



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT *Awards*

2020

OCTOBER 30, 2020



Dear Friends and Alumni,

Today, the WMU College of Arts and Sciences is proud to honor our 2020 Alumni Achievement Award winners, chosen by faculty from the units in which they earned their degrees. It is a great pleasure to count these award recipients among our more than 40,000 college alumni. Tonight's honorees truly exemplify our college's mission to ignite and sustain a passion for learning and discovery in the humanities, social sciences and sciences, to help students, staff and faculty succeed in life and contribute to the betterment of our communities, from local to global.

This year's award winners represent an impressive breadth and diversity of careers and accomplishments in the humanities, social sciences and sciences. Our honorees include teachers, researchers and others who contribute to learning and discovery across the globe. These alumni make us especially proud because of their unwavering commitment to engaged global citizenship. They include nationally and internationally recognized scholars with expertise in such diverse areas as Drug Treatment Courts; Public Health Education; Oil and Gas Exploration; the Economic Impacts of Fire Safe Cigarettes; the Development of Synchrotron Tools to Study Phonons; the Advancement of Robotic Systems and Artificial Intelligence Technologies; the Experimental Study of Religion and Culture; the Intersections of Mysticism and Philosophy in Medieval Islam; Higher Education Access for Students of Color; and more. Collectively, they have received numerous accolades and awards as outstanding community members, educators, communicators and researchers.

On behalf of the Western Michigan University College of Arts and Sciences, thank you for your remarkable achievements and contributions, and congratulations to every one of our 2020 College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement and Pillar honorees!

Sincerely,

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



Department of Biological Sciences

Dr. Denise Olson, BS '84

Obstetrics and gynecology doctor, Durham Women's Clinic

Denise Olson received her bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences, cum laude, from Western Michigan University in 1984. She also studied German at WMU and in Germany through a scholarship from the Goethe Institute. After she attended Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, she completed her clinical years at Bronson and Borgess Hospitals in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Olson was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society upon completion of medical school in 1988.

Olson completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency training at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois, where she served as administrative chief resident. She practiced for one year at Ravenswood Hospital Medical Center in Chicago, before joining the Durham Women's Clinic in Durham, North Carolina. As her patient population evolved over the years, she devoted more of her practice to the primary care of women, focusing on the prevention of heart disease and osteoporotic fractures. Her personal experiences with multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis has provided encouragement and counseling for her patients.

An active member of her community, she has given numerous lectures on women's health issues and the prevention of heat exhaustion for tennis players of all ages. In 2017, Olson was selected as a participant in Education for Non-Rheumatologists Advisory Board for GlaxoSmithKline.



Department of Chemistry

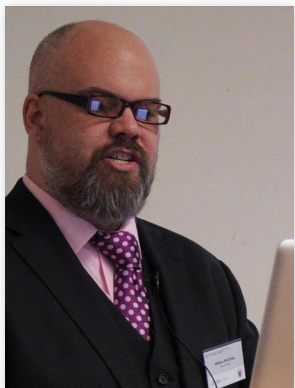
James Salvador, BS '98

Staff researcher, General Motors

James Salvador earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Western Michigan University in 1998. He continued on to earn his master's degree at WMU in chemistry, performing research on photo-induced charge-transfer reactions in Dr. John B. Miller's laboratory. In 2004, he received his doctorate in chemistry from Michigan State University. While there, he worked on intermetallic phases formed from molten metal solutions.

After a post-doctoral research experience as the Marsden Research Fellow at the Centre for Structural Biology of Massey University in New Zealand, he landed a job at General Motors in research & development. While at GM, he has made important contributions to the development of thermoelectric materials focused on improving automobile fuel economy. He has also begun work on solid state electrolytes for improved battery safety and energy density.

Salvador has published numerous papers and has been named on seventeen patents. He serves the scientific community as a prolific reviewer and occasional guest editor for a range of journals. In 2017, he was honored with the National Academy of Engineering Frontiers in Engineering award.



Department of Comparative Religion

Dr. William W. McCorkle Jr., MA '02

Senior Research Fellow, Laboratory of the
Experimental Research of Religion

William W. McCorkle Jr. earned his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1996. He went on to receive a master's degree in comparative religion from Western Michigan University in 2002 and a doctorate from Queen's University in Belfast in 2008.

McCorkle is a senior research fellow at the Laboratory for the Experimental Research of Religion at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic. While in this position, he oversaw the installation of the multi-million euro center designed to conduct experimental research in the academic study of religion and culture.

He has co-edited two volumes in the fields of cognition, culture and religion. He has served as managing and founding co-editor of the "Journal of Cognitive Historiography" and co-editor for the "Science and Inquiry" series in the study of religion for Bloomsbury. McCorkle is also a Distinguished Fellow at the University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Outside of his academic career, McCorkle is a successful musician, releasing five albums, and playing at over a thousand concerts under the name Leisure McCorkle.



Department of Economics

Paul Carlson, BA '87

Senior Investment Specialist, Old National Bank

Paul Carlson is the senior investment specialist for Old National Bank, working with a team in the wealth management group that manages \$500 million in equities for endowments, trusts and high-net-worth clients. Before his current position, he worked at HGK Asset Management progressing through a series of positions leading to senior portfolio manager. At HGK he was responsible for the mid cap value equity strategy, overseeing \$1 billion in institutional assets.

Carlson earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Western Michigan University in 1987. While at HGK, Carlson completed the CFA curriculum, becoming a chartered financial analyst in 1997. He is a former member of the New York Society of Security Analysts and currently an active member of the CFA Society of Indianapolis.



Department of
**Geological and
 Environmental Sciences**

Dr. Robert LoPiccolo, MA '72

Retired President, Peace River Group, LLC

Robert LoPiccolo has worked in oil and gas exploration, research and management since 1974. As a petroleum geologist certified with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, his work has taken him around the globe from East Texas, to West Africa and Namibia, Indonesia, Oman, South and Central America, Alaska, and the Michigan Basin.

He spent two decades as an exploration geologist identifying and drilling prospective oil and gas fields with companies such as Atlantic Richfield Company, Matrix Exploration, Inc., and Union Texas Petroleum, Inc. As vice president and later president of eSeis, Inc., he co-owned a patent on a novel technique for predicting pore pressure from seismic data. President of Peace River Group, LLC from 2007-14, LoPiccolo worked to develop oil and gas resources in the Michigan Basin. His recent consulting work focuses on developing resource potential in previously overlooked locations.

LoPiccolo earned his master's degree in geology from Western Michigan University in 1971, and his doctorate from Louisiana State University in 1977, with his thesis and dissertation research both focused in sedimentology and stratigraphy.



Department of
History

Sharon Ferraro, BA '92

Historic Preservation Coordinator, Downtown & Southtown Design Review Coordinator, City of Kalamazoo

Sharon Ferraro is the City of Kalamazoo's Historic Preservation Coordinator, a part of the city's Office of Community Planning and Economic Development. In this position, she leads the preservation efforts throughout the city, working with building owners, homeowners and others.

Ferraro is also the director of Old House Network, an educational organization that teaches traditional skills and techniques for the maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of old houses.

Ferraro earned her bachelor's degree in history from Western Michigan University in 1992. She went on to earn her master's degree in history preservation from Eastern Michigan University in 1994.



Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies

Timarshay Bracewell, BA '16

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Career Coordinator, North Carolina A&T State
University

Timarshay Bracewell is a 2016 graduate of Western Michigan University, where she earned bachelor's degrees in gender and women's studies, and creative writing. She went on to complete a master's degree in adult higher education at North Carolina A&T State University, graduating summa cum laude in 2020.

She currently works as a career coaching coordinator at North Carolina A&T State University, helping minority students and students of color reach their goals. Previously she was an assistant instructor at the Black Child Development Institute in Greensboro, North Carolina, and a strategic initiatives and project intern at the Guilford County Workforce Development.

Bracewell was instrumental in the reinstitution of the Africana studies program at WMU in August 2017. While studying at WMU, her activism, which included a campus-wide presentation on the history and importance of African American Studies in U.S. institutions, helped influence the decision to reinstate the program.



Mallinson Institute for Science Education

Dr. James Price, Ph.D. '73

Retired Professor of Health Education and
Public Health, University of Toledo

James Price had a lengthy career as a professor of health education and public health at the University of Toledo, where he also served as a department chair and associate dean. Well known in the field of health education, he has served as the editor of the "American Journal of Health Education" and the "Journal of School Health." He was also the president of the American School Health Association.

Price's research spans a range of important health-related topics, including studies on the health costs of exposure to secondhand smoke and the use of long-acting reversible contraceptives among adolescents. He has received \$3 million in grant funding for his research studies.

Now in retirement, Price continues to write and conduct research in public health. He also gives lectures periodically on health topics such as public health, viruses and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Price earned both his bachelor's degree in general science in 1966 and his master's degree in science education in 1968 from Indiana State University. He went on to receive his master's degree in public health from the Health Sciences Center at the University of Oklahoma in 1977, and his doctorate in science education from Western Michigan University in 1973.



Department of Philosophy

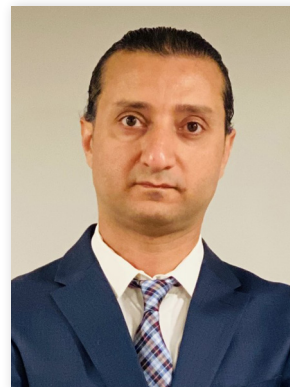
Dr. Monique Wonderly, MA '07

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego

Monique Wonderly earned her bachelor's degrees in philosophy and psychology in 1999 from the University of Michigan. She went on to earn her master's degree in philosophy, with a concentration in ethics, in 2007 from Western Michigan University. While at WMU she received the Thurgood Marshall Graduate Student Fellowship, and won first prize in the Heraclitean Essay Contest. She earned her doctorate in philosophy from the University of California, Riverside in 2015, where her dissertation focused on the emotional attachment.

Wonderly is an assistant professor of philosophy at the University of California, San Diego, where she specializes in theoretical and applied ethics, moral psychology, philosophy of emotion and agency. Before coming to UC San Diego, she held a three-year position as the Harold T. Shapiro Postdoctoral Research Associate in Bioethics at the Princeton University Center for Human Values.

She has published numerous research articles in academic journals such as "American Philosophical Quarterly" and "Journal of Moral Education," as well as writing several book chapters on relationships, love and community.



Department of Physics

Dr. Ayman Said, MS '00, Ph.D. '04

Physicist, X-Ray Science Division
Argonne National Laboratory

Ayman Said earned his bachelor's degree in physics from Yarmouk University, Jordan. He went on to earn both his master's and doctoral degrees in physics and solid state physics from Western Michigan University. While working towards his doctorate, Said was awarded the All-University Graduate Research and Creative Scholar Award.

After finishing his academics, he earned a postdoctoral position at the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, Illinois. Soon after, he started as an assistant physicist at Advanced Photon Source, working through the ranks to physicist at the facility. Said has been involved in the construction and commissioning of the high and medium energy resolution spectrometers at the inelastic X-ray scattering sector of the APS, and is now the lead beamline scientist for the high-resolution spectrometer. An expert in high resolution inelastic X-ray scattering, he has designed, tested and constructed many of the optics which are used in APS beamlines.

Said is the author or co-author of over 100 scientific papers, including many in prestigious journals such as "Nature," "Physics Review B," and the "Journal of Applied Physics." Most of his work involves studying the effects of material properties on phonons within them. His results have helped explain unusual properties of materials, including superconductivity, topological states, negative thermal expansion and protein dynamics.



School of Public Affairs and Administration

Robert Trezise Jr., MPA '94

President and CEO, Lansing Economic Area Partnership

Robert Trezise received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in 1989. He went on to earn a master of public administration degree from Western Michigan University in 1994.

He began his post-MPA degree as an economic development coordinator with the Delta Township in Michigan. Having gained deeper insights and experience in the areas of economic development, Trezise went to serve as the vice president of Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce (1999-01), managing director of the community assistance team at Michigan Economic Development Corporation (2001-06), and president and chief executive officer of Lansing Economic Development Corporation (2006-11), before leading the Lansing Economic Area Partnership as its president and CEO in 2011.

Among the most impactful accomplishments of Trezise's while at MDEC included developing downtown projects from Detroit and Grand Rapids to Marquette and Traverse City; creating and managing strategic plans and blueprints for many Michigan communities; and managing programs under the Community Development Block Grant and other initiatives. His leadership at LEAP expanded this reach, initiating and managing award-winning projects with a combined impact of \$3.1 billion in new economic development, creating 7,100 direct private sector jobs.



Department of Sociology

Dr. Kristen DeVall, BA '98, MA '02, Ph.D. '08

Professor of Sociology and Criminology, University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Kristen DeVall earned her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in sociology from Western Michigan University. Since graduation, DeVall has established herself as one of the nation's leading scholars and policy experts in the area of drug treatment courts.

She is the author of numerous academic articles and sponsored reports and is currently the Director of the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance funded National Drug Court Resource Center for which she has received over \$2 million in grant funding. She has also been the principal investigator on many other local, state and federal grants including several from BJA and SAMHSA.

DeVall has research and teaching excellence in other branches of sociology, specifically in social research methods, and has incorporated both GIS and advanced analytical tools into applied and academic parts of her work.



Department of Statistics

Dr. Ruvie Lou Maria Martinez Martin, MS '03, Ph.D. '07

Associate Director Biostatistics, Novartis
Pharmaceuticals

Ruvie Lou Maria Martinez Martin earned her bachelor's degree in statistics from the University of the Philippines Los Baños in 1998 and subsequently earned her master's degree in 2003 and doctorate in statistics in 2007 from Western Michigan University.

She joined Novartis Pharmaceuticals in 2008 as a biostatistician for clinical development programs in immunology and rheumatology. Martin quickly progressed to be one of the lead biostatisticians for Cosentyx®, Novartis' first-in-class biologic interleukin-17A inhibitors, whose global approval led to a paradigm shift in the treatment of psoriasis and spondyloarthritis.

She is the co-author of two major Cosentyx® publications in ankylosing spondylitis (New England Journal of Medicine, 2015) and in psoriatic arthritis (Lancet, 2020). She was recognized by Novartis leadership in 2015, receiving the Development Award for Exceptional Team Performance for her work on the Cosentyx® Spondyloarthritis Global Program Submission.

Martin is currently a leading Novartis analytics collaborator, working with the University of Oxford Big Data Institute in creating a first-of-its-kind clinical trial results data lake of interleukin-17A inhibitor outcomes. Her contributions to innovation at Novartis have continued beyond Cosentyx® and well into other cutting-edge work, as global program biostatistics head for a Novartis-designated PIONEER program in degenerative arthritis.



Department of World Languages and Literatures

Dr. Rebecca Makas, BA '09

Assistant Teaching Professor, Augustine and
Culture Seminar Program, Villanova University

Rebecca Makas earned her bachelor's degree in 2009 from Western Michigan University. She received her doctorate in religion from Emory University in 2018.

As an assistant teaching professor, Makas' research explores the intersection between mysticism and philosophy in medieval Islam. Rooted in her experiences of prison education, literacy and reform work, she has recently begun a research project on the restricted access to books that incarcerated Muslims face.

PILLAR
AWARD

Global and International Studies

Daniel Hadley, BA '10

Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State

Daniel Hadley earned his bachelor's degree in global and international studies from Western Michigan University in 2010. While studying at WMU he completed a year abroad at the Beijing Language and Culture University in China. He went on to receive his master's degree in international policy from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey in 2012.

Hadley is a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State, where he is currently serving as a political officer for the U.S. Embassy Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. Previously, he served at the U.S. Consulate Guangzhou, China and the U.S. Mission to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Prior to joining the State Department, Hadley served as a presidential management fellow in the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, focusing on China. He is also a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

PILLAR
AWARD

GLOBALLY ENGAGED



Department of Psychology

Dr. Dylan Schmorrow
BA '89, MA '90, Ph.D. '93

Chief Scientist and Executive Vice President,
Soartech

Dylan Schmorrow earned bachelor's degrees from Western Michigan University in both psychology and economics in 1989. He went on to earn master's degrees in psychology and philosophy in 1990, and a doctorate in psychology in 1993 all from WMU. After earning his Ph.D., Schmorrow was commissioned in the Navy as a Naval Aerospace Experimental Psychologist. During that time, he earned a master's degree in modeling, virtual environments, and simulation and operations research in 1998 from the Naval Postgraduate School, where he later was an assistant professor. He retired in 2013 as a U.S. Navy Captain from the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Schmorrow is a leader in the advancement of a new generation of intelligent, autonomous and collaborative robotic systems; unique human-machine teaming solutions; and application of AI technologies to enhance training, cybersecurity, decision-support and medical capabilities.

He is a recipient of the Navy's Top Scientists and Engineers Award, as well as both the Society of U.S. Naval Flight Surgeons' Sonny Carter Memorial Award and the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society's Kollmorgen Spirit of Innovation Award.



Department of Spanish

Bonnie Moss, BA '01, MA '07

Spanish Teacher, Portage Public Schools

Bonnie Moss has taught Spanish at Portage Central High School for nineteen years. She has taught all levels of high school Spanish, and has proudly held the title of PCHS world language department chair for the last seven years.

Moss began her teaching career in 2002 as a full-time substitute teacher after earning her bachelor's degree in Spanish from Western Michigan University. She was hired full time the following school year. During her years of teaching, she returned to WMU to complete her master's degree in Spanish in 2007.

As a globally engaged educator, she has taken student groups abroad several times. When she is not teaching, Moss helps with the Portage Central Spanish Club, with activities that include celebrating holidays such as Día de los Muertos, listening to music, taking dance classes, dining at local restaurants and much more.

