



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT
Awards

OCTOBER 13, 2017



Dear Friends and Alumni,

Today, the WMU College of Arts and Sciences is proud to honor our 2017 Alumni Achievement Award winners, chosen by faculty from the departments in which they earned their degrees. It is a genuine honor to call these individuals alumni. Their life's work is a true reflection of our mission to ignite and sustain a passion for learning and discovery, and to contribute to the betterment of our communities, from local to global.

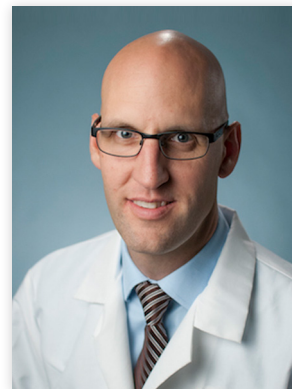
This year's honorees represent a diverse, learner-centered range of careers and backgrounds in the humanities, sciences and social sciences. Driven toward excellence in all aspects of learning and discovery, they include teachers, researchers, administrators and many others who contribute to the world in immeasurable ways.

Beyond the laboratory, classroom or boardroom, our winners make us proud because of their engagement in community work. They serve as innovators in clinical practices for children who are victims of abuse, advocates for health equity, start-up company investors, leaders in education reform and so much more. Their work is nothing short of inspiring, and we are delighted to recognize them for their various accomplishments.

On behalf of the Western Michigan University College of Arts and Sciences, thank you for your remarkable contributions to society, and congratulations to all of our 2017 College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement honorees!

Sincerely,

Dr. Carla M. Koretsky, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences



Department of Biological Sciences

Dr. John W. Martel, MS '03

Assistant Professor,
Tufts University School of Medicine

Martel earned his master's degree in biological sciences from WMU in 2003. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in ecology and environmental science from the University of Maine in 2004, followed by an M.D. from the University of Vermont in 2009. He completed his residency in emergency medicine at the University of Michigan and served as chief resident in 2012. Martel currently serves as assistant professor in emergency medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and the Maine Medical Center.

Martel has received numerous awards, including the Making a Difference Award from the University of Michigan Health System, an award for Outstanding Scholarship and Service as a Citizen-Scientist from the University of Maine, The President's Award from the Acadian Entomological Society and a National Science Foundation Teaching Fellowship in Grades K-12 Education. He is a member of numerous scientific and honors societies, including the Gold Humanism Honor Society and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

In addition to his teaching commitments through Tufts University and the Maine Medical Center, he has served as co-medical director for the Homeless Health Community Paramedicine and Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative, as instructor for the Triannual Austere Paramedic Refresher Course for the Department of Homeland Security, and co-investigator on the Ghana Emergency Medicine Collaborative, Ghana's first emergency medicine residency training program.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Biological Sciences



School of Communication

Mary Kathryn (MK) Seipke, BS '77

Marketing and Communications Director,
Willow Creek Community Church

Seipke is a creative visionary and business executive who has been at the forefront of major media developments throughout her career. She has produced media on the global stage for the past 30 years working with world renowned entertainment personalities, television shows and global brands. A passionate producer, complex problem solver and inspiring leader, Seipke's work has garnered billions in revenue on behalf of brands across media platforms.

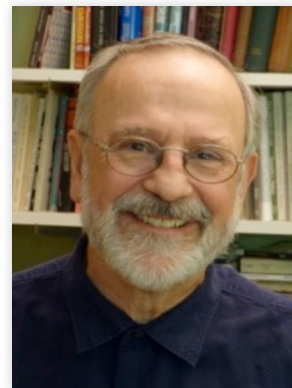
During her years at WMU, Seipke was a reporter at WIDR and entertainment editor at the Western Herald. She continued her studies at Syracuse University, where she obtained her Master of Fine Arts in film. She furthered her education receiving an Executive Leadership Certificate from Loyola University.

Her education and boundless creative drive launched her career in broadcast where she fell in love with complex, large scale production and creative story telling. Her early short films led to producing magazine format programming for ABC, NBC and CBS broadcast networks. She later held executive positions at Harpo Studios.

In addition to her broadcast credentials, Seipke has held a number of executive positions with leading marketing communications and event firms. In addition, she founded Tango Branded Entertainment and created one of the first advertiser supported media properties, Totally Mom, which was acquired by General Television Arts. Her credentials also include the development of over a dozen entertainment programs. Her work continues to evolve creating mobile and social media engagements while keeping her legacy storytelling and immersive content at the core.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
School of Communication



Department of Comparative Religion

Rev. Stephen Shick, BA, BS '66

Minister Emeritus, Unitarian Church of
Marlborough and Hudson

Shick graduated from WMU in 1966 with majors in religion and sociology. After graduating with honors from Crozer Theological Seminary with a master's in divinity, he served as program director of Philadelphia SANE, a peace organization working to end Vietnam War and nuclear arms race. Shick founded the SANE Education Fund of Pennsylvania and established a nationally syndicated radio program on foreign and domestic policy issues. This program, Consider the Alternatives, aired on 400 radio stations and is considered an extraordinary record of the political, cultural and religious thought and action of the late 20th century.

In 1984 Shick was asked by the Unitarian Universalist Association to create a national education and action network of clergy and laity to address nuclear disarmament issues. He was ordained and fellowshipped in the Unitarian Universalist faith and in 1989 was asked to create and direct a new domestic public advocacy program for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. This, the Promise the Children program, included the establishment of statewide legislative networks and a national legislative office in Washington, D.C.

In 1997 Shick entered the parish ministry and served three congregations. As a result of his civic engagement as parish minister he was honored as an Urban Fellow at Harvard Divinity School. For his leadership in addressing hunger and homelessness he received the Distinguished Service Award from the City of Haverhill, Mass. Shick retired from full-time ministry in 2013 and is now minister emeritus for the Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson in Massachusetts.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of
Comparative Religion



Department of Economics

David J. Donovan, BS '71

Management Consultant, Donovan Company LLC

Donovan earned a bachelor's degree in economics from WMU in 1971 and an MBA from the University of Michigan in 1977. He is a management consultant, a startup company investor and an active community volunteer. He retired in 1998 from the management consulting firm he co-founded and which is now publicly traded as Navigant Consulting, Inc. Prior to retiring, he had consulted more than 60 energy utility companies and regulatory commissions, and had testified in more than a dozen state regulatory proceedings. Today he consults independently, focusing on organizational strategy.

In 2007, Donovan co-founded Capital Community Angel Investors, an early stage business investment group based in East Lansing. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of Michigan Angel Funds I, II and III and has served on various corporate and nonprofit boards of directors. He is currently a member of the Sparrow Health System Board of Directors and serves as treasurer for both the Michigan Nonprofit Association and the Food Bank Council of Michigan.

Donovan has been honored to receive public recognition for his community service work, including a special award he received in 2011 from Gov. Rick Snyder, the Community Foundation Philanthropy Award. He also was named Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 2008. Donovan attributes his service in the Peace Corps, which occurred right after receiving his degree from WMU, as the perfect training for both his volunteer efforts and the work that comprised his career.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Economics



Department of English

Jason Weeby, BA '03

Senior Fellow, Bellwether Education Partners

As senior fellow at Bellwether Education Partners, Weeby advises foundations, nonprofits, and government agencies on city-level education reform initiatives, governance, innovation and talent. He is also currently a Pahara Institute NextGen Fellow, a selective 12-month program that encourages and supports education sector leaders to strengthen the educational equity and excellence movement by engaging more diverse perspectives.

Prior to joining Bellwether, Weeby led programmatic and innovation initiatives at Education Pioneers, a nonprofit that recruits and develops students and professionals from diverse backgrounds to work for K-12 school districts, charter schools and other education organizations. While there, he was a recipient of the Met Life Foundation Scholarship to attend Columbia Business School's Developing Leaders Program for Nonprofit Professionals. He was also an Education Pioneers fellow at Envision Schools in 2007.

Weeby began his career serving youth as a treatment provider in a residential crisis unit and then as a middle school language arts and social studies teacher at Kazoo School, both in Kalamazoo.

As a member of the Lee Honors College, Weeby earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education and environmental studies. He earned his master's degree in education from Stanford University with a concentration in policy, organization, and leadership studies.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English



Department of Geography

Dr. Kathleen M. Baker, MA '98

Associate Professor of Geography,
Western Michigan University

Baker earned her Master of Arts in Geography from WMU in 1998, and doctorate from Michigan State University in 2002. She returned to WMU as a faculty member in 2004 to teach physical geography, biogeography, and geographic information science. She became a certified Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP) in 2007 and associate professor of geography in 2010.

Baker has been an excellent teacher, scholar, student mentor and grant writer for the department. From 2008-14, she led a team of researchers from MSU, the University of Georgia and South Dakota State University on a \$1.2 million United States Department of Agriculture grant to develop methods for a multi-scale, multi-crop, multi-regional crop disease forecasting system. In 2013, she co-founded the WMU Health Data Research Analysis and Mapping (HReAM) with two other WMU colleagues from the interdisciplinary public health program and the Department of Statistics to increase secondary analysis of health data and improve community health. She is also director of Western's W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change.

Last year, Baker led a very lengthy application process that resulted in the recent designation of the Department of Geography by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency as a Center of Academic Excellence in Geospatial Sciences.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Geography



Department of Geosciences

Ahmed Ali Murad, MS '00, PhD '04

Professor of Hydrogeology and Dean of the
College of Science, United Arab Emirates University

Prior to earning a doctorate in hydrogeology from WMU in 2004, Murad started his professional career as a teaching assistant in the Department of Geology at United Arab Emirates University in 1997. He has continued his career at the same institution, achieving the ranks of assistant and then associate professor, and eventually being appointed dean of the College of Science.

Murad was nominated by the United Arab Emirates government as a member of the UAE Scientists Council in 2016. In addition, he is a member of the UAE National Committee of the International Hydrological Program, and formerly served the Advisory Board of the International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management in Virginia. He is currently a nominated member of the Executive Team of Water KPIs and Graduation from Higher Education KPIs, National Agenda, UAE.

Murad has published more than 40 papers in international referred journals and conference proceedings, and has participated and presented in more than 50 national and international scientific conferences since 2005.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Geosciences



Global and International Studies

Clifford Pulley III, BA '13

Indirect Procurement Sales and Marketing
Sourcing Specialist, Whirlpool Corporation

While at WMU, Pulley participated in an outstanding six study abroad programs in China, Uruguay, Argentina, Singapore, Malaysia and Italy. He majored in global and international studies with minors in Chinese and international business. Pulley also trained in Arabic language, held multiple jobs, participated in many student organizations and even found time to get invited to the White House.

Pulley's passion for anything global has only grown with his experiences since graduating from WMU. He recently completed an assignment with Whirlpool Corporation in Hefei, China. Upon arriving there, his supervisor told Pulley he would find it too difficult to adjust to life in Hefei and forecasted that he would not last even two weeks. But Pulley knows perseverance and the importance of planning. His travels around the world as a student taught him to be resilient in the face of hardships, to be prepared for the unexpected and to revel in challenging situations. Pulley ended up serving as project coordinator in Hefei for a year before serving out a second year as project manager.

Pulley is now serving at Whirlpool's home office in Benton Harbor.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Global and International Studies



Department of History

Dr. Sylvia D. Hoffert, MA '68

Retired Professor, Department of History,
Texas A&M University

Since earning her Master of Arts in History from WMU in 1968, Hoffert had led a successful career in academia, retiring in 2011. She earned a Ph.D. in History from Indiana University-Bloomington in 1984. From 1984 to 1988, she was chair of the Department of History at the St. Louis Country Day School in St. Louis, Mo., as well as a visiting lecturer in the Department of History and Women's Studies Program at Washington University.

Hoffert then accepted a position in the Department of History at Southwest Missouri State University, and advanced from assistant to associate professor. In 1995, she joined the Department of History at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill as a full professor and was named a distinguished professor in 2004. In 2005, she accepted a position as professor in the Department of History at Texas A&M University.

Hoffert is the author of five books on women and gender in the United States during the 19th and 20th centuries, and has had articles published in several major journals. Her most recent book is "Alva Vanderbilt Belmont: Unlikely Champion of Women's Rights," published by Indiana University Press in 2011. She is currently working on a series of articles about Elizabeth Keckly, a slave who bought her freedom and became Mary Todd Lincoln's seamstress and companion in Washington, D.C.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of History



Department of Mathematics

John Altan Kusku, BA '07, MA '09

Academic Instructor of Mathematics and Physics,
Oakland School Technical Campus Southwest

Kusku was selected for the Alumni Achievement Award from the Department of Mathematics because of his outstanding work as a K-12 teacher and leader. He has been involved in secondary education in Michigan for the past decade since graduating with a degree in mathematics secondary education and physics in 2007, and earning a master's degree in mathematics in 2009. Kusku represents some of WMU's finest opportunities when it comes to scholarship; he was a Medallion Scholar, a member of the Lee's Honors College, on the dean's list numerous times, and a recipient of the Margaret Isobel Black Scholarship.

While Kusku is recognized as a great teacher in Michigan schools, his work is most noteworthy in his teaching of young people who are blind or visually impaired. Motivated in part by his own retinal disease, he is an awareness- and fund-raiser for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. His teaching focuses on "creating an inquiry-based classroom environment in which students' curiosity guides their learning," a teaching/learning disposition he developed during his time in the WMU teacher preparation program.

Among the highlights of his external activities is his membership on the USA Men's Goalball Team since 2009. Kusku and two other WMU alumni were members of the US team that earned a silver medal at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He and his team have also won medals at the ParaPan American Games in 2011 and 2015, and a bronze medal at the 2014 World Goalball Championships.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Mathematics



Mallinson Institute for Science Education

Steven D. Brewer, PhD, MS '96

Director of the Biology Computer Resource Center,
University of Massachusetts Amherst

As director of the Biology Computer Resource Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Brewer's goals are to: serve as an advocate for improving undergraduate education, develop and provide expertise for the implementation of instructional technology in biology, and increase the scope and utility of the BCRC. Toward these ends, he works closely with the faculty of the biology department and serves as a liaison between the department and broader science education and instructional technology initiatives both within the university and beyond.

Brewer seeks to create problem-solving environments that allow teachers and students to collaboratively solve open-ended effects-to-causes problems. Recent projects have involved using a web interface to a database that allows students in large courses to aggregate data and download results in a spreadsheet. Each group of students gathers only a little data, yet can work with the entire data set gathered by 600 or 700 students. He also designs and creates simulations and problem-solving environments that couple a model with a set of tools for analysis.

Brewer is focused on broadening science literacy in the broader community. Most recently, he is working to co-organize a Maker community (Makers at Amherst Media) to help people use small computers as data loggers for digital signage and technology education. A current effort is to restart a local public art installation, "Poem Windows," that shows poetry through several tiny windows in a local parking garage using small computers.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
The Mallinson Institute



Department of Philosophy

Dr. Jonah N. Schubach, MA '06

Associate Professor of Philosophy,
University of Utah

In addition to his role as associate professor of philosophy at the University of Utah, Schubach has served as a visiting fellow at Tilburg University's Center for Logic & Philosophy of Science (Tilburg, the Netherlands) and a Virgil C. Aldrich Fellow in the Tanner Humanities Center. At Utah, he recently received the Sterling M. McMurrin Mid-Career Award and was nominated as a Rising Star in the Humanities.

Schubach investigates the nature, logic and limitations of human reasoning. His research has been recognized as breaking new interdisciplinary ground between philosophy, logic, history and the cognitive, mathematical and computer sciences. Schubach's work incorporates a variety of methodological tools—including probability and statistics, philosophical analysis, formal logic, psychological experimentation, intellectual history and computer simulation. His research has shed new light on the modes of reasoning humans actually apply, whether as individuals in everyday settings, or in more organized, social endeavors such as the sciences. By bringing traditionally distinct areas of research on human reasoning to bear on one another, Schubach's research is able to uncover new advice and correctives for improving human reasoning in the real world.

Schubach's work has been published in top philosophy and psychology journals, including *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Cognition* and *Philosophical Studies*. In addition to his research, Schubach maintains an active teaching schedule, supervises doctoral students and serves on the editorial board of *The Reasoner*.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Philosophy



Department of Physics

Ali Sami Alnaser, PhD '02

Professor and Head of Physics,
American University of Sharjah

Alnaser earned his Ph.D. in experimental and atomic physics from WMU in 2002, under the supervision of Prof. John Tanis. After graduating from WMU, he worked for three years at Kansas State University as research associate and instructor in the physics department. He then moved to the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, where he currently serves as professor and head of the physics department.

At KSU his AMO research continued the field of ultrafast physics, where he employed the combination of collision physics techniques with state-of-the-art ultrafast laser sources. His research interests center around probing and controlling atomic and molecular structure and dynamics in matter on the femtosecond (10⁻¹⁵ s) and attosecond (10⁻¹⁸ s) time scales. Over the past 15 years, the findings of his research have appeared in the top physics journals such as *Physical Review Letters*, *Nature Photonics*, *Nature Communication* and others.

Alnaser has published more than 60 peer reviewed articles and 70 conference papers. He has been a visiting professor at the Max-Planck Institute for Quantum optics and the Ludwig Maximilian University in Garching-Germany, and at the King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. He received the Distinguished Arab Scholar Award from Kuwait in 2011. In addition to his refereeing service for different physics journals, he serves on the international advisory board of *Journal of Physics B*; and as guest editor for two special issues in *Physica Scripta* and *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Physics



Department of
Political Science
 and the
**Institute of the Environment
 and Sustainability**

Ashley Horvat, BA '10

Vice President of Public and Private Partnerships,
 Greenlots

Horvat is vice president of public and private partnerships at Greenlots, an electric vehicle (EV) charging company leading the EV industry in accelerating mass proliferation of electric transportation.

Horvat graduated summa cum laude with a political science major and an environmental studies minor. A Lee Honors College scholar, she was part of a team of political science students who won the "iOMe Challenge," a national competition in which teams sought solutions to make the U.S. retirement system solvent for future generations. She interned with the Michigan Environmental Council through the Capital Intern Program and participated in a study abroad experience at the University of Vancouver.

Her diverse learning experiences at WMU uniquely prepared her for leading an industry situated at the nexus of sustainability, technology, transportation and energy. In 2011, Oregon Department of Transportation hired her to become the West Coast Electric Highway manager, where she oversaw creation of the nation's first statewide EV fast charging network. In 2013, she became Oregon's Chief Electric Vehicle Officer, making her the first person in the U.S. to hold such a government position. She served as vice president of strategic initiatives at Plugshare, an EV startup, before taking her current position with Greenlots.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
 College of Arts and Sciences
 Department of Political Science



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
 College of Arts and Sciences
 Institute of the Environment
 and Sustainability



Department of
Psychology

Laura K. Murray, PhD '02, MA '99

Associate Scientist, Bloomberg School of Health,
 Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Murray graduated from WMU's clinical psychology doctoral program in 2002. During her graduate training, she was honored with an All University Teaching Effectiveness Award and also a Department Research and Creative Scholar Award – making her one of the few graduate students in the history of the psychology department to be recognized for excellence in both teaching and research. She was later honored with an Excellence in Teaching Award from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

Now an associate scientist at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Murray has established an international reputation as an innovator in the design, dissemination and implementation of evidence-based clinical practices for children who are victims of violence and sexual abuse. She has provided consultation and collaboration services for the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, and the World Bank. She was also selected as a prestigious NIMH-funded Implementation Research Fellow.

Murray has been the principal investigator or co-principal investigator on a number of grants, with a special focus on international dissemination in Asia and Africa. She has authored or co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and numerous book chapters. Her publications appear in a range of prestigious, high-impact journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, JAMA Pediatrics and the Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
 College of Arts and Sciences
 Department of Psychology



School of Public Affairs and Administration

Mirtha Rosa Beadle, MPA '90

Acting Director, Office of Policy, Planning and Innovation, and Director, Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Beadle earned a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in health care administration from WMU in 1990. She holds a Bachelor of Science in management systems from Andrews University and has attended the Federal Executive Institute on Leadership for a Democratic Society and Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

In her current roles at HHS, Beadle leads regional operations and policy efforts on legislative affairs, health financing, international affairs, and behavioral health issues facing American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Beadle pursued her MPA while serving as a child care worker in Michigan and moved to the Michigan Department of Public Health as a state emergency services coordinator/project manager in 1990. Her service in the vast federal bureaucracy of HHS started with an assignment at the Bureau of Health Resources Development and has included various positions such as public health analyst, deputy director, senior policy specialist/team leader, and deputy administrator.

At the heart of this outstanding record remains Beadle's passion for public service, especially in reducing health disparities and achieving health equity. She truly exemplifies the "agent of change" that the School of Public Affairs and Administration strives to graduate.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
School of Public Affairs
and Administration



Department of Spanish

Dr. Daniel J. Ebenhoeh, PA-C, MS '13, BA '10

Physician's Assistant, Santa Familia de Salud, Holy Family Healthcare

Ebenhoeh earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish and biology and a master's degree in the physician assistant program at WMU. After a successful career start with Bronson Family Medicine, he joined Santa Familia de Salud, Holy Family

Healthcare, a non-profit Catholic pediatrics office in Hartford, where he currently practices medicine. Most of Ebenhoeh's patients' families are migrant farm workers from Mexico and Latin America who speak limited English. Therefore, his Spanish language abilities are an integral part of his patient care and outline the passion he has always exhibited for the Hispanic language and culture. Equally important, his work demonstrates his unwavering commitment to serve this underrepresented population in this part of the state.

A Kalamazoo native, Ebenhoeh graduated from Loy Norrix High School and attended WMU on a Medallion Scholarship. As a sophomore he studied abroad in Querétaro, Mexico, which fueled his interest in Hispanic language and culture. He continues to serve Hispanic communities abroad, especially via service missions organized through his church's sister parish in El Salvador, María Madre de los Pobres.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Spanish



Department of Statistics

Toby Hall, BS '97

Senior Vice President, Chief Actuary and Chief Data Officer, Delta Dental of Michigan, Inc.

Hall graduated from WMU with a bachelor's degree in statistics and a minor in mathematics. While at WMU, he earned the James H. Powell Award for outstanding statistics student.

Early in his career, Hall was a college and high school math teacher, a SAS programmer, and an actuarial consultant for Deloitte and Touche, LLP. In 2003, he was hired as associate actuary at Delta Dental of Michigan. After five years, he was promoted to director and chief actuary, responsible for management of the actuarial department, and served as appointed actuary for several companies.

While working full-time, he completed an MBA at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. He was promoted to vice president in 2010, and senior vice president in 2012. Hall currently serves as senior vice president, chief actuary, and chief data officer and has responsibility for the actuarial, underwriting, and competitive intelligence departments.

While at Delta Dental, Hall has also led several major company-wide initiatives including implementation of the Affordable Care Act, a claims system re-write, and adoption of a formal data governance program. Hall remains active in the areas of actuarial education. He has served on committees responsible for planning, writing and grading actuarial credentialing examinations.



Department of World Languages and Literatures

Jason Albaugh, BS, BA '03

Latin Teacher,
East Grand Rapids High School

Albaugh has been a Latin teacher at East Grand Rapids High School since 2010. He teaches all levels of Latin language and has also developed advanced literature courses that include the works of authors such as Vergil, Caesar, Catullus, Cicero, Horace, Ovid and Lucan. In addition, he serves as principal examiner for Paper 2 of the International Baccalaureate Standard Level Assessment in Latin.

In his teaching, Albaugh modifies materials and curricula for a wide range of student abilities, including students with severe visual/auditory impairments, mental and emotional difficulties, and extreme reading deficiencies. Albaugh has been active in the Michigan Junior Classical League since his high school days. As Latin Club advisor, he now leads students to MJCL conventions and assemblies. In 2016, he received the Glenn M. Knudsvig Award for Outstanding Latin Teaching in Michigan Secondary Schools.

Albaugh found a passion for experiencing medieval worlds through authors like Vergil and Sallust while a student in the Department of World Languages and Literatures. He chose to spend his life's work sharing that experience with others and helping them find their passions as well. His leadership, intellectual engagement and dedication make a positive impact on his colleagues on a daily basis and serve as a long-lasting inspiration to his students.