Youngblade, EdD '83, June 15, 2019, Thomas Township, MI

James E. Garvin, BBA '84, Aug. 18, 2019, Essexville, MI

Marcella V. Kelemen, BA '84, May 16, 2019, Kalamazoo

Lorraine A. Marcantonio, EdD '84, MA '77, March 27, 2019, Southbury, CT

Jeffrey Scott Patterson, MBA '84, July 27, 2019, Manitou Beach, MI

William James Ross, BBA '84, April 18, 2019, Adrian, MI

Cornelia W. Van Bruggen, BS '84, July 20, 2019, Kalamazoo

Steven R. Wright, BS '85, April 17, 2019, Ann Arbor, MI

Joy C. (Crothers) Angel, BS '86, June 23, 2019, Woodland, MI

Jim P. Hogan, BBA '86, July 19, 2019, Franklin, MA

Tracy Leanne (Ward) Stevens, BBA '86, April 18, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

Cele J. Czarnecki, BS '87, Feb. 9, 2019, Brighton, CO

Timothy James O'Connor, MBA '87, Feb. 22, 2019, Sheboygan, WI

Susan Alyce Smith, BS '87, April 26, 2019, Walker, MI

Kathryn A. Caskey, HHC '88, May 5, 2019, Kalamazoo

Philip Brian DeBoer, BBA '88, July 3, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

Linda Marie Gall, BS '88, Feb. 8, 2019, Lake Orion, MI

Harry Adam Green, BS '88, April 1, 2019, Ortonville, MI

James M. Green, BBA '88, June 30, 2019, Marion, MI

Joanne M. Kraska, MSW '88, Jan. 26, 2019, Portage, MI

Bernard L. Chandler, MA '89, April 14, 2019, Kentwood, MI



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