



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

*Alumni Achievement Awards*

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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

*October 23, 2015*

**Mr. Jeffrey J. Richner '71, '73**

Archeologist (Retired)  
Midwest Archeological Center  
National Park Service  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Jeffrey Richner received both his B.A. degree in anthropology in 1971 and his M.A. in anthropology in 1973 from WMU. He completed post-graduate study in anthropology at Southern Methodist University in 1978. He was employed as an archeologist at the Midwest Archeological Center of the National Park Service in Lincoln, Nebraska, from 1978 until his retirement in 2013. He currently volunteers at MWAC and is researching and organizing an archeological collection of over 600 boxes of artifacts from southeastern Missouri that are being donated to the NPS. He also is writing reports related to his previous fieldwork projects. While employed at MWAC, Richner directed and/or supervised other archeologists who conducted hundreds of field projects at dozens of NPS units in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. His primary research interests have been the pre- and post-contact cultural history and the fur trade of the Upper Great Lakes and Border Lakes Regions as well as the archeology and ethnohistory of the Bois Forte Ojibwe of the Voyageurs National Park area of Minnesota. His wife, Kathleen E. Cole Richner, is a WMU alumna, class of 1972.

**Dr. James Olson, '84**

Member, Clinical Research Division  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
Seattle, Washington

Dr. James Olson earned his B.S. degree in biomedical sciences from WMU and the Lee Honors College in 1984. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in pharmacology in 1989 and an M.D. in 1991, both from the University of Michigan. He completed his residency in pediatrics in 1994 and his fellowship in pediatric oncology in 1997, both at the University of Washington. He currently is professor of pediatric hematology-oncology at the University of Washington School of Medicine, an attending physician at Seattle Children's Hospital and a full member at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Olson is a physician scientist who cares for children with brain tumors and discovers and develops new cancer therapies. His lab's work led to five national clinical trials, of which he led a Phase III trial through the Children's Oncology Group. His team invented chlorotoxin-based Tumor Paint, which led to the clinical candidate BLZ-100 developed by Blaze Bioscience and is currently in human trials. Olson is the founder of Presage Biosciences and Blaze Bioscience: The Tumor Paint Company. He authored *Clinical Pharmacology Made Ridiculously Simple*, which has been the most-used pharmacology board review book for 23 years. In August 2013, Olson and his colleagues at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center launched Project Violet, a citizen science initiative that uses crowd funding to enlist the help of the community to develop a fundamentally new class of anti-cancer compounds derived from organisms such as violets, scorpions and sunflowers to attack cancer cells while it leaves healthy cells untouched.

**Dr. Brendan P. Kelly '97**

Assistant Professor

Division of Pediatric Cardiology

Kaiser Permanente Physician  
Oregon Health Science University and  
Northwest Kaiser Permanente  
Portland, Oregon

Shortly after he received his B.S. degree at WMU in 1997, Dr. Brendan Kelly attended the University of Michigan Medical School where he received his M.D. degree in 2002. He also received the Harry A. Towsley, M.D. Pediatric Award for Excellence that year. In 2003, Kelly was a scholarship recipient and attendant at the First International Conference on Heart Failure in Children and Young Adults at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

After serving as resident, then chief resident, in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Michigan, he became a fellow in Pediatric Cardiology in the Department of Pediatrics. In 2009, he moved from Michigan to his current position in Portland, Oregon, where he twice received the Pediatric Cardiology Fellow Teaching Award and was named a Portland Top Doc in Pediatric Cardiology three times between 2011 and 2014. Kelly is a member of the American Society of Echocardiography, the Western Society of Pediatric Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology. He is committee co-chair of pediatric cardiology at Oregon Health Science University.

Kelly completed WMU as a 4.0 GPA Summa Cum Laude graduate with a double major in chemistry and biomedical science. While at WMU, he received the Medallion Scholarship, the Outstanding Analytical Chemistry Student Award, the Golden Key Scholarship, the William Beaumont Hospital Scholarship, the McCracken Senior Chemistry Award and the Presidential Scholar Award in Chemistry.

The Department of Chemistry is proud to present Dr. Brendan Kelly with its 2015 Alumni Achievement Award.

**Mr. Thomas P. Englert '76**

CEO (Retired)

Discount Tire Company, Inc.

Phoenix, Arizona

Thomas P. Englert is the former CEO of Discount Tire Company, Inc., the world's largest tire and wheel retailer operating more than 900 stores in 28 states across the country.

While a student at WMU, Englert worked as an assistant store manager for Discount Tire near campus. With his Bachelor of Arts degree in communication, he remained at Discount Tire and began to rise in the organization. In 1981 when the company relocated its base of operations to Scottsdale, Arizona, Englert followed.

In 2004, Englert moved from his position as executive vice president overseeing supply chain and purchasing to leading the company as CEO. He oversaw Discount Tire's expansion from 23 to 900 stores and under his leadership annual sales grew from \$1.8 to \$4.3 billion. The Arizona Business Leadership Association selected Discount Tire to receive its 2014 Leadership Award. This award recognizes Arizona businesses that have a strong company culture, financial growth, community involvement and business education. In 2015 *Forbes Magazine* ranked Discount Tire as the 118th largest privately-held U.S. company. In January 2015, Mr. Englert stepped down from his position as CEO, but he continues with the company as an advisor and member of the board of directors.

Englert and his wife, Cindy, live in Paradise Valley, Arizona. Active in his community, Englert serves as president of the Cheney Ranch Estates Homeowners Association. Both he and his wife are life members in the WMU Alumni Association.

**Mr. Bill Monroe '63**

Vice President, Human Resources (Retired)  
W.R. Grace and Company  
Columbia, Maryland

Bill Monroe received his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from WMU in 1963. He accepted an opportunity to continue his work in economics on campus, and in August 1964, he became one of the first two graduate students to earn a Masters of Arts degree in economics.

After graduation, Monroe launched a 40-year career in labor economics, labor relations and human resource management. In 1965, he was hired by the Chrysler Corporation in Detroit as an economic analyst and subsequently held several human resource management positions. In 1981, he joined W.R. Grace as a vice president of the company's Corporate Administration Group and served as director of Employee Benefits. He was elected an executive officer of the company in 1987 and served for 14 years as vice president of Human Resources until his retirement in 2001.

Among Monroe's notable business accomplishments is his work on savings plans. He is widely recognized as the pioneering architect of the first savings/profit sharing plan to be implemented in a major U.S. company that incorporated pre-tax savings as permitted by Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. Throughout his career, Monroe offered his expertise for a number of different boards, boards of directors, boards of trustees and advisory councils.

Following retirement from Grace in 2001, Monroe moved to Boca Raton, Florida, and began an affiliation with Aon Hewitt Consultants as a compensation consultant by providing services to AT&T, Grace and several other companies headquartered in south Florida.



### Mr. Jeff W. Huebner '82

Independent Art Writer,  
Journalist and Author  
Chicago, Illinois

For over 20 years Jeff Huebner has contributed to the weekly *Chicago Reader*, where he specialized in long-form narrative/investigative journalism. He has also written for *Chicago* magazine, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Public Art Review*, *Sculpture*, and many other local, national and art publications. He's a six-time finalist for the Chicago Headline Club-Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism in the Arts Reporting/Criticism category for stories in the *Chicago Reader* (1998-2012). He won the First Place Arts Feature, at the 2001 Alternative Newsweekly Association's Alternative Newsweekly Awards for the *Chicago Reader* story, "Has Anyone Seen Clyde Angel?" which exposed an Iowa folk-art hoax. He's written or co-written with Olivia Gude five books on Chicago-area murals and muralists, sculptors, and park landscapes, including *Urban Art Chicago: A Guide to Community Murals, Mosaics, and Sculptures* (Ivan R. Dee, 2000). In 2012, he received a Creative Capital/Warhol Foundation Art Writers Grant for his in-progress book on the pioneering South Side street muralist William Walker (1927-2011). Of his several honors and awards, he's most proud of receiving the 2005 Nelson Algren Committee Community Service Award in appreciation of his writing/reporting on art and gentrification issues in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood with "a conscience in touch with humanity." While at WMU he received the 1978-79 Don Bolles Investigative Reporters Award from the *Western Herald* Alumni Association and the 1982 Journalism Recognition Award for Outstanding Writing and Reporting from the Department of English and the *Western Herald*.



DEPARTMENT OF

*Environmental and  
Sustainability Studies*

**Ms. Michele Richards '98**

Natural Resources Manager  
Michigan Army National Guard  
Lansing, MI

Michele Richards has accumulated a broad and deep suite of skills in environmental and natural resources management. From humble beginnings as a research technician at the Kalamazoo Nature Center to her now-established career and reputation with the Environmental Division of the Michigan Army National Guard, she has championed environmental causes and made significant strides in the management of natural spaces in Michigan and beyond. Her well-honed skills include endangered species management, prescribed fire, habitat restoration, vegetation inventories, invasive species management and climate change adaptation and mitigation planning and vulnerability assessment. Richards has used her extensive network with environmental professionals at the local, state and national levels to innovate in many environmental realms including DNA monitoring methods, regionally coordinated invasive species management and prescribed fire as a management tool.

Highlights of her work so far include the preservation of 326 acres around Hart's Lake, a pristine lake on Ft. Custer Training Center's border; sourcing the funding and organizing a team to do cutting edge research locally and nationally on the Cerulean Warbler, the most rapidly declining neotropical migrant bird; and having the Michigan Army National Guard represent the U.S. Army as the climate adaptation pilot site for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Richards has received multiple honors for natural resources management from the National Guard, the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense as well as from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Good Neighbor Gold Award. Richards' other favorite mission in life is raising her three fantastic daughters, ages 19, 16 and 1.





DEPARTMENT OF

*Gender and  
Women's Studies*

**Rep. Kristy Pagan '04**

State Representative, 21st District  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Canton, Michigan

Elected in 2014, Michigan State Representative Kristy Pagan puts her gender and women's studies education into practice everyday. Currently in her first term representing the 21st House District, Pagan is an outspoken supporter of higher education, gender pay equity, reproductive rights, same-sex marriage, leadership development for girls and women and many other issues that relate to fairness and effective government.

While a WMU student, Pagan assumed numerous leadership roles that illustrated her passion for community engagement and her strength as an organizer. She coordinated the Sexual Health Peer Education program and served as director of the Peace Center and president and/or co-chair of several student organizations, including WMU's Organization for Women, Voices for Planned Parenthood, the Progressive Student Alliance and Voices Against Violence.

Upon completion of her undergraduate degree in women's studies and health education, Pagan moved to Washington, D.C., where she was a grassroots organizer for the Center for Science in the Public Interest. She completed a master's degree in political management at George Washington University and worked as a policy aide for U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow. While in D.C., she participated in training and leadership opportunities with the Public Leadership Education Network, American University's WE Lead Program, the National Foundation for Women Legislators, The White House Project, the Congressional Youth Leadership Project, the Women's Information Network and EMILY's List.

Back in Michigan since 2011, Pagan began a private consulting business as a Democratic Party fundraiser. She worked as associate director of development at Wayne State University before making a successful bid for state office. She currently serves on the Canton Community Foundation Board of Directors, the Advisory Council for STEM education at Canton High School and the Lead Like a Girl initiative in Canton.

**Mr. James McManus '92**

Planning Director  
Barry County  
Hastings, Michigan

Instructor  
Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

James McManus has been the planning director for Barry County since 1994. In that capacity, he has been responsible for the administration of the Planning, Zoning, Soil Erosion, Land Divisions, and Address Management for the county. He also serves on the county's Brownfield Authority, the Economic Development Alliance, the Hastings Area Joint Planning Alliance, and the M-37 Corridor Committee. Over the years, McManus has served on numerous committees and boards including the Four Township Water Resource Council, the West Michigan Soil Erosion Control Network and the MSU Citizen Planner Advisory Board. He became A.I.C.P. certified in 1998 and is a member of the Michigan Association of Planning and the American Planning Association. He was published in *Planning and Zoning News* and has made presentations at the annual conferences of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the Michigan Association of Planning and the MSU Land Use Forum. He also lends his expertise to Leadership Barry County on an annual basis by leading a full-day tour of the county illustrating all of its important planning activities. Since 1991, McManus has been a part-time instructor in the WMU Department of Geography and taught a CORP course of Planning Law and Methods of Planning Analysis. He serves his local community as the treasurer of the Delton Kellogg School Board, which he's held since 2011, and he has coached numerous youth sports since 2005.

**Dr. Brian R. Shaw '73**

Dean, Anthony G. Oettinger School of  
Science and Technology Intelligence  
Washington D.C.

Dr. Brian Shaw is the founding dean of the Anthony G. Oettinger School of Science and Technology Intelligence at the National Intelligence University in Washington, D.C. The school is the focus for science and technology analytic education, research and external engagement across the intelligence and national security communities. The National Intelligence University was chartered by the U.S. Department of Defense in 1962, and its University's degrees — the Master of Science and Technology Intelligence, the Master of Strategic Intelligence and the Bachelor of Science in Intelligence — are authorized by Congress.

Shaw received his B.S. degree from WMU in 1973, his M.S. from the University of Michigan in 1975 and a Ph.D. from Syracuse University in 1978. His principal areas of study were geology and mathematics.

After serving briefly as a lecturer at the University College at Syracuse University, he joined the petroleum industry in a variety of research, development and exploration positions. He later formed and served as managing partner of an energy-consulting firm in Houston, Texas. In 1991 Shaw joined the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory as a senior program manager and technical group manager. He also is a senior advisor in the Field Intelligence Element where he manages several research and special programs.

Additionally, Shaw served as a senior analyst and senior advisor in the intelligence community and was appointed deputy national intelligence officer for science and technology for the National Intelligence Council.



## Global and International Studies

PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF

## World Languages and Literatures

**Ms. Ellen Knuth '08**

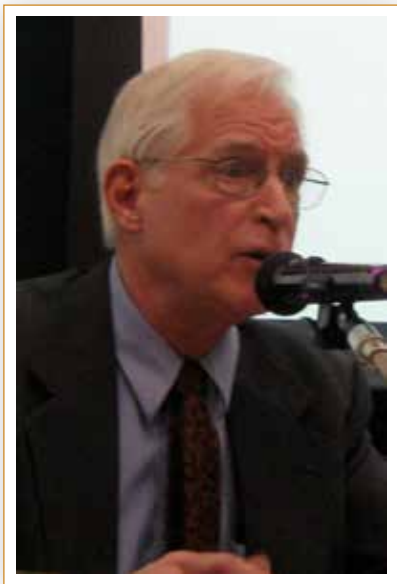
Marketing Director, Panrimo  
Birmingham, Michigan

Ellen Knuth graduated from Western Michigan University in 2008 with a degree in global and international studies, a minor in Japanese and a second minor in history. She was one of the first three WMU students who participated in the exchange program at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan. The Global and International Studies program and the Department of World Languages and Literatures are pleased to jointly recognize Knuth for her commitment to international exchange and understanding.

After receiving her bachelor's degree, Knuth became an assistant language teacher through the Japan Exchange and Teaching program. Over a four-year period, she worked as a teacher at more than five schools in Kotoura-cho, Tottori prefecture, and became their longest serving assistant language teacher. Knuth remains active in the JET community and serves as the elected secretary of the Great Lakes JET Alumni Association. She is marketing director for Panrimo LLC, a study and intern abroad program provider based in Birmingham, Michigan.

Knuth enjoys writing, traveling and singing. She has co-authored *Love will Steer Me True* (Loyola Press, 2014) with her mother, Jane Knuth, which relates stories about her time in Japan. They also co-write a monthly column for the *Good News Paper*.

Knuth writes that her experiences at WMU have deeply impacted her life and goals. As a student, she was a language conversation partner for international students on campus. She volunteered and then served as president of Kanley Chapel international luncheons, and later became a language group leader and international orientation leader for the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students.

**Dr. Michael Adas, '65**

Abraham E. Voorhees Professor of History  
and Board of Governors Chair Emeritus  
Rutgers University

Dr. Michael Adas attended WMU from 1961 to 1965 where he majored in history and world religions and graduated Summa Cum Laude. He then attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison where he earned two M.A. degrees and, in 1970, a Ph.D. in global history.

Adas taught at Rutgers University from 1970 until his retirement in 2015. He earned the Warren Susman Teaching Award in 1988 and the Rutgers Teacher of the Year Award in 1992. His book, *Machines as the Measure of Men; Science, Technology and Ideologies of Western Dominance* (1st ed. 1989), was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award in 1989. He was awarded the New Jersey NEH Prize in 1990 and the Dexter Prize in 1991. In 2012 he was awarded the International Toynbee Prize for his “significant contributions to humanity and global history.” In 2015 Adas retired from Rutgers as the Abraham E. Voorhees Professor of History and Board of Governors Chair. His most recent contribution to scholarship is a coauthored book on the Vietnam War titled *Misbegotten Wars and the Decline of Great Powers: Britain, America and a Century of Violence*.



## *The Mallinson Institute for Science Education*

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### **Ms. Valerie A. Long '89, '04**

Biology Teacher  
Loy Norrix High School  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Over the last 17 years as a highly qualified, certified science teacher, Valerie Long has mentored numerous teaching interns, many through the W. K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship program and WMU's ExpeRTS and Way2Go science programs.

In 2004, Long earned a Master of Science Education degree from WMU. Coursework on science literacy prepared her for her role on the WMU Literacy Studies Council. Her training in cutting-edge instructional techniques aids her work with the curriculum planning team for the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Long's experiences within management at Fortune 500 companies honed her ability to communicate goals and create team unity. She acts as a liaison between teachers and administrators by serving as a team leader, science coordinator and curriculum writer.

Long has been awarded various grants and awards supporting science inquiry and science literacy, and her committed efforts have realized a 20 percent gain in student achievement. Beyond her professional activities, Long enjoys helping at KPS public events. She is an avid choir member and volunteers at the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, Taste of Heaven, a local children's ministry, the Girl Scout Camp Merrie-Woode and the Cedine Bible Camp in Tennessee.

Asked to recall fond memories, Long says: "It is very rewarding when young people say thank you for challenging them to learn and critically evaluate the world around them."

Long is admired and highly respected by her colleagues, friends and associates as she certainly is here at the Mallinson Institute for Science Education. So, it is with considerable pleasure and pride that the faculty name Valerie Long as its 2015 Outstanding Alumni Award recipient.

**Ms. Marci Tuzinsky '96**

Dean, Community High School  
Ann Arbor Public Schools  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Marci Tuzinsky was selected for the Alumni Achievement Award by the Department of Mathematics because of her outstanding work as a K-12 teacher and educational leader. She has been involved in K-12 education in the Ann Arbor Public Schools for 19 years since graduating from WMU with a major in mathematics and a minor in computer science. She “was raised” as a teacher within AAPS and was selected in 2014 to become the dean of Community High School during a lengthy screening process involving other highly qualified candidates. After intern teaching in the Kalamazoo area, she looked for a community where innovative teaching was valued and found Community High School as the place with those qualifications. Since her initial employment in the district, she has served as a mathematics teacher, a forum leader and interim dean. She also earned a master’s degree in educational leadership with an administrator certificate from Eastern Michigan University.

Among the highlights of her teaching and professional development experiences, Tuzinsky notes her summer 2014 Toyota-sponsored trip to Singapore with 20 other AAPS educators to learn more about best practices in STEM education. She is an outstanding and versatile teacher and leader having taught all secondary mathematics courses up to calculus as well as computer programming, foundational courses in financial mathematics and engineering and robotics. She also advocated for a graphics design course that led to a new design center at Community High School this fall.

**Mr. David J. Paul '89, '92**

Instructor

Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

David Paul has taught for the WMU Department of Philosophy since 1998. In addition to his teaching for the department, he also serves on a number of committees and communities within the University and has held a variety of appointments including one with the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Paul obtained a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1989 and a master's degree in philosophy in 1992, both from WMU. He has worked extensively in education by teaching for WMU, Ferris State University, Trine University, three of Michigan's community colleges, Howe Military Academy, Sturgis Public School's Alternative Education program, and, with his wife Carol, as a home-educator for their two sons.

In 1994, Paul established a successful tutoring business, which he maintained for a decade while he taught community college and university courses in the evenings. Since 1998, much of Paul's teaching for WMU has focused on biomedical ethics. Since 2010, he has served the community through a committee appointment for Pfizer, now Zoetis, which utilizes his experience in ethics.

In 2014, WMU recognized Paul with the Part-Time Instructor Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2015, the Lee Honors College recognized him as a Lee Honors College Faculty Fellow.

Paul and his wife reside in Sturgis, Michigan, with Andrew, their younger son, and several animal companions. Alex, their older son, earned a bachelor's degree from WMU in 2011.



**Dr. Vladislav Malyshkin '97**

Senior Scientist

A.F. Ioffe Physical-Technical Institute

St. Petersburg, Russia

Dr. Vladislav Malyshkin works as a senior scientist at the Ioffe Physical-Technical Institute. His interests lie in energy generation and accumulation (especially using super-capacitors) and in the dynamics of stochastic systems. In addition to fundamental research in these areas, he participates in applied technology programs. This combination of interests in theory/modeling and application has given him keen insights in generating discoveries like finding that the poly-aniline conducting polymer is an effective non-platinum catalyst in formic acid oxidation reactions.

Over the past 13 years Malyshkin has taught physics courses at the St. Petersburg Polytechnical University where he has been a strong advocate of the importance of international contacts in educating scientists.

After graduating from WMU in 1997 with a Ph.D. in theoretical condensed matter physics, Malyshkin worked in the New York financial industry and gained broad experience in risk management and financial modeling. He was an Internet entrepreneur during the dotcom years and a founder of two successful Internet companies including NYBits, currently one of the top New York rental websites.

A native of St. Petersburg, Malyshkin has lived and worked there since 2002.

**Mr. James S. Brady '66**

Senior Council, Office Managing Member  
Dykema Gossett PLLC  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

James Brady is the office managing member of Dykema Grand Rapids, a leading national law firm with 12 offices and a practice that serves Fortune 1000 companies and institutions.

Brady graduated from WMU with a B.S. degree in political science and immediately continued his education at the University of Notre Dame where he received his Juris Doctor in 1969. Early in his legal career, President Jimmy Carter appointed him U.S. Attorney for the Western Judicial District of Michigan. From 1977-81 he was responsible for prosecuting white-collar criminal matters.

In 1981, Brady joined the Miller Johnson law firm and later became chair of Criminal Law Group. In 1987, he was appointed to the WMU Board of Trustees by then Governor James Blanchard, and served with distinction through one of WMU's greatest periods of growth. He is a member and former chair of the WMU Foundation Board of Directors as well as chair of its Committee on Directors.

In 2009, Brady was recognized by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* as a Leader in the Law. Additionally, he has been recognized in *Michigan Super Lawyers* for criminal defense and civil litigation defense from 2006-14. He is listed in *Who's Who in America* and is recognized from 2003-15 in *The Best Lawyers in America* for multiple practice areas.

In 2010, Brady was chosen to lead the expansion of Dykema's regional presence and bolster its white collar defense practice.

Brady and his wife, Cathy, are members of WMU's Lifetime Giving Society, the Consecutive Giving Society and the President's Society. Their son, Michael, also was a political science major at WMU.

**Dr. Shezeen Oah '89, '90**

Professor

Department of Psychology

Chung-Ang University

Seoul, South Korea

After earning his Ph.D. in psychology in 1990, Dr. Shezeen Oah began teaching and conducting research as a professor in the Department of Psychology at Chung-Ang University in South Korea. His research specialties include behavior-based safety, performance management and leadership development, and he has published a number of articles in academic journals and books in these fields as well. He has long attempted to disseminate behavior analysis in South Korea where behavior analytic principles are not yet well known or accepted. As a way of attaining this goal, he has instructed a number of students who have subsequently earned their master's and doctoral degrees and are now making significant contributions as behavior analysts in a wide-range of professional areas including government organizations, research institutes and consulting firms. Oah has been providing various other professional services as a member of the Review Board of the National Research Foundation of Korea, the Grants Review Board of the Korea Research Fund, the Board of Editors for the *Journal of Korea Safety Management Science* and the Board of Editors for the *Korean Journal of Industrial and Organizational Psychology*.



SCHOOL OF

*Public Affairs  
and Administration*

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**Ms. Amy Ostrander '06**

Associate Technical Advisor  
Food and Nutrition Security  
Project Concern International  
Washington D.C.

Amy Ostrander graduated from WMU in 2006 with majors in international studies and Spanish and minors in business and nonprofit leadership. She also received a Master of Public Affairs degree from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University in 2011.

Her multi-disciplinary approach to knowledge, her passion for making a difference and her choices for service and employment represent the values of the School of Public Affairs and Administration, specifically the undergraduate minor in nonprofit leadership and administration.

She is associate technical advisor in Food and Nutrition Security at Project Concern International, Washington D.C., where she provides technical support and staff capacity building for food and nutrition security projects including school feeding, women's empowerment groups and integrated development programs – most recently in Malawi, Guatemala, and Liberia. Her prior employment includes work with Save the Children International in rural Bangladesh and with Save the Children-U.S. in the Department of Hunger and Livelihoods. She also served in Guatemala as a Peace Corps agricultural marketing volunteer with indigenous coffee-growing communities.

Her awards and honors include being named a Leland International Hunger Fellow at the Congressional Hunger Center, a Sasakawa Leadership Fellow at the Tokyo Foundation, a YWCA of Kalamazoo Young Woman of Achievement, a WMU Medallion Scholar and an AmeriCorps Michigan Service Scholar.

Amy writes she is “grateful for the nonprofit program at WMU, which opened up a challenging and rewarding career path that I don't believe I would have found otherwise.”



**Mr. Gregory Sumner '97**  
Flight Officer, United Airlines  
Phoenix, Arizona

Greg Sumner graduated from WMU and the Lee Honors College in 1997 with a B.A. in Spanish and a B.S. in aviation technology and operations. He was hired by United Airlines as a flight officer in 2000, and he has held numerous positions outside the airline. Sumner worked at a multinational avionics firm for five years as a sales manager interacting with global customers, and he has taken French and Portuguese courses to leverage his Spanish fluency. He completed his Executive M.B.A. with the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University in 2013.

Sumner's passion for integrating business and public policy coalesced when he merged the Federal Aviation Administration, JetBlue Airways and L-3 Communications into a public/private partnership to develop and promote aviation NextGen technologies. This partnership holds the promise of increasing airspace capacity as well as adding safety margins as air travel grows in the U.S. Sumner was a member of FAA Work Groups and won the L-3/ACSS Customer and Performance Plus Awards as a result of these efforts.

As vice chair of the National Gay Pilots Association Education Fund, Sumner has the privilege of overseeing flight scholarships for aspiring aviators who are members and allies of the LGBT community. He has also begun his first year as a WMU Alumni Association board member and looks forward to further promoting the University as the Alumni Board's representative in the Southwest region of the U.S. Sumner flies the Boeing 767 primarily on international routes out of United's Houston hub.

**Dr. Chad Schafer '95**

Associate Professor  
Department of Statistics  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dr. Chad Schafer's research focuses primarily on the development and implementation of statistical methods to address problems in astronomy, a field increasingly faced with complex, "big data" challenges. He is the principle investigator for NSF and NASA grants to fund this work. His work has been published in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *Annals of Applied Statistics*, *Astrophysical Journal*, *Annual Reviews of Statistics and Its Application*, among others. He is also co-chair of the Informatics and Statistics Science Collaboration for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope. This group serves to increase the involvement of data scientists in addressing the challenges faced when they are confronted with the massive amount of data that LSST will gather. Schafer is co-chair for Statistical Challenges in Modern Astronomy VI, a conference to be held at Carnegie Mellon University in June 2016.

Schafer is also associate editor for the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*. He has served in various leadership roles for the American Statistical Association, including as president of the Pittsburgh chapter and as a member of the executive boards for the Section on Nonparametrics and the Section on Statistics Education.

Schafer is the director of graduate studies for the Department of Statistics as well as director of the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience. He teaches for the department's highly-ranked master's degree program in computational finance.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

*global engagement*

community participation

**sustainability**

integrity

creativity and innovation

*diversity*

**excellence**

*social responsibility*