Welcome to the Wayne State University Sustainability Research Showcase, organized by the Sustainability Scholars Forum, a working group formed under the Humanities Center!

Ongoing environmental and social changes, such as climate change, population shifts, and globalization, force us to seriously consider the dilemmas of sustainability. How can communities develop their human and natural resources, while at the same time ensuring long-term viability? We interpret sustainability broadly to include environmental, social, economic, and cultural themes.

Sustainability in Flint and Beyond... A difficult, but crucial, conversation we foreground in our 2016 Showcase is the ongoing trauma in Flint, MI, where thousands of residents — many of them young children — were exposed to lead poisoning through the local water system. Our conversation with Curt Guyette, Investigative Reporter at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Michigan, who brought this human tragedy to public attention, focuses on the failure of key social institutions and safeguards in Flint and in Lansing. At the same time, we hope to prevent similar crises from occurring in the future, by examining how water and urban sustainability can be better implemented in Flint and communities across America.

SCHEDULE
- 1.45-2.00 pm: Welcome Remarks
  Walter Edwards (Director, Humanities Center, WSU)
- 2-3 pm: “A Conversation with Curt Guyette”
  Curt Guyette (Investigative Reporter, ACLU Michigan), With David Fasenfest (Department of Sociology, WSU)
- 3-4 pm: WSU Sustainability Scholars’ Research Showcase Interactive Poster Session with Tam Perry (School of Social Work, WSU)

REFRESHMENTS AND SNACKS WILL BE SERVED DURING THE SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS’ RESEARCH SHOWCASE

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:: GUEST BIO ::
Curt Guyette joined the ACLU of Michigan in the fall of 2013 as interim media liaison, and then made the transition to investigative reporter, a newly created position funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation. He now writes about exclusively issues involving emergency management and open government.

Prior to joining the ACLU of Michigan, Curt worked as a print journalist for more than 30 years, the last 18 of which were spent at the Metro Times, an alternative newsweekly based in Detroit. Along with a deep-seeded irreverence toward the powerful, his work has been shaped by compassion for the underdog, and a relentless desire to see justice—be it social, economic or environmental—served.

A native of Pennsylvania, Curt graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh with a BA in English writing. He is the recipient of numerous local, state and national journalism awards. The State Bar of Michigan has honored him three times for his outstanding coverage of legal issues.