

## VISITING SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS PROGRAM

Established in 1960, the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program (VSAP) significantly contributes to the intellectual life of Western Michigan University. This program provides funds for academic units to bring distinguished scholars and artists to campus. These visitors meet with faculty and students in their fields and address the community at large. Since the program began, it has supported over 600 visits by scholars and artists representing more than 60 academic disciplines. Following are biographical sketches of the scholars and artists participating in the 2015-16 Visiting Scholars and Artists Program.

*Dates are subject to change. For information about specific topics, detailed schedules for each scholar or artist, and specific times and locations of events, please contact the corresponding host or the sponsoring departments as outlined below.*

## VISITING SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS PROGRAM COMMITTEE

*Dr. Elke Schoffers, Chair  
Dr. K.C. Chen  
Dr. Alamgir Choudhury  
Dr. Gene Freudenburg  
Mr. Dewei Qi*

*Ms. Wendy Kershner  
Dr. Joan Herrington  
Dr. David Szabla  
Ms. Lisa Whittaker  
Ms. Tonya Dean*

### LUCIA BANCİ

Co-Sponsors: Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Gender and Women's Studies, MISE, Environmental Studies

Lucia Banci is a Professor at the University of Florence, Italy, with extensive expertise in Structural Biology and biological nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). She is one of the founders and the former director of the Center for Magnetic Resonance in Florence, with more than eleven high field NMR instruments. She has been awarded the IUPAC Award for "Distinguished Women in Chemistry", the Gold Medal of the City of Florence, and has been selected for the Italian women in STEM project "100esperte". She will be giving both a scientific lecture on the development of biological magnetic resonance and a workshop on empowering women in the

STEM fields. She will also be meeting individually with both students and faculty.

DATES: September 5 – 6, 2019

HOST: Mike Famiano ([michael.famiano@wmich.edu](mailto:michael.famiano@wmich.edu))

### MARK DECHIAZZA

Co-Sponsors: Gwen Frostic School of Art, Sculpture; Media

We are proposing to bring choreographer, director, and designer Mark DeChiazza in for a residency with the Spektral Quartet (the quartet was funded via a SIP proposal from the College of Fine Arts). The largest public event of the residency would be the staged and choreographed performance and pre-concert talk with Associate Professor Lisa Coons on September 18, 2019. Multimedia Art Technology students would collaborate on this event, providing live sound reinforcement for the concert [including running and mixing four wireless microphones]. DeChiazza would talk with Sculpture and Multimedia Art Technology students about his visual art and collaborative work, and DeChiazza and members of Spektral would be part of a moderated panel on professional development, careers in the arts, and how to fund projects including 501c3, funding projects, marketing and promotion in the arts, and resources for young artists.

DATES: September 17 – 19, 2019

HOST: Lisa Renée Coons ([lisa.coons@wmich.edu](mailto:lisa.coons@wmich.edu))

### MARK HUGO LOPEZ

Sponsor: Global and International Studies Program and the Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies

Dr. Mark Hugo Lopez, an authority on the demographic and social integration of Latinos in the United States, earned a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and MA and Ph.D. degrees in economics from Princeton University. Following this training, Lopez held academic rank at the University of Maryland Schools of Public Affairs and Public Policy. Lopez subsequently joined the Pew Research Center and directs the Global Migration and Demography section. Lopez will visit WMU September 25 and 26, 2019, during Hispanic Heritage Month. He will give a public lecture (September 25, 4 to 5:30 p.m., 2028 Brown Hall) titled "The Changing Identity of Latinos in the U.S. Today". A public reception will follow. On September 26, Lopez will meet with groups of students and others for informal conversations concerning Hispanic identity.

DATE: September 25 – 26, 2019

HOST: Susan Pozo ([susan.pozo@wmich.edu](mailto:susan.pozo@wmich.edu))

### JUAN COLE

Co-Sponsors: Department of History; The Southwest Michigan Educational Initiative on the Eastern Indian Ocean; The Islam in Global Perspective Speakers Series; The Center for the Study of Ethics in Society; The Institute of Intercultural and Anthropological Studies; and the Department of Comparative Religion

Juan Cole is Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan and studies the relationship of the West and the Muslim world. His most recent book is *Muhammad: Prophet of Peace amid the Clash of Empires*. He is also author of *The New Arabs: How the Millennial Generation is Changing the Middle East* and many other books. He has translated works of Lebanese-American author Kahlil Gibran. He has written about Egypt, Iran, Iraq, the Gulf and South Asia and about both extremist groups and peace movements. He has made numerous television appearances and contributes regularly to both digital and print news media. He lived in various parts of the Muslim world for more than a decade and continues to travel widely there.

DATES: October 9 – 10, 2019

HOST: Nathan Tabor ([Nathan.tabor@wmich.edu](mailto:Nathan.tabor@wmich.edu))

### JOSEPH TAN

Sponsor: The Center for Health Information Technology Advancement (CHITA); Department of Business Information Systems

Dr. Joseph Tan is a renowned scholar in e-Health and mobile health, through using information technology, will present keynote speeches in the 5th International Conference on Health Information Technology Advancement, to be held on Oct 31 – Nov. 1, 2019 at the Fetzer Center of Western Michigan University. Audiences of his talks include WMU faculty, students, and researchers and clinical practitioners from the nation and overseas. Dr. Tan is ranked one of the Top 10 most Influential Informatics Professors in North America. He will give one keynote to researchers on Oct. 31 and one plenary keynote on November 1, 2019. With Dr. Tan's reputation in health care informatics, his presentations will create huge publicity for WMU and impacts on the event promotion.

DATE: October 31 – November 1, 2019

HOST: Bernard Han ([bernard.han@wmich.edu](mailto:bernard.han@wmich.edu))

## JORDAN PAL

Sponsor: School of Music

Dr. Jordan Pal, an eminent composer, and Affiliate Composer with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, would conduct a number of classes, rehearsals, lessons and a concert at WMU over a three-day span. The visit would begin with various soloists and student ensembles preparing a number of his works in advance of his visit, with original material provided by Dr. Pal, in preparation for a concert. Upon his arrival, Dr. Pal would conduct rehearsals with the participants, coaching them on the performance practices needed to realize his music effectively. Additionally, Dr. Pal would offer classes in his compositional methods and techniques, and a master-class for the Western Piano Studio. Finally, select students from the composition studio would be offered private lessons with Dr. Pal. Jordan is a world-class artist and would have a huge impact on our program at WMU.

DATES: January 13 – 15, 2020

HOST: Andrew Rathburn ([andrew.rathburn@wmich.edu](mailto:andrew.rathburn@wmich.edu))

## CÉCILE FONTAINE

Sponsors: World Languages and Literatures; Theater; Intercultural and Anthropological Studies; Gender and Women's Studies; Spanish; University Center for the Humanities

Cécile Fontaine is an exciting French actor, theater director, and playwright. She co-directs the theater company Rouge Bakoly on the island of Réunion, one of the overseas departments of France. Her company brings authentic contemporary voices to the stage in both French and creole, basing its productions on interviews with members of marginalized populations in Réunion. At WMU, Fontaine will give a public talk—in English—on her work with her troupe, describing particular plays and how social context informs her writing and directing. Her talk will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. in 208 Brown Hall. She will also visit classes, do a theater workshop with students in French, and speak to the local chapter of the Alliance Française.

DATES: March 23 – April 2, 2020

HOST: Cynthia Running-Johnson  
[c.running-johnson@wmich.edu](mailto:c.running-johnson@wmich.edu)

## TAMAS HEIDEGGER

Sponsors: Department of Electrical Engineering and Department of Surgery

Dr. Haidegger's main field of research is on medical technologies, control/teleoperation of surgical robots, image-guided therapy and assistive devices. Currently, he is an associate professor at Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary, serving as the Director of the University Research, Innovation and Service Center (EKIK), and as the technical lead of medical robotics research at the Antal Bejczy Center for Intelligent Robotics (ABCIR). In addition, he is a research area manager at the Austrian Center of Medical Innovation and Technology (ACMIT) in Wiener Neustadt, Austria, focusing on minimally invasive surgical simulation and training, medical robotics and usability/workflow assessment through ontologies. He will be giving two lectures, one in CEAS for electrical and computer engineering graduate students and faculty on March 23, 2020. He will have another presentation in the Homer Stryker, M.D., School of Medicine for medical students, surgery residents and faculty on March 26, 2020. In addition, he will have research meetings to discuss current research topics in the area of robotic surgery with ECE and surgery faculty.

DATES: March 23 – 26, 2020

HOST: Janos Grantner ([janos.grantner@wmich.edu](mailto:janos.grantner@wmich.edu))

## JULIE GIROUX

Co-Sponsors: School of Music

Julie Giroux is one of the most popular composers of music for concert bands throughout the world. With over 100 film, television, and video-game credits, Giroux has been nominated for Oscars, Emmys, Grammys, and Golden Globes. Giroux has been a true force in a male dominated field and has accrued many previously male-only awards. She will be the first female composer featured at our 52nd annual Spring Conference. Giroux will rehearse and conduct the All-Star Band and the WMU Wind Symphony throughout the Spring Conference in Miller Auditorium on April 9, 2020. Two visiting high school bands will also perform her music. Giroux will present a clinic for conference attendees, and she will teach a master class for WMU composition majors on Friday, April 10.

DATE: April 9 – 10, 2020

HOST: Dr. Scott Boerma ([scott.boerma@wmich.edu](mailto:scott.boerma@wmich.edu))

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