Western Michigan University's Newsletter for Academic Affairs

Items of Academic Interest

**College of Education**

Monica Harris, professor in the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies, presented at the 68th Annual Conference of the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC) in Grand Rapids, Feb. 27-29. She represented the Michigan Association for Learning Disabilities Educators by presenting a “SIM Strand” to educators. The Strategic Instructional Model was developed by the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning and provides research-based learning strategies to students with learning disabilities. Also included in this model are teaching routines that have been validated in general education settings for students with and without disabilities. While at the conference, Harris presented three sessions that included vocabulary learning, reading comprehension, and test-taking skills for secondary students. The sessions were attended by administrators, teachers, undergraduate students, and parents from around the state. For more information about SIM, please contact Monica Harris at monica.harris@wmich.edu.

On Mar. 17 the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies hosted Dr. Don Deshler who spoke on “Fostering Literacy in Struggling Adolescent Learners: Research-based Interventions” and “At-Risk Adolescent Learners in the Shadow of NCLB and RTI: Challenges and Reasons for Hope.” Deshler is the director of the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning. Under his guidance, KU-CRL developed the Strategic Instruction Model, a comprehensive approach to adolescent literacy that addresses the need of students to be able to read and understand large volumes of complex reading materials as well as to express themselves effectively in writing.

**Haworth College of Business**

A team of WMU students from the Integrated Supply Management program (Robert Baird, Nicholas Falzetta, Chris Onderlinde, Marcus McNamara, and Brandon Pompa) took the value stream mapping tools they learned in Dr. Sime Curkovics classroom and applied them at Stryker Medical. Not only did the students gain valuable experience from this project by being able to put theory into practice, but Stryker Medical was able to reduce costs and improve the on-time performance for parts purchased from a local supplier.

Using the value stream mapping tool, the students were able to demonstrate that the current method of ordering parts was contributing to long lead times and high inventory levels. By performing an analysis using historic costs and parts usage, the students were able to clearly show the cost reductions and performance improvements that would be gained by switching to a pull inventory system. The project was supported by Stryker Team Leaders Bruce Parmelee and Karen Machiniak.

In September 2007, The International Telecommunications Education and Research Association (ITERA) announced its 2008 National Case Study Competition. This year’s case study involved designing the campus of the future at Cool University. The ITERA case study competition invites student project teams throughout the United States to develop solutions to applied problems involving communication and information technology. The ITERA case study challenge is open to both graduate and undergraduate information and communication technology related programs. On Feb. 18, 2008, ITERA announced that Western Michigan University’s Telecommunications & Information Management (TIM) program had made the final round of the top three. The final round competition and public presentation will be held during ITERA’s national conference in Louisville, Kentucky on Continued on next page
Mar. 27-29, 2008. WMU TIM team members are Colin Cady, Ben Krupp, Ryan Lasure and Justin Knapp (Team Captain). The ITERA case study competition features Cool University; a leading-edge educational institution focused on integrating technology into the daily operations of the campus as well as supporting the academic mission. The WMU TIM project team was asked to analyze the structural requirements for Cool University and develop a blueprint for creating a technologically superior communications infrastructure. The team developed a strategy that allows for high bandwidth allocation, enhanced security management via RFID, and the convergence of voice, data and video traffic using a fiber optic-based network. In addition, the proposed cool network features mobile and wireless capability as well that provides connectivity from virtually anywhere on and off campus. “The primary objective is to enhance campus wide technical communication and interactivity, as well as create a foundation platform that is capable of supporting future growth and expansion,” explained Dr. Richard Gershon, the TIM Coordinator at CAS.

On Feb. 19, Dennis Nally, chairman and senior partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), met with faculty and students in the Department of Accountancy. Nally (1971, BBA) was recently re-elected to serve a second term in his position at PwC. Nally’s visit included meetings with students and faculty regarding the various opportunities available in the accounting profession, what he anticipates are major issues facing the field and suggestions for how accounting educators might help public accounting firms meet these challenges. Since joining PwC in 1974, Nally has had extensive experience serving large multinational clients in a variety of industries, principally focusing on the technology market, including computers and life sciences. A frequent speaker and guest lecturer on issues affecting the accounting profession and the US capital markets, he is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New York State Society of CPAs, the US Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, The Business Roundtable, The Carnegie Hall Society Board of Trustees, and the Partnership for New York City Board of Directors. Mr. Nally is a graduate of Western Michigan University.

Over 260 area high school students explored careers in accounting with faculty and professionals from the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants Friday, Feb. 22, on the campus of Western Michigan University. The event at WMU’s Fetzer Center was co-sponsored by the WMU Department of Accountancy and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. It outlined for area juniors and seniors what the accounting profession entails and included hands-on activities for the students and a session on saving money effectively. “The students learn the requirements and rewards of our profession, including the exceptional career opportunities and great compensation,” says Dr. Ola Smith, WMU associate professor of accountancy and the coordinator of this year’s event. “We want to make sure these students are aware of the limitless possibilities.”

The College of Aviation Cabin Security Research Team is pursuing research in critical areas aimed at increasing safety and security for passengers and crew. “The events of September 11th, 2001, have magnified the importance of crew security training, and the flight attendants role as the first and last line of defense to the cockpit. Our current research at the College of Aviation is exploring joint flight attendant, pilot, and air marshal training, tools to measure the effectiveness of current security training, procedures to further close the communication gap between the cabin and cockpit, as well as, benefits of wireless communication systems on board US aircraft.” The Research Team is comprised of faculty, industry experts, alumni and students. The Women in Aviation, Alpha Eta Rho, and MAAP, along with other students, are participating in literature reviews for the team. The first project will look at safety effects of “low time” regional airline pilots. Lori Brown, College of Aviation faculty specialist, started the Cabin Security Research Team to further investigate and recommend improvements for cabin safety. She has published aviation safety articles and is currently writing a chapter for the book entitled “Passenger Security in the new era of Terrorism” with professors from Temple University and Pennsylvania State University. Lori is joined by Research Associate, Beth M. Beaudin-Seiler, MPA, and Vladimir Risukhin, professor in the College of Aviation. The team is encouraging diversity in research sciences. For more information contact lori.brown@wmich.edu.

The transference of security services to civilian control in the process of democratization is a focus of research for Sri Yunanto, a Fulbright doctoral student from Indonesia, who recently presented his findings in Washington D.C. at an enrichment seminar hosted by the Institute of International Education. Yunanto, a native of Bekasi-Jakarta, Indonesia, was one of six Fulbright doctoral students selected from a pool of more than 200 to present their research in February at the three-day seminar for all Fulbright

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students. He is studying comparative politics in Western Michigan University’s political science doctoral program. The paper was a combination between Yunanto’s previous research and the outcome of the Civil Society course he is taking spring semester with Dr. Sybil Rhodes, WMU assistant professor of political science. The paper addresses how efforts from organized groups in society are needed to pressure the government and the security services to engage in further reform in Indonesia’s further progress in democratization.

Dr. Jim Butterfield, professor of political science and director of graduate studies, said “Yunanto has been a ‘welcome addition’ to the political science Ph.D. program, especially because of his advocacy work in Indonesia. He brings a wealth of experience and has a profound interest in the study of democracy and democratization—an interest he holds in common with many faculty and graduate students in our program,” Butterfield said. “The Civil Society course is helping him address how to approach the research of his institute back in Indonesia on reform of the security services and, in particular, how to bring them under civilian control.” Yunanto said his research interest stems from his experiences in Indonesia as the founder of an NGO, the Institute for Defense Security and Peace Studies, and serving as a media commentator and analyst on political and security issues. Upon receiving notification last year that he had been nominated for a Fulbright, Yunanto began communicating with Butterfield to learn more about WMU’s political science program. He arrived in fall 2007 with a three-year Fulbright commitment and a matching grant from the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

University Libraries

A reading by poet Mary Ruefle took place Thursday, Mar. 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Edwin and Mary Meader Rare Book on the third floor of Waldo Library. Ms. Ruefle’s visit to campus was co-sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences Women’s Caucus, the Department of English, Waldo Library and the Carol Ann Haenicke American Women’s Poetry Collection Advisory Board.

College of Fine Arts

The National Association of the Schools of Theatre commission voted to continue accreditation for the Department of Theatre.

College of Arts and Sciences

The following letter of thanks was received by Dr. Cynthia Running-Johnson (chair, Foreign Languages) after the visit of 30-plus Taiwanese students and teachers to WMU’s campus for the WMU/NKNU TEFK program: “Time flies as snow fell and airplanes took off during January 26 and February 9, 2008. My group members and I couldn’t believe that we had finished the two-week 2008 WMU/NKNU TEFK Seminar so soon. Though we had come back to Taiwan safely on February 10, we couldn’t forget the precious days in Western Michigan University and her city, Kalamazoo. You were really super in coordinating the 2008 WMU/NKNU TEFK Seminar for our teacher group during November 20, 2007 and January 26, 2008. In the seminar program during January 26 and February 9, 2008, you and many faculties also gave us the warmest supports and encouragement. In the 72-hour lectures, all the professors and guest speakers from different colleges, different departments and even retired area shared their expertise and friendship with us. In the tour study programs or field study programs, all the guides and professors gave us helpful printed references and oral interpretation. The housing and dining services were also very qualified and even spoiling. As well, thanks to Dean McCloud’s full support, the farewell banquet on February 8 became a delightful end note in the seminar program. But it didn’t mean that it was the end of learning, but the beginning of an alternative learning in the participants’ life journey. During February 7-8, the seminar participants were trying to pack up everything before leaving WMU, but they didn’t know how to pack up all your bountiful information and warm friendship. In the Detroit Airport on February 9, some participants were busy in finding new luggage for their reading packages and purchased books when they were informed that each of their bags were over 50 pounds. It showed that they really cherished what they had learned in WMU. Though we had come back to Taiwan on February 10, we will keep your enthusiasm, hospitality, devotion, leadership, and professional presentation all the time. WMU and

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NKNU had a long-term sisterhood since 1992. Our 2008 WMU/NKNU TEL Seminar made the sisterhood stronger than before. Thanks again for providing us with all the professional curricula and qualified accommodations in WMU, we sincerely hope to have opportunities to host you and your students in our university and city. May we continue the academic learning program or academic exchange programs in the near future.”

**College of Engineering and Applied Sciences**

Many CEAS faculty, administrators, students, and emeriti supervised events and contributed to the success of the Region 10 Science Olympiad, held Mar. 15 at WMU. About 400 area middle school and high school students competed in team activities that focused on science concepts, processes, and applications and technology. Scot Conant, CEAS student outreach and recruitment coordinator, coordinated the WMU event. Dr. Don Nelson, Karlis Kaugars, and Bob Boughner supervised Trajectory; requiring teams to design, construct, calibrate, and operate a device capable of launching a projectile. Dr. Peter Parker directed Science Word, a timed word-definition event; Dr. Raja Aravamuthan and Annette Cummins coordinated Scrambler, for which teams build light, wheeled devices without motors or fuel; and Dr. Murali Ghantasala supervised Metric Mastery, a test of the ability to estimate and measure in metric units. Robocross, supervised by Dr. Bade Shrestha and Robot Ramble, Fred Sitkins, Dr. Sam Ramrattan, and Dr. Pavel Ikanomov, involved designing and building robots. Tom Swartz, Jerrie Fiala, Laura Decker, and Sandra Blanchard directed two levels of Write it Do it, which tests students’ ability write and follow instructions. Dr. Ajay Gupta, Kristie Sturmoski, and Sheryl Todd supervised Electric Vehicle, the construction of an electrically-powered vehicle; Dr. Steven Butt and Jorge Rodriguez, and Janet Liebendorfer directed Experimental Design, the design, analysis, and write-up of an experiment. Student members of WMU’s American Society of Civil Engineers directed Tower Builders, the designing and building of a wood tower, and Boomilever, the designing, building, and testing of a type of canti-levered boom. CEAS student supervisors included Matt Czachowski, Bryce DeQuoy, Nick Francis, Josh Glowski, Paul Pagano, Phil Reitenour, Britney Richmond, Dan Robinson, Mike Romkema, Tim VanStraten, and Kim Warners. Providing tech support was Peter Thanhauser and Dr. Tim Greene, Dr. Edmund Tsang, and Dr. Said Abubakr handled morning crowd control.

To showcase IME’s four undergraduate programs, the department held its second annual IME Night. IME students and professors provided lots of pizza in an informal setting to discuss and answer questions about industrial and entrepreneurial engineering (IEE), manufacturing engineering (MFT), engineering management technology (UEM), and engineering graphics and design technology (EGR). Slobodan Urdarevik, IME faculty, coordinated the event. Activities included games, lab tours, research displays, and networking opportunities with faculty, students, and representatives of two area companies Enhancing the fun was a variety of pizza, soda, and treats. Torrey Cook, an associate human resource manager for General Foods’ Post Cereals, and Anton Lorentz III – a technology team leader from Parker Hannifin Corp., the Parker Aerospace Group, the Hydraulics System Division – discussed what engineers do in the workplace. Cook also answered questions about resumes and life after graduation. IME students and faculty members set up tables to showcase IME programs, products, and organizations and to answer questions. Ongoing chair research being done by IME’s Human Performance Institute was displayed so that participants could examine a chair used to produce computerized images of the pressure points a person exerts when he or she sits. In addition, some Parkview Campus engineering labs were open for guided tours and demonstrations. Urdarevik credited the IME professors, staff, and students for the event’s success. Special thanks were offered to Troy Place, who emailed over 160 invitations, Fred Sitkins, who invited the corporate representatives, and the IME office staff – Klaz Welch, Mary Fosburg, Marji VanHoorelbeke, and John Jacobs – for their efforts in Continued on next page
At the 29th Annual Engineers Week Dinner (EWD), held in February at WMU's Fetzer Center, an audience of about 200 engineers, professors, administrators, and college and high school students enjoyed dinner and keynote speaker Robert (Bob) Williamson - consultant, author, and educator from Strategic Work Systems, Inc. - presented “NASCAR Racing: A Model for Equipment Reliability & Teamwork.” He showed in words and images how the NASCAR racing model can be used to improve what ails many companies. Williamson studied NASCAR racing as a model for improving the way people work together and focus on improving equipment performance. His topic included what he has learned from NASCAR race teams and how he has applied those lessons at companies that range from manufacturing to mining to utilities. EWD is sponsored by Southwestern Michigan engineering societies to celebrate National Engineers Week. The EWD Steering Committee included several CEAS faculty and administrators: Dr. Jorge Rodriguez, Dept. of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME); Sharon Van Dyken and Scot Conant, CEAS advising office; and Johanna Wells and Tamara Bergman, CEAS dean’s office. Other members of the committee were representatives of several professional engineering organizations: Dan Lewis, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Dave Caldwell, Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), John Lobo, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Michael Schwartz, Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE), and Cliff Muller, Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE). Contributors to the event include Denso (DMMI), Hawthorne, Society of Automotive Engineers, CEAS, Consumers Energy, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Association for Facilities Engineering MSPE - Southwestern Chapter, Eaton Corp., Prein & Newhof, American Society of Civil Engineers, and American Society of Plumbing Engineers.

**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 - 4 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. On Mar. 28, Dr. Sydlik will conduct a special seminar in "How to Use Electronic Resources to Identify Funding Opportunities" from 2 - 4 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 currently sponsored by OVPR and are designed to assist in students' professional development as future faculty.

Dr. Barbara E. Lovitts, addresses WMU graduate faculty and students on Monday, Apr. 7, 2008, from 9-11 a.m. in the Fetzer Center. She has studied the doctoral dissertation in America. From responses to questionnaires, she has identified markers of excellence in dissertations across fields and disciplines, and advocates clear, synoptically procedures for guiding students through the dissertation process. She was formerly Senior Program Officer in the Center for the Advancement of Scholarship on Engineering Education at the National Academy of Engineering. Her most recent book is Making the Implicit Explicit: Creating Performance Expectations for the Dissertation (Sterling, Virginia: Stylos, 2007).

**College of Health and Human Services**

A group of 14 students and two faculty members traveled to Ireland and Northern Ireland during spring break as part of a new elective course titled “International Perspectives on Care of the Older Person.” Dr. Carla Chase and Dr. Maureen Mickus, from Occupational Therapy led the students who were drawn from a variety of disciplines including Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Speech, Social Work and Interdisciplinary Health Services. The trip was organized in partnership with the National University of Ireland Galway and the University of Ulster. During their time abroad, students were involved in fieldwork experiences in hospitals, Continued on next page
nursing homes, and clinics. They also spent time with Irish students both in and outside the classroom. Students had wide exposure to Irish politics, health policy, culture, and beautiful scenery. Reflecting on their many experiences, students reported learning as much about themselves and their fellow travelers as they did about Ireland. Plans are already underway for this elective to be offered in spring 2009.

Faculty Accolades

Deanna Swoboda, assistant professor of Music, was the soloist for a performance of Alexander Arutunian’s “Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra” with the United States Army “Pershing’s Own” String Orchestra on Feb. 1. The concert was part of the U.S. Army Band’s 25th Anniversary Tuba Euphonium Conference in Washington, D.C.

The Western Jazz Quartet, a resident faculty ensemble in the School of Music, recently concluded a successful tour of concerts and master classes in Chile, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Santiago. The tour included performances at the Ambassador’s residence, The Jazz Club of Santiago, and The Providencia Festival, Chile’s premiere jazz festival which also included performances by Ravi Coltrane, Dave Holland, and Tito Puente, Jr.

Professors Michael Whang and George Boston partnered with the University of California Riverside and presented at the 2008 Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference in Atlanta. Their topic reports on how the WMU Libraries and UC Riverside Libraries utilize e-metrics to store and access large amounts of data sets to develop, manage, enhance, and monitor library collections as well as fuel library Web development and enhancements.

Community health education professor Robert Bensley was recently appointed as a Research Associate with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. Since spending six months in South Africa supported by the Fulbright Senior Scholar Award, he has been actively involved in internationalizing experiences for the community health education curriculum and exploring avenues for collaborative research between WMU and NMMU. Research associate appointments are open-ended positions and individuals are considered to be permanent academic staff members of the NMMU for the purposes of research administrative support and research funding. Bensley, with his NMMU colleagues, is currently pursuing a number of community and research-related opportunities in South Africa.


College of Education

Dr. Tetyana Koshmanova, associate professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies, had two articles published in March, 2008:


Dr. James Croteau, professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, counseling psychology doctoral student Jessica Manning and national colleagues Kathleen Bieschke, Penn State, and Ruth Fassinger, University of Maryland, co-authored the chapter on sexual orientation issues in the new 2008 4th edition of the Handbook of Counseling Psychology published by Wiley. This is the first time that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender psychological research,
theory and practice have been covered in the handbook of the counseling psychology profession. In the chapter, the authors give a historical overview of LGBT issues in psychology and then look at trends in the literature related to counseling psychology including career and work issues, sexual identity theory, professional training, and counseling practice.

Dr. Allison Downey, assistant professor in the Department of Teaching Learning, and Educational Studies, and her husband, Dr. John Austin, professor in the Department of Psychology, performed at one of the most prestigious folk venues in the country, Ann Arbor’s The Ark, on Feb. 14 for the 4th Annual “Folky Valentine” with 4 other marital, musical duos. They also performed at the North American Folk Alliance Conference in Memphis at the end of February, featuring folk performers from around the world. On Mar. 11 Downey and Austin launched the national on-line release of Downey’s sophomore CD, “Across the Sea,” The CD is available in stores locally and on iTunes, CDBaby.com, and www.allisondowney.com. Within two weeks the CD received radio play in 5 countries and 11 states. On Mar. 29 they celebrated the East Coast release in concert at The Warehouse Theatre in Washington, DC. Downey was also awarded the annual Arts Fund Individual Artist Grant from the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo to support her attendance, performances, and showcasing of “Across the Sea.”

Dr. Patrick Munley, professor and chair, and Dr. Lonnie Duncan, associate professor, both of the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, co-authored a paper with William E. Pate of the American Psychological Association, on “Demographic, Educational, Employment, and Professional Characteristics of Counseling Psychologists” published in the March 2008 issue of The Counseling Psychologist.

Dr. Lonnie Duncan, associate professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology.

Extended University Programs

Dr. Darrell Johnson, Dean of Extended University Programs, was recently elected to a three-year term with the Leadership and Management Commission of the University Continuing Education Association. The UCEA is the foremost national organization promoting the development of continuing and professional education. “I am particularly pleased to represent WMU in this vitally important continuing education leadership role with a national organization of the stature of UCEA,” Johnson said. The UCEA is the principal organization for continuing higher education, the association assists institutions of higher learning and affiliated non-profit organizations to increase access through a wide array of educational programs and services. UCEA also provides national leadership in support of policies that advance workforce and professional development.

The Michigan Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) is proud to announce the recognition of Western Michigan University Geosciences Professor, Dr. Alan E. Kehew, with the 2007 Outstanding Geologist of the Year Award for contributing to the advancements in the understanding of the glacial geology of Michigan. Dr. Kehew is a national leader in the interpretation of glacial landforms and landscapes, and he continues to make significant contributions to the understanding of the glacial events that shaped Michigan’s rich historic geologic past. Dr. Kehew’s contributions stem from a mapping project. His work has led to a reinterpretation of the glacial geologic history of Michigan, which was extensively glaciated during repeated Pleistocene fluctuations of the Laurentide Ice Sheet. The Lower Peninsula was covered by variable thicknesses of glacial drift (up to 1200 ft), with few exposures of bedrock. The Upper Peninsula was also completely covered by glaciers, but contains more extensive exposures of bedrock. Over the past decade, new mapping of the glacial drift has been completed as part of US Geological Survey STATEMAP and EDMAP programs. Prior to this new work, most interpretations of the glacial geology were based on mapping by Frank Levett and others in the early 20th Century. Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) provide a new way to visualize and interpret glacial landscapes and are extensively used in current mapping projects. The wide availability of these databases has stimulated and facilitated glacial geologic research throughout glaciated terrains worldwide. A better understanding of the stratigraphy and depositional processes of the glacial

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Dr. Kehew is a graduate of Bucknell University with a degree in Geology and holds a Master of Science degree in Earth Science from Montana State University and Doctorate in Geology from the University of Idaho.

Scott Slawinski (English) has been awarded a $1000 grant from the Maine Women Writers Collection to travel to Maine to begin research for his next book, tentatively titled “Sally Wood: The Life and Works of Maine’s First Gothic Novelist.” Although her name is familiar to specialists in the field of early American studies, Wood (1759-1855) has had little critical recognition overall, despite being one of the most prolific writers of fiction of her era. Slawinski’s study will be the first biography and book-length examination of Wood’s entire known works.

Poet Laureate Charles Simic has chosen New Issues poet Matthew Thorburn for the 2008 Witter Bynner Fellowship (which carries a $10,000 fellowship) and will introduce him at a reading on Mar. 6 at the Library of Congress. Thorburn, of New York City, is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the MFA program at The New School. He is the author of the New Issues title “Subject to Change.”

- “Undid in the Land of Undone,” by Lee Upton, has been named a finalist in “ForeWord Magazine’s” Book of the Year Awards in the Poetry category. “ForeWord Magazine’s” Book of the Year Awards were established to bring increased attention from librarians and booksellers to the literary achievements of independent publishers and their authors.”

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Dr. Tycho Fredericks, a professor in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME), won the right to wear the leprechaun suit on St. Patrick’s Day. He earned the honor by receiving the most votes in a fundraiser competition offered by the student chapter of the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE). Eleven IME faculty members and the CEAS Dean vied for the privilege, but Fredericks acquired the most votes. Votes were equal to the funds that were submitted. Anyone could vote by submitting a sealed envelope containing money. According to IE senior Ben Smith, the IIE fundraising chair who coordinated the event, the leprechaun election added $150 to the IIE coffers and a lot of fun to the Monday holiday. “The real fun was getting a photo of Dr. Fredericks in the leprechaun costume,” he said. This was the first year that the IIE held the Irish holiday fundraiser, but Smith hopes the fundraiser becomes an annual tradition. “With our costume and with the attention gained from the St. Patrick’s Day spectacle, I hope that IIE continues this fundraiser in the future,” he said. Smith credited several IIE members for their contribution to the event’s success: Kristana Gutierrez, Aarti Valsadia, Bryan Dopkins, Shannon Bowerson, and Ashley Bazzana. Smith also acknowledged the other leprechaun candidates: Dr. Tim Greene, the CEAS dean, and IME faculty members: Dr. Betsy Aller, Dr. Steve Butt, Dr. Azim Houshyar, Dr. Leonard Lamberson, Dr. David Lyth, Dr. Larry Mallak, Mr. Troy Place, Dr. Sam Ramrattan, Dr. Jorge Rodriguez, and Dr. Bob White. “Special thanks goes out to those teachers that agreed to be part of this event,” Smith said.

Dr. Zijiang (James) Yang, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science (CS), has won ACM TODAES’ 2008 Best Paper Award for “Disjunctive image computation for software verification,” which appeared in the April 2007 issue [Volume 12, Issue 2] of ACM Transactions on Design Automation of Electronic Systems (TODAES). Yang is one of four co-authors of the article. The other authors are Drs. Wang Chao, Franjo Ivancic, and Aarti Gupta, all of whom are researchers at NEC Laboratories America located in Princeton, NJ. The best paper award, which is selected annually by Editorial Board of ACM TODAES and ACM SIGDA Advisory Board, includes an official plaque and a $1000 check. The award will be

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officially presented to Yang in the June 10 opening session of the 45th ACM/IEEE Design Automation Conference (DAC) in Anaheim, California. According to its Web site, DAC is “the premier event for the design of electronic circuits and systems, and for EDA and silicon solutions.”

Dr. Ben Atchison, professor in the Occupational Therapy Department, is presenting a workshop on Apr. 14 at the Ireland Occupational Therapy Association annual conference which will focus on the work of the WMU Children’s Trauma Assessment Center, entitled: “Transdisciplinary Assessment and Community Based Intervention for Children Exposed to Trauma.” The presentation will describe the service, professional education, and research activities completed and in process as a result of grant funded projects by SAMHSA and the Office of Juvenile Justice.

Kieran Fogarty, Ph.D., founding faculty member of the Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Studies Program, is co-author of a recently published article entitled “A Geospatial Analysis of CDC-funded HIV Prevention Programs for African Americans in the United States.” It can be found in the Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice. This article highlights a method for determining where target populations reside and where funded programs are located and then identifies groups that are potentially underserved.

- Amy Curtis, Ph.D., associate professor in the Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Studies Program, was awarded a $10,000 contract from the State of Michigan for her preliminary work on a diabetes education and support project focused on Latinos and African Americans residing in southwest Michigan.

Dr. Cindee Quake-Rapp, Professor and Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, co-authored a paper published in the March/April issue of the American Journal of Occupational Therapy with Berit Miller, Master Clinical Faculty Specialist, and two international graduate students, Gomathy Ananthan who is currently working as an occupational therapist in Tipperary, Ireland, and En-Chi Chiu who is working as a therapist in Taiwan. The title of the paper is “Direct Observation as a Means of Assessing Frequency of Maladaptive Behavior in Youths with Severe Emotional and Behavioral Disorder.”

Marketing instructor, Amy MacMillan, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Creative Dining Services, Inc., a hospitality management company providing services for educational institutions, corporations, and retirement communities. Based in Zeeland, MI, the company has over 50 clients in eight states and has grown quickly since its founding in 1990. MacMillan joined WMU in 2005, after 17 years in corporate marketing management.

- A paper by Dr. Davin Yaman, associate professor, Department of Finance & Commercial Law titled “Financial Constraints and Security Issuance” has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Revenue Management.

College of Education

The student honor groups PEK and SPASM and the graduate teaching assistants from the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation “jumped in the lake” for the first-ever WMU Polar Plunge on Saturday, Feb. 23, benefiting Special Olympics Michigan Area 16. The Plunge is a national fundraiser sponsored by the WMU Western Student Association and efforts from the local law enforcement.

College of Education

Student Accolades

Haworth College of Business

Marketing instructor, Amy MacMillan, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Creative Dining Services, Inc., a hospitality management company providing
Western Michigan University’s Ethics Bowl team won its regional championship and headed to the national match in early 2008 in San Antonio. WMU won the second Upper Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl, held at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. WMU was the only undefeated team in the competition and had the highest score of any of the 10 teams at the contest. WMU has yet to lose a round in regional competition. The School of Communication students participating were: Natalie Kaf-tan of DePere, Wis., a senior studying interpersonal communication and jazz studies; Linda Munnelly of Lexington, Ky., a senior majoring in journalism; and Chelsea Thompson of Portage, Mich., a sophomore studying film, video and media studies. Other students on the team were Shawn Myers of Jackson, Mich., a junior majoring in biomedical sciences and psychology; Joshua Thomas of Holland, Mich., a sophomore studying psychology and philosophy; and Jonathon Freye of Muskegon, Mich., a sophomore majoring in aviation flight science. The Upper Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl and the California Regional Ethics Bowl were the last of 10 regional competitions around the country to determine the 32 teams that will compete in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl National Championship. The national contest is held as part of the annual meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. The team’s faculty sponsor is Dr. Sandra Borden, associate professor of communication and co-director of WMU’s Center for the Study of Ethics in Society. The coaches are graduate students David Charlton of Kalamazoo, who is studying comparative religion, and Joshua Upson of Galesburg, Mich., studying philosophy. The team is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society with financial support from Lee Honors College and the School of Communication. Other teams that qualified for nationals besides WMU were the Illinois Institute of Technology, Carleton College and UW-Madison. WMU will host the Upper Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl in 2008.

Three physics Ph.D. students, Ms. Ileana Dumitriu, Mr. Susanta Das, and Mr. Buddhika Dassanayake, have been invited to participate in an NSF sponsored Pan American Advanced Studies Institute titled, “Ultrafast and Ultrasmall: New Frontiers and AMO Physics” to be held from Mar. 30 – Apr. 11, 2008 in Buzios, Brazil. Ms. Dumitriu is supervised by Dr. Nora Berrah, while Mr. Das and Mr. Dassanayke are supervised by Dr. John Tanis. The students are among only about 20 chosen nationwide to participate in the institute. In addition to participating in the program, the students are expected to give oral presentations of their own dissertation research and to prepare short contributed papers that will be published as part of the proceedings. Four core topic areas will be covered. They are:

- Ultrafast studies using photons
- Ultrafast/ultrasmall studies using charged particles
- Ultrasmall studies using clusters, fullerenes and nanotubes

Western Michigan University’s mock trial team captured fourth place at the highly competitive Joliet regional over the weekend, finishing with a 5-2-1 record. The fourth place finish secured the team a bid to the national tournament in Waukegan, Ill. on March 14-16. WMU beat teams from University of Michigan, Michigan State, Illinois State and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee among others in a field of 24 teams. Bethany Whittles, captain and three-year member of the program led the team with her outstanding attorney performance, which garnered her an award. She scored 17 of 20 possible points as a defense attorney—she also played an attorney on the other side. This was Whittles’ second attorney award of the season. So far this season, the WMU team has won nine individual awards. This year’s case is very different than that of previous years. Instead of arguing the guilt or innocence of the defendant, they arguing the sentence. The defendant has already pled guilty, so the prosecution is trying to argue aggravating factors—meaning that the

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Bass trombonist Evan Conroy was named the winner of the bass trombone Division II portion of the U.S. Army Band’s National Trombone Solo Competition on Mar. 14. Out of 32 applicants from across the U.S. who submitted recorded auditions, Evan was selected as one of five semifinalists to travel to the Eastern Trombone Workshop in Washington, D.C. for two rounds of live auditions. An annual event, the Workshop draws thousands of professional and semi-professional trombonists from around the country, as well as other interested professional musicians. Evan competed in the bass trombone Division II (ages 18-23) group. The five semifinalists performed solos during closed auditions for three adjudicators. From there, Evan was named one of two finalists and progressed to the final round, a live performance attended by hundreds of workshop attendees in front of five judges. Evan is a 21-year-old junior music performance major from Walled Lake, Michigan. He has been playing bass trombone for only three years and studies with WMU faculty member Steve Wolfinbarger. Evan started playing tenor trombone in the sixth grade and previously studied with Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra principal trombone Kip Hickman.

On February 29, 2008, dance majors Matt Baker, Sarah Rabbers and Tercell Waters were invited to take company class with the Joffrey Ballet in Chicago. Willy Shives, assistant ballet master and leading dancer with the Joffrey Ballet worked with the students on Anthony Tutor’s Dark Elegies, which he staged for the Department of Dance’s Winter Concert of Dance in February.

Four CEAS students won scholarships at the Engineers Week Dinner last month. Scholarships included one each from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Society of Plumbing Engineers, and two from Eaton Corp. Scholarship winners were Krisana Gutierrez, Neal Sheldon, and Joshua Wiese. Gutierrez, an industrial engineering senior with a 3.69 GPA, is from North Branch. She has served with the Society of Women Engineers, Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE), College Life, and WMU Senior Citizens’ Prom. Her future plans include working in production planning and scheduling, international employment, and teaching. Sheldon, a mechanical engineering major with a math minor from Blissfield, maintains a 3.62 GPA. His memberships include American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Alpha Lambda Delta-Freshman Honors Society, Lee Honors College, Tau Beta Pi (TBP), and Google Build Your Campus in 3-D Project. For the future, the WMU Student Employee of the Year nominee is “extremely open to any and all areas of engineering including HVAC, steam power, consulting, and thermal design.” Smith, a senior industrial engineering student from Athens, Michigan, maintains a 3.95 GPA. He has been involved in the Lee Honors College, (IIE), American Society of Engineering Management (ASEM), APICS, Alpha Pi Mu (APM) and Tau Beta Pi (TBP) honors societies, and volunteering activities. Upon graduation, Smith will join Whirlpool’s Global Supply Chain Leadership Development Program for logistics. Wiese, an engineering management technology senior with a marketing minor, maintains a 3.97 GPA. He’s a member of ASEM, Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), Phi Kappa Phi, and Tau Alpha Pi. In addition to working for his father’s business in Belleville, he has interned for the past 3 summers at General Motors, where he plans future employment in product development.

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, the student chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) hosted Professor for the Day. WMU alumni were invited to spend the day after Engineers Week Dinner with an engineering faculty member and to teach a segment of the class. Invitations were sent out to several
and ceremony on Friday, Apr. 4, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Bernhard Center. The honor society promotes excellence in student performance in three engineering technology programs: Engineering Graphics and Design (EGR), Manufacturing Engineering (MFT), and Engineering Management (UEM). Coordinating the ceremony are the society’s officers: Jordan Kimble (MFT), president; Joshua Wiese (UEM), vice president; Bradley Tudor (EGR), secretary, and Alexander Hiday (UEM), treasurer. The new inductees include Jordan Avery (EGR), David Cooper (EGR), Jacob Fowler (MFT), James Gabriel (EGR), Andrew Gautraud (EGR), Joshua Gordon (UEM), Derek Jaromin (UEM), Jason Klein (MFT), Mark Moskalik (EGR), Courtney Rawlings (EGR), Chris Reniger (EGR), Thomas Savile (UEM), Michael Sell (UEM), Steven Srivastava (UEM), and Daniel Switzer (EGR). Kimble acknowledged the society’s appreciation for the industrial sponsors: Avery Oil and Propane, Viking Corporation, and Dennis and Janet Jaromin. The society’s purpose is to encourage members to seek professional excellence, acquire knowledge, and achieve wisdom. Membership in Tau Alpha Pi represents a reward for past accomplishments and a promise for future growth. Members dedicate themselves to wisdom and integrity.

Dr. Alamgir Choudhury, an associate professor in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, serves as advisor, and Jordan Kimble, president; standing: left to right: Joshua Wiese, vice president, Brad Tudor, secretary, and Alex Hiday, treasurer.

The Delta Michigan Chapter of Tau Alpha Pi is preparing for the annual induction ceremony: seated: Dr. Alamgir Choudhury (left), advisor, and Jordan Kimble, president; standing: left to right: Josh Wiese, vice president, Brad Tudor, secretary, and Alex Hiday, treasurer.

Last month, 17 industrial engineering students - all members of WMU’s IIE chapter who ranged from freshmen to seniors - attended the regional Institute of Industrial Engineers Conference (IIE) in Louisville, Kentucky. Yenni Chen, an IE sophomore, won third place in a competition to determine the best technique to sort a deck of cards and place them in order. “Yenni did an incredible job using our IE skills to come up with the best procedure to sort the cards,” said Shannon Bowerson, an IE senior who serves as IIE president. For her accomplishment, Chen received a check from the University of Louisville Student Chapter. The group also heard several speakers and technical paper presentations and toured the Louisville Slugger Factory. “We all received a free Louisville Slugger bat and a group picture with the giant bat in front of the factory,” Bowerson said. The other IE students who attended the regional conference include Ashley Bazanna, Prachi Chandranada, Rob Cookingham, Bryan Dopkins, Eric Drzerwicki, Krisana Gutierrez, Alisha Hankins, Ella Lambrix, Wen Ken Loh, Evan Malats, Mariam Ouazar, Matt Pidgeon, and Dr. Tycho Fredericks.

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Fredericks, professors in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME) who serve as advisors to the WMU IE Chapter. “We really appreciate everything they [advisors] do for us,” Bowerson said. “We also appreciate and want to thank the IME department and the Dean [Dr. Tim Greene] for their generosity and support and for allowing us to attend this conference.”

### Upcoming Events

#### College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

About 20 members of the WMU student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers [ASCE] are planning to take this year’s concrete canoe – named Meridian – to the ASCE 2008 North Central Regional Conference and Concrete Canoe competition. This year’s event takes place at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI, from Friday, Apr. 4, through Sunday, Apr. 6. Matt Czachowski, the civil engineering major who coordinated the project, said the team is “ready for competition.” Meridian has been “curing” since its creation at the end of February. According to Dr. Haluk M. Aktan, professor and chair of the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE), Meridian was created using one-quarter-inch layers of concrete, interspersed with a layer of mesh on a Styrofoam model. Blair Bates, president of Building Restoration Inc., a Kalamazoo business that sponsors both WMU and Michigan Tech teams, assisted the students. “We supply materials and troweling expertise that they need,” he said. “We’re here to train.” Students prepared an optimized mix containing lightweight aggregates, cement, specialized admixtures, and water. Dr. Sherif Yehia, the CCE associate professor who serves as WMU’s ASCE advisor, said that the first week was the most critical time for curing. “We keep it under wet burlap,” he said. Meridian’s success is dependent on the results of several competitions: a technical paper, sprint and distance races, aesthetics, and a swamp test. The first-place winner will be invited to compete in the 21st Annual ASCE National Concrete Canoe Competition scheduled for June 19-21 in Montreal, Canada. Other WMU students involved in the project include Mike Romkema, Phil Reitenour, Paul Pagano, Nick Francis, Chad Albert, Tim Van Straten, Kim Warners, Britney Richmond, Josh Glowiski, Marianne Zenz, Marji VanHoorelbeke, Allison Porrett, Steve Houren, Dharmesh Valsadia, Bryce DeQuoy, Brandon Slagke, Kyle Hendrickson, Michael Wesoloski, and Andy Peruski.

WMU’s Computer Club (CC) is hosting a gaming party from 10 a.m. to midnight on Saturday, Apr. 5, at the Parkview Campus. Parkview Local Area Network 9, or PLAN 9, is open to the public and costs $10. It is Food and refreshments will be available. Participants, who bring their computers, can compete in three major games: Team Fortress 2, Starcraft, and Super Smash Brothers’ Brawl. According to CC President Dan Gore, a senior in computer engineering

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(CE), the five-member teams needed for Team Fortress 2 can be formed prior to arrival, or individuals can form a team after they arrive. Other games include Warsow, Quake 4, and Counter-Strike Source and old-time favorites like Warcraft 2. Gore said that in the past, the event has attracted between 40 and 80 participants, who can register on line or at the door. The event promises “all kinds of prizes and door prizes. Prizes were donated by several companies and organizations. These include Bawls, the producer of high-energy drinks headquartered in Florida; CPU [Computer Power User] magazine, in Lincoln, Neb.; Danger Den LLC, the maker of computer cooling systems in Astoria, Oregon; and SteelSeries North America Corp., headquartered in La Jolla, Calif. Other CC members who are coordinating PLAN 9 included Greg Ferrell, vice president, Eric Valliere, director of operations, Cameron Nicholson, treasurer, Sean Weisel, director of finance, and Kyle Chouinard. CC advisor is Dr. Robert Trenary, an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science. More information about PLAN 9 and photos of prior PLANs are available at http://www.whatisheplan.com/ or plan@yakko.cs.wmich.edu.

A team of WMU student members of the Pegasus chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) is competing Apr. 18-20 in Wichita, Kansas, in the Cessna/Raytheon Missile Systems Student Design/Build/Fly competition (DBF). Travis Iott, a senior in aeronautical engineering (AE) and the WMU AIAA chapter president, said the group was putting the finishing touches on an electric-powered, radio-controlled aircraft model that will be used to demonstrate how well they have met the specified mission. According to its Web site, the contest offers students “a real-world aircraft design experience” by providing “the opportunity to validate their analytic studies.” The model must possess a balanced design, demonstrate good flight handling qualities and high vehicle performance, and be practical and affordable in terms of its manufacturing requirements. Each annual competition offers new design and performance objectives. “We were given a set of requirements for the aircraft,” Iott said. “We designed and built it, and now we will take it to the competition and do a fly-off in a competition with about 60 other schools.” The team has also submitted a required 60-page design report. In addition to Iott, team members include Darren Brown, Hannah Cooley, Ryan Smith, Nicole Gresell, Ryan Kobe, Dan Kolosa, David Ludens, Matt Lytwyn, Matt Magner, Fred Malburg, Erin Moore, Brian Sanik, Alex Satonik, Ryan Smith, Brian Strombeck, Tim Talladay, Nicholas Valente, Philip Villar, Aaron Williams, and Troy Yakel. Many AIAA members are majoring in mechanical or aeronautical engineering, but having either major is not a requirement for members, said Sanik who is majoring in aviation maintenance. The AIAA meetings are held on Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Parkview C-135. “We would love to have new members,” Iott said.

The 42nd Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects, set for Tuesday, Apr. 15, at Parkview features 72 projects by 194 seniors from seven CEAS departments. The 25-minute presentations begin exactly on the hour and half hour between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. No projects are presented from noon to 1 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, and parking is available. An overview of projects by departments follows: Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE): 25 students / 8 projects - 9 to 1:30 in D-115. Computer Science (CS): 12 students / 5 projects - 10 to 1 in D-210. Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE): 17 students / 5 projects - 9 to 11 in D-202. Industrial Design (ID): 19 students / 11 projects - 9 to 3:30 in D-109. Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME): 36 students / 11 projects - 8 to 2 in D-201. Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI): 26 students offer 8 projects - 9 to 2:30 in D-208. Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE): three concurrent sessions for 59 students / 23 projects - 10 from 9 to 2:30 in D-204/205; 6 from 9 to 11:30 in C-124, and 7 from 9 to 1 in D-212. Sponsors for this semester’s projects include the following: Armstrong International Inc., Bronson Methodist Hospital, Cicconi Racing, CSM Group, Dana Corp., DENS O North America Foundation, General Motors, Graphic Packaging International, Humphrey Products Co., JKK Consulting, Kalchik Farms, Kellogg Co., Manatron: Entertainment Ro-
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Completing the third phase of an IME project on automo-
tive re-engineering are (from left) Marcus Anderson, Ryan Needham, and Travis Fijeleki; advisors are Fred Sikkema, Pavel Ekononov, and Tom Sutton.

The Frostic School of Art Annual Student Exhibition will be on display from Apr. 3-17, 2008 in the Monroe-Brown and DeVries Galleries. Gallery hours are: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Saturday, noon-6 p.m. An awards presentation and reception will take place on Thursday, Apr. 3, at 3:30 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

The School of Music will present its 49th Annual Concerto Concert on Sunday, Apr. 13. The performance will feature the University Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Bruce Uchimura, three outstanding student soloists from the School of Music, and the University Grand Chorus performing Francis Poulenc’s “Gloria” with the orchestra, conducted by James K. Bass. The concert is free. It will begin at 3 p.m. in Miller Auditorium. This year’s Concerto Competition winners are bass trombonist Evan J. Conroy, a junior from Walled Lake, Michigan; hornist Cecilia Koziolowski, a senior from Sterling Heights, Michigan; and mezzo-soprano Renee Elise Pruiksma, a junior from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Sunday’s concert will begin with the “Roman Carnival Overture,” Opus 9, by Hector Berlioz. The centerpiece of the first half of the concert will be “The Fountains of Rome” by the Italian Impressionist composer Ottorino Respighi. The concerto soloists will be featured on Thomas Ritter George’s “Bass Trombone Concerto” (Conroy), Reinhold Gliere’s “Concerto for Horn in B-Flat Major,” Opus 91 (Koziolowski), and Samuel Barber’s “Must the Winter Come so Soon” from “Vanessa” and Gioacchino.

NORTH STAR is a moving drama of racial tension. It will be presented by the Department of Theatre Mar. 27-29 and Apr. 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.

With music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, ON THE TOWN offers a great escape. Spend 24 hours in New York with three WWII sailors on leave. The show features the well known “New York, New York” and “So Long Baby.” The production runs Apr. 10-12 and 17-19 at 8 p.m. and Apr. 20 at 2 p.m. in Shaw Theatre. Tickets are available at the Gilmore Theatre box office.

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

The Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation is hosting a luncheon reception to induct graduates into the Alumni Honor Academy. This program provides public recognition of the outstanding professional accomplishments, contributions, and service of distinguished graduates. The public is invited to join the current faculty, past recipients, friends and family of this year’s honorees on Saturday, Apr.
5, from noon to 2 pm at the Fetzer Center. Cost for the luncheon is $15, pre-registration is required. For more information and a registration form, e-mail terri.riemland@wmich.edu, or call (269) 387-2688.

On Friday, Apr. 11, 2008 from 7:30-9 p.m. there will be a public talk held followed by questions. Sylvester Jim Gates, professor of Physics and director, John S. Toll, of the Center for String and Particle Theory in the University of Maryland. The presentation “SUSY & the Lord of the Ring” will be in the Kirsh Auditorium inside of the Fetzer Center.

On Saturday, Apr. 19, Big Brothers Big Sisters, A Community of Caring, invites you to help us celebrate “Thinking Big for 50 Years” at The Big Rally 2008 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the University Arena. There will be free food, activities and prizes for all ages! Green Bay Packers Wide Receiver Greg Jennings will be a special guest! We’d also like to hear from former Bigs, Littles and others who have helped us influence the lives of so many Southwest Michigan children over the past 50 years. Contact Jodi Victor at jodivictor@bbbsmi.org or (269) 382-6800.

Event: Biological Sciences Seminar. Speaker: Robert Yancey, Ph.D., Research Fellow, Pfizer Global Animal Health, Richland, MI. Topic: “Vaccine Adjuvants – Can’t Live Without Them.” The location will be on Apr. 4 in 1718 Wood Hall from 3:30-4:50 p.m.

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

- 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, April 2, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. 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. 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, April 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.

- Dr. Sylvester James Gates, Jr., John S. Toll Professor of Physics at the University of Maryland will present a lecture on string theory, entitled “Susy and the Lord of the Rings” on Friday, April 11, 2008 at 7:30 pm in Kirsch Auditorium. This lecture is presented in association with WMU’s Department of Physics.

- Dr. Daniel S. Hamermesh, Centennial Professor of Economics at the University of Texas at Austin, will be lecturing on “Professional Etiquette for the Young (Social) Scientist” on Friday, April 18, 2008 at 4:00 pm in Fetzer Center’s Putney Auditorium. The lecture is co-sponsored by WMU’s Department of Economics.

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.

What We’re Reading

- “Theories of Falling,” by Sandra Beasley, winner of the 2007 New Issues Poetry Prize (Marie Howe, Judge).
- “The Headless Saints,” by Myronn Hardy.
- “Causeway,” by Elaine Sexton.
- “Heaven,” a poem from Elaine Sexton’s new collection.
- “Causeway,” will be reprinted in O, “The Oprah Magazine,” which has a circulation of over two million. “Heaven” will appear in the May issue on spirituality.