Items of Academic Interest

A key component of the first-year CEAS technical communication program is learning about scholarly research and writing a research paper on a current issue. Students enrolled in IME 1020 Technical Communication research, write, document, and produce a formal 12- to 17-page research paper that uses current, high quality resources and focuses on an engineering topic. Students follow a research process that includes choosing and limiting a topic, learning about scholarly research, and collecting the best current information on the topic. The process requires several standardized assignments: a topic proposal, a bibliography of sources, an outline, and an abstract. Students use the American Psychological Association (APA) documentation style, and present the results in a written report and in an oral presentation to the class. According to Tom Swartz, the master faculty specialist who has coordinated IME 1020 since 2003, about 30 sections of IME 1020 each year are offered to approximately 600 students, who all adhere to the same rigid course standards. Swartz credited the efforts of Ed Eckel, the science/engineering librarian for the University, and an outstanding Waldo Library staff for ongoing support to the IME 1020 course. The University library’s Web site provides IME 1020 students with a focused course guide with direct links to sources that help them with their assignments. The WMU library also provides a student-oriented self-paced electronic research review, recently upgraded and called Research Path. In its six modules students receive a complete overview of the major steps involved in the research process. Students are then quizzed on the module material, and the results of the quizzes can be electronically forwarded to the instructors. Eckel and others also offer hands-on workshops to show students how to find current, scholarly material on the library’s databases.

Last month, 18 fifth-graders from Plainwell Community School’s Visions Program, which sponsors academic enrichment opportunities for the school district’s students, traveled to the CEAS to explore engineering. Dr. Paul Engelmann, who chairs the Department of Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering (IME), coordinated the event. “Visions is Plainwell’s gifted and talented program,” he said. He acknowledged the assistance of at least 18 CEAS faculty, staff, and students who offered the students demonstrations and hands-on activities in several engineering and technology areas. Abe Poot, advisor to WMU’s Sunseeker solar car project, explained solar electronics, and Courtney Rawlings, an IME graduate assistant, demonstrated plastics thermoforming. “This was the

Continued on next page
first time we’ve presented thermoforming with a group this young,” Engelmann said, “and they loved it.” Another first for CEAS elementary school outreach was computer-aided designing.  Slobodan Urdarevik, who teaches engineering graphics, and several student teaching assistants – Bradley Gerbasich, Jessica Hartl, Perry Lyford-Stojic, Eric Mammo, David Schmidt, and Brandon Weeda – introduced the Visions’ students to computer-aided designing. Understanding of project design was further enhanced by a hands-on project to protect an egg from a two-meter drop with only soda straws and toothpicks coordinated by Dr. Tycho Fredericks and Dr. Steve Butts, both IME professors; Anna Kamphaus, an IME graduate assistant; Danielle Larson-Jaramillo, IME graduate assistant; and Fehime Utkan, an IME doctoral student. Nate Christensen, a student who works with wind power generation, showcased the CEAS wind turbine. Engelmann said that the students would be using their newly acquired skills to design and make their own wind-turbine models for this trimester’s engineering exploration project. Other CEAS support was provided by Scot Conant and Judy Northey. Lisa Smith, a Visions science teacher, described the outreach program as “a fantastic experience” and said the fifth-graders sang Sponge Bob’s “Best Day Ever” all the way back to Plainwell.

**Staff Accolades**

Fred Sitkins, the CEAS director of Cooperative Education and a professor in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, was selected the Varsity “W” Club Man-of-the-Year by WMU and the Varsity “W” Club Board of Directors. He was honored at a halftime ceremony at the Feb. 6 WMU basketball game. A 1959 WMU alumnus, he is the 44th recipient of the award. In accepting the award, Sitkins said, “This isn’t about me; it’s about recognizing the value that athletics brings to our student athletes and the WMU community.” Sitkins came to WMU in 1979 on a two-year temporary appointment that became tenure-track later that year. In 1984, he joined the newly formed Engineering Technology department, which later merged with industrial engineering to become IME. He became a full professor in 1998. He became the CEAS co-op director in 2006. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Sitkins has been an active participant in the WMU community. For several years he served as advisor to the Sunseeker project and to the SME student chapter. He also serves as a recruiting representative from the CEAS. He assisted many senior design projects including the one that built a replica of the WMU East Campus trolley for the 2003 Centennial. Sitkins is a devoted supporter of WMU. He participates in the Mike Gary athletic fundraiser, where he has served in both team and campaign chair positions. His service includes being the faculty athletic representative to the NCAA, Central Collegiate Hockey Association and Mid-American Conference. He presently serves as chair of the WMU Athletic Board. “It’s always a good day to be a Bronco,” he said.

Tom Swartz, a master faculty specialist in the Department of Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering, provided technical communication training for about 25 technical, design, and engineering employees at Flowserve’s Kalamazoo facility in two sessions held in January and February. Swartz, who directs the CEAS technical communication program, was invited to analyze samples of Flowserve technical communication and to offer two sessions that addressed the results of the analysis. The samples included a position paper, a set of instructions, vibration testing reports, and seal analysis reports. At the first hour-long session, Swartz focused on conciseness, clarity, and grammar and mechanics. The second session covered writing for clients and managers, report organization, and proofreading strategies. The sessions included examples, hands-on exercises, and a question-and-answer period. Flowserve is a major manufacturer of pumps, valves, seals, and process-industry components.
Upcoming Events

From March 26 to 28, 2010, the WMU American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) will host the annual North Central Regional Conference (NCRC) at the WMU Parkview Engineering Campus. Kim Warners, a civil engineering senior, is chair of the 2010 NCRC event, which includes a Concrete Canoe Competition, Steel Bridge Competition, Technical Paper Competition, and other social events and “friendly” competitions. The canoe races are being held at Ramona Park in Portage. Paul Pagano, the canoe project leader, supervised the application of the concrete slurry and other innovations to the Styrofoam mold of the canoe that will represent WMU at the competition.

Britney Richmond, WMU’s ASCE president, was enthusiastic about the WMU canoe’s space-frame design and site-specific reinforcement. “We basically modeled it like a truss system,” she said. “When we remove the Styrofoam, you’ll see ribs inside the canoe.” The new canoe - the sixth canoe the team has made since the team was formed in 2002 - features two eco-friendly mix designs: one higher strength structural mix and one lightweight diaphragm “skin” mix, which should result in a thinner, lighter canoe. Mike Romkema, a master’s student who has served many positions on past canoe teams, explained that the team’s innovations will strengthen the canoe by putting the reinforcement only where it is needed. Blair Bates, the industry advisor to the canoe project and president of Building Restoration Inc., a Kalamazoo business that sponsors the WMU team, and employees Jeff Day and Jeff Braasch, provided materials and advice to the student canoe builders. The NCRC, an annual conference of 11 universities from Michigan and Ohio, is sanctioned by the ASCE. WMU’s ASCE team is open to anyone who can attend its events. For more information on the ASCE or the conference, visit http://www.rso.wmich.edu/asce or email the organization at wmu_asce_cca@yahoo.com.

Dr. Tarun Gupta, a professor in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME) is mentoring a team of area high school students who are competing in two FIRST robotics events this month. On March 12, the team travels to Ann Arbor for a district event and on March 19, the destination is the West Michigan Regional FIRST Robotics competition. According to its Web site, FIRST, which stands for “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology,” describes itself as “the varsity sport for the mind.” Teams of 25 or more students adhere to strict rules and limited time and resource constraints to design and build the robot with specific capabilities. At the competitions, teams are rewarded for their robotic designs, team spirit, professionalism and maturity, and ability to overcome obstacles. The 2010 WMU team, dubbed the Quantum Ninjas, includes students from Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center (KAMSC), and several area high schools: Kalamazoo Central (KCHS), Portage Central (PCHS), Loy Norrix (LNHS), and Portage Northern (PNHS). WMU CEAS graduate assistants who are participating with the FIRST program are Varun Madisetty, Manthiramurthy Paramasivam, and Steven Srivistava. Gupta has been mentoring FIRST teams for the last six years. For more information on WMU’s FIRST projects, email him at tarun.gupta@wmich.edu.
Lieutenant Commander John Bush will travel to Afghanistan with the Navy as a public affairs officer. It’s his first deployment. Bush has been a part of the Naval Reserve for about 22 years. “I’ve been working for the Navy for a really long time. We’re well trained. We knew it was a possibility. It really wasn’t a shock,” said Lt. Bush. Bush heads to Virginia on Thursday for about a week before eventually making his way to Kabul, Afghanistan. He hopes to be back by mid-October. Bush is an associate professor of English, specializing in English Education and rhetoric and writing studies. He holds a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from Purdue University. In addition to teaching pedagogy and theory courses in English education, he also coordinates English 1000: The Writing Process, WMU’s developmental writing course and is a co-director in the Third Coast Writing Project. Bush lives in Plainwell, Mich. with his wife, Erin, and four children: Delaney, Avery, Owen, and Eleanor.

Eve Salisbury (English) recently reviewed Sara M. Butler’s The Language of Abuse: Marital Violence in Later Medieval England (Brill, 2007), in the Canadian Journal of History/Annales canadiennes d’histoire 44 (2009), pp. 507-508.

Janet Heller’s (English) five poems related to teaching and learning “Spunk,” “Getting My Mouth Washed Out,” “Driving down Route 23 After Work in a Blizzard,” “Exam Week Sketch,” and “Moving In” appeared in The Michigan Reading Journal 42.1 (Fall 2009) on p. 62 in the section entitled “Teachers as Writers.” Also, Heller’s haiku poem “Cherry Trees in Autumn” and her recipe “Chicken Cooked in Fruit” were published in Recipes for Readers from Michigan’s Authors and Illustrators (Grand Rapids: Michigan Reading Association, 2009), pages 46-47.

Chansheng He, professor of Geography, was selected for a Fulbright Specialists Award and visited Shanghai Jiaotong University, one of the top ten universities in China during Dec. 2-23, 2009. While in China, he gave lectures and workshops on nonpoint source pollution, hydrologic modeling, and U.S. water resources policy, and consulted on the environmental science/water resources curricula at Shanghai Jiaotong University, Lanzhou University, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He also received an Outstanding Achievement Award in collaborative research by The Chinese Academy of Sciences Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (CAREERI). Dr. He is one of over 400 U.S. faculty and professionals who traveled abroad in 2009 through the Fulbright Specialists Program. The Fulbright Specialists Program, created in 2000 to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, provides short-term academic opportunities to prominent U.S. faculty and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at post secondary, academic institutions around the world. Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement. The Fulbright Program, America’s flagship international educational exchange activity, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Over its 60 years of existence, thousands of U.S. faculty and professionals have taught, studied or conducted research abroad, and thousands of their counterparts from other countries have engaged in similar activities in the United States.

Student accolades

Student News Dream Horse Press has announced that Gary L. McDowell’s manuscript, American Amen, has won the 2009 Orphic Prize for Poetry and will be published in late 2010. McDowell is a third year Ph.D. student at WMU studying poetry and American Literature.
Four Western Michigan University students will take their ideas about a national retirement system to Congress Feb. 4 after winning the national iOMe Challenge competition. WMU team members beat out proposals submitted by 40 other schools in 17 states to win a chance to speak to U.S. policymakers, along with a $20,000 cash prize and a trip to Washington, D.C. This year’s challenge revolved around the U.S. retirement system and finding solutions to make it solvent for future generations. Entries included a 30-second video intended to capture the attention of young adults, as well as an extended paper that explains the problems and proposes solutions. The WMU team’s entry was selected as the winner by a blue-ribbon panel. The four students and their faculty advisor will travel to Washington to be honored at a reception hosted by Wisconsin’s Senator Herb Kohl. During that event, they will present their paper to members of Congress and congressional staff members.

Upcoming Events

March 1 - 5
• Event: Alternative Spring Break
• Location: Kalamazoo, MI

March 9
• Event: Biological Sciences Colloquium
• Title: “Tackling life’s complexity: exciting non-coding RNAs through the single molecule lens” - presented by Dr. Nils Walter, U of M
• Location: 1710 Wood Hall
• Time: 12:30 p.m.

March 9
• Event: United Voices (Race Initiative Youth Committee Meeting)
• Location: TBD
• Time: TBD

March 10
• Event: Japanese Film Festival
• Title: “I Just Didn’t Do It (Soredemo Boku wa Yattenai)”
• Location: Little Theatre
• Time: 7 p.m.

March 12
• Event: Geography Colloquium Series
• Title: TBD presented by Cassandra Hoch and Susan Benston, WMU
• Location: 3527 Wood Hall
• Time: 3 p.m.

University Curriculum Advising will be putting on a “Major Exploration Event” which will give their students the opportunity to sit down and talk with academic advisors from all seven of Western’s Colleges. The event will be held on Mon., Feb. 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center. University Curriculum students are often apprehensive about going to the advising offices in the Colleges. The idea behind this event is to bring the advisors to the students in an informal setting. Students will have the opportunity to learn more about all of our undergraduate programs and hopefully move toward declaring their major.

College of Fine Arts

Items of Academic Interest

The Frostic School of Art will offer a new course which will focus on visits to artist’s studios, not-for-profit and commercial galleries in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and one-on-one visits with curators, educators, and administrators of museum exhibitions. Students will gain real world experiences, and make valuable contacts that may benefit them for years to come in their own professional development. The course will be taught by Don Desmett, Richmond Center for Visual Arts Director of Exhibitions and Jerry Kearns, Professor of Art at the University of Massachusetts.

Bill Davis, Frostic School of Art Assistant Professor of Photography and Intermedia, had work selected for a Merit Award and published in Black and White Magazine’s Single Image Contest 2010. Black and White is a magazine dedicated to the promotion, appreciation, and collection of traditional and contemporary fine art photography. Of the 4397 images submitted, Davis’s work was one of 207 winning images.
Staff Accolades

Adriane Little, assistant professor of Photography and Intermedia, had a solo exhibition, Matrilineal Ghost, at the Institute of Culture in Trbovlje, Slovenia. In addition to her own work, Little curated a group video exhibition, Plus 3 Ferris Wheels, also on display at the Institute of Culture.

Bruce Uchimura, professor of Cello and Director, WMU Symphony Orchestra, was voted “Teacher of the Year” by the Michigan Chapter of the American String Teachers Association at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids in January. Uchimura will be guest conductor of the All State Honors Orchestra at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, which will be held at WMU in May.

C. Curtis-Smith’s Concerto for Violin, Piano and Strings was performed by violinist Elina Vhl and pianist/conductor Ralf Gothoni with the Oulu (Finland) Symphony on Dec. 3, 2009. The program in Oulu featured just two works: Curtis-Smith’s Concerto, and Shostakovich’s Fifteenth Symphony. Ralf Gothoni is the 1994 recipient of the Gilmore Artist Award, and has been the principal conductor of the English Chamber Orchestra. Elina Vhl, as one of the most sought after Finnish soloists, performed last year at the Nobel Peace Prize Awards ceremony, and has recently been appointed to a “lifetime” professorship at Die Musik ochschule in Detmold, Germany.

John Kollig, Frostic School of Art advisor, was invited to exhibit two paintings in the seventh edition of the Biennale Internazionale Dell’Arte Contemporanea at the Fortezza Da Basso in Florence, Italy in December. Visit John’s website at johnkolligfineart.com.

Student Accolades

Eric Bowman, WMU junior trombone performance major, was selected as one of three finalists in the National Solo Jazz Competition. Eric will now compete for the top prize at the Eastern Trombone Workshop in Washington, D.C., March 17-20. The competition winner will receive the opportunity to perform as a featured soloist with the world famous US Army Blues Jazz Band. Eric is a student of Steve Wolfinbarger and Scott Cowan respectively.

Mikey Winslow (BFA, 2009, Music Theatre Performance) made his Broadway debut as Big Deal in the hit revival of West Side Story. Mikey began performing Dec. 8 at New York’s Palace Theatre. Winslow has also worked professionally at North Carolina Theatre, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, the Wagon Wheel Theatre, and with Mark Dendy in New York.

Upcoming Events

Concerts and Festivals in the School of Music:
• 30th Annual Western Invitational Jazz Festival, Saturday, March 13, 7:30 p.m., Dalton Center Recital Hall
• 72nd Annual Southwestern Michigan Vocal Festival, Jeffery Ames, Guest Conductor, Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m., Miller Auditorium
• 30th Annual Gold Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival, Saturday, March 20, 8 p.m., Dalton Center Recital Hall
• 42nd Annual Spring Conference on Wind and Percussion Music, Robert Sheldon, Guest Composer/Conductor, Thursday, April 8, Miller Auditorium

William Shakespeare’s As You Like It, directed by Jim Daniels.
• Feb. 18 - 26, Shaw Theatre
• Love in all its guises and the wit and beauty of Shakespeare’s language provide this romantic comedy with a sense of whimsy and delight. Broadway guest artist and WMU alum, Patricia Nichols (lighting, Jersey Boys), joins the creative team as the lighting designer

Enjoy performances by graduating seniors of our Music Theatre Performance program at The Stars And Mood Cabaret as they prepare for their New York showcase in the spring. Cabarets follow the Friday and Saturday evening performances. For more information visit wmutheatre.com.

In the Richmond Center for Visual Arts galleries:
• Your Town, Inc.: Big Box Reuse with Julia Christensen
• Feb.25 - March 19
• Astra Suparak, curator; organized by Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University.

Lucid Directions (Feb. 25 - March 19) Frostic School of Art Student Scholarship Award Exhibition.
Haworth College of Business

Items of Academic Interest

The college is in the process of creating a new Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The intent of the center is to provide a clearinghouse for ideas on enterprise, innovation and the establishment of a student organization dedicated to entrepreneurship. “We are working to incorporate the teaching of entrepreneurship into our academic programs,” said Dr. Ajay Samant, interim dean for the Haworth College of Business. “Many of our students envision entrepreneurial careers, and in a recent survey, 45 percent of our undergraduate business students stated that they are quite likely to start their own businesses. We would like to equip our students with the knowledge and skills that it takes to launch a successful new idea, whether through commercialization of technical innovations, novel business models or traditional small business ventures.” As part of the initiative, the College will work to generate funding for students who would like to intern with entrepreneurs. “This outreach effort will provide start-up businesses with interns and with minimal cost to the businesses,” says Samant. “We also want to offer assistance in the form of business plan evaluation by supervised student teams to those businesses who are interested and make WMU faculty resources available to Michigan businesses.”

Dr. K. C. O’Shaughnessy, professor in the Department of Management, is leading the effort and will direct the Center. “We are excited to see the beginnings of a change in the culture at the Haworth College of Business toward one that embraces innovation and entrepreneurship,” says O’Shaughnessy. “Through building the wisdom to compete in changing markets our students and faculty will help shape Michigan’s economy in the coming years.”

For the first time since its inception, the Haworth College of Business will play host to HR Games 2010, “Sharing Our Resources -- Benefitting Our Students,” a fast moving day of student competition and food, fun and prizes designed to test students’ knowledge of the human resources field. The event will be held on Sat., March 27 in Schneider Hall on the campus of Western Michigan University. Invitations have been extended to over 15 colleges and universities in the state of Michigan to participate in the Jeopardy-style matches between teams where the students are tested in a number of different HR areas such as strategic management, total rewards, employee and labor relations, selection, leadership and risk management. WMU is expected to have eight to ten teams compete in the event which is expected to draw student teams and family members from the participating schools along with faculty and HR professionals in the field. “The HR Games are a win-win for our students and the Haworth College of Business,” says Dr. Satish Deshpande, professor of management. “The games are timed to help students prepare for the upcoming Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification exam and it furthers their career development. It also gives them an opportunity to network with HR professionals who are at the games volunteering in various capacities. Since the games attract a lot of outsiders like HR professionals and parents, it is a great way to showcase our campus and can be a great recruiting tool for future students.” The Michigan HR Games are sponsored by the Society for Human Resource Management. The event brings community HR professionals and alumni to campus to serve as speakers, scorekeepers, judges, etc. Last year WMU business students placed third in the competition. Student leaders from the WMU’s SHRM chapter are working hard to plan the event. In addition to the competition, students may attend a Friday evening reception at the Fetzer Center, which will provide them with networking opportunities with human resource professionals from the community. The deadline for registration is March 8. For further information about the competition or registration information, contact Dr. Dan Farrell, professor of management at (269) 387-5850 or dan.farrell@wmich.edu.

Staff Accolades

Congratulations to Halbert Bates, director of recruitment and retention, who was selected for induction into the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Alumni Honor Academy. The academy was established in 2002 to provide public recognition of the outstanding professional accomplishments, contributions and service of distinguished graduates. Bates will be honored at a luncheon in April. Bates received his Master of Arts in Sports Administration. He served as assistant coach for WMU’s track and field team 1977-96 during which time the team won four MAC Championships. He also served as coordinator and instructor for physical education for WMU’s Upward Bound Program, as well as adjunct in HPER over the years. In addition to recruiting students to attend WMU interested in a career in business, Bates is a track and field coach for Kalamazoo Central High School and he is currently a member of WMU’s Athletic Board.

Dr. Devrim Yaman, CFA, associate professor in the Department of Finance and Commercial Law, recently presented a paper titled “Convertible Bond Design and Long Run Operating Performance” at the 2010 Global Conference on Business and Finance in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. She received two awards for the paper at the conference: “Outstanding Research Award” and a “Best in Session Award.”

Dr. Timothy Palmer, professor of management, and Rev. Coleen Smith-Slosberg, part-time instructor of Lee Honors College, were honored at a dinner in February by Michigan Campus Compact (MCC). They are recipients of the Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award. This prestigious annual award is the highest MCC bestows on faculty and staff in the state of Michigan. Peers designated Slosberg and Palmer as the faculty/staff persons on campus who have made outstanding contributions in service-learning and community service. This award recognizes their influence on and the engagement of students to be involved in community service or service-learning through modeling, influencing or instruction. Slosberg and Palmer joined together to create a service-learning course for business students at Western Michigan University. Slosberg has been engaged in service-learning for more than 15 years having developed leadership and service-learning courses at Western and Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Palmer teaches the Strategic Business Solutions class and was inspired by Slosberg to convert his class into a service-learning offering. This partnership provides a diverse environment in which students and community come together to learn from each other. Michigan Campus Compact is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education. The organization promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement.

Student Accolades

Members of Delta Sigma Pi clinched the Bronco Cup to sweep the 2009-10 Career Olympics. The event provides business students with an opportunity to prepare for Career Day by competing on teams in a variety of career related events. They rotate through different stations or events where they are scored on their resumes, cover letters, interview questions and their professional introductions. Students also receive private, individual feedback.

Congratulations to two students majoring in integrated supply management for being named 2009 ISM Services Group Scholarship winners. Matthew Smith and Michael Hankamp were among 11 students from five universities to receive awards. Each winner received $1,000 plus sponsored registration and travel allowance to attend the ISM Services Conference in early December in Phoenix. In addition to attending the conference, scholarship winners participated in a supply chain case competition with students from the other four universities. Smith and Hankamp along with students from Rutgers University and Michigan State University teamed up to win the competition. “The conference was an eye-opening experience,” says Smith. “We saw how service concepts are applied to industry and how industry responded to issues such as the downturn in the economy. The conference sessions also paralleled the case competition in which we were required to create a scorecard to evaluate supply, performance and quality. It was a fun experience and we were able to use knowledge from the classroom and apply it to real issues.” “The scholarship program provides financial support to ISM students, and offers them the opportunity to attend the services conference,” says Dr. Bret Wagner, associate professor of management and...
director of the ISM program in the WMU Haworth College of Business. “Our scholarship winners demonstrate the very best in educational achievement and are the future of the supply management profession. Their knowledge and experience made the conference especially valuable to them.” The ISM Services Group is one of several groups comprised of ISM members with common interests in education and networking in various topics. Members are either in service industries or are supply management professionals who buy services. ISM Services Group’s University Relations efforts focus on four main areas: mentoring, internships, scholarships and on-site activities. In addition to student recognition, the ISM Services Group recognizes university programs in supply management that will take a leading role to integrate the latest thinking on services procurement into the curriculum. The WMU ISM program is one of five recognized programs.

Upcoming Events

“Essential Business Lessons for the New Economy” is the focus of the Annual Food Marketing Conference on March 24-25 at Kalamazoo’s Radisson Plaza Hotel. The Keynote Speaker will be Hank Meijer, from Meijer, Inc. The conference annually brings hundreds of food industry executives to Kalamazoo to address issues facing the industry. The Food Marketing Conference is presented by WMU’s Food and Consumer Packaged Goods Marketing Program. All proceeds from the conference support Food and CPG Marketing scholarships and related program operations. For more conference information, visit www.wmich.edu/business/fmk/fmc.

Event: APICS/The Association for Operations Management Student Golf Outing

- When: Saturday, April 24
- Who: students, professors and professionals
- Cost: $40 per student, $60 for non-students
- $50 and $100 for company hole sponsorship

Registration will take place on APICS web at http://www.apicsswmi.com/

The Center for Sustainable Business Practices will host a conference at the Fetzer Center on Sat., March 27. The title “Can an Educated Society be Sustained Solely by Digitalization?” will focus on the future of newspapers in society. The event will feature the following presentations:

- “Digital Media & News: Reinventing the Newspaper Future” - Dr. Richard Gershon, WMU - School of Communication
- “Saving Paper Papers” - Cheryl Kaechele, President of the National Newspaper Association
- “Can Democracy Survive in the Google Age?”
  - Dr. Thomas Kostrzewa, WMU-Political Science Department
- “The Future of Reason in the Digital Civilization” - Dr. Andrew Targowski, WMU - Center for Sustainable Business Practices
- “Credibility, Incredibility, and the Demise of Objectivity, Civility and Wisdom” - Cal Samra, Editor & Publisher of an award-winning humor newsletter (both paper and digital) and former newspaper and Associated Press reporter

The conference will feature a Best Papers Competition, chaired by Dr. Thomas Rienzo, WMU – Computer Information Systems, and will include three categories: students, faculty and professionals, and will feature four model options: Editorial Model, Business Model, Environmental Model and Societal Model. Note: The deadline for the Best Papers Competition has been extended to March 15. For competition and conference information, please visit: www.wmich.edu/business/sustainability/newspapers.

The MI-SBTDC at Western Michigan University/Haworth College of Business is hosting a FastTrac New Venture 8-week business start-up workshop for entrepreneurs in Southwest Michigan. The FastTrac New Venture program was announced by Governor Jennifer Granholm to assist entrepreneurs in opening small businesses throughout Michigan. The program is being provided with special funding from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and costs $100 (formerly $700). FastTrac New Venture will be held at WMU/ Haworth College of Business beginning on March 18 - May 13, Thursday mornings, from 9-12 noon (no class on May 6). FastTrac New Venture teaches how to broaden one’s understanding of the business, including financial information and structuring business operations for efficiency, and creating a successful marketing plan, in addition to developing entrepreneurial skills, identifying opportunities and a creating a business plan to launch a business with confidence. The workbook and online training materials are from the nationally recognized FastTrac New Venture Kauffman Foundation program. FastTrac gives attendees a combination of classroom, small group, online and hands-on coaching along with guest speakers and learning from other entrepreneurs. To register or for information please contact the MI-SBTDC at: web site www.misbtdc.org/region11, email sbtdc-kzoo@wmich.edu or by phone at (269) 387-6004.
**College of Health and Human Services**

**Items of Academic Interest**

For the spring 2010 College of Health and Human Services’ (CHHS) Grand Rounds, an interdisciplinary team will present on the current state of assistive technology/ augmentative communication for Terry Cleary, a man with locked-in syndrome. All CHHS students and faculty are invited and encouraged to attend this interdisciplinary education experience, which will be held on Wed., March 17 from 12 - 1 p.m. in CHHS room 1010. WMU occupational therapy students first connected with Mr. Cleary about a year ago as a result of an assistive technology class assignment. Their meeting extended the relevance of the 2009 CHHS Book Read selection, “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly,” about a man with locked in syndrome, and set the students in motion to find ways to improve the quality of Cleary’s life. Since then, an occupational therapist, a speech language therapist, an assistive technology company, and members of the community have collaborated to help Cleary. The Grand Rounds will be a particularly exciting presentation since the work was spearheaded by students and a community member, and the University and community have responded very strongly to help meet the very complex needs of a man with locked in syndrome.

On March 18, Western Michigan University (WMU) students will play a prominent role in Youth Legislative Day (YLD), a state-wide event that offers young people the opportunity to introduce bills, hold committee meetings and debate mock legislation on the floor of the Michigan House of Representatives. Voices for Michigan’s Children has sponsored this hands-on approach to teaching the legislative process to youth since 2001. This year’s YLD will focus on issues related to youth health and is co-sponsored by the School Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI), WMU and the WMU College of Health and Human Services (CHHS). Angelaque Day, who is coordinating the event, is an outreach associate with Voices for Michigan’s Children and responsible for the organization’s youth policy leadership programs. She is also a doctoral student in the WMU CHHS Interdisciplinary Health Services program and teaches an undergraduate Interdisciplinary Health Services’ U.S. health policy course. As a class project, she has challenged her students to select the bills that will be debated at the event and conduct a policy analysis for each bill selected. The WMU health policy students will be among 80 youths from across Michigan who will gather for YLD from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. WMU Provost Tim Greene will kick off the event with a welcome on behalf of the University. The students will receive training and participate in a luncheon discussion with policy makers and lobbyists. They will then undertake a full afternoon running the bills through the legislative process, including introduction on the house floor, referral to committees, committee deliberation and a vote. Greg Rosine, senior vice president for advancement and legislative affairs at WMU will participate in the event, as well CHHS faculty Dr. Dori Ravotas and Dr. Kieran Fogarty.

**Staff Accolades**

Recently, Northern Digital Inc. featured the research of Dr. Robert Wall Emerson, associate professor in the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies, in its online publication Life Sciences. Wall is using the Optotrak Certus Motion Capture System to perform experiments on how visually impaired people use the long cane for mobility. In 2009, he was asked to provide a form of validity check on a new device, the WiiCane, as part of a 24-month project being carried out by Touch Graphics, Inc. of New York City under funding from United States Department of Eduction, Office of Special Education Programs. Members of the Touch Graphics team took their WiiCane prototype and visited Dr. Wall Emerson’s lab at WMU to test the initial design. During data collection, the team found some design flaws and have since gone back and revamped it. The team may return to Dr. Wall Emerson’s lab with the new design in the future. The entire article can be found at http://www.ndigital.com/lifesciences/research-canestudies.php.

Dr. Robin McKinney, associate professor in the WMU School of Social Work will present Just Us For All: Racial Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System with M.S.W. student Bryan Warner at the National Association for Ethnic Studies Conference in Washington DC in April 2010.

Dr. Greg Flamme, associate professor in speech pathology and audiology, has been awarded a large research contract by the National Institutes of Occupational Safety and Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study how much the results of hearing tests change within a two-week period. He is seeking male volunteers, ages 20-59, who can attend five appointments at WMU in a two-week time frame. Participants will complete surveys, hearing tests, and wear a small device that measures noise dose. Reimbursement is $77 over the duration of the study. For more information, call (269) 387-7331 or send a message to sppa-hearinglossprevention@wmich.edu.
On Thurs., March 18, 2010, from 12-1 p.m. at Western Michigan University’s (WMU) College of Health and Human Services, room 1010, the School of Social Work will host the Community Forum: The Challenges of Service Delivery During Tough Economics Times. The forum will feature a panel of community leaders including Jennifer Fechter, Tri-county Head Start; Phil Boothroyd, Ministry With Community; Vicki Martin, Senior Services, Inc.; and Phyllis Senesi, Catholic Family Services. The School of Social Work Community Forum is sponsored by the School of Social Work at WMU. The Forum seeks to support dialogue on significant human services issues and to generate information and ideas that lead to the infusion of “best practices” into the delivery of human services and the education of social work students and human services practitioners. Using various formats, dialogues include human services professionals in the Southwest Michigan community, School of Social Work and other WMU faculty, staff and students, and the public at large. This event is free and open to the public. Parking is available in Lot #104 only. For more information, please contact robin.pountain@wmich.edu.

Student Accolades

Each fall and spring, WMU Bronson School of Nursing students visit the Ecumenical Center (EC) in Kalamazoo as they complete community agency assignments as part of their Wellness Care of Seniors class. Faculty Specialist Patricia Fuehr, M.S.N. coordinates this program with the EC, and this semester has assigned nursing students Chelsea Carbonneau and Mary Beth Deschryver to work with EC seniors on Tuesdays. On Thursdays, Maria Dunning and Brian Meade are on site and work under the tutelage of Faculty Specialist Kathleen Marchiondo, M.S.N. The students interact with the seniors, taking blood pressures, talking to them about their individual health issues, and interviewing staff members. The EC featured this program as a “blessing” in a recent newsletter.

In late 2009, audiology students and the National Student Speech, Language and Hearing Association chapter raised $2,531 to support surgical instruments not provided through Smile Train for plastic surgeries at the J. Watumull Global Hospital Research Centre in Mt. Abu, India. These funds were transferred in conjunction with the humanitarian visit by Dr. Bharti Katbamna and Donna Oas to the Mt. Abu hospital in December 2009, during which they provided speech-language pathology and audiology services to patients. Katbamna and Oas presented information about their trip to students on Feb.12.

WMU Speech Pathology and Audiology (SPPA) student Megan Kovach is among the first to receive a scholarship from the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation (MSHF). She will be honored along with five other students from CMU, EMU, Michigan State and Wayne State at MSFF’s first annual dinner and awards celebration on March 26. The invitation only event is a fundraiser and will be held at The Ladies Library Association in Kalamazoo. SPPA faculty member Sandra Glista is a founding member of MSHF and is playing a key role in organizing this event.

Upcoming Events

The College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) invites students, faculty, staff and community members to participate in its third annual Book Read with this year’s selection, Mountains Beyond Mountains, by Tracy Kidder. The focus of the book is Dr. Paul Farmer, Harvard professor, renowned infectious-disease specialist, anthropologist, and MacArthur “genius” grant recipient. From Harvard to Peru, Cuba, Russia and Haiti, Kidder chronicles the ways in which Farmer pursues his calling: to diagnose and cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most. The book shows how change can be fostered in situations that seem insurmountable and how one person can impact global health problems by understanding the interaction of politics, wealth, social systems and disease. Much of the action Kidder covers takes place in Haiti, of particular relevance in the aftermath of the recent earthquake there. The 2010 Book Read will kick off on Tues., March 9 with an 11 a.m. presentation, Partners In Health: Accompaniment in Action, by Ms. Donna Barry, advocacy and policy director for the non profit Partners in Health (PIH). Her speech will take place in CHHS room 4010 with overflow viewing in room 2089. It is free and open to the public and will be followed by a discussion and reception from 12 - 1 p.m. This year’s activities will continue through March and will include face-to-face and online discussions, a photo exhibit and other events. For more information and details, visit www.wmich.edu/hhs and link to 2010 Book Read on the right.
In 1989, at the age of 35, Jeff Cox suffered a stroke after his morning run that left him unable to speak, read or walk. Applying his characteristic discipline and determination to his recovery - and with the help of dedicated health care professionals - he got back on his feet and back to painting, a life-long interest. His paintings will be on exhibit in the College of Health and Human Services' second floor art gallery through February, and a reception that is free and open to the public is planned for Mon., Feb. 22 from 4-6 p.m. Parking for guests will be free in lot 104 and light refreshments will be served. The exhibit can be viewed it from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information, contact Gay Walker at (269) 387-3839 or gay.walker@wmich.edu.

On Fri., Feb. 19, prospective speech pathology and audiology graduate students are invited to an information open house from 12:30-4 p.m. at the College of Health and Human Services in room 4010. From 3-4 p.m., Dr. Mick Hanley, former department chair, will present on the legacy of Charles Van Riper and the department’s history. For information, e-mail linnaya.l.mangrum@wmich.edu.

On Wed., March 24, Chris Sullins, MSW, LMSW, LCSW will present Children and Separation Issues of Deployment from noon to 1 p.m. in room 4010 of the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS). Mr. Sullins is a former combat stress control officer and currently is a Military and Family Life Consultant with the Joint Family Support and Assistance Program (JFSAP) in Michigan. His presentation will cover two short educational programs, one on children and separation issues of deployment and the other on what service members and families need to know about combat-related stress reactions. Mr. Sullins deployed to Iraq as a combat stress control prevention team officer and supported military, federal, and contract personnel in various locations throughout central Iraq. He received his M.S.W. from the University of Illinois and has worked in mental health and child protection in private practice, state governments, tribal government, and nonprofit organizations. He has conducted a workshop for the WMU School of Social Work continuing education program and is presenting on March 24 at the invitation of CHHS and WMU’s Committee on Veteran and Military Student Services Oversight Committee.

On Tues., Feb. 23, 2010, the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) School of Social Work will present its 10th Annual Social Work Agency Career Fair. The event will be held 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in room 4010 at CHHS. Discover volunteer opportunities, explore field placement possibilities, connect with potential employers, network with future colleagues and learn about community resources. For more information, call 269-387-3206 or email swrk-field@wmich.edu.

Assessment of Student Learning

Dr. Carla Chase, assistant professor of the WMU Occupational Therapy (OT) program, is working with Shannin VanArk, an OT student, on a publication about the creative and functional use of space within homes. As part of her assessment, VanArk is studying the work of social activist and Unitarian minister Carolyn Bartlett Crane who lived in Kalamazoo in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Crane won the Better Homes Award in 1924 for her home design called Everyman’s House. Crane’s work is housed in WMU’s Regional Archives and her house still stands on Westnedge Avenue near Crane Park.

College of Aviation

Upcoming Events

The College of Aviation will kick off a weeklong series of events celebrating its ten-year anniversary. Activities will be sponsored throughout the week by the Aviation Registered Student Organizations: the Aviation Student Council, the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association (PAMA), the Multicultural Association of Aviation Professionals (MAAP), Alpha Eta Rho, Women in Aviation, and the WMU Sky Broncos. The college will also be hosting an aviation career fair where representatives from numerous aviation companies, College of Aviation graduates and alumni, and a career panel designed to assist in resume construction and interviewing techniques will be on hand. On Fri., April 23, a celebratory dinner and the induction of the first class of the College of Aviation Hall of Honor will take place. On Saturday a fly-in pancake breakfast will conclude the celebratory event. For more information, please contact Tom Thinnes at (269) 964-5768 or tom.thinnes@wmich.edu or Karen Dean at (269) 964-7767 or karen.dean@wmich.edu.
The Evaluation Center

Items of Academic Interest

The Evaluation Center is conducting a series of webinars for grantees of the National Science Foundation’s Advanced Technological Education program. The ATE program was designed primarily to support two-year institutions to prepare technicians for high-technology fields, such as biotechnology and geographic information systems. The webinars focus on various aspects of evaluation to support grantees’ efforts to understand their impacts and ultimately to help NSF gauge the products of its investment. The webinar series began in July 2009, with a session on how to use evaluation to strengthen funding proposals. We followed this initial webinar every other month, speaking about evaluating evaluations, how to find and select an evaluator, and how to set up a logic model and performance standards. Each webinar has been recorded and made available online at http://vimeo.com/ channels/evaluate, allowing it to be viewed and reviewed, even by people not affiliated with the ATE program. In the May 19 webinar, the team will share strategies to help increase the impact of evaluation findings such that they can be better used for program improvement. Webinars are real-time, interactive meetings taking place through the Internet. Like in-person workshops, they support slide shows and multiple presenters, though audience interaction can be somewhat limited. Unlike workshops, webinars are not geographically bounded, which has been critical for the ATE grantees that are spread across the country. Though webinars are unlikely to replace the hands-on aspect of workshops, they are an additional viable training tool that have become more important in a time of budget restrictions. The Evaluation Center will conduct six webinars per year with the ATE grantees. Our skill in using this tool is increasing substantively, and evaluation findings show that it is well received among grantees. We anticipate that its role in our center’s efforts will increase over time.

Assessment for Learning Education Research Scholars: Capacity Building in Mathematics and Science Education is a National Science Foundation-funded project sponsored collaboratively by the Mallinson Institute for Science Education, the Department of Mathematics, and The Evaluation Center. The three goals of the project include the formation of a collaborative interdepartmental learning community, training of doctoral students to become leaders in assessment theory and practice, and exposing preservice teachers to various strategies for implementing Assessment for Learning into classrooms. The project currently sponsors seven doctoral fellows (Jeff Barney, Amy Bentz, Jonathan Engelman, Matthew Ludwig, Robert McCowen, Lindsay Noakes, and Diane Rogers). These fellows work collaboratively with faculty and staff to promote Assessment for Learning in math and science teacher education through a variety of research and teacher-development projects. Current fellow-initiated research studies include an investigation of how the combination of LectureTools (a substitute for PowerPoint and clickers) and AfL instructional methods will affect student engagement and achievement, the examination of current classroom observation protocols and creation of an AfL-focused observation protocol and curriculum evaluation framework, and an exploration of the critical connection between assessment and motivation in an earth science course for preservice teachers. To promote teacher development on campus, fellows have participated in the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation benchmarking pilot project to expose preservice teachers to a guided self-evaluation process. The benchmarking project, developed with funding from NSF, involves having teachers critically examine their existing beliefs about student assessment and its impact on student achievement and engage in discussions about alternative practices that better serve student needs. Fellows also have begun working with faculty and teaching assistants to implement assessment instruction into existing courses and to model assessment for learning in their own teaching.

Staff Accolades

Dr. Anne Cullen was the recipient of the 2009 Michael Scriven Dissertation Award for Outstanding Contribution to Evaluation Theory, Method, or Practice. The award is presented to a student whose doctoral dissertation represents a significant contribution to the theory, methodology, or practice of evaluation. The winner receives a $500 award and a certificate of recognition. Dr. Cullen is the first WMU student to receive the award since its inception in 2007.
Upcoming Events

The Evaluation Café series at The Evaluation Center, 4405 Ellsworth Hall, is in full swing. Bring your lunch; coffee and cookies are provided. Mark your calendars for the following dates in March. Abstracts are provided where possible.

March 9: An Introduction to Analyzing Text Data with MAXQDA
- **Chris Coryn**—Director, Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation Program
- Recently, technological advances have made computer assisted analysis of text data more efficient, systematic, and reliable. Even so, few are aware of or able to use such technologies effectively; unfortunately, they are not often a part of courses on qualitative research methods. Dr. Coryn will introduce and demonstrate some basic methods for managing and analyzing text data in MAXQDA (formerly WINMAX), including structured coding procedures, methods for examining relationships in qualitative data, and exporting results to statistical packages for other types of analysis. Attendees are encouraged to bring a laptop computer and to download the free trial version of MAXQDA from http://www.maxqda.com/to leave the session with a general understanding of how to use MAXQDA for systematic analysis of text data.

March 16: Evaluation of the “Letter and Life” Professional Development Program for Teachers
- **Adriana Bauer**—Visiting Scholar, Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation Program

March 23: Foundation Evaluation
- **Teresa Behrens**, Editor-in-Chief, The Foundation Review & Senior Research Associate, Community Research Institute
- Dr. Behrens joined the Johnson Center for Philanthropy at GVSU in 2009, where she launched The Foundation Review, the first peer-reviewed journal of philanthropy. She will discuss why she started this journal, the role and challenges of peer review in the philanthropic sector, and an overview of the Johnson Center for Philanthropy.

- **Daniela Schroeter**—Director of Research, Anne Cullen—Senior Research Associate, & Kelly Robertson—Research Associate, The Evaluation Center, WMU

The last two workshops for the Making It Awesome series at the Kalamazoo Public Library will be held on March 15 (Collecting Data: Getting the Digits) and April 19 (Evaluation Findings: Using the Digits). These free workshops are presented by **Stephanie Evergreen**, Evaluation Center project manager, and made possible by KPL’s nonprofit resource center: OnePlace@KPL. The March 15 workshop will teach attendees how to get the numbers for evaluation through creating strong surveys and timing them appropriately. Surveying program participants is one relatively quick and easy way to measure the outcomes of your nonprofit’s efforts. Interactive survey strategies will be reviewed, and attendees will leave with a draft survey instrument and a data collection plan. The April 19 workshop will teach participants how to talk about their work in ways that funders grasp program efforts and staff want to work even harder. Discussion will center on how to ask “Now what?” of your evaluation findings. Both workshops will be held from 1-4 p.m. in the Van Deusen Room at the Kalamazoo Public Library’s downtown location, 1315 S. Rose Street. Online registration is required. Call (269) 553-7910 for more information.

College of Education & Human Development

Staff Accolades

Dr. Lonnie E. Duncan, associate professor and co-training director of the Counseling Psychology doctoral program in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, co-authored a chapter, “Toward practicing culturally sound counseling: A synthesis of current clinical research and experience.” The chapter appears in the book edited by Mark M. Leach and Jamie D. Aten titled Culture and the therapeutic process: A guide for mental health professionals, published by Routledge Taylor & Francis. The chapter summarizes the best cultural counseling practices in four core areas of mental health treatment with racial-ethnic minorities: help seeking, assessment, treatment, and training and supervision. The authors provide practical steps that mental health professionals can take to provide culturally relevant practices to racial-ethnic minority clients.

The following faculty and staff presented their work at the 2009 annual conference of the American Evaluation Association.

- **Brooks Applegate**: Advances and Applications of Structural Equation Modeling for Evaluation
- **Katherine Cummings**: Benchmarking to Improve Student Evaluation Standards and Practices

Continued on next page
ties. These strategies contribute to an overall supportive distance, active inclusion, and attention to proximal relational relationships with youth. These were minimizing relational specific with 17 youth between the ages of 12 and 18. We found three specific relational strategies that staff drew on in developing relationships with youth. These were minimizing relational distance, active inclusion, and attention to proximal relational ties. These strategies contribute to an overall supportive culture, suggesting a relational pedagogy in this after-school setting. The staff-youth relationships serve as the foundation for both youth engagement in programs and the promotion of positive developmental outcomes.

Dr. Gary Miron, William J. Mathis, Elana Tornquist, and Jessica Urschel, completed the study “Schools Without Diversity: Education Management Organizations, Charter Schools, and the Demographic Stratification of the American School System.” This report explores the highly debated question as to whether charter schools increase or decrease school segregation.

Dr. Gary Miron

Student Accolades

The following doctoral students presented their work at the 2009 American Evaluation Association conference. Education, Measurement and Research:

- Fatma Ayyad: Advances and Applications of Structural Equation Modeling for Evaluation
- Katie Daniels: Roundtable Rotation II: Dealing With Existing Data: The Benefits and Pitfalls
- Tammy DeRoo: 1) Establishing Effective Relationships: Presentation of a New Checklist to Help Evaluators Understand and Work With Diverse Clients, 2) Evaluating Educational Partnership Projects: Four Approaches
- Kristin Everett: Roundtable Rotation II: Dealing With Existing Data: The Benefits and Pitfalls
- Maxine Gilling: Opening Reception and Poster Exhibition; A Historical Review of Evaluation Requirements in Federally Funded Post Secondary Education Projects From 1965 to 2009
- Mukaria Itang’ata: Propensity Scores: Statistical Analyses for Strengthening Causal Validity
- Nakia James: 1) Establishing Effective Relationships: Presentation of a New Checklist to Help Evaluators Understand and Work With Diverse Clients, 2) Advantages and Obstacles of External Evaluators in Small Town America, 3) Roundtable Rotation II: Dealing With Existing Data: The Benefits and Pitfalls
- Julien Kouame: Roundtable Rotation I: Shared Values of Formal and Systematic Evaluation in Non Western Context
- Monica Lininger: Evaluating Educational Partnership Projects: Four Approaches
- Anne-Marie Oulai: Roundtable Rotation I: Using a Checklist Methodology to Evaluate E-Learning In Organization

Special Education:

- Amy Schelling: Evaluating Educational Partnership Projects: Four Approaches
- Rashell Bowerman: Evaluating Impact and Outcomes of Transition Programs in the Context of Federally-funded Projects
Jason Davey, a doctoral student in the evaluation, measurement, and research program in the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology, co-authored an article for the research journal Transfusion. The title of the article is, “Paired crossover study of two plateletpheresis systems concerning platelet product quality and donor comfort.”

Katie Daniels, doctoral student in Evaluation, Measurement, and Research in the Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology was a recipient of the Association for Institutional Research/ National Center for Education Statistics Improving Institutional Research in Postsecondary Educational Institutions Fellowship for academic years 2008-09 and 2009-10. In June 2009, Katie attended the Association for Institutional Research National Summer Data Policy Institute. Katie also participated as an expert panelist for the WMU Graduate College Assessment Rubric Competition and made the following presentations in November:
- AEA - Dealing with Existing Data: The Benefits and Pitfalls
- MI Association for Institutional Research - Creating a Useful, Valid, Reliable, and Accepted Student Evaluation of Teaching
- MI Association for Institutional Research - Identifying and Assessing Civic Engagement Indicators

Linda Powell, instructor, arranged for CTE 5130 students to travel to the Youth Advancement Academy where Buster Bronco joined them. The high school students and college students worked together to learn about the role of a college student. Career and Technical Education students worked on a spring cleanup outside the building getting rid of winter trash, raking, and planting flowers. Even Buster Bronco helped! It was a rewarding experience for the CTE students knowing that these students qualify for the Kalamazoo Promise and one day, may take a class in Kohrman Hall.

Graduate College

Items of Academic Interest

Ms. Jennifer Wendling Holm, coordinator, Theses and Dissertations, will be presenting three Formatting Workshops for the preparation of Doctoral Dissertations, Specialist Projects and Master’s Theses in February. Advance registration is required; please see our website at www.wmich.edu/grad for more information on registration. Participants in the formatting workshops must bring their own copy of “Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses, Projects and Dissertations.” This can be downloaded from our web site at http://www.wmich.edu/grad/guidelines/2008%20Guidelines.pdf. The workshops will be held on the following dates:
- Tues., Feb. 16 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall 2nd floor West Wing.
- Wed., Feb. 17 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall 2nd floor West Wing
- Thurs., Feb. 25 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall 2nd floor West Wing

A workshop on the Preparation of Graduate Student Research and Travel Grant Applications will be presented by Dr. Julie Nemire, director of Awards and Special Projects and her assistant Ms. Tammy DeRoo, graduate student in the Evaluation, Measurement and Research program. The workshop, which prepares students to apply for either or both of the grants, will take place on Thurs., Feb. 18 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall 2nd floor West Wing. Preregistration is required; please visit our web site at www.wmich.edu/grad to register. The Graduate Student Research Fund was established to support graduate students engaged in independent scholarly research, scientific inquiry, inventive technology, and original artistic activity. The fund is intended to help students pay extraordinary or unusual costs incurred in research projects. The Graduate Student Travel Fund was established to support graduate student travel to meetings or events sponsored by professional organizations for the purpose of reporting the results of research, exhibiting or performing creative works, or otherwise disseminating results of their scholarly activity. The deadline for submitting applications for the 2009-10 school year is March 15. Please visit http://www.wmich.edu/grad/funding/gradstudent_travel_fund.html and http://www.wmich.edu/grad/funding/gradstudent_research_fund.html for more information on these grants, or call the Graduate College at (269) 387-8212.
Challenged by statistics? Has it been years since your “Introduction to Statistics” class? Do you need a refresher so you can move forward with confidence on your thesis or dissertation, or in your preparation for comprehensive exams? The Graduate Center for Research and Retention at WMU invites all graduate students to attend a working session on an overview of statistical concepts. This workshop will be conducted by Mr. Lincoln Jiang, graduate student in the department of statistics and graduate assistant to Dr. Marianne DiPierro, Director of the Graduate Center for Research and Retention. It will be held on Mon., March 8 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room 1416, Computer lab, College of Health and Human Services. Students will have a renewed understanding of the following:

- Four types of data and the levels of analyses that each can support
- Basic terminology in quantitative statistics
- Independent/Dependent variables
- Normal and Standard Normal Distributions
- Correlation Analyses
- Hypothesis Testing
- Levels of Significance and p-values
- T-Tests and ANOVA
- Chi-Square distributions
- Choosing the appropriate statistical technique for analyses

Pre-registration is required; please visit http://www.wmich.edu/grad/Grad_Ctr_Research_Retention/Stats_Workshop.html. For additional information, call Dr. Marianne DiPierro at (269) 387-8249. This session is designed to review and reinforce your prior learning and is not intended to supplant a formal course in introductory statistics.

In the Overview of SPSS (Statistics Package for Social Sciences) Workshop we can help demystify the process, cultivate confidence, generate enthusiasm and inspire you to complete your research. SPSS is among the most widely used programs for statistical analysis in social science. It is used by market researchers, health researchers, survey companies, government, education researchers, marketing organizations and others. The Graduate Center for Research and Retention at WMU invites all graduate students to attend a working session on an overview of SPSS conducted by Mr. Lincoln Jiang, graduate student in the department of statistics, and graduate assistant to Dr. Marianne DiPierro, director of the Graduate Center for Research and Retention. The workshop will take place Mon., March 15 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room 1416, Computer Lab, in the College of Health and Human Services. Students will learn how to: “Create a simple data set for analysis “Enter different types of Data into an SPSS file for analysis “Import an Excel file into SPSS for analysis “Explore options for displaying and analyzing the data set. Preregistration is required; please go to https://www.wmich.edu/grad/Grad_Ctr_Research_Retention/Stats_Workshop.html to register. For more information please contact Dr. Marianne DiPierro at (269) 387-8249.

**Student Accolades**

Mr. Andre Fields and Ms. Cheyla Milo, PhD students in Counseling Psychology, went to a conference on the weekend of Feb. 13-14 at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. They were representing Graduate Students of Color (GSO). The conference was sponsored by Students of Color of Rackham (SCOR). Mr. Fields presented his dissertation titled, “The Effects of Systemic Racism on Academic Achievement of African American Adolescent Males” at the conference. For more information on joining GSOC, please contact Cheyla Milo at (269) 387-8209.

Two students from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee are visiting campus from Feb. 11 to 13. Fisk is an HBCU, or Historically Black College or University, and Tony Dennis, director of Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention, has recruited two recent graduates to come for a campus visit. He is being assisted by Ms. Cheyla Milo, doctoral student in Counseling Psychology and assistant to Mr. Dennis. The visiting students are Brittni D. Jones, who is interested in a Ph.D. in the Mallinson Institute for Science Education, and Kandace R. Harris, who is interested in the MBA program in the Haworth College of Business. Both have 3.75 GPAs and we hope to welcome them to campus for their graduate studies once they have toured their prospective departments. They are also getting an opportunity to tour campus and the community of Kalamazoo. We are very proud to be able to host these outstanding students at Western Michigan University.

**Upcoming Events**

On Fri., March 12, Dr. William Leiss, renowned risk expert, will speak in 1260 Chemistry Building on “Risky Business: Living with Catastrophe.” His speech will highlight the disruption caused by unsound economic practices to global economic and social order. The volatile global financial situation is a perfect example of the importance of managing risk and the consequences of poor decision-making. It further reveals one of the paradoxes of risk management: the better we become at assessing risks, the more comfortable we feel in taking them. Using the current financial crisis as an example,
Leiss engages with a new concept of “systemic risk,” which is risk so great that recovery from its negative consequences may prove impossible. His risk centered analysis of the lead-up to the crisis shows the practices that brought it about and how it became common to use limited risk assessments as a justification to gamble huge amounts of money on unsound economic policies. Among his many other honors, Dr. Leiss was president of the Royal Society of Canada from 1999-2001. The Royal Society of Canada, the most prestigious scholarly society in Canada, is dedicated to encouraging education and the advancement of knowledge in the natural and social sciences and the humanities. Dr. Leiss will also be giving a master class to interested upperclassmen and graduate students on writing science-based fiction, exemplified by his utopian science fiction series Herasaga, in which he deals with philosophical issues regarding our hopes of surmounting problems posed by the Enlightenment and its dreams of reason. Within the enlightenment project outlined in his fiction there is an unresolved opposition between science as social transformation (“transformative science”), on the one hand, and science as technological mastery over nature (“inventive science”), on the other. For more information please contact the Graduate College at (269) 387-8212.

**Emeriti Council**

**Upcoming Events**

“The Smile Train” is the topic of the March meeting of the Emeriti Council - March 10. Donna Oas and Bharti Katbamna (Speech Pathology and Audiology) will report on their recent trip to India to volunteer for this extraordinary charity. The Smile Train is an organization focused on solving a single problem: cleft lip and palate. Clefts are a major problem in developing countries where there are millions of children who suffer with unrepaird clefts. Most cannot eat or speak properly, are not allowed to attend school or hold a job. They face very difficult lives filled with shame and heartache. Our presenters will show a video, report on their trip to India and share their experience as volunteers for The Smile Train.