College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Items of Academic Interest

Two WMU solar cars joined the 49th Annual Kalamazoo Holiday Parade. Sunseeker 05 and Sunseeker 10 were in the parade on Saturday, November 13, in downtown Kalamazoo, an annual event that introduces the holiday season for the Kalamazoo community. The parade was co-presented by DKA Charities, Maple Hill Auto Group and WRKR - Cumulus Broadcasting.

Abraham Poot, a lab coordinator for IME and MAE departments, serves as adviser to the Sunseeker project. He said that team members worked diligently, over the past month, test driving both solar cars, tweaking software and modifying hardware to make sure the cars would be ready for the parade. “This was the first time WMU had two working solar cars to participate in the same event,” he said. “The team entertained the crowd by driving Sunseeker 05 over a line of four to six team members lying head to toe in front of the car.” Sunseeker 05 was driven by 2010 project leader Nicholas Killoran while the 2011 project leader, Mitchel Panek, drove Sunseeker 10. Team members Bailey Windle and Erica Gatmaitan took pictures, Joshua Allen, Rob Galman, Kenwood Hoben, Byron Izenbaard, Alex Hoeksema, Jesse Wick, Ryan Schwartz, Andrew Day and Charlie Schlansker took turns carrying the banner, giving candy to the children and being “run over” by Sunseeker 05. Abe and his wife Colleen followed in the chase van with two of their dogs, Daisy and Zelda. On November 19, the solar car team and Sunseeker 10 travel to Indianapolis Motor Speedway for a press conference to announce the Speedway’s 100th anniversary celebration and Formula Sun Grand Prix track race May 2-8, 2011. The Sunseeker team is excited to have been chosen to represent the solar car community at the press conference.

Upcoming Events

The 47th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects (SEDP) will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 7, at the CEAS Parkview Campus. The event will showcase 37 capstone projects by its graduating seniors. The event is free and open to the public. No reservations are required. High school and community college teachers are encouraged to bring students to the conference. The 25-minute presentations begin on the hour and half hour. No projects are presented from noon to 1 p.m.; a café is available on site. Many project presentations are sponsored by businesses and industries. Those contributing to this semester’s conference include B.S. Patel, DLZ, Downtown Kalamazoo Incorporated, Biomet Orthopedics, Borgess Medical Center, Fantom Racing, FEMA Corporation, Getman Corporation, Humphrey Products Company, Kalamazoo TSC, Kalamazoo County Road Commission, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, Michigan Department of Transportation,

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College of Fine Arts

Items of Academic Interest

The Third Annual Fall Conference, “The Joy of Middle School Band: Kids, Music, Teachers,” was held on Tuesday, October 26 in the School of Music. This event included a wide variety of activities for middle school band students and their teachers including workshops and an All-Star Honor Band. Our featured composer for this year was Dr. Quincy Hilliard. Dr. Hilliard holds the Heymann Endowed Professorship of Music at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he is currently composer-in-residence and professor of music theory and composition. A recipient of numerous ASCAP awards, Dr. Hilliard is in demand internationally as a conductor, adjudicator, and guest clinician. Approximately 160 middle school students and their directors came to the WMU campus to experience clinics, reading sessions, workshops, and performances by the Otsego 8th Grade Band, the University Concert Band, and the Quincy Hilliard All-Star Middle School Honor Band. The highlight of this event was the grand finale during which the WMU University Concert Band performed with the Quincy Hilliard All-Star Middle School Honor Band. Parents of the participating students and their directors alike commented on what a great experience this was for their students and the students were obviously energized and enthusiastic during and after the experience. Their smiles said it all.

Upcoming Events

The Annual Frostic School of Art Faculty Exhibition runs from December 2-23 in the Monroe-Brown Gallery of the Richmond Center for Visual Arts. The Kerr Gallery hosts the Friends of the RCVA Student Grant Award Project.
future health care providers, learn to adjust their messages so that patients can make informed decisions and act on their health knowledge. At the event, eight student groups provided hands-on experiences in health literacy, including discussions on how to communicate with someone with a hearing aid, understanding different cultural norms, using pictorial signs used for individuals with reading difficulty, and matching medical terms with everyday language for clearer understanding. The event also included viewing of an American Medical Association film which showcased actual individuals and practitioners who encountered challenges because of low health literacy. The Health Literacy Month event was organized by the interdisciplinary team of Dr. Dori Ravotas, interdisciplinary health services; Dr. Deb Lindstrom-Hazel, occupational therapy; Pat Fuehr, nursing; and Denise Bowen, physician assistant. Health Literacy has become a national priority, and two major national initiatives have been created: The National Health Literacy Action Plan (for health care organizations) at www.health.gov/communication/literacy and a toolkit for medical and health practice settings at www.ahrq.gov/qual/literacy.

On October 21 and 22, 2010, the WMU Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology (SPPA) hosted the annual Van Riper Lecture Series at the WMU Fetzer Center. The event was made possible with generous financial support from sponsor Psi Iota Xi (PIX), a charitable organization which supports communities in the fields of speech and hearing, art, music, and literature through 135 chapters in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky. The Van Riper Lectures provide important educational experiences for speech-language pathology and audiology professionals, bringing nationally recognized experts to WMU to address topics related to communication disorders. This year’s lectures covered childhood apraxia of speech and other motor speech disorders in children. These conditions are challenging for clinicians to diagnose and treat, in part due to controversies around the relationship between speech and non-speech oral motor function. The three featured lecturers, all with a national presence in the field, addressed the nature of these disorders, with implications for assessment and the evidence base for intervention. The speakers were Dr. Megan Hodge, Professor of Speech Pathology and Audiology, University of Alberta; Dr. Edythe Strand, Division of Speech Pathology, Department of Neurology, Mayo Clinic; and Dr. Gary Weismer, Oros-Bascom Professor of Communicative Disorders, University of Wisconsin. On the first day of the lecture series, PIX members enjoyed lunch with other participants and attended the afternoon session. This provided a great opportunity for networking among WMU faculty, speakers and PIX members. Of special significance that day was the presentation of the Louella Bradley Scholarship to WMU speech pathology graduate student Chelsea Nimmo. Ms. Bradley is a long-time, much admired Psi Iota Xi leader. The scholarship is endowed in her name through efforts of the local PIX chapter, Eta Omicron.

The WMU School of Social Work is in the first year of a three-year project which provides interpersonal practice M.S.W. students and field instructors specialized training in Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), an evidence-based intervention for children and adolescents who have experienced trauma. The project is funded through a grant awarded to Fordham University School of Social Work as a part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). The NCTSN is a national network of treatment providers, researchers and trauma centers—including the WMU’s Southwest Michigan Children’s Assessment Center—that are committed to raising the standard of care and improving access to services for traumatized children, families, and communities. Currently, 11 students in Southwest Michigan and Grand Rapids are placed with clinical field instructors who have completed the TF-CBT training and provide this therapy in their practice. The students have completed an elective course, Core Concepts of Child Trauma, and participated in a two-day TF-CBT training. Recruitment for field instructors and interpersonal practice concentration students is underway for Fall 2011. For more information, contact Project Coordinator Ineke Way at ineke.way@wmich.edu or Coordinator of Field Education Barb Howes at barbara.howes@wmich.edu.

Faculty and Staff Accolades

Dr. Barbara Barton, assistant professor in the WMU School of Social Work, was selected as a recipient of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) Achievement Award by its Michigan chapter. Dr. Barton was presented with the award at the Chapter’s annual volunteer recognition program on November 13 in Troy, Mich. The MS Achievement Award recognizes individuals with MS who have achieved outstanding success in their lives and made a significant impact in their industry or profession, and community.

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According to her nomination, Dr. Barton’s achievements are a combination of her experience with MS and her deep commitment to Michigan’s disability community. Throughout her 20-year career, she has served in numerous positions including NMSS Michigan Chapter’s resource person for newly diagnosed clients and a government relations committee member. For the past four years, she has demonstrated strong leadership as president of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, a state-wide network of individuals and organizations that advances the issues of Michigan’s disability community through grassroots activism, public education and advocacy.

On October 2, 2010, Dr. Helen Sharp, associate professor of speech pathology and audiology, was a keynote speaker at the Eddy Lecture at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. The lecture was titled “Ethical decision-making in audiology and speech pathology.”

Speech Pathology and Audiology Professor Jan Bedrosian, Ph.D. co-authored and co-presented the following paper at the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication Conference in Barcelona, Spain: K., Hoag, L., & Bedrosian, J. (August, 2010). “Integrating pragmatic theory and empirical evidence into utterance-based system design.”

On Thursday October 21 at the annual Van Riper Lecture Series, WMU speech pathology graduate student Chelsea Nimmo was awarded the Louella Bradley Scholarship from the Kalamazoo chapter of Psi Iota Xi, Eta Omicron. Ms. Nimmo is a resident of Vicksburg, Mich. She completed a pre-requisite year of speech pathology coursework at WMU last year and began graduate studies in September 2010. Prior to coming to WMU, she earned an undergraduate degree in psychology at Grand Valley State University. She has worked in a variety of capacities with children to finance her education.

Photographer Tim Wojtyniak’s “Enduring Spirit” is an interactive exhibit of photo portraits and stories of actual people served by the Kalamazoo non-profit Ministry with Community. The exhibit is on display in the second floor gallery of the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) through December 20, and the public is invited to a reception on Monday, November 29 from 4-6 p.m. in the gallery. There is no charge and parking is available for guests in lot 104. Ministry with Community is Kalamazoo’s only adult daytime shelter and resource center serving people who are struggling with poverty, homelessness and mental illness. Through Enduring Spirit, Wojtyniak set out to capture images and narratives that go deeper than the exterior to convey the inner strength, joy, faith and determination of the individuals—members—who drop in at the shelter. The common message in these compelling images and narratives is “We are individuals; we are real; and we matter.” The portraits were originally taken and provided to the members as a gift, funded by a ChangeMaker grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

Members of Western Michigan University’s Chapter of the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA) participated in a community service project for the Goodwill Inn Homeless Shelter. The shelter provides food, care baskets, and clothing to over 2,000 persons per year and is the largest homeless shelter in Northern Michigan. This year’s project was dubbed “Drop your Drawers.” The goal of the project was to collect as many new socks, underwear, and t-shirts as possible. Physician Assistant programs from across the state competed to determine who could donate the most items. On Friday, October 15, the collected goods were brought to the annual Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA) Conference held in Traverse City, and delivered to the collection site. WMU’s SAAAPA Chapter finished second in the state, donating over 600 items of clothing! Congratulations to WMU’s Physician Assistant students for a job well done!

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to Wojtyniak, an alumnus of the WMU Holistic Health Care Program,” “This exhibit is offered as a gift. Not from me, but from the members in the portraits. The members shared their stories and themselves with me, resulting in many engaging portraits. However, the powerful stories and portraits begged for a wider audience.” The exhibit can be viewed from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday. For more information, contact Gay Walker at (269)387-3839 or gay.walker@wmich.edu.

The Evaluation Center
Faculty and Staff Accolades

Drs. Paula Kohler (Associate VP for Research), Liliana Rodriguez-Campos (WMU alumnus), and Daniela Schroeter (Evaluation Center Director of Research) at the WMU reception at the American Evaluation Association conference.


Dr. Chris Coryn, Director of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation (IDPE) program, gave a workshop on October 26 at The Evaluation Conclave in Delhi, India, titled “Foundations of Evaluation: Theory, Method, and Practice.” He also led a preconference workshop at the American Evaluation Association (AEA) conference in San Antonio, Texas, titled “Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Evaluation” on November 9.

Dr. Daniela Schroeter, Director of Research at The Evaluation Center, presented a lunch seminar, titled “A Question of Worth? Cost Analysis in Evaluation,” on October 25, organized by the Geneva Evaluators Network and hosted by the World Health Organization, in Geneva, Switzerland. On October 27, she presented a one-day workshop on cost analysis in the University of Berne.

Emeriti Council
Upcoming Events

The Emeriti Council’s December Wednesday II meeting will be held on December 8 in the Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall at 2:00 pm. The program will be: “Revisiting GOOD DEATH,” a University Theatre Production from last season. An excerpt from the play will be performed accompanied by a discussion of the play’s topic by Dr. Joan Herrington, Chair of the Dept. of Theatre. “Good Death” is an original collaboration, created entirely by WMU theatre students and members of the acclaimed Tectonic Theater Project. The production explores the hard questions and emotional conflict behind euthanasia, terminal illness, aging, medical ethics and other controversial topics. It is a result of intense research conducted this summer by WMU students, and explored and analyzed in rehearsal under the direction of the Tectonic Theater project. Truly a community conversation, the script is compiled from verbatim interviews with terminally ill patients, spiritual leaders, players in the Dr. Kevorkian trial, advocates of euthanasia, the anti-euthanasia contingent, medical professionals and others. The court transcripts from the Kevorkian trial have also been incorporated.

Haworth College of Business
Faculty and Staff Accolades

Dr. David Burnie has been awarded the National City Corporation Endowed Chair in Finance and Commercial Law. The award is given to an “outstanding tenure track faculty member with a rank of assistant professor or higher who has demonstrated exceptional contributions to his/her discipline,” and is based on the consideration of all aspects of the academic records—teaching, research and service, and is truly an award for overall contributions to the discipline. The award is made for three years with the opportunity for renewal pending continued outstanding contributions to the discipline.

Dr. Tomas Edmonds, faculty specialist, was named Outstanding Volunteer at the National Philanthropy Day 2010 event sponsored by the West Michigan Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Edmonds was recognized on Nov. 9 at Calvin College in Grand Rapids.
Dr. Jerry Kreuze, professor of accountancy, was named a faculty fellow of the Lee Honors College. A faculty fellow designation is the highest honor that the LHC gives to a member of the WMU faculty. The award recognizes Kreuze on many years of dedicated teaching and mentoring of honors students. Kreuze will receive the award on Dec. 17 at a ceremony recognizing the December graduates.

Dr. Satish P. Deshpande was recently admitted as a member of the Consortium for Research on Emotional Intelligence in Organizations. The Consortium was founded in the spring of 1996 with the support of the Fetzer Institute. It is currently made up of eight core members, sixty-one individual members, and five organizational members. After a review process, only those with a strong record of accomplishment as applied researchers in the field are admitted as individual members.


Extended University Programs

Upcoming Events

December 3-- Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series - Dr. Jack Luderer, interim dean, WMU School of Medicine, will speak on “WMU School of Medicine - Moving Forward.” RSVP to Shawna Cassada at 269.387.6059 or Shawna.cassada@wmich.edu.

Student and Alumni Accolades

From left Dr. Don Gribbin, chair, Department of Accountancy, is pictured with the winning team in the PricewaterhouseCoopers xACT Case Competition. Team Smooth Transitions members are Caleb Gayton, of Livonia, Mich., Josh Kallen, of Portage, Mich., Alison Huey of Canton, Mich; Jared Lindberg of Delton, Mich., Josh Markzon of West Bloomfield, Mich., and PWC representatives Rina Madias and David Lemieur. Dr. Jerry Kreuze, professor of accountancy and PWC team advisor, was unavailable for photo.

WMU and MCC staff celebrates the signing of the recreation transfer agreement. WMU participants include Dr. Lee deLisle (top left) and Dr. John Wheeler (bottom left).

An event held November 11, 2010 at Muskegon Community College’s Stevenson Center for Higher Education officially continues the partnership between Western Michigan University and MCC. The day’s agenda included a signing between WMU and MCC for new transfer programs, a celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Stevenson Center, and a renewal of the Stevenson Center agreement between all partner schools. The Joint Program Partnership (JPP) between WMU and MCC means that the two schools will join forces to provide bachelor’s degrees in engineering and recreation to Muskegon-area students. In addition to WMU President John Dunn, Dr. John Wheeler, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, and Dr. Lee deLisle, chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, joined MCC staff to sign the recreation transfer agreement. According to Dr. Keith Hearit, WMU vice provost for Strategic Enrollment Management, “We are profoundly excited about the recreation program, and the idea that students can simultaneously be a part of both institutions.” In a celebration ceremony held later that afternoon, MCC President Dale Nesbury was joined by University presidents representing all of the Stevenson Center partner institutions: WMU, Ferris State University and Grand Valley State University. Dunn spoke to the crowd about how WMU can cooperatively find ways to assist students on their educational path. “It’s not about us. It’s about the future of our students,” he said. “Their pathway to success is through education, and our role and responsibility is to find ways that we can work collectively.” In discussing our partnership with MCC, Dunn wants all involved to continue on the pathway to allow our students to be successful. “When students are transferring, we need to make sure we do everything we can to remove and reduce barriers,” says Dunn.
**Student and Alumni Accolades**

This year on Veteran’s Day, the Grand Rapids ROTC cadets participated in area parades, visited the Grand Rapids Veteran’s home, and a number of nursing homes to spend time talking to the area veterans. To give thanks and recognize our WMU Grand Rapids cadets, Pam Emery, assistant director for WMU-Grand Rapids, made an army tank cake as a surprise for the students. From the Military Science web site: The WMU Army ROTC Bronco Battalion is consistently ranked among top ROTC programs in the nation. The Bronco Battalion consists of over 150 cadets from Western Michigan University and affiliated schools. Affiliated schools do not have ROTC Programs on their campuses. Students who participate in Army ROTC do so through the Western Michigan University Host Program and travel take classes in Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. Army ROTC teaches leadership, and students who complete the ROTC program are commissioned as Army Officers in the rank of second lieutenant. Nationally, ROTC produces over 65% of all Army Officers.

**College of Aviation**

**Items of Academic Interest**

The first R9-equipped FTD was recently delivered to Western Michigan University. It provides a high-quality simulator, for primary and advanced training, on the state-of-the-art Avidyne R9 Flight Deck for Cirrus aircraft. “The SR22 FTD is not only a task trainer for WMU’s Entegra 9-equipped Cirrus aircraft, it is a highly capable flight simulation system for Avidyne’s next generation of integrated avionics,” said John Herguth, Avidyne’s chief operating officer. “Avidyne’s role as the pioneer and continuing innovator of integrated flight decks makes them a strong partner for Frasca, as we deliver what is an ideal training simulator for flight programs that are fulfilling the training needs of today and for the future.”

The Frasca FTD with the Entegra Release 9 system gives WMU a powerful tool for training the next generation of professional pilots, and also for familiarizing their flight instructors with the advanced capabilities of the R9 system,” said Patrick Herguth, Avidyne’s chief operating officer. “This partnership is especially notable because it combines Frasca’s decades of expertise in building leading-edge flight simulation training systems, Avidyne’s unmatched experience in integrated flight deck systems for light GA aircraft, and WMU’s leadership in aviation education.”

“Have nearly completed the transition to the Avidyne Entegra Release 9 suite on our entire fleet of Cirrus aircraft and the addition of the Frasca R9 FTD will be an incredibly effective addition to our curriculum,” said Captain David Powell, Dean of WMU’s College of Aviation. “We believe the Avidyne Release 9 system, with its fantastic FMS capabilities, is especially valuable for training tomorrow’s corporate and air transport pilots, and now we can provide a meaningful portion of that training in our new Frasca FTD.”

**Upcoming Events**

On Saturday, November 20, the College of Aviation will help Battle Creek kick-off the holiday season and the International Festival of Lights by participating in the Annual BC Holiday Parade. On November 13, the college also participated in the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade along with other WMU departments. The float is a first for the college and was designed and built by staff members and students. We hope to make this an annual tradition within the college and hope you will support community events, such as the Annual BC Holiday Parade. Visit www.bcfestivals.com for more details.

**Lee’s Honors College**

**Items of Academic Interest**

The honors college has always given course credit for an independent study or field experience. Students would earn that credit by registering for HNRS 4950: Independent Study or HNRS 3990: Field Experience. Many of our students are also working on independent studies or field experiences through the college of their major and we have come to believe that a good departmental project could be substituted for the honors courses. So, beginning in the Spring 2011 semester, an honors college student can request permission from the honors college to use a departmental independent study or field experience to substitute for HNRS 4950 or HNRS 3990, respectively. There is a new one-page request form that the student will fill out to (1) let the honors college know the title and description of the project, (2) justify why the student thinks the project is worthy of honors college credit, and (3) to let the LHC know who the supervising faculty will be for the project. Based on this information, the substitution will be approved or denied by an honors college advisor who will contact the student via e-mail to share their decision. The deadline for requesting the substitution will be the same as the drop/add deadline for the semester. This form will be available on the Independent Study/Field Experience page of the LHC web site.
Lee Honors College purchased a block of tickets to the November 10 performance of “Driving Miss Daisy” at Farmer’s Alley Theatre in downtown Kalamazoo. These tickets were available for free to honors college students who wished to attend. There was a reception at 6:45, with the performance at 7:30 p.m. Afterward, there was a fruitful discussion with the cast members. The play is part of the LHC’s diversity theme for 2010-2011. In keeping with our theme, Lee Honors College students, staff, and advisory council members attended the Pulitzer Prize winning play by Alfred Uhry. Through its exploration of the developing friendship between widowed, Jewish Daisy Werthan and her African-American chauffeur Hoke Colburn, the play explores issues of race relations, self-reliance, the aging process, and the true meaning of friendship.

**Student and Alumni Accolades**

Jordan Keen, Ryan Jones, Leah Thibaudeau, Rebecca Carter, Nathan Bowen, Kristin Glancy, Shane Preston, Sarah Neff, Alex Walcott, Stephanie Ziebarth, Jared Madden, Trevor Martin, Nate Shiff, Kara Mooney, Jacob Heemstra, Diane Simons, Devin Ryan and Kelsi Feriend are honors students who have volunteered as tutors for the Jeter’s Leaders program in Kalamazoo County public schools. These WMU students also act as mentors and role models to the high school students they tutor. Administered through the Turn 2 Foundation, and founded by Derek Jeter, shortstop for the New York Yankees and Kalamazoo native, Jeter’s Leaders is a leadership development program for high school students. It was created to empower, recognize, and enhance the skills of students who adhere to the following four principles. They must promote healthy lifestyles and be free of drugs and alcohol. Academic achievement is essential, and they must be committed to improving their community through social change activities. Jeter’s Leaders must also serve as role models to younger students and deliver positive messages to their peers. Lee Honors College students come in to the picture when Jeter’s Leaders need help keeping their high school G.P.A. above a 3.0. In scheduled tutoring sessions at Ellsworth Hall, Jeter’s Leaders students can get tutored by Lee Honors College students in subjects including Algebra, Biology, Chemistry, English, History, Spanish and others.

Shane Preston, Lee Honors College student, gave a presentation on Wednesday, November 10 for the Lyceum Lecture Series held at Lee Honors College on his experiences as a Marine in Iraq. Shane is originally from Constantine and spent four years in the Marines directly after graduating high school. He spent time in Hawaii before being deployed and was stationed on a base in a small, rural town in Iraq. While in Iraq he took online courses at the American Military University and came to WMU as a transfer student. He is now between his sophomore and junior year and is in the Pre-Education program. He has a Social Studies major and History and English minors. Shane is a Jeter’s Leaders tutor as well as a member of the Honors Student Association (HSA), and participates in the weekly $3.00 lunch fundraiser on Wednesdays at noon. Shane spoke about the physical, social and political aspects of military life in Iraq as well as his personal experiences. Since Shane attends school under the G.I. Bill, he discussed the financial and other aid available to veterans at Western Michigan University. He singled out Tracey Moon, Director of Office of Military and Veteran’s Affairs at WMU, for her help and for increasing the number of veterans attending Western by 50%. Western has been named the most military friendly university in Michigan and one of the most military friendly in the nation by several publications targeted toward veterans. There are close to 500 students on campus using the G.I. Bill, which covers tuition, books and housing. Tracey also teaches a First Year Seminar reserved for veterans, called Military Transitions, which helps with the shift from military to college life.

**Upcoming Events**

The Seibert WMU Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Award is designed for students at Western Michigan University who are committed to conducting significant research and creative projects. Students do not need to be a member of the Lee Honors College to apply for this award, which is granted for students to use on research or creative activities with a faculty mentor during the fall and spring semesters. It can also be used for travel expenses incurred during the course of research and/or composition. Winners of the WMU Seibert Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Award for fall 2010 include Lee Honors College member Phillip Eskander, whose project “Amino Acid Protected Gold Nanoparticles - Synthesis and Characterization” is directed by Dr. Ekkhard Sinn of the Department of Chemistry. Fernanda Jimenez Otero won for her project entitled “The Role of Glycine Metabolism in Symbiotic Nitrogen Fixation,” directed by Dr. Silvia Rossbach of the Department of Biological Sciences. Alexis M. Ruder won for her project entitled “Developing Conceptual Understandings of Statistical Measures of Center in Middle School Students.” Alexis’ project is directed by Dr. Gina Garza-King of the Department of Mathematics. Lee Honors College member Cassandra M. Kaczor won for her project titled “Compositions of Cassandra Kaczor (2010-2011),” directed by Dr. Steven Zegree, School of Music. Lee Honors College member Carlen N. Smith won for her project, “The Interaction of Fluoxetine and Dissolved Organic Matter in Water,” directed by Dr. James Kiddle, Department of Chemistry. Congratulations to all the fall 2010 winners of the WMU Seibert Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Awards.

Lee Honors College is involved in Shantytown, the annual fundraiser and advocacy event for Habitat for Humanity. It takes place the Friday before Thanksgiving, November 19, starting at 9 p.m. Honors Student Association (HSA) Service Learning Chair and head student leader of Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter Megan Kaiser is organizing HSA participation. Megan is a sophomore with a major in Chemical Biology, Chemistry.

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Engineering and a minor in Environmental Studies. She reports that in order to participate, students must raise a donation of at least $40, which will be split between Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity and Alternative Spring Break. The shantytown will be built in front of Lee Honors College, which will be open for activities during the first part of the night, when students will share a simple meal of bread and soup, learn about homelessness, and participate in reflective discussion. A scavenger hunt follows; afterwards, students will build their cardboard shanties and sleep all night in them. All participants receive 16 hours of community service for this event; those who volunteer to lead groups receive one extra hour of community service.

Center for Academic Success Programs

Items of Academic Interest

A recent national push towards financial literacy has inspired Trio to bring its students this interactive workshop. Shasanta James of the Financial Aid Department presented on a variety of topics such as debt, interest, and loan forgiveness. All students were required to take a pre-test before the workshop and a post-test and an evaluation at the end of the evening. Dr. Charlotte Giscombe, the director of Trio is hoping that there is at least an 80 percent gain in knowledge and from the evaluations we are hoping that we can continue to provide these kinds of workshops for our students and make them better every semester. The workshop was open to Trio students of junior and senior status. Those who are Pell recipients are eligible for a Trio scholarship after attending. The workshop took place on November 16th at 8:00 pm. The event was held in the Presidents Dining room in the Bernhard Center. For those who could not attend the workshop on the 16th, a video presentation of the workshop will be available to students.

Trio students and staff were delighted to hear that TRIO Student Success Program had been awarded $293,864 a year, for the next five years. The director, Dr. Charlotte Giscombe, said, “We all breathed a sigh of relief when we heard the news. We worked very hard to write a good grant.” The writing team consisted of Dr. Charlotte Giscombe and Kim Ballard, the director of the Writing Center. We also received over $400,000 in both dollars and in-kind institutional commitments from the university. Our goal now is to move forward spending those dollars wisely to help our students and our program continue to achieve excellence.

Every year, Trio students have the opportunity to attend conferences around the region. This semester Trio sent four select upperclassmen to Wisconsin for the McNair conference. This conference dealt with issues concerning how to get into and pay for graduate school. More recently a group of students, led by Alaina Simpson the Program Services Coordinator, went to the MEAOPP Student Leadership Conference in Illinois. While there, our students attended leadership workshops and were able to network with students from other Trio programs in the region. The last conference is scheduled for the spring semester and will be held here in Kalamazoo.

Nov 3-6 in Baltimore, MD, four Western Michigan University Writing Center consultants, Timothy Buchanan, John Chrisman, and Helena Witzke, joined Kim Ballard, the Writing Center director; Carly Fricano, a Writing Center assistant director; and three Western Michigan University Writing Center alums in presenting five different scholarly talks and workshops at the International Writing Centers Association Joint Conference. Witzke spoke with Ballard and former assistant directors Meghan Dykema, Dan Kenzie, and Patrick Love in a talk titled, “Helping Writers With X: How and Why.” The talk initiated a series of workshops about why writing centers should help students learn to work with four different genres, including resumes and vitas, creative writing, standardized writing tests, and theses and dissertations. In the initial talk, Ballard, Dykema, Kenzie, Love and Witzke drew on cultural critique theory to argue the need for writing centers to include instruction about these genres in their offerings and explored how writers struggle with each of the genres. Writing centers are key resources for writers of such texts because such centers serve all students and level the playing field, and consultants can help writers understand what they already know about the genres and can help them learn to apply new rhetorical abilities. After the introductory talk, the group offered a workshop about helping consultants work with resume and vita writing a workshop for consultants helping writers with creative writing (led by Buchanan, Chrisman, and Witzke), a workshop about helping consultants prepare to take standardized tests (led by Ballard, Dykema, Fricano, and Love), and a workshop on helping writers develop undergraduate or graduate theses and dissertations. At the conference, Kenzie, Fricano, and McCann were honored with cash awards based on essays they wrote about their writing center work. In addition to the themed talk and workshops, Ballard also presented her work on the assessment of the Western Michigan University Writing Center, and she was helped by the current and former assistant directors and consultants.

Upcoming Events

The Western Michigan University Writing Center will host the 2011 East Central Writing Centers Association (ECWCA) Conference on campus from Thursday evening March 3 through Saturday March 5. The oldest writing centers organization in existence, the ECWCA, includes writing centers in middle schools, high schools, community colleges, private colleges, research universities, corporations, and online schools from a five state area, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia. This
year’s conference theme, “Writing Center Assessment: Roles, Relationships, Respect, Resistance,” will be augmented by a keynote speakers panel Friday night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. featuring four of the top writing assessment scholars, Dr. Brian Huot of Kent State University, Dr. Ellen Schendel of Grand Valley State University, Dr. Bill Macauley of the College of Wooster, and Dr. Michael M. Williamson of Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The conference theme focuses on assessment in the writing center, presentations, workshops, and poster session about other writing center related topics, including collaborations between various university departments and a writing center, ways to encourage students to use a writing center, benefits professors and staff see from a writing center, perceptions of writing centers, etc. All proposals are due by December 13, and acceptance notifications will be mailed by January 10. For more information about the speakers (including a partial list of each speaker’s books and scholarship) and the conference, visit the 2011 East Central Writing Centers Association web site at http://www.ecwca2011atwmu.com/index.html Kim.

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Items of Academic Interest

NSSE 6-year and FSSE 5-year longitudinal comparison data are now available on the “Institutional Assessment” web page at http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/inst_assess.html. These documents also contain comparison graphs for each item at each student level (first-year and senior). The Office of Institutional Effectiveness has been given permission to link to the University of Alabama’s “NSSE Research.” This site (http:www.assessment.ua.edu/nsse-bibliography) contains a comprehensive annotated bibliography for each question on the NSSE survey. After pilots during spring and summer 2010, the web-based version of the Instructor and Course Evaluation System (ICES Online) has been implemented at WMU. The system replaced the paper-based version that WMU has used since 2003. Benefits of ICES Online include a large cost reduction, expedited results to instructors, and 24/7 access to students during the evaluation period. Due to the elimination of paper waste and student-friendly accessibility, the system is now endorsed by the WSA Sustainability Committee. The Higher Learning Commission office address has changed, although phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and Web site remain the same (http://www.ncahlc.org). As of July 9, 2010, the NCA Higher Learning Commission’s address is: 230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411.

College of Education and Human Development

Items of Academic Interest

People with science, mathematics and engineering degrees who want to be part of a national effort to reform the way math and science are taught in the United States have a new option—a graduate fellowship program that offers a $30,000 stipend and a chance to spend a transformative year earning a master’s degree and teaching in a high-need middle or high school classroom. Western Michigan University is one of six Michigan universities now accepting applications for entry into the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship Program. A total of 20 fellowships will be available in each of the next two years at WMU and at the five other schools in the Michigan program. Applications for the two final rounds of consideration for 2011 are due Dec. 1 and Jan. 12, respectively. Complete information and application details are available at www.wwteachingfellowship.org. The fellowship program is aimed at those with bachelor’s degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—known as STEM programs. The Michigan fellowships were unveiled early this year by President Barack Obama during a Washington, D.C., news conference. The program, which already exists in Indiana, begins next year in both Michigan and Ohio. In Michigan, it will be funded by a $16.7 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Laura Ciccantell, Advising Director, and Dr. Katharine Cummings, associate dean of the College of Education and Human Development received a 5-year $1.1 Million TRiO Student Success Support Services grant from the U.S. Department of Education to improve retention and graduation rates of first-generation, income eligible students in teacher preparation programs. Housed in the Office of Admissions and Advising, the Future Educator Success Program (FESP) will partner with the College of Education and Human Development faculty to provide advising, tutoring, MTTC preparation, financial literacy, scholarships, leadership and professional development, and graduate school preparation to 140 participants annually. For more information, please contact Laura Ciccantell at coehd-fesp@wmich.edu.
A nearly $2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education will help Western Michigan University researchers and partners at institutions in three other states develop a new test to identify language and literacy problems in children, leading to earlier treatment and better outcomes. The grant is from the National Center for Special Education Research in the Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences and has been awarded to Dr. Nickola Wolf Nelson, professor of speech pathology and audiology and director of WMU’s doctoral program in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, in collaboration with Dr. Brooks Applegate, professor of educational leadership, research and technology. The four-year project will let researchers at WMU and partner institutions in North Carolina, Florida and Arizona design a test based on recent advances in understanding how the brain processes language, while using a model that teachers, parents and students will understand.

Faculty and Staff Accolades

Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology Assistant Professor Dr. Mary L. Anderson presented at the Michigan School Counseling Association Fall Conference in Plymouth, Mi (Nov. 8th). The topic of her presentation was “Creative Strategies for Career Development: Classroom Activities for K-12.” This session was attended by 33 Michigan school counselors (all levels). Anderson is also a member of the MSCA Board, and attended board meetings before the conference.

Dr. Regena F. Nelson presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children in Anaheim, California in November. The title of her paper was “Documenting Urban Preschool Teacher’s Cultural Competence.” The data for this study are a part of the Kalamazoo Quality Rating and Improvement System project funded by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

Dr. Richard Zinser, Associate Professor of Career and Technical Education and College of Education and Human Development alumna Dr. Julia VanderMolen, published the article “Job tasks performed by career system administrators” in the 2009 edition of the Journal of Industrial Teacher Education and was awarded the Outstanding Research Manuscript for volume 46.

Student and Alumni Accolades

Six undergraduate Exercise Science registered student organization members traveled to the Midwest American College of Sports Medicine’s (ACSM) annual conference in Indianapolis, IN. The conference offers a competitive scholarly Jeopardy game, in which three students participated. This ExSci team representing Western Michigan University finished second place out of ten teams, finishing only behind MSU. The Jeopardy team consisted of Kelly Bosier, Dylan Rosenthal, and Kelly Frame. The remaining students attending the conference included Jessica Bell, Bridget Miller, and Sara Radant.

Myron Harrison, recreation management major and WMU Student Recreation Center (SRC) facility manager, joined several WMU graduate assistants and SRC employees at Club Industry, an exposition to discover and learn about new and upcoming exercise equipment, recreational technology and products. Attending expositions, such as Club Industry, is an important event for those in the fitness/recreation field. Individuals in the field try to bring back the technology or products they discovered at the exposition to their respective facilities in order to increase their service and appreciation for their consumers. This year’s exposition encompassed the famous fitness role model Richard Simmons. He shared his experience in the fitness field and how he defined success.
Interdisciplinary PhD in Evaluation
Student and Alumni Accolades

Fourteen doctoral students in Interdisciplinary Evaluation presented sixteen papers and five posters at the American Evaluation Association conference in San Antonio, Texas in November. Presenters included Mohammed Alyami, Ezechukwu Awgu, Lee Balcom, Jason Burkhardt, Tala Davidson, Amy Gullickson, Kristin Hobson, Kristin Kaylor Richardson, Brandy Pratt, Margaret Richardson, Diane Rogers, Fayez Shafloot, Michele Tarsilla, and Carl Westine.

University Libraries
Items of Academic Interest

Dean Joseph Reish, Executive Board Member of the Michigan Library Association, participated in a panel of deans and directors at the annual fall conference in Traverse City. The panel, Advocacy Tips and Tools from Library Leaders, brought to a close a half-day program titled 2010 MLA Public Policy Summit. Speakers emphasized the politics, finances, and legislation of the current state government and their effect on libraries. The recent Republican move on Lansing encouraged lively discussion. Academic libraries, like WMU, and publics, like the Portage District Library, supported by local tax revenue, are susceptible to a diminution of state-supported funds in these tough economic times. In the case of the latter, municipalities frequently divert financial support to needy projects that had been originally levied for library uses through a process known as “tax capture.” Both academic and public libraries depend upon critical databases that have been supported by the Library of Michigan and matching funds of the federal government. The Library of Michigan, as a state agency, has lost millions of dollars of monetary backing. If these databases were to lose being underwritten by the state, then University Libraries would need to spend more than 3 million dollars to pay for these valuable research resources. The panel of library leaders provided tips on how to become involved in the legislative process that impacts the future of libraries, resources, and service to citizens of the state. Participants agreed that the advocacy role of the Michigan Library Association is critical in spotlighting the plight of member libraries and to promoting political action to reduce current and future losses.

One of several formalized, instructional instruments offered by public services librarians is the “Western Research Assistance Program” or “WRAP Session.” A researcher works side by side with a subject librarian for an extended period of time. Whether the seeker of knowledge is at the beginning stages of a quest or tying up loose ends of a significant study, an academic librarian can be of great value. Inquiries may be sent through the “Ask a Librarian” portal: http://social.library.wmich.edu/cgi-bin/ask/ttx.cgi. To promote the value of a WRAP Session to the WMU community, the reader will find a testimony of the efficacy of this service provided by Professor Maria Perez-Stable to a grad student of Dr. Eli Rubin.

Professor Rubin writes: Dear Maria, I just met with my RA, Ryan Storr, who is helping me this semester and into next with my research for my third book on destruction in German cities in WWII. He clearly benefitted a great deal from working with you [90-minute WRAP Session] and I wanted to express how grateful I am. This is a really important part of the project and it takes an (academic) village for these kinds of studies to come together, but you really helped him out—his first week was highly productive. Please let me know if there is any other information that I can furnish you with that would make cooperating with him easier. (Permission granted from Prof. Rubin to reprint his remarks.)

The WMU Office of the Vice President for Research sponsored a Research and Dessert Open House on Friday, Oct. 22. Faculty and staff were able to learn about campus resources to support research endeavors. Networking opportunities for researchers to collaborate across the University were rendered easier by the meeting of the scholarly community.

Continued on next page
University Libraries participated fully in the event with a number of displays highlighting the services and expertise for scholars available through the library. Particular areas of focus were the libraries’ digitization capabilities, custom mapping service, and its upcoming role in facilitating open access to WMU generated scholarly materials via an institutional repository. For information regarding digitization, contact Paul Howell (paul.howell@wmich.edu); custom mapping, Jason Glatz (jason.glatz@wmich.edu); institutional repository, Scott Garrison (scott.garrison@wmich.edu).

Student and Alumni Accolades

University Libraries continues to be excited about WMU art students displaying their paintings/artwork in Waldo Library’s Upjohn Rotunda. The Rotunda offers a beautiful, inspiring, and busy location for exhibits. Its empty white walls beckon artists to display their paintings in this space. This current exhibit features work by Rebecca Brand and is the fourth in a series of exhibits by WMU student artists. Patrons and employees respond well to these visual enhancements and it is our hope that the libraries will continue to have users engaged in their physical surroundings by the addition of these beautiful works. Rebecca Brand is a junior in the Fine Arts program and a student employee in University Libraries. She is working on a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts degree with emphasis in photography and intermedia and a minor in Environmental Studies. Brand’s artwork focuses on the effects humans have on the environment by exploring the consumption of nature and a disregard for spaces once used to expand and develop the modern age. She has exhibited work at the Caelum Gallery in New York City, University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Student Arts Center in Salisbury, Maryland, and multiple venues in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The photo exhibit is on the second floor in Waldo Library, Upjohn Rotunda, through the end of the semester.

Faculty and Staff Accolades

There is no greater honor than to be recognized by your peers. Congratulations to Ms. Julie Hayward, manager of Resource Sharing, who accepted well-earned accolades from her colleagues in receiving the “Quarterly Staff Recognition Award.” Her unit processes thousands and thousands of requests to borrow books and articles on behalf of the WMU community of teachers and researchers (some 23,880 in 2009). Resource Sharing also loans University Libraries materials in hardcopy or electronic format, some 24,574 in 2009. Associate Dean Dr. Barbara Cockrell, speaks highly of Ms. Hayward: “Julie Hayward was the deserving recipient of the Quarterly Staff Recognition Award for the summer quarter. Julie is appreciated both inside the library and across WMU. She is a true professional and a great colleague to work with who is always looking for ways to improve information delivery to the WMU community.”

Professor Maria A. Perez-Stable, Public Services Librarian, and Professor Elizabeth P. Amidon, English, presented the paper “International Children's Literature: Crossing Borders Sans Passports” at the 33rd Annual Mary Calletto Rife Youth Literature Seminar sponsored by the Kalamazoo Public Library, November 5, 2010, at the Fetzer Center.
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