Dr. Timothy Ready began his new position Jan. 1, replacing interim director Dr. Lewis Walker, the WMU professor emeritus of sociology for whom the institute was named in 2000. Ready was also appointed to a tenure-track faculty position as an associate professor of anthropology. “I look forward to doing all that I can to coalesce the talent and energy of this great University to support the institute’s mission of teaching and research on issues related to race and ethnicity in our community, our state and around the world,” says Ready. “While the institute’s work will be grounded in solid scholarship, its agenda will be informed by an ethic of community service in support of a more just, equitable and prosperous society for all.” A teacher and author, Ready oversaw research, reviewed manuscripts, directed the Census Information Center of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research and organized workshops. He was chief designer and director of Project 3000 by 2000, a national diversity campaign of the Association of American Medical Colleges during the late 1990s. He also was the administrator for an $11 million grants program that was co-sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg and Robert Wood Johnson Foundations that supported educational partnerships to enable more African American, Latino and Native American students to progress through high school and college into various health professions. He earned his bachelor’s degree in sociology from Notre Dame and his doctoral degree in anthropology from Michigan State University.

Faculty members in four Western Michigan University graduate programs have earned top-10 rankings in an annual listing of research universities with the most productive faculty. The third annual Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index ranks per-capita scholarly accomplishment by discipline at the nation’s research universities. WMU’s science education faculty ranked third in their discipline in the index, while the graduate faculty in educational evaluation and research, counselor education, and applied economics ranked seventh, ninth and 10th, respectively. The data for the ranking is based on the number of books and journal articles written by faculty, the number of times their work is cited by other scholars, and the awards, honors and grant dollars they have received. The index rates the output of 164,843 faculty members in nearly 7,300 doctoral programs at 375 universities offering doctoral degrees. For three of the four WMU graduate programs cited science education, counselor education and applied economics WMU is the only Michigan school in the top 10. In the fourth category, educational evaluation and research, WMU shares top-10 honors with Michigan State University. The index is published by Academic Analytics, a Pennsylvania-based, for-profit organization owned in part by the State University of New York at Stony Brook. The third edition of the index was issued in late 2007, and results of the analysis were widely reported in higher education media, including the Chronicle of Higher Education. The index was originally designed as a tool that universities could purchase and use to compare programs at peer institutions. Results of the first index were not made public. The second index did not include any WMU programs, but the expanded data of the third index brought the four WMU programs into top-10 positions.

School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) is working on developing a Center for Excellence and Research in Public Service (CERPS) and a key part of the development plan is to create such an endowed center to support faculty and student research and consulting. The good news is that we have reached the goal of having 100% of our departmental faculty contributes financially to this effort. This support is translated into an exciting new era of public administration education and research, driven by SPAA, both in Lansing and in Southwest Michigan. This Center will stimulate outstanding public policy making, implementation, and operational management by public-serving organizations through research, education, and consulting.
The goal is to change the very nature of our graduate programs by increasing our full-time student population and involving many of these students in faculty-student research and consulting efforts.

Beginning with the fall 2008 semester, Western Michigan University will be the only university in Michigan to offer a minor in Arabic. The Arabic minor has passed all university and state levels of the approval process and will be implemented in fall 2008. The new minor is a result of the meeting of the academic officers’ committee of the president’s council. The new minor will be a three-year program and will consist of 23 credits, a mixture of linguistics, culture, and literature courses, and study abroad may be part of the learning experience—in fact it is encouraged. Three study abroad opportunities to Egypt are available. Professor and undergraduate adviser for Arabic in the Department of Foreign Languages, Dr. Mustafa Mughazy, was elected in 2006 to head the Arabic Linguistic Society international organization. Mughazy has been an assistant professor of Arabic at WMU since fall 2003. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is a specialist in Arabic linguistics: semantics and applied linguistics. His publications include the textbook, “Dardasha: Egyptian Arabic,” and articles such as “Re-thinking lexical aspect in Egyptian Arabic: Perspectives on Arabic Linguistics XVII.” He also is the organizer of the 20th Annual Symposium on Arabic Linguistics, an international conference held at WMU in March 2006. His textbook is the most-used book in the U.S. for colloquial Arabic. Mughazy is being asked to do presentations in the U.S. and Canada on the Arabic program at WMU because of its success, and because he has introduced an innovative model in the beginning levels of Arabic: including both standard and colloquial Arabic. The Arabic program at WMU received a grant from the Fulbright Program to bring in native speakers from Algeria, Egypt, and Tunisia to be teaching assistants in the program. Mughazy said the TAs “bring international flavor into the classroom,” and they “contribute to the internationalization efforts of Western. “The students most likely to pursue a minor in Arabic are those who major in fields such as Global Studies, Political Science, and Comparative Religion, as they will be able to use Arabic resources for future research.

A new Michigan history resource is now available from WMU Libraries in an Internet digital version for anyone to use. ‘Michigan Manual of Freedmen’s Progress’ book, 1915 edition has been fully digitized including photographs, charts, and searchable text and is available as PDF files. A collaborative effort of Mitch Kachun, Associate Professor, WMU History Department; Sharon Carlson, Director of Archives and Regional History Collections, and the Digitization Center of WMU Libraries has made it possible. Kachun shares, “This book was originally compiled to record and preserve the history of African Americans and to demonstrate to the broader society the achievements and advances made by blacks in the half-century after emancipation. It’s a fantastic tool for researchers, students, and teachers.” Carlson says, “This is unprecedented access for this book, and for this type of information on Michigan African Americans. This first edition book is in most Michigan libraries but usually only one copy or a later edition from the 1960s or 1980s. Also it is one of those out-of-print ‘orphan works’ that is a challenge to get into the classroom.” Links to the item will be available through the WMU Libraries Catalog WestCat; WMU History Department website; WMU Archives and Regional History Collections, where the original book is also housed; MelCat (Michigan’s elibrary); WorldCat (a global catalog of library collections); and the Digitization Center at WMU Libraries website. The Digitization Center is a full service center within Waldo Library that offers comprehensive digitization and planning for access, preservation, and research and is available to estimate custom digitization projects for the University and community partners.

The Western Michigan University Archives and Regional History Collections has started a one year project to process the Upjohn Company Records. The materials were donated to the university in 2007 by Pfizer Incorporated and include photographs, business ledgers, sample cartons and labels, company publications, and interviews conducted for the 1983 Upjohn Centennial. The project will involve the archival processing of the records and result in the creation of a finding aid to facilitate researcher access. Materials will be transferred to archival boxes, folders, and sleeves to preserve the records, which include records dating back to the origins of the Upjohn Company. A digital collection of selected items will be created with assistance from the WMU Libraries’ Digitization Center. Dr. Sharon Carlson is the project director. The project is funded in part by the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation.
The latest issue of The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare will be available in March. This issue, History of Contemporary Social Policy, will be guest edited by Richard K. Caputo of the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University in New York. This issue contains articles on faith-based organizations, social security privatization, Medicare home care, Medicare modernization, and housing policy initiatives. The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare, sponsored jointly by Western Michigan University, the College of Health and Human Services, and School of Social Work, promotes the understanding of social welfare by applying social science knowledge, methodology and technology to problems of social policy, politics, the social ecology, and social services. Since its first printing in 1974, the journal has included articles on such topics as social change, gender, race, homelessness, social welfare history, cultural diversity, international social welfare, globalization, and the social dimensions of health and mental health. Dr. Fritz MacDonald, associate professor in the school of social work, is managing editor of the journal. Dr. Rick Grinnell, endowed chair in the school of social work, serves on the editorial board.

Health and Human Services
The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare, published by the School of Social Work at Western Michigan University (WMU), is celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary this year. The Journal began in 1974 as a product of the University of Connecticut, with Norman Goroff and Ralph Segalman as founding editors. In 1981, Robert D. Leighninger, Jr., then of the School of Social Work, took over editing responsibilities. In 1987, the Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare became the official product of the WMU School of Social Work. In an editorial in the first issue of 1987, Bob Leighninger stated, “Our survival through thirteen years which have been less than generous either to education or the human services is a testimony both to the accuracy of their [Goroff & Segalman] vision and to their hard work. We will do our best to carry on both.” Twenty years later, the Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare continues to promote the understanding of social welfare by applying social science knowledge, methodology and technology to problems of social policy, politics, the social ecology, and social services. The Journal provides an outstanding book review section as a regular feature of each issue. Since its first printing in 1974, JSSW has published articles on such topics as social change, gender, race, homelessness, social welfare history, cultural diversity, international social welfare, globalization, and the social dimensions of health and mental health. Information on the Journal is available at our web page at http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/newsletters_journals/jssw/index.htm. Subscriptions continue to be very affordable and special student rates are available.

College of Education
Know someone interested in special (adapted) physical education at WMU? The federally funded master’s degree program provides 100 percent tuition plus a monthly stipend. In addition, the federally funded state approval program in special (adapted) physical education at WMU also provides 100 percent tuition. More information is available at: http://www.wmich.edu/coe/hper/special-adapted/.

The 16th Annual Girls and Women in Sports Day honoring 37 area junior and senior female athletes was held on Saturday, Feb. 9. The theme of the event was “All In”, and Dr. Jody Brylinsky, professor, delivered the keynote address. The Women’s Sports Foundation organized the first National Girls and Women in Sports Day in remembrance of Olympic volleyball star Flo Hyman, a gifted athlete who worked for equality in women’s sports both on and off the court throughout her short lifetime. In 1987, Congress approved a commemorative bill declaring February 4 National Girls and Women in Sport Day. This year the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Phi Epsilon Kappa, based in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and area athletic directors collaborated to honor high school senior females whose athletic achievements, academic accomplishments and community involvement showcase their outstanding leadership skills and potential to succeed in future endeavors. Recipients were nominated by their coaches, teachers, and administrators to receive the Western Michigan University Girls and Women in Sport Day Recognition Award. Dr. Deb Berkey, professor, serves as the faculty adviser for PEK.

The eHealth Innovations Group, led by Dr. Robert Bensley, professor of community health education in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, has been awarded over $300,000 from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario for the development, implementation, and evaluation of Internet-based chronic disease management tools. Central to this project is a 12-week healthy weight management program that features a virtual interac-

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tive counselor as the guide for assisting users in increasing physical activity and healthy eating behaviors. “We wanted to create an artificial intelligence system that recreated the human experience for the client,” stated Dr. Bensley. “It has been an exciting venture and one that will possibly lead to numerous other applications of virtual behavior change approaches.” Bensley, along with program manager Jason Rivas, MPA, are authors of the invention and are considering a number of funding avenues for continued study with this research. The effort of the eHealth Innovations Team includes the development of Health on Track, a blood pressure management and intervention portal to be available for Canadian public use March 1. “Health on Track has been well-received by the Canadian blood pressure experts,” commented developer Stephanie Pichan. “Nothing like this currently exists on the web and it is positioned to make a great impact on the lives of Canadians.”

**Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation**

The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation Program (IDPE) has been named as one of the top ten doctoral programs in Educational Evaluation and Research (see http://www.academicanalytics.com/TopEdu2006-07.html) as determined by Academic Analytics’ Faculty Scholarly Productivity (FSP) Index (see http://www.academicanalytics.com/overview.html), which includes faculty productivity factors such as publications (book and journal articles), citations to publications, research funding, and awards and honors.

**Graduate College**

The Graduate Center for Research and Retention will sponsor a Grant Writing Cafe on the third Friday of each month during the spring semester, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge, second floor of East Walwood Hall. The cafe initiative is an extension of the discipline/college-specific grant writing seminars launched by the Graduate Center during the fall semester with Dr. Mary Anne Sydlik, research program officer with the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). Last fall, Dr. Sydlik designed and conducted seminars for graduate students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as well as in the social and behavioral sciences, and in the health and human services fields. The cafe experience will reinforce seminar concepts. Dr. Sydlik’s next seminar is scheduled for Friday, February 22, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge, and is designed for graduate students in the humanities. On March 28, she will conduct a seminar in “How to Use Electronic Resources to Identify Funding Opportunities” from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge. Dr. Marianne Di Pierro, director of the Graduate Center for Research and Retention, and Dr. Sydlik will both be available during the Grant Writing Cafe series to assist graduate students with proposal development. The grant writing seminars for students dovetail into the Grant Development Workshops for faculty currently sponsored by OVPR and are designed to assist in students’ professional development as future faculty.

Mr. Del Rodrigo, Ph.D. Candidate, WMU Department of Statistics, and Doctoral Associate, Graduate Center for Research and Retention, will be offering two Statistical Overview courses in the coming month. All graduate students are invited to attend these working sessions.

- The first working session, an overview of Statistical concepts, is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in room 1416 of the College of Health and Human Services. The session is designed as a review of statistical concepts and is directed primarily for students preparing for comprehensive examinations or beginning their thesis or dissertation.
- A second working session, an overview of “SPSS,” is scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in room 1416 of the College of Health and Human Services. The SPSS overview will assist students in creating simple data sets for analysis, entering data into an SPSS file, importing an Excel file into SPSS for analysis and exploring options for displaying and analyzing data sets.

Seating is limited for these programs; to reserve your space please contact the Graduate Center for Research and Retention at 387-8249, or register online at https://herodotus.walwood.wmich.edu/stats/. Both Overview sessions have been of great benefit to students in the past. Among those students who found the workshop experience to be of particular value were those who had never taken a statistics course and simply wanted a basic introduction; those who had taken statistics courses long ago and felt in need of a refresher in a no-stress environment; those preparing for the comprehensive examinations, as well as those students developing a conceptual framework for the dissertation that intersected with the statistical analysis element.

Jennifer Wendling, Coordinator of Theses and Dissertations at Western Michigan University’s Graduate College, is offering a series of formatting workshops for graduate students working on their thesis, dissertation or specialist project. These workshops will help familiarize students with

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WMU’s formatting requirements, and will also include helpful information on paperwork, fees, microfilming and copywriting. Spring semester workshops will take place in the Emeriti Lounge, 211 Walwood Hall, and are scheduled for Tuesday, February 19 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 27 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Thursday, March 6 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Space in each workshop is limited to twelve participants and advanced registration is required. To register please contact Jennifer Wendling at jennifer.wendling@wmich.edu. Participants in the workshop must bring their own copy of “Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses, Projects and Dissertations,” available online at www.wmich.edu/grad.

Lee Honors College

Congratulations Western Michigan ALD for being awarded Order of the Torch! The Order of the Torch is the annual award for the most outstanding chapters of Alpha Lambda Delta in the nation. Each year, up to five chapters may be awarded the Order of the Torch. Chapters submit a scrapbook, describing their activities during the past year. The scrapbooks are then judged by a committee of National Council members, and the winning chapters are presented with an award banner at a special ceremony!

The Siebert WMU Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Award Program seeks to enrich the educational experiences of undergraduates at Western Michigan University by providing them with opportunities to work closely with faculty members in a student/mentor relationship on research and creative projects of mutual interest. Our recipients for Spring 2008 and their projects are Elyse M. Cornett, Effects of Orexin-A Microinjections in the Rat Lateral Hypothalamus on Conditioned Place Preference; Megan R. Heinicke, An Evaluation of Different Training Arrangements; Jaime LeBlanc-Hadley, Grand Ambitions: The Effects of the ‘Develop the West Plan’ on Tibet; Joshua Radi, Why Do Plants Contain Estrogenic Compounds?; and Gordon van Gent, ET - A Contemporary Mass. Each student will receive $1000 in funding for their project. Congratulations and best wishes as they pursue their studies.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Students interested in internships abroad and professors and area businesses interested in having international students intern here will soon have a new WMU organization to assist them. Plans are in the works for a WMU chapter of the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience [IAESTE]. According to its Web site, IAESTE aims to provide students with technical experience, offer employers well-qualified and motivated trainees, and be a source of cultural enrichment for trainees and their host communities. Earlier this month, Dr. Said AbuBakr, chair of the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI), and two students, Donald Kinnee and Laura Beacham, attended the IAESTE Conference in Baltimore. Now they are planning the next steps. Kinnee, an aeronautical engineering major, described IAESTE as “an international exchange of students enrolled in engineering and similar programs for internships.” WMU students take internships in other countries, and students from other countries come to here for internships either at WMU or at companies in the area. Beacham, a paper engineering major serving as the group’s president, said that IAESTE offers science- and engineering-related majors paid internships during the summer when it’s most convenient for students. “It’s more than engineering,” she said. “Our present goal is to find at least two internships at Western or in the community,” she said. The group must acquire at least 25 members and elect officers. Kinnee said the group plans to approach professors and businesses about internships. “One selling point is that many area businesses are international so bringing in students from a country where they’re doing business can help them culturally engage,” he said. “Another is that IAESTE acts as an agency to take care of all the paperwork.” For more information on the WMU IAESTE, email AbuBakr at said.abubakr@wmich.edu.

Dr. Parviz Merati, chair of the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE), is leading the third phase of ongoing General Motors research. The new $84,000 grant brings GM’s total investment in research to about $250,000. The first two phases of the project have led to several breakthroughs in understanding the under-hood heat phenomena. For this phase, DENSO North America Foundation has also added a $50,000 grant to purchase Stereo Particle Image Velocimetry (SPIV), a new laser system that non-intrusively measures flow velocity. With the assistance ME

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graduate students Charles Davis and Jacob Nink and four MAE seniors, Merati is exploring the physics of the under-hood buoyancy flow to find ways to cool down the under-hood environment as fast as possible. For their senior design project, Charles Gauthier, Kevin Kalchik, Robert Messner, and Thomas Spencer are learning new SPIV system. To use the system, a full-scale simplified model of a car’s under-hood has been created and covered with a tempered-glass enclosure that enables the students to use the lasers and to study the results of the heat that radiated and convected from the exhaust and the engine block. The under-hood components are instrumented with thermocouples to measure the temperatures. “GM wants us to do this so they can use our experimental results to verify their computational fluid dynamics (CFD) codes,” Merati said. “Whenever you have a complicated flow as such you don’t know if your computational methods are good, and you need to verify them experimentally. That’s what the students are doing. If the students prove that computational results are good, then GM will use CFD to model much more complex under-hood geometries.” For more information on the project, contact Merati at parviz.merati@wmich.edu.

Some of those involved in the engine heat research are (from left) Dr. Parviz Merati, chair of MAE Dept. and project leader, Rob Messner, ME senior; Dr. Javier Montefort, MAE assistant professor; and Kevin Kalchik, ME senior, pose with a full-scale model of a car’s engine block and exhaust pipes that was created in a tempered-glass enclosure to study the heat flow. Missing from the photo are MAE seniors Charles Gauthier and Thomas Spencer.

Faculty Accolades

Western Michigan University’s Dr. Jeffrey Angles has organized a series of literary and poetry-related events for a festival celebrating Japanese culture at Washington D.C.’s Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the premier national institution for the arts. The series runs through Sunday, Feb. 17. Angles, a WMU assistant professor of Japanese, was recruited for the honor because of his work co-editing a Japanese literary guide. His book, “Japan: A Traveler’s Literary Companion,” was a collaboration with Dr. J. Thomas Rimer, professor emeritus of Japanese Literature at the University of Pittsburgh. Published in May 2006 by Whereabouts Press, the book is a collection of Japanese short stories and essays that guides readers through the diverse landscape and culture of modern-day Japan. The Kennedy Center festival, “Japan!: Culture + Hyperculture,” will bring together more than 450 artists for 40 performances and more than a dozen free events that showcase the work of some of the most prominent figures in Japanese theater, dance, music, fashion, architecture, sculpture, poetry, literature, photography and film. Because of his research and work as a translator of contemporary Japanese literature, Angles has personal connections with a number of important authors, so he started by contacting them. In particular, Angles wanted to invite figures known for their dramatic and interesting reading styles. One of the figures for whom he arranged a trip to Washington is Yasuki Fukushima, a poet who played an important role in modernizing the tanka, a form of poetry that has 31 syllables and a long history of more than 1,300 years. Fukushima became famous in the 1960s for writing tanka on contemporary themes, such as the radical student movements of the era, then setting those poems to jazz accompaniment. Angles will be in Washington for the events, sometimes appearing as an interpreter for the readers or helping to moderate the panel discussions. His responsibilities have involved serving as the main contact for the authors, helping to arrange for their visas to enter the United States, determining the individual needs for their performances, writing the programs for the events and scheduling. For more information, contact Jeffrey Angles at jeffrey.angles@wmich.edu or 387-3044. The complete program for the festival is available online here: http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/festivals/07-08/japan/.

- David Huffman (Chemistry) recently published a paper in the Journal of the American Chemical Society entitled “Probing Transient Copper Chaperone-Wilson Disease Protein Interactions at the Single-Molecule Level with Nanovesicle Trapping.” The paper was coauthored by WMU graduate student Patrick Ochieng. Other co-authors from Columbia University and Northwestern University included Jamie Benitez, Aaron Keller, Liliya Yatsunky, Amy Rosenzweig, and Peng Chen.
Michael S. Nassaney (Anthropology) will be taking six students to Laval University in Quebec this May to present papers on 10 years of archaeology at Fort St. Joseph to a [hopefully riveted] audience at the French Colonial Historical Society on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the founding of New France. Joe Brandão also will participate.

Greg Veeck and Jim Biles (Geography) were chosen to edit a special volume of The Journal of Geography looking at the role of study abroad and other international education programs in US baccalaureate education.

Robert Ulin (Anthropology) is invited to Sun Yat-Sen University in the Peoples Republic of China to give a series of lectures. His book, Understanding Cultures - was translated into Chinese and at last report was the No 9 best selling academic book in China. In addition, the Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Sun Yat-Sen University is interested in signing an agreement with Western Michigan University. Sun Yat-Sen has arguably the best Department of Anthropology in the People’s Republic.

Western Michigan University has been selected to receive Microsoft Dynamic’s Excellence in Academics award during Microsoft Convergence 2008 to be held in the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL, March 12, 2008. The selection process was very competitive and WMU was selected based on the work of Computer Information Systems (CIS) faculty in bringing ERP technology (Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains) into classroom teaching and learning. Dr. Muhammad Razi, Dr. Thomas Rienzo, and Dr. Bernard Han will receive the award at a luncheon with guests that include Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer. More information can be found at http://www.microsoft.com/dynamics/convergence/orlando/customer_excellence.aspx. In addition, Drs. Razi, Rienzo, and Han will present Innovative Teaching of Business Decision-Making Using Microsoft Dynamics with a Simulated Economic Model at the Microsoft Convergence Conference.


Dr. Pairin Katerattanakul (Department of Business Information System) and Dr. Keng Siu (University of Nebraska - Lincoln) have their article titled: “Factors Affecting Quality of Personal Web Portfolios” published in the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, 59 (1), p.63-76.

Atkin, JoAnn L., Mike McCardle, and Steven Newell. “Are Alcohol Moderation Ads the Socially Responsible Thing to Do?” at the 2007 American Academy of Advertising’s National Conference.


The Passion of George Sarton: A Modern Marriage and Its Discipline by Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College, has been published this month by the American Philosophical Society. The book is “the first full-length study” of the life and work of George Sarton, one of the founders of the history of science in America. The book focuses on the sometimes tempestuous marriage between George Sarton and his wife, English artist, Mabel Sarton, and uses their relationship, and correspondence, as the backdrop for Sarton’s vision of the history of science as a discipline that serves as “a bridge between the cultures of the humanities and natural sciences.”
Micha Espinosa, theatre professor, was named a 2007 fellow by the Voice and Speech Trainers Association. The fellows program connects qualified VASTA representatives with institutions and organizations in need of workshops, master classes and symposia. The purpose is to provide expertise in specific areas that may not be available in a given institution or organization.

In January 2008, dance faculty member David Curwen was a project leader for two telematic events with Wayne State University guest artist Ben Munisteri. Munisteri taught a choreography class to WSU and WMU students simultaneously. He also presented a choreographic showing that had an interactive question and answer session.

Sharon Garber, Associate Professor of Dance, was invited to a reunion of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. This anniversary was also to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the city of Pittsburgh. Sharon danced with the company for the 1979-1980 season and attended the reunion October 27-28, 2007 during which the company performed “Don Quixote” and invited all of the former company members to take a bow on stage.

Megan Slayter, dance teacher, had a paper accepted for the 2008 annual conference of the Society of Dance History Scholars.

Dr. Susan Steuer, Special Collections Librarian, has been appointed as the subject editor for medieval studies for the on-line resource Resources for College Libraries (http://www.rclweb.net/), which provides core collection lists for college libraries. These lists recommend what a library should hold to serve specific areas of a university undergraduate curriculum.

- Michael Whang, Web Librarian and Head, Web and Internet Services, has a publication, titled “Card Sorting Usability Tests of the WMU Libraries’ Web Site,” which will appear in the upcoming special issue of the Journal of Web Librarianship.

- Dr. Chris L. S. Coryn, the Interim Program Manager of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation program (IDPE), along with his colleagues, Drs. John A. Hattie (University of Auckland), Michael Scriven (formerly at WMU, now at Claremont Graduate University) and David J. Hartmann (WMU Department of Sociology), had their paper titled “Models and Mechanisms for Evaluating Government-Funded Research: An International Comparison” published in the December 2007 issue of the American Journal of Evaluation. Dr. Coryn was also recently appointed as an Editor of the IDPE-sponsored Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation (http://jmde.com). He served as Associate Editor from 2004-2007.


- Dr. Philip Johnson, assistant professor of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, co-authored a paper with Dr. Carla Adkison-Bradley and doctoral students Donald E. Knight and Elizabeth Bradshaw on “Preparing African American counselor education students for the professorate” was published in the December 2007 issue of the College Student Journal.

Dr. Phillip Johnson, assistant professor of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology.

On April 8, Dr. Deb Berkey will be inducted as a 2008 Fellow into the North American Society of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport, and Dance Professionals. This organization recognizes outstanding professionals from within the allied professions of health education, physical education, recreation, sport and dance in North America. Dr. John Dunn is also a member of this society.
• Dr. Patrick Munley, professor and chair of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, co-authored a paper with doctoral students Monica Thiagarajan, Sharon Carney, Lara Preacco, and Melissa Lidderdale on “Identity and counselor preference” published in the December 2007 issue of Counseling Psychology Quarterly.

Lee Honors College

Lee Honors College Advisor Sue Oole has been named the 2007 recipient of the Michigan Campus Compact Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award. Sue was nominated by Lee Honors College Dean Keith Hearit for the award, which is the highest annual award MCC bestows on any faculty or staff member in the state of Michigan. She is being honored as the person on our campus who made the most outstanding contributions to community service learning during 2007.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Dr. Haluk M. Aktan, professor and chair of the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE), was the featured speaker at Structural Engineers Association of Michigan (SEAMi) dinner held in February in Farmington Hills, MI. His topic was the state of art non-destructive evaluation (NDE) techniques presently being used in civil-structural engineering. Specific components of the topic included visual, stress wave, electrical, electromagnetic, ground-penetrating radar (GPR), infrared thermography (IR), and acoustic emission (AE).

“NDE involves all different means, including ultrasonic, of looking inside the structure,” he said. “It is important to assess the current condition state of the structure and to understand and assess its safety as well as to repair and upgrade needs of the structure.” According to its Web site, SEAMi is a Michigan organization established in 1997 for structural engineers to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences, to offer guidance in the development of standards, to serve as a resource for codes and specification, and to develop a voice in terms of design and safety requirements. It presently has about 200 members.

Dr. Sherif Yehia, associate professor in the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE), has been invited to lecture on conductive concrete research at the Michigan Bridge Conference in Mount Pleasant on March 19. Bridge design, management and construction materials represent Yehia’s prime research areas. He is the PI on a $120,000 “Monitoring of the Conductive Concrete Overlay Performance at Custer Bridge” grant obtained last November. It is sponsored by the Calhoun County and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Dr. Sherif Yehia has been invited to lecture on conductive concrete research at Michigan Bridge Conference in March.

Qader, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, and Dr. Osama Abudayyeh, associate dean of the CEAS, are co-PIs for the grant. Yehia is also involved in several other bridge-related research projects.

College of Health and Human Services

As part of her sabbatical leave project Dr. Susan Ponchillia, professor of blindness and low vision studies, researched the high incidence of inherited blindness from retinitis pigmentosa in a northern native community on the shore of Great Slave Lake in Canada’s Northwest Territories. She collaborated with filmmaker Frank Jamison, WMU Emeritus, to gather the stories of native elders. Dr. Ponchillia led a team of blindness experts including Norma Jarvis from CNIB (formerly Canadian National Institute for the Blind), Dr. Paul Ponchillia, WMU professor emeritus, and Dr. Billie Louise (Beezy) Bentzen, Director of Accessible Design for the Blind, who interviewed people with visual impairments from the Tlicho native band. Dr. Ponchillia was awarded grants for her work from the Tlicho Nation and the Diether H. Haenicke Institute International Education Faculty Development Fund.

• School of Social Work faculty members Dr. Rick Grinnell, endowed chair and Dr. Yvonne Unrau, associate professor collaborated on the following projects: Social work research and evaluation (8th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press; Research methods for BSW students. New York: Amazon.com. They are also coauthoring the first social work e-book to be available online in July 2008.
John Mellein, instructor in the school of social work, will be coordinating the Legislative Education and Advocacy Day in Lansing scheduled for Mar 11. Approximately 45 students will travel to Lansing to learn about legislative advocacy and policy issues related to social work. This is a unique opportunity for students enrolled in schools of social work throughout Michigan to gain some “hands on” experience about the legislative process and strategies for advocacy.

A paper submitted to the National Association for Ethnic Studies Annual Conference in Atlanta by Dr. Robin McKinney, associate professor in the School of Social Work and Anthropology undergraduate student Jordan Ballard has been accepted. The paper, entitled “Ecological and Racial Factors and Their Impact on Maternal Perceptions of Adolescents,” is an empirical study utilizing data collected by the U.S. Labor and Statistics Department in 2005. Dr. McKinney and Ms. Ballard compared African American, European American and Hispanic American families to determine if environmental factors and ethnic factors equally impact maternal perceptions of adolescents across ethnic groups. The paper explores similarities and differences between the groups with respect to race and environmental conditions and maternal perceptions of adolescents.

- Dr. Debra Lindstrom-Hazel, associate professor of occupational therapy, published an interdisciplinary article with Dr. John Austin (Psychology) and doctoral student Nicole Gravina, on “The effects of workstation changes and behavioral interventions on safe typing postures in an office” in the Journal of Work.

- Dr. Diane Dirette, associate professor of occupational therapy, published an article in the February issue of the British Journal of Occupational Therapy on “Patterns and Antecedents of Development of Self-Awareness following Traumatic Brain Injury: the Importance of Occupation.”

- Physician assistant professor Dr. Bill Fenn was selected to chair the Michigan Physician Assistant State Licensing Board.

- Barbara Clif, a recent graduate of the Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Studies program, was selected by the American College of Health Care Executives for her Management Innovation: Relationship-based physician recruitment at a rural hospital. She will present in March at the Annual Congress in Chicago.

Another member of the second cohort in the Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Studies program, Barbara (Johnson) Howes, has written 2 successful grant proposals. The Michigan Department of Human Services awarded $168,750 to the Cass County Family Treatment Court (CCFTC) for its work in preventing juvenile delinquency. The Michigan Supreme Court, State Court Administrative Office; Michigan Drug Court Program awarded $80,000 to CCFTC for its work to provide safe, healthy permanent homes for children of families afflicted with addictions using a cost-effective drug court program. These funds will support part of Ms. Howes’s research for her dissertation in the area of therapeutic jurisprudence.

- Priscilla Barnes, student in the Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies program, is the recipient of a grant from the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation in the amount of $42,551 for a project entitled: Examination of local health department partnerships with nongovernmental agencies in improving public health outcomes. This work, which extends her research interest developed during her practicum at WMU, meets the Foundation’s initiative to bring diversity to their grant making and also to increase secondary data analyses.
Patrick Newton, who will graduate this April from the Music Theatre Performance program, and was last seen as Dracula in the fall of 2007, has been hired as a Blue Man. For several months, Patrick went through a series of auditions in Chicago and New York City and then learned that he had been accepted to perform with the world renown Blue Man Group. He will begin his training in May.

Two graduate students in the Frostic School of Art had their paintings included in juried national exhibitions. Heidi Weiss (MFA, 2009) had one of her large scale paintings included in a show titled nth degree, at the Off the Wall Gallery in Philadelphia from Dec. 2 – 28. Thirteen other students from graduate schools across the United States were included in the show. Ms. Weiss also had a solo exhibit of her work at the Kingscott Gallery, Kalamazoo in January 2008. Nicole Miller (MFA, 2008) exhibited a painting in the Emerging Artists Series at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey from December 14, 2007 to January 25, 2008. This juried exhibition featured up and coming artists in the process of finishing their graduate education and entering the professional market.

The Design Center Intern Students from the Graphic Design Program, Frostic School of Art designed and produced three television commercials for apexart gallery in New York City. The commercials entitled “Bart Discovers apexart”, “ape x art” and “Appreciate Your Senses” were 3 of 19 pieces in the The (Self) Promotion Show on exhibition at the gallery January 9 through February 16. Viewers to the site were encouraged to vote for a winning entry. A professional designer won the competition, but our student designers made a respectable showing in this national, juried competition. The pieces can be viewed at http://www.apex-art.org/promotion/ or at the Gwen Frostic School of Art website: www.wmich.edu/art. The work was created as part of a class (Art 5700, Intern I) under the direction of Professor Tricia Hennessy and with student designers Fleurie Berish, Aaron Bragdon, Kristi Breisach, Brent Casanova, Nancy Corning, Christine Emmer, Michael Goliver, Jared Graham, Eric Karcz, Yuuya Masada, Ephraim McNair, Adrianne Mesnard, Breana Robinson, Amanda Schwarz, Anna Tomlonson, Lauren Watt, and Danielle Webb.

A team of Western Michigan University students has finished in the top 10 of a leading advertising and marketing competition that attracted 50 teams from universities across the nation. This marked the fifth consecutive time that a WMU team has finished in the top 10 in national case study competitions sponsored by EdVenture Partners. The most recent contest, held this fall, was called the EdVenture Partners Chevrolet College Marketing Challenge Case Study Competition and marked the first time EdVenture Partners had worked with Chevrolet on a national case study competition. Previous competitions were held in the spring and involved Cadillac. In the contest, small teams of students within a class are challenged to consider and answer a number of analytical questions regarding a client’s brand positioning, a communication strategy or any other current strategic situation as identified by the sponsoring client. WMU’s team was composed of seniors majoring in the university’s Advertising and Promotion program. Members were Amanda Meister of Fruitport, Michigan; Paris Jackson of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Kristen Ross of Brownstown Township, Michigan and Danielle Ross of Hartber, Michigan. The team, named Detonate, developed an integrated campaign for Chevrolet that accurately targets the vehicle buyer, aged 18-30, who is interested in a vehicle with a fuel-efficient solution, such as a hybrid. The team’s "Envi-Smart, Envi-Cool" campaign was designed to increase awareness of Chevrolet as a preferred option and motivate consumers to become a brand loyal Chevrolet buyer. The team’s advisor was Dr. JoAnn Atkin, WMU professor of marketing, who

Continued on next page
uses the competition as the advertising and promotion major student’s capstone project in the class called Integrated Marketing Communications Campaigns.

A team of advertising students from Western Michigan University finished second out of 53 teams from 70 universities in the national EdVenture Partners Cadillac National Case Study Competition. The team placed behind finalists from Morningside College. The four-person team from WMU’s Advertising and Promotion program traveled to Detroit May 22-23 to present its case study to top executives from Cadillac and Modernista, Cadillac’s advertising agency. Students received a cash prize of $1,000 and a plaque for their campaign, “Real. Luxury”-an idea that the Cadillac CTS automobile is an attainable luxury vehicle for a hard-working, achievement-oriented, younger demographic. Members of WMU’s team are Laura Gera of Elk Grove, Illinois, Shannon Bailey of Waterford, Michigan, Janice Ojczyk of Fort Gratiot, Michigan, and Michelle Jovanovic of Calumet City, Illinois. All four are seniors majoring in advertising and promotion. The team’s faculty advisor is Dr. JoAnnn Atkin, WMU assistant professor of marketing.

College of Education

For the fourth year, State Farm has provided $1,000 stipends to assist College of Education students performing their internships (student teaching) under the umbrella of the College’s School/University Partnership Team. The following students received the stipends: Amanda Almy, April Barnum, Andrea Baschel, Amanda Becktel, Irene Canca, Brett Closson, Cassandra Cowles, Micah Deam, Jennifer Engman, Lisa Fisher, Mikel Gault, Kimberly Harmon, Julie Hughes, Emily Jones, Ashlee Kalis, Rachael Kaluzny, Rebecca Kennedy, Lauren Kenny, Joyell King, Ryan Minier, Peter Morden, Meredith Oosta, Melissa Pierce, Amy Poll, Jennifer Rausch, Cody Richard, Jessica Roe, Renee Roodvoets, Courtney Tetzworth, Shaina Tubergan.

National Association for Sport and Physical Education Major of the Year 2008 award. Morehouse, a senior, is a physical education major and an elementary education minor. Vice-President of Phi Epsilon Kappa, Morehouse is a native of Muskegon. He is intern teaching in the Comstock Public School District. Jonny will receive his award at the National Conference and Symposium of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance to be held in Fort Worth, Texas in April.

Lara Vertalka, school health education major and physical education minor, was awarded two prestigious awards for academic excellence. She will receive the American Association for Health Education Major of the Year Award for Western Michigan University at the national conference in Fort Worth, Texas. Lara will also represent the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation as a Presidential Scholar. Lara is completing her internship at Mattawan Middle School and will graduate in April.

The Interior Design Senior Show, held in The Gallery (Kohrman Hall) during February, featured the designs of Wendi Dines, Courtney Finn, Elizabeth Hammond, Michele Lescota, Lindsay McBride, and Monica Richards. Jonny R. Morehouse received the
Lee Honors College

This summer is going to be an amazing experience for WMU Junior James Conner, a Political Science major. He will be working with the US Department of State at the US Embassy in London. James applied for the competitive internship in November and had written it off until he received an email notifying him of his acceptance. He will be living for 10 weeks in the capital of the United Kingdom from June through August, contingent on a pending security clearance. During this time, he will be working with other students from colleges and universities across the US including Stanford, Northwestern, and Vanderbilt, among others. James is very active within the Lee Honors College community, serving as Vice President of the Honors Student Association and a Student Ambassador. He is also a Medallion Scholar, member of Alpha Lambda Delta, and has served as Captain of WMU’s Mock Trial team.

Industrial engineering (IE) seniors have set a new CEAS record for the professional national engineering exam administered by the State of Michigan. Eight of the nine seniors who took Dr. Bob White’s IME 4160 Operations Control class last fall have passed the eight-hour Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam. Those who passed include Ashley Bazzana, Shannon Bowerson, Matt Pridgeon, Alisha Hankins, Trent Kenworthy, Ella Lambrix, Jason Sakewski, and Ben Smith. The 89 percent pass rate surpasses the present record of 86 percent that was set in Fall 2003. The FE is prepared by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) and administered nationally. The students’ 89 percent pass rate surpasses the 68 percent national average for industrial engineers at all colleges. It is also better than the pass rate of Doctoral I schools, which include the top-of-the-research-pyramid schools like Harvard and Yale. It is also well above the average pass rate of colleges that are ranked in the Carnegie research doctoral-intensive schools, the group to which WMU belongs. “We did much better than either the national average or the average of any of the groups that we compare ourselves to,” White said. The FE test is the first of a two-part professional engineering registration process required by the State of Michigan to become a registered professional engineer in Michigan. The second part of the exam is taken after the engineering graduates have had at least four years of field experience, and it tests their professional practice. White has been teaching IME 4160 every fall since 1981. Students have been required to take the state exam since 1998. White said the class has typically outperformed the national average. In an email to White, CEAS Dean Tim Greene said the students’ achievement represented “excellent results!”

Western’s Kappa Omega Chapter of Eta Kappa Nu (HKN), an honor society that encourages and recognizes excellence in the fields of electrical and computer engineering, recently held the Western Engineering Tee, dubbed W.E.T. Shirt Design Competition to find the design of a new tee shirt they plan to offer to engineering students. According to Matthew Stack, HKN president, the society is a relatively new honors organization. “We started about two years ago, so we’re still fairly small,” he said. “We offered the competition as a means of introducing ourselves - so people know who we are, and to get designs for a possible fundraiser.” Of the 10 submissions, HKN members selected a design submitted by Andrew Wass, a senior in electrical engineering and an active member of the Computer Club. His design includes the word “Weekends?” and the statement “You have some problems; see you on Monday.” Wass said the statement is actually “pretty much a quote” from one of his favorite mechanical engineering professors, but it reflects a perception that students have that their the engineering professors assign a lot of problems at the end of the week to be done over the weekend. “The other professors don’t word it exactly like that, but they do it and they know they do it,” Wass said. For Continued on next page
winning the competition, Wass will receive a free tee shirt. Stack said that HKN plans to have the shirts available by the end of the semester. ECE professor Dr. Ralph Tanner serves as HKN advisor. More information about HKN can be found at hkn.kappomega@gmail.com.

Computer Club (CC) of WMU is winding up its fall lecture / workshop series with a presentation by Eric Valliere on “Wireless Encryption Protocol (WEP) Cracking” and another by Sean Weisel titled “Exploiting Buffer Overflows,” in which the group will crash programs to understand how to write better software. According to Dan Gore, a CS senior who serves as CC President, the club has been offering the weekly series on computer-related topics for several semesters. They are held at the Parkview Campus and are free and open to the public. They generally follow the group’s weekly meeting, which is held in 2244 Kohrmann Hall, where the club operates a drop-in center that is open daily. The CC also operates Geekout, a time set aside for members to get together and work on projects - either their own or one for the club’s. The club is presently building a cabinet. The organization is open to any student interested in computers and does not require any particular level of expertise on computer. The group is planning a gaming party in April. Founded in 1976, the CC encourages a better understanding of computers for members of the WMU community. Membership includes getting an email account because the CC runs its own server. Dr. Robert Trenary, an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science, serves as the group’s adviser. More information is available at www.yakko.cs.wmich.edu.

About 30 fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade Girl Scouts made paper, built straw towers, and dropped eggs from the stairs to floor at the CEAS Parkview Campus at an Engineer for a Day workshop offered by the WMU chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. The six-hour Saturday event allowed the Glowing Embers Council Scouts from Marshall, Battle Creek, Richland, Comstock, Coldwater, and Portage to sample a variety of engineering-related problems and activities. The Scouts also earned Make It Matter engineering badges for their efforts. The Scouts were divided into three groups and participated in six events that were led by eight WMU engineering students with several different majors: Katie Risnes (chemical engineering); Alison Porrett and Marjorie VanHoorelbeke (civil engineering); Krisana Gutierrez and Aarti Valsadia (industrial engineering); Sarah Gerbig, Mallory Good, Diana Janke, and Barbara Vermeech (mechanical engineering); and Erin Bushman, Danielle Boyd, and Courtney Heath (paper engineering). The engineering students shared information about how they chose engineering as a career path and how they selected WMU as their school of choice. The morning workshops included designing a butterfly with chromatography, solving a “radioactive” ping pong ball problem, and making paper. Those in the afternoon involved designing a roller coaster with a 12-foot-long piece of plastic tubing, building a straw tower that would support a volleyball, and preparing a casing that would protect an egg from a 12-foot fall. Each Scout was given a raw egg and some materials to create packaging that would save the egg from the fall. To test their packages, the Scouts dropped their eggs from the stair landing at the Parkview Campus. Some of the eggs survived. SWE President VanHoorelbeke said the activities explored aspects of chemical, aeronautical, paper, mechanical, civil, and construction engineering.

College of Arts and Sciences

Miguel Centellas, a recent (June 07) PhD graduate in Political Science, is part of an NSF grant just awarded on “Electoral Systems and Party Personnel: The Consequences of Reform and Non-Reform”. A specialist on Bolivian electoral politics, Centellas will be responsible for the Bolivian case study in the three-year project involving multiple scholars. Centellas is a faculty member at Dickinson College.
Upcoming Events

Emeriti Council

Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Scholar Ernst Breisach will offer the Emeriti Council's Wednesday II talk for March, addressing the question "Why Would a Historian Write a Biography?" Dr. Breisach's talk will occur on Wednesday, Mar. 12 at 2 PM in the Emeriti Lounge on the second floor of Walwood Hall.

Haworth College of Business

Jim Eckert, Associate Professor of Sales & Marketing, will be guest teaching at the University of Kentucky on Feb 18. He will be presenting on Customer Relationship Management to their MBA students. Jim also will be guest teaching at the University of Paderborn in Paderborn, Germany from April 25 to May 2. He will be doing a five day course on Negotiation.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

According to Dr. Haluk M. Aktan, professor and chair of the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE), the Fifth International Conference on Condition Monitoring and Machinery Failure Prevention Technologies will be held on July 15-18, 2009 at the Edinburgh Conference Centre at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, England. The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing (BINDT) is sponsoring the event. BINDT is organizing the event with the co-operation and partner-ship with the US Society for Machinery Failure Prevention Technology (MFPT). Registrations are now open. Aktan is a member of International Advisory Board of the conference. More information is available at haluk. aktan@wmich.edu.

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 the West Michigan Regional FIRST Robotics competition March 20-22. The team had six weeks to prepare design and build a robot for the regional competition. The robot had to be sent to the competition by Feb. 20. This year’s competition game, FIRST Overdrive, is played on a 27-by-54 foot carpeted field surrounded with blue and red racing lanes and an 6.5-foot overpass in the center of the field. The game pieces are 40-inch diameter inflatable track balls. Each team includes drivers, a coach, and a robo-coach. Competition involves an alliance of three teams. The objective of each alliance is to move its robot and track balls around the track as fast as possible. Robots move the balls by bumping or picking them up. Points are earned each time the track ball crosses its own finish line, and bonus points can be earned when the ball passes over the overpass. Students working on the project come from the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center (KAMSC) and from Mattawan High School (MHS); Chelsea Angel, Evan Fletcher, David Selden-Treiman, Agne Sriubaite, Kes Nagler, and Eric Smith, all KAMSC sophomores; Brendan Nagler, a KAMSC junior; and Sophie Ordina, George Kravchenko, and Jake Meyers, MHS sophomores. Other support comes from WMU’s Dr. Jorge Rodriguez, associate professor, who assisted with design ideas, his student Brad Lee, and Srinivas Ghattamaneni, a graduate assistant, have helped immensely during the construction phase. Support was also provided by Beth Arledge, MHS drafting instructor. The team sponsors are General Motors, Techcare and WMU. Gupta has been mentoring FIRST teams for the last three years. For more information on FIRST projects, email him at tarun.gupta@wmich.edu.

For Summer II 2008, Dr. Pnina Ari-Gur, a professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE), is offering a Summer II 2008 research experience in Brazil as part of an interdisciplinary international opportunity that combines research experience and global understanding. The project begins with four
weeks of nanotechnology studies at WMU. These are then continued in the laboratories of Dr. Edson Roberto Leite, a professor at the Universidad Federal de São Carlos (UFSCAR), a premier engineering university in São Carlos, which is located in the Sao Paulo region of Brazil. In a similar offer last year, WMU and Brazilian students collaborated with Ari-Gur on a nanotechnology research project with the potential to produce a cleaner environment. “This project has both a cultural aspect and a technical one that is very important,” she said. “We’re investigating Titania, and its properties as a photo catalyst that accelerates the process of degrading contaminants in the environment.” The research is a part of a three-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to develop titania as a photo-catalyst to clean specific contaminants in water. Ari-Gur’s co-PIs are Dr. Sherine Obare, WMU assistant professor of chemistry, Dr. Dan Fleming, WMU professor of chemical engineering, and Leite. Undergraduate and graduate students in various science and engineering curricula who have good academic standing were invited to apply to participate. By mid March, Ari-Gur will select about five or six students for the project from several applicants who met the Feb. 29 deadline. There are no program fees for those who participate without course credit. Costs for those taking it for course credit in either an Area IV Western World course or some related science or engineering course are $900 (undergraduate) and $1,200 (graduate). Industrial visits to leading universities are also planned.

FUSE 1, an innovative, new performance work, will be presented in the York Arena Theatre, March 20-22 and March 27-30. Working from a multidisciplinary platform, students from WMU’s playwriting, theatre, dance and music programs collaborate to create an exciting new drama. Using Plato’s quote “when the mode of the music changes, the walls of the city shake” as their launching point, the artists fuse their art creating a whole experience that is greater than the sum of its parts. Tickets are available at the Gilmore Theatre box office.

NORTH STAR, is a moving drama of racial tension. It will be presented by the Department of Theatre March 27-29 and April 3-6 in the Williams Theatre at 8 p.m. This powerful dreamscape sets the joyous promise of a southern summer against the harsh realities of racist America. It is a civil rights story for families to experience together – an insight into a struggle for dignity and humanity in a time that changed American life forever. Tickets are available at the Gilmore Theatre box office.

The Graduate College’s ongoing colloquium series is pleased to announce several scholarly speakers for the spring semester.

• Dr. Ellen Goldberg, Associate Professor of Religions of South Asia, in the Department of Religious Studies at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario will be presenting a lecture entitled, “Cognitive Science and the Religions of India” on Thursday, Mar. 13 at 3:30 p.m. The lecture will take place in Putney Auditorium, Fetzer Center and is presented in association with the Department of Comparative Religion, WMU Women’s Caucus and the Department of Psychology.

• A lecture by Dr. Adrianne Asch, Edward and Robin Milstein Professor of Bioethics at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University. Dr. Asch’s lecture, entitled “Ethics and Science: Lessons from Bioethics,” is scheduled for Thursday, Mar. 27, 2008 from 5-6:30 p.m. in Fetzer Center. This lecture is co-sponsored by the Western Michigan University chapter of Sigma Xi, the Center for Ethics, and the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies.

• Dr. Nathan Sivin, Professor of Chinese Culture and the History of Science at the University of Pennsylvania, will be lecturing on “Medicine and Religion in Imperial China” on Wednesday, Apr. 2, 2008 at 5:30 pm in Putney Auditorium, Fetzer Center. Dr. Sivin’s lecture has been scheduled in association with WMU’s Department of Comparative Religion, Interdisciplinary Health Studies and Holistic Health Care.

• Dr. Barbara E. Lovitts, Senior Research Associate at Abt Associates and former Senior Program Officer in the Center for the Advancement of Scholarship on
Engineering Education at the National Academy of Engineering, will address WMU graduate faculty and students and discuss her research in her new book, Making the Implicit Explicit: Creating Performance Expectations for the Dissertation. Her lecture is scheduled for Monday, Apr. 7, 2008 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Kirsch Auditorium, Fetzer Center.

- Dr. William LaFleur, E. Dale Saunders Professor in Japanese Studies in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania, will be presenting a lecture entitled “Desires of the Dying: Buddhist Concerns in Bioethics” on Monday, Apr. 7, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in Putney Auditorium, Fetzer Center. This lecture is being presented in association with WMU’s Department of Comparative Religion, the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society and the Soga Japan Center.

All of the Graduate Colloquium Series events are free and open to the public. For more information about the Graduate College Colloquium series, visit the Graduate College’s website at: www.wmich.edu/grad.

On Saturday, April 5 the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation is hosting a luncheon reception to honor the graduates being inducted into the Alumni Honor Academy. This program provides public recognition of the outstanding professional accomplishments, contributions, and service of distinguished graduates. More information is available at: http://www.wmich.edu/coe/hper/academy2008.htm.

- The Southwest Regional Professional Development Conference for Physical Educators is scheduled for March 9. Preregister by using the Southwest Regional Conference brochure (http://www.wmich.edu/coe/hper/docs-pdfs/SouthwestBrochure.pdf).

College of Education

The Merchandising Opportunities Design Association "Rock the Catwalk Fusion 2008" spring fashion show will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites Exhibition Hall on Friday, April 11 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be on sale starting Feb. 25. General admission tickets will be $10 and VIP tickets will be $30. Half of the proceeds from this show will go to benefit the Southwest Michigan Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

On Tuesday April 15, the Bronson School of Nursing will host a scholarly event at the Bernard Center. The theme of this sixth annual event is “Professional Nursing: Making it Happen!” Dr. Diane Hamilton, the recipient of the CHHS 2007 Teaching Excellence Award, professor and nurse historian will provide the keynote address. Poster presentations from students highlighting their scholarship across the nursing curriculum will follow her address. Lee Honors College nursing students are involved in planning the event with nursing faculty and they will present introductions of the speakers that day. Jillian Steeby, a senior and in the Lee Honors College, will present her thesis research. The Upsilon Epsilon chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the nursing honor society, is co-hosting the event. It is expected that close to 300 students and community nurses will attend. Additionally, the Alumni Association of Bronson Methodist Hospital School of Nursing generously contributed funding to help support this scholarly event.

College of Health and Human Services

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WMU Department of Geography Sponsors Lucia Harrison Colloquium Series Presents on Mar. 14. Dr. David Dickason, WMU Department of Geography “The W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change,” 902 Wood Hall from 3 to 4:30 p.m. For more information contact Dr. Charles W. (Jay) Emerson, of the Department of Geography at (269) 387-3430 or charles.emerson@wmich.edu.

Biological Sciences Spring 2008 Seminar Series. All programs take place in 1718 Wood Hall from 3:30 to 4:50 p.m. For more information about upcoming events contact Lori McKnight, Department of Biological Sciences, (269) 387-5602 or lori.mcknight@wmich.edu.

- March 14: Michael Henshaw, PH.D., Assistant professor, Biology Department, Grand Valley State University “The evolution of multiple queen societies in social wasps.”
- March 21: Steve Gorsich, PH.D., assistant Professor, Biology Department, Central Michigan University “Developing stress tolerance for tomorrow’s fuel – How yeast will take us there.” in 1718 Wood Hall from 3-4:50 p.m.
- Apr. 4: Robert Yancey, Ph.D., Research Fellow, Pfizer Global Animal Health, “Vaccine adjuvants – Can’t live without them.”
- March 10: Geosciences Seminar Kathy Nagy, University of Illinois at Chicago, Topic: TBA

College of Arts and Sciences

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1718 Wood Hall at 4 p.m.
• March 12: Emeriti Event. Speaker: Ernst Breisach, Distinguished Scholar, History “Why Would an Historian Write a Biography?” Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall at 2 p.m.

• March 14: WMU Department of Geography sponsors the Lucia Harrison Colloquium Series Dr. David Dickason, WMU Department of Geography “The W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change” 2902 Wood Hall, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

• March 17: Geosciences Seminar Graduate Students Tamara Defrain, Abdou Aly El-Magd and Alan LeFever. Topic: TBA 1118 Rood Hall at 4 p.m.

• March 17: Physics Colloquium Speaker: Jennifer Hampton, Hope College. “Magnetic Measurements of Electrodeposited, thin Films and Multilayer” 1110 Rood Hall at 4 p.m. with refreshments at 3:30 p.m. in Bradley Commons, 2202 Everett Tower

• March 17: Gwen Frostic Reading Series Novelist Kellie Wells The Little Theatre at 8 p.m.