

April 23–May 6, 2014
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WSU YOU



getting to know...

Sarah Murrell

Office Services Clerk II
Law School



Hometown: Madison Heights.

Alma maters: Central Michigan University and Eastern Michigan University.

First job: Cleaning roses and making arrangements at a florist while in high school.

Something people don't know about you: I love old cemeteries.

Interests: History, crafts, genealogy and gardening.

Best thing that ever happened to you: My literature of the '60s class in 11th grade. It's where I met my husband.

Cooldest place you've ever visited: Boston. Everywhere you turn, there is a place important to the founding of the country.

Favorite color: Green.

Jeopardy! category you'd wager everything on: Architectural history.

Fondest childhood memory: Camping trips with my parents every summer.

Favorite spring activity: Anything outside.

Best thing about working at WSU: The diversity of the campus community and the university's location. Both provide growth and learning opportunities that other universities cannot match.

Pets: Two miniature dachshunds, Otto and Oliver.

BOG approves building renovations, upgrades

The Board of Governors recently approved several building renovation and upgrade projects through the spring and summer months.

Manoogian Hall will undergo second-floor upgrades to 23 general-purpose classrooms and four ethnic heritage rooms.

Proposed improvements include upgrades to the HVAC system, electrical, lighting, security, technology, finishes and furniture.

The College of Education Building is scheduled for renovation of five general-purpose classrooms, including upgrades to mechanical and electrical services, lighting, interior finishes, and furniture.

The design phase for renovations at Science Hall will support space for the Nutrition and Food Science Department.

Included in the project scope is renovation of the third floor, six research laboratory upgrades, additional administration space, a seminar/lecture room, a food-prep lab and laboratory upgrades on the second floor.

Renovations to the Student Center Building's (SCB) sixth floor will improve and expand space for the Student Veterans Resource Center; Hillel of Metro Detroit; and Testing, Evaluation and Research Services.



Manoogian Hall is one of three buildings approved for renovations this summer.

"We are working toward bringing general-purpose classrooms into the 21st century," said Deb Brazen, director of planning and estimating. "State Hall's fourth-floor renovation was just the first step. Renovations to Manoogian's second floor will continue this noticeable improvement."

Research project among first to study effects of PTSD on children

Forty-one percent of children living in Detroit will experience trauma serious enough to cause post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) — the disorder known for causing depression, nightmares and flashbacks in military personnel after returning from combat.

While researchers are beginning to understand the impact of PTSD on the adult brain, little is known about the effects of the disorder on the developing brains of children and adolescents.

Moriah Thomason, professor in the Department of Pediatrics and the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child and Family Development, hopes a new research project will change that.



Thomason leads a team of researchers breaking new ground in the study of PTSD.

As the director of Wayne State's SCAN (Social Cognitive Affective Neurodevelopment) laboratory, Thomason and her team are at the forefront of new research aimed at pinpointing areas of the developing brain that change when exposed to trauma. "We think our research approach — combining clinical and behavioral information with the

latest real-time brain imaging technology — will give us a great opportunity to understand the biological differences in a developing brain experiencing the effects of PTSD," said Thomason. "Once we get there, we can start addressing treatments that are going to help these young people better regulate emotions."

Warriors walk the commencement stage on May 1



More than 3,400 students will graduate from Wayne State University during two commencement ceremonies on Thursday, May 1.

The ceremonies, which conclude the university's 146th academic year, will take place at Ford Field in downtown Detroit and will be President M. Roy Wilson's first spring commencement.

Honorary degrees will be given to former Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives Paul Hillemonds and Daniel J. Loepp, president and chief executive

officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Both will receive the honorary Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, for their years of service and dedication to the metro Detroit community and beyond.

A live stream of the ceremonies will be available at wayne.edu/live. A full commencement schedule can be found at commencement.wayne.edu.



AIM HIGHER: Donna MacDonald

Donna MacDonald, director of community outreach and professional development at WSU's Institute of Gerontology (IOG), developed an affinity toward older adults as a preschooler. Having been "practically raised in a nursing home," her passion for helping seniors was the catalyst for pursuing a career in gerontology.

"My mother was a nursing home administrator," said MacDonald. "Growing up, I had 80 grandparents."

MacDonald joined the IOG staff in May 2006. She has been instrumental in growing the institute's outreach efforts from three to nearly 100 events annually, including the Art of Aging Successfully Conference, Issues in Aging Conference and the Healthier Black Elder Health Reception.

Her primary focus is to educate the senior population on a wide variety of topics, from Alzheimer's research to creative aging techniques.

"Donna is terrific," said IOG Deputy Director Cathy Lysack. "She is a dedicated, caring person and professional who understands what life is like for a family with an older person who is important to them."

In her spare time, MacDonald enjoys traveling with her husband and four children. She also is a caregiver to her 89-year-old father.

To nominate someone for Aim Higher recognition, email WSYou@wayne.edu.

Faculty members to be recognized for literary achievements

Three Wayne State professors have been selected as recipients of the 2014 Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Awards.

The award winners are Anne Duggan, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Richard Marback, English; and Jeff Pruchnic, English.



Duggan, who's also director of the Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies program, researched and wrote *Queer Enchantments: Gender, Sexuality, and Class in the Fairy Tale Cinema of Jacques Demy*, an exhaustive analysis of the French director's films.

Marback wrote *Managing Vulnerability: South Africa's Struggle for a Democratic Rhetoric*,

which analyzes the tension surrounding the transition from apartheid to democracy in South Africa through a rhetorical lens.



Pruchnic is recognized for his book *Rhetoric and Ethics in the Cybernetic Age: The Transhuman Condition*. The book provides a cogent summary of recent discussions and debates concerning the interactions of technology and culture.

The award winners will receive a citation, an engraved plaque and an unrestricted award of \$2,500. They will also be recognized on April 24 at the Academic Recognition Ceremony and on May 2 at the Board of Governors meeting.

CLLAS conference explores youth activism



La Academia del Pueblo has become a landmark event for CLLAS and WSU.

Youth activism and academic excellence are the focus of the fifth annual La Academia del Pueblo: Latino/a and Latin American Studies Research Conference on Saturday, April 26, at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center.

Hosted by WSU's Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS), the conference theme is "El Movimiento 2.0: Youth, Identity, Empowerment."

Andreana Clay, associate professor of sociology and sexuality studies at San Francisco State University and author of *The Hip-Hop*

Generation Fights Back: Youth, Activism and Post-Civil Rights Politics, is the keynote speaker.

"La Academia del Pueblo has really taken on a life of its own," said Tamara Serrano Chandler, College to Career (C2C) program coordinator and conference organizer. "Our efforts to establish connections between the center and the community are reflected in the number of youth and community members presenting alongside faculty and students from WSU and across the nation."

The conference kicks off at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 25 with a screening of the film *From Hip-Hop to Mambo: A South Bronx Tale*.

For more information and a full conference agenda, visit events.wayne.edu/rsvp/4thacademiadelpueblo.

YOU

SAID IT

WHAT IS THE TOP ITEM ON YOUR SPRING TO-DO LIST?

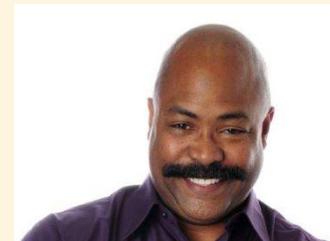
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Marie Villanueva

McNair Scholars Program

"Every year, the top item at our house is to clean out and organize the garage. We hope to make more progress in the organizing part this year."



Gary Morris

Computing & Information Technology

"I like to test drive a brand new sports car. It's fun and much more enjoyable during the spring than the winter."



Jose Cuello

Department of History

"I take time to enjoy the flowers springing up across our beautiful green campus!"



Please direct questions and story ideas to WSYou@wayne.edu.