College of Aviation

Faculty and Staff Accolades

The National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) takes pride in announcing a significant aviation accomplishment on the part of Dominic Nicolai, a lead flight instructor at Western Michigan University and a resident of Portage, Michigan. Recently, Dominic was accredited as a Master CFI (Certificated Flight Instructor) by NAFI, his professional aviation education association. To help put this achievement in its proper perspective, there are approximately 91,000 CFIs in the United States. Fewer than 600 of them have achieved that distinction thus far. The last 13 national Flight Instructors of the Year were Master CFIs while Dominic is one of only 24 Michigan aviation educators and one of 9 from Western Michigan University to earn this prestigious “Master” title. In the words of former FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, “The Master Instructor accreditation singles out the best that the right seat has to offer.” The Master Instructor designation is the only industry professional accreditation recognized by the FAA. It is earned by candidates through a rigorous process of continuing professional activity and peer review. Much like a flight instructor’s certificate, it must be renewed biennially. This process parallels the continuing education regimen used by other professionals to enhance their knowledge base while increasing their professionalism. Simply put, the Master Instructor designation is a means by which to identify those outstanding aviation educators, those “Teachers of Flight,” who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth, and service to the aviation community. Earning this designation is tantamount to having the words summa cum laude emblazoned on an instructor’s certificate. These Masters truly represent the crème de la crème of our industry! To publicly recognize these individuals and their noteworthy accomplishments, NAFI will be hosting its “Meet the Masters” breakfasts, to which Dominic will be invited, during EAA’s AirVenture in Oshkosh and Sun ‘n Fun in Lakeland. Any support that can be provided will be appreciated.

Dominic Nicolai recently earned his Master CFI accreditation.

College of Education

Items of Academic Interest

A high level multi-sector delegation from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands met with researchers from Western Michigan University to discuss on-

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going projects directed at the childhood obesity epidemic that has captured the attention of governments around the world. A multidisciplinary team of College of Education faculty has teamed up with the CNMI public school system offering a program to primary caregivers that has the potential to impact childhood obesity through household behavioral changes. The faculty includes Mozdeh Bruss, Joseph Morris, Linda Dannison, Tim Michael, Brooks Applegate, Andrea Smith, and Judy McGowan representing dietetics, adult education, psychology, exercise science, early childhood, parent education, program development and evaluation, research methodology, and teacher education. Other faculty members including Lonnie Duncan, Suzan Ayers, and James Lewis from the College of Education and Amy Curtis from the College of Health and Human Services will participate in upcoming meetings discussing multifaceted and multilevel aspects of childhood obesity in the CNMI and exploring strategies for its reduction and prevention. The project is supported by the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation, CNMI Public School System, and Western Michigan University.

The Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology hosted the 2008 Great Lakes Regional Counseling Psychology Conference at the downtown campus in Grand Rapids Michigan on June 6-7. The theme of the conference “Counseling Psychologists as Scientist-Practitioners in a Changing World” highlighted counseling psychology’s contributions to multicultural counseling, diversity and globalization. This year’s conference will feature keynote addresses, symposia, presentations and roundtable discussions by counseling psychology students, and faculty from universities around the Mid-west. Featured speaker is Dr. Linda Forrest, president of the Society of Counseling Psychology, Division 17 of the American Psychological Association who is a full professor and chair of the Department of Counseling Psychology and Human Services at the University of Oregon.

Researchers Esther Newlin-Haus, Ph.D., Kristal Ehrhardt, Ph.D., and Shaila Rao, Ph.D. have been awarded their second grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Early Reading First program. “Promising Beginnings” ($4 million over three years) will promote the early literacy skills of young children from Kalamazoo Head Start, Learning Village, and the YWCA Children’s Center. The grant award is just over $4 million for three years. The program will provide extensive professional development and help participating centers develop print-rich environments to facilitate development of phonological, print, alphabet, and book awareness and oral language. Newlin-Haus will serve as project director. Co-principle investigators Ehrhardt and Rao from the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies will serve as content area specialists. Dr. Carmen Cornelies-Domanico, Lori Farrer, and Patti Cornelius will continue their role as literacy coaches. Additional community partners that will strengthen family involvement and community connections include the Kalamazoo Public Library, the Hispanic American Council, and Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan. The primary objectives of the project are to enhance the literacy instruction skills of early childhood teachers, to improve early literacy outcomes for young children (particularly those at risk of later academic problems), and to create centers of excellence in early literacy instruction.

Associate professor Barbara Frazier, Ph.D., received a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative National Research Initiative. Dr. Frazier is co-principal investigator on the project with researchers from Iowa State University and Ohio State University. The 3 year, $500,000 project will investigate the social and economic impacts of local retailers on rural communities. The project will identify ways that the retail sector in rural communities enhances and contributes to economic development. The research team will use results of community research to develop experiential learning projects that engage college students with rural community leaders and business owners in order to expose college students to rural entrepreneurship opportunities, and help communities understand how to attract and retain younger residents.

Dr. Regena F. Nelson, professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies received $117,937 from the U.S. Department of Education to fund the fourth year of the College Assistance for Parenting and Education project. CAPE provides financial, social and academic support to college students with children. Children’s Place Learning Center at WMU gives CAPE participants a reduced rate for child care. Each semester CAPE sponsors several family events allowing participants to network with each other and with campus staff. Dr. Nelson works closely with all participants, monitoring their academic performance and progress toward graduation.

**Faculty and Staff Accolades**

Dr. YuanLong Liu, professor, was recently cited in Discovery Channel Magazine (Issue 3). Liu, a statistician specializing in health and physical recreation has harnessed the resource of more than a century of data to track performance trends in events ranging from the 100-meters sprint to the marathon. “We found that improvement...”
in track and field is getting to the flat point for many events,” said Liu. “Improvement is getting harder and harder.” Winning times in the 1,500 meters, for instance, have flattened significantly since 1980. Still, Liu’s model predicts that future runners will shave more than 15 seconds off the decade-old record of 3:26 minutes.

Dr. Linda Dannison, chair, has been invited by the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars to serve as a reviewer on the 2008-09 Sociology and Social Work Peer Review Committee for the Fulbright Senior Specialist Program.

Dr. Timothy J. Michael, associate professor of Exercise Science, was recently named a Fellow by the American College of Sports Medicine at their annual meeting (May 2008, Indianapolis). Fellows of the American College of Sports Medicine are recognized for distinguished professional achievement in research and service in the field of exercise science and sports medicine.

Professor of Sport Studies Jody Brylinsky, Ph.D., presented the results of the National Coaching Report, the only comprehensive report addressing both youth and interscholastic sport coaching education requirements in the United States, at the National Press Club August 6 in Washington, D.C. Published by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education in partnership with the National Federation of State High School Associations, Dr. Brylinsky served as the chair of the National Coaching Report Task Force. The report stresses the importance of qualified coaches for every athlete.

Dr. James Croteau has a new publication with K. J. Bieschke, J. A. Hardy and R. E. Fassinger titled “Intersecting identities of gender-transgressive sexual minorities: Toward a new paradigm of affirmative psychology” appear in B. Walsh (Ed.) Biennial Review of Counseling Psychology: Volume 1. /Psychology Press. The Society of Counseling Psychology (Division 17) of the American Psychological Association is publishing the Biennial Review of Counseling Psychology to help synthesize research, theory and application of psychological principles in counseling psychology. Dr. James Croteau, professor, has authored a paper on “Reflections on understanding and ameliorating internalized heterosexism” published in the July 2008 issue of The Counseling Psychologist.

Student Accolades

LaShonda B. Fuller, doctoral student in counselor education, presented her research on “African American Women’s Reactions to Group Counseling” at the 20th Annual Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference, in Cedarville, Ohio.

Lateshia Agnew was one of 66 students nationwide to receive the American Humanics award. The award identifies its recipients as future leaders in nonprofit work and philanthropy. Agnew will receive a $4,500 scholarship through the Next Generation Nonprofit Leaders Program to cover expenses while completing an internship with a nonprofit organization.

Ray Sheets, Jr., doctoral student, will be presenting “Coming out Twice: Sexual Orientation Disclosure in Bisexual Young Adults,” with his former advisor Jonathan Mohr, Ph.D, in a symposium at the upcoming 2008 APA convention. This project dealt with how bisexual individuals negotiate disclosure issues given the potential bi-specific stereotypes held by both the heterosexual and lesbian/gay communities. He will also be presenting “White Male, Sexual Minority, Counseling Psychology Professionals, and Students: Toward Racial and Cultural Awareness,” as a roundtable with James Croteau, Ph.D.

The winners in the University’s fourth electronic portfolio contest are: Kristine Crummel, a graduating senior majoring in elementary group minors; Matthew Feltner, a graduating senior majoring in music education and Lisa Fisher, a graduating senior majoring in elementary education. Honorable mention went to Chelsea Sharp, a freshman double majoring in biomedical sciences and Spanish. The contest was sponsored by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. Examples of student-created portfolios were solicited during the spring semester, and a team of reviewers from WMU judged the entries. Portfolios were judged according to the students’ use of iWebfolio to present personal, professional and academic accomplishments electronically. The four students will each receive a cash award.

DeAnna Burt, student in Educational Leadership Ph.D. with a concentration in Higher Education, received a 2008-09 Association for the Study of Higher Education/Lumina

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Fellowship. The program promotes innovative scholarship by creating an intergenerational community of scholars who examine social, institutional, and policy barriers to opportunity and student success. Burt’s dissertation is titled “African American student persistence: A study of the effects of an intrusive advising intervention”. Burt’s advisor is Dr. Andrea Beach.

Upcoming Events

The Golden Apple Awards will take place on October 30. The Golden Apple Award is given to honor outstanding individuals who attended or graduated from the WMU College of Education and is presently working or retired from the many professions involved in the educational experience.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Items of Academic Interest

Thanks to a 2008 Hewlett-Packard Company Technology for Teaching grant, students in the ME 2500 Materials Science classes – beginning Spring 2009 – will be able to test equations and theories in virtual laboratories. WMU is one of 39 universities to receive the grant, which is designed to transform teaching and improve classroom learning with innovative uses of technology. Dr. Pnina Ari-Gur, MAE professor and course coordinator for ME 2500, was awarded the $77,000 grant to provide the labs via tablet PCs that will enhance the coursework for about 300 students each year. “Virtual Materials Science Laboratory Using Mobile Computer” was selected from 370 applications.

It includes $20,000 in cash and more than $57,000 in Hewlett-Packard Company technology. The virtual lab includes one Compaq Notebook/Tablet PC for the instructor and 20 for students, a 24-inch flat panel monitor, keyboard, and optical travel drives, printer, cable and supplies, multimedia projector, digital camera, and all required software, licenses, batteries, and storage cases. With the virtual lab, students gain lab experience without the time, equipment, safety, and personnel costs of a real lab. All instructions and explanations are built into the virtual laboratory’s interactive system. Students run tests, submit answers, and ask questions directly via e-mail during lab time. “Having this virtual lab is beneficial from every point of view,” Ari-Gur said. Also participating in the project are Dr. Muralidhar Ghantasala, MAE associate professor, and Dr. Roman Rabiej, IDSA professor. Assisting them is Peter Thannhauser, MAE lab supervisor, who set up the system, and Barbara Wygant, CEAS research program officer, who is coordinating the assessment/evaluation. Providing students with the materials science experience is expected to improve the success rate in the course,” Ari-Gur said. She is already planning a further proposal to expand the project. For more information, contact pnina.ari-gur@wmich.edu

Last summer, WMU’s CEAS hosted the 2008 annual meeting of the Michigan Council for Internships & Cooperative Education (MC ICE), which promotes the advancement of internships and cooperative education in Michigan. Fred Sitkins, CEAS director of co-operative education, co-ordinated the event with Grand Valley State University’s Tom Demmon. Dr. Tim Greene, WMU provost – then the CEAS dean, provided an opening welcome to the daylong program that included keynote speakers from two area corporations, a panel discussion, Business Technology Research Park tours, awards, and a business meeting. Allan Outlaw, the program manager from Eaton Corp., described his company’s view of skill sets and personal attribute expectations from interns, co-ops, and employees.

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Michael Ziemelis, a senior manufacturing engineer from Stryker, presented “The Stryker Fit: Talent, Experience, and Education.” Greene, Outlaw, and Ziemelis joined Grand Valley State University’s Dr. Paul Plotkowski and Amy Topolewski, student winner of an award, in a panel discussion titled “Great Internship / Co-op Programs: In Collaboration with Faculty, Administration, Students, and Employers.” More than 70 attendees represented several universities, colleges, and other organizations: Alma College, Aquinas College, Calvin College, Central Michigan University, Davenport University, The Design & Manufacturing Alliance, University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit Region Chamber, DeWys Manufacturing, Disability Advocates of Kent County, Dominos Pizza LLC, Eaton Corp., Eastern University, Ferris State University, GVSU, Henry Ford Community College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kellogg Community College, Kendall College of Art and Design, Kettering University, Macomb Community College, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Oakland Community College, Oakland University, R. L. Polk and Co., Rochester College, Southwestern Michigan College, Stryker Co., W. E. Upjohn Institute, Wayne State University, and WIRED West Michigan. For more information on CEAS internships and co-ops, contact fred.sitkins@wmich.edu

The 2008 International Conference on Agile Manufacturing, sponsored by the International Society of Agile Manufacturers (ISAM), was held in July at WMU’s Parkview Campus. It focused on the latest advances in agile manufacturing methods and business processes. “This conference provided an opportunity for industrial practitioners, academic researchers, and engineering and business graduate students to update their understanding of agile methods from the design, manufacture, and business process perspectives,” said Dr. Pavel Ikonomov, conference chair and assistant professor in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering. He said that agile manufacturing differs from other manufacturing, in that agile adapts to a lot of situations while other manufacturing focuses on specific situations and businesses. The conference included workshops, tutorials, panels, exhibits, technical sessions, and tours. Social activities provided informal networking. Conference topics included lean and flexible manufacturing and business processes, rapid and functional full-scale prototyping, reverse engineering, concurrent engineering and PLM, quality assurance and six sigma, and reverse engineering verification and applications. Other related topics included supply chain management and development, new product development and design, agility in remote production, cross-disciplinary aspects of agility, agile software development, micro/nano manufacturing, and research and applications in the automotive industry. Nolen Akerman, associate director, IT and software development at Stryker Medical and a CEAS alum who provided a keynote presentation on IT and participated in a panel discussion on the future of agile manufacturing, said that Stryker has used agile manufacturing in conjunction with lean manufacturing for about three years. Several WMU / CEAS administration and faculty organized and participated in the conference including Tim Greene, Paul Engelmann, Alamigir Choudhury, Jorge Rodriguez, Sam Ramrattan, Michel Keil, Fred Sitkins, Tom Swartz, Tycho Fredericks, and Steven Butt. “We had productive discussions on many aspects of agile,” Ikonomov said.

Coating techniques used in the paper industry may find new uses to improve the quality of metal casting. Dr. Sam Ramrattan, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME), and Dr. Margaret Joyce, Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI), are co-principal investigators (PIs) in a multi-year Department of Defense (DoD) research grant overseen by the American Metalcasting Consortium to develop the data on coatings that could lead to improved castings. Ramrattan, a metal casting specialist, and Joyce, whose expertise includes paper coatings, are pooling their talents to evaluate how potential coatings used in the paper industry could improve the casting process. IME graduate student Adil Abdelwahab is assisting. Coating paper is a well developed science, but coating in metal casting

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is relatively new. When molten metal is poured into a sand mold, the heat causes mold expansion that can lead to cracks and defects. The heat can also dislodge grains of sand, which end up in the final parts. To offset these problems, the research team is testing refractory coatings as interfacial barriers between the mold wall and the metal. Paper coating control techniques and alternative testing techniques might be appropriate in metal casting. Other discoveries involve the optimal dip time for refractory molds, and new data related to the effect of coating deposits that can affect the permeability of the dipped mold, which indirectly affects the casting quality, surface finish, dimensional properties, and other qualities. Ramrattan said first-year findings were officially reported to the DoD Logistics Department in June. “This is year-to-year work, and everyone seemed satisfied with our findings,” he said. “We are continuing our search for a means to improve coating and to reduce defects.” For more information on this project, contact Ramrattan at sam.ramrattan@wmich.edu or Joyce at margaret.joyce@wmich.edu

In August, Dr. Frank Severance, a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and Dr. John Kapenga, a professor in the Department of Computer Science (CS), offered a weeklong Summer Institute that focused on computer engineering and provided the students with “an overview of a four-year computer engineering program in a week to see if they’re interested,” Severance said. Three area high school students attended the workshop held at the CEAS Parkview Campus for five hours each day programming and interfacing directly with electronic gizmos. They used neither monitors nor keyboards. Severance explained that what made the institute unique was interfacing the computer with the outside world, including speakers and lights. They also studied circuitry and electronics. “That’s what computer engineers do,” Severance said. "They get programs to talk to the electronics, which talks to the world.” Because the class was small, the students benefited from the tutorial support in enhancing their understanding concepts that will benefit them in their future careers. High school students who attend the institute were Eric Smith, a junior at Portage Central (PCHS) and at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center (KAMSC); Jason Pearson, a PCHS sophomore; and Rebecca Farrer, a Hackett and KAMSC senior with career goals in either computer or electrical engineering. The professors credited several sources for supporting this year’s event. Texas Instruments donated parts, meals, and tee shirts. Funding was also provided by Provost Tim Greene, who was CEAS dean when it was approved last April, and Nuts and Bolts donated magazines. This is the first of what the two professors plan to offer annually. Although the professors were pleased with the first-year institute, they plan to send out applications in January for next year’s Institute. Contact frank.severance@wmich.edu or john.kapenga@wmich.edu for more information.

Last July 14 pre-first-year students prepared for college by participating in the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program (Michigan LSAMP). For four weeks they stayed on campus and attended classes where they reviewed chemistry, physics, math, biology, communication, computer applications, and academic study skills. Organizing this year’s WMU LSAMP program were Dr. Andrew Kline, associate professor in the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI), and Dr. Betsy Aller, associate professor in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME). Other instructors included Dr. Peter Parker, PCI professor; doctoral candidates Matthew Ludwig, Kate Block, and George Akom from the WMU Mallinson Institute; doctoral student David Tannor from Mathematical Sciences; and doctoral student Darian Mitchell from Center for Academic Support Programs. According to Aller, the students attended class 5 to 6 hours per week day, enjoyed opportunities to socialize with other WMU students, and became more familiar with campus and the greater Kalamazoo community. “New this year was a photo scavenger hunt looking for places and objects throughout campus and the City of Kalamazoo, which required students to perform research to determine what was being sought,” Aller said. Eleven of the students who participated in the WMU LSAMP program enrolled for the fall 2008 semester at WMU, and

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three at Wayne State University. Additional events for LSAMP students at WMU are planned during the 2008-09 academic year, including joint activities with the other alliance partner universities. Michigan LSAMP is a five-year, $5 million National Science Foundation program with half the funding coming from the participating universities: University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, and Western Michigan University. Formed in January 2006 by the four universities, it is based on a federal initiative to attract and retain underrepresented minorities to STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) majors.

Adding glycerol to the autohydrolysis process used to separate the sugars, lignin and other components from red oak biomass seems to enhance the separation process. That was one conclusion of a six-month study directed by Dr. Jan Pekarovic, a research associate in the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering (PCI), and Imaging. Maria Jose Feria Plaza, an exchange student from Spain’s Lleida University, compiled the results. When exposed to high temperatures, autohydrolysis transforms carbohydrates into fermentable sugar syrup. According to Pekarovic, a 30-year veteran of biomass research, glycerol, a “green” sugar alcohol containing three alcoholic hydroxyl groups, was selected because of its potential to replace either ethanol or methanol in organosolv pulping. “Glycerol is a by-product in biodiesel production, so we used it to see what it would do,” he said. The hydrolyzate, or liquor obtained from the autohydrolysis, has use as raw material that can be fermented for liquid fuels such as methanol or ethanol, made into artificial sweeteners, or used for biopolymer production. “It’s a value added process called bio-refinery,” he said. Plaza studied variations of reaction time, temperature, and glycerol concentration. “The glycerol seems to re-polymerize with the lignin from its solubilization,” Pekarovic said. “That was what we hypothesized, and I am very impressed.” Pekarovic said the findings encourage further studies to explore applications of the biomass residues. Autohydrolysis’ studies involving glycerol will continue this fall even though Plaza has returned to Spain. This fall Matej Pekarovic, a chemical engineering master’s student who is also Jan Pekarovic’s son, will continue the glycerol research using corn stalks. Other faculty involved in the project are Dr. John Patten, the manufacturing engineering chair who supervised Plaza’s exchange program assignment, and Dr. Bade Shrestha, a mechanical engineering associate professor who is involved in hydrogen fuel research.

At last June’s 2008 Metal-casting Workshop, Dr. Sam Ramrattan – an IME professor, a technical advisor to the American Foundrymen’s Society, and a Key Professor for the Foundry Educational Foundation – shared the tools of the metal-casting trade with nine high school students. They came to WMU from Mesick, Saginaw, and Saline, Mich.; Brook Park and Defiance, Ohio; Stroudsburg, Penn.; and Trinidad, West Indies. The workshop was held in the CEAS Parkview Campus Metal Casting Laboratory. “Dr. Sam,” as he is known at the college, has hosted a weeklong metal-casting workshop every summer for the last nine years. This year’s event was similar to the others and provided a balance of lectures on metal casting history, methods, and trends; networking; and hands-on metal casting. Students examined metal casting in manufacturing (molding, melting, filling, and finishing), engineering, quality, purchasing, marketing, and sales. They also explored the use of computers, math, and science. They learned about WMU programs and requirements and met with a panel of industrial professionals and the Foundry Educational Foundation (FEF) to review career opportunities in metal casting. The workshop included visits to two area foundries: A.C. Foundry, Battle Creek, MI, and Contech’s die casting facilities in Dowagiac, MI. They also enjoyed activities in the Kalamazoo / Portage metro area. The students, who stayed in WMU dorms and enjoyed campus life, were selected on the basis of their math and science aptitudes and were sponsored by various chapters of the American Foundry Society (AFS) and the North American Die Casting Association (NADCA). WMU’s metal-casting program is over 100 years old. Its most recent accreditation was when Ramrattan joined the faculty in 1992. Metal casting is presently an option in all IME undergraduate programs. For more information, contact Dr. Sam at sam.ramrattan@wmich.edu
Student Accolades

Six years ago Drs. Tycho Fredericks and Steven Butt, industrial engineering faculty in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, received two grants to provide quantifiable data about nursing care activities of the Bronson Methodist Hospital nursing staff. As many as 17 WMU students used palm pilots to collect data on the time nurses spent with patients in a surgical intensive care unit and in a general medical unit. The data assisted Bronson with strategic decisions and will be used to develop innovative scheduling and facility design models for hospitals. The study, “Determining the Relationship Between Patient Acuity, Time Standards, and Productivity,” was funded by grants from Bronson Healthcare Group and Bronson Research Fund. This summer, Stephanie Means, a doctoral research associate, directed four industrial engineering students – Carlee McClintic, Amanda Glick, Ashley Hoverkamp, and Yenni Chen – who collected data on the time nurses spend with patients in Bronson’s new neonatal unit. “What’s unique and important about the work is that the students are using actual continuous direct observation,” Means said. “We are tracking nursing activities,” which she described as “a hybrid of work sampling and time study.” The students used palm pilots that contained all the activities that the nurses perform. They followed the nurses all day and recorded everything the nurses did and the paths they took. Nurses also wore pedometers to track the distance they travel and heart rate monitors to measure energy expenditure and to determine which activities cause spikes. The research team plans to write papers on the discoveries made. Eventually Means hopes that the results can be used to make life simpler and less stressful for the nurses, standardize activities, and streamline procedures. “We’re also looking at the built environment for future building projects,” she said. For more info, e-mail tycho.fredericks@wmich.edu

WMU’s Formula SAE team competed last spring in the 2008 Formula SAE® competition. At the annual event held at the Michigan International Speedway, Brooklyn, Michigan, WMU’s entry placed 63 in a field of over 120 international competitors. Prior the FSAE competition, five team members won first place in the SAE 2008 World Congress Student Exhibit Competition. Sarah Gerbig, Brian Doorlag, Geoffrey Vangemert, Michael Nienhuis and Kyle Schmidt, all undergraduates enrolled in programs in the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE), presented a display that featured WMU’s FSAE project. The exhibit competition, sponsored by Eaton Corporation, required that the Congress theme, “A Climate for Change” be incorporated into the exhibit. Competition included a formal 10-minute presentation by Gerbig and Doorlag and informal discussion with the judges. The team reviewed business, design, engineering, and team organizational aspects of the development of WMU’s Formula SAE vehicle. In the “Re-fueling for Future Generations” part of the presentation, Gerbig presented the organizational and leadership changes made this year to improve efficiency and effectiveness. “I highlighted how we separated the business/marketing and engineering responsibilities to create a more even task distribution and how we put procedures in place,” she said. In the “Changing Gears” portion of the presentation, Doorlag discussed design changes the team made to the differential on this year’s vehicle to simplify it and to reduce its weight and cost. According to Dr. Claudia Fajardo, a MAE assistant professor and a SAE advisor, the competition is “one of the most exciting activities” of the Congress. “The students showcased the technical merit of the Formula SAE vehicle design and the project’s business and teamwork aspects,” she said. “The students handled the judges’ questions very well.”

In August, Justin Peart, a graduate of the Industrial Design program, won the Design Emphasis 2008 Award in the Ready-to-Assemble (RTA) advanced category at the International Woodworking Fair (IWF) in Atlanta, GA. His table design, which earned him one of six first-place trophies and “a nice monetary award as well,” was selected from 300 entries. Design Emphasis ‘08 is one of the industry’s most prestigious competitions. The students who entered the competition submitted slides and written descriptions of their entries for a pre-judging session. Then 70 finalists were invited to the IWF where they shipped their furniture for a final judging. “The

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Laura Beacham interned in Japan.

Laura Beacham interned in Japan.

Joel Wilke interned in Germany.

Joel Wilke interned in Germany.

Two undergraduate students enrolled in programs in the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI) interned abroad last summer. Laura Beacham, who came to WMU from Battle Creek, is majoring in chemical engineering with a paper option. For three months last summer, she interned at Nippon Paper’s Research and Development facility in Tokyo, Japan, where she researched binders and paper properties. She lived in one of the company’s “weekly mansions,” named such because it’s paid for by week. She credited Dr. Abu Bakr, the PCI chair, for his assistance in arranging the internship.

“The experience was great…amazing. I loved it,” she said. She plans to share her experience with International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE), a newly formed student organization of which she is the president. “The cultural experience was amazing,” she said. “Now I want recruit as many students as possible for IAESTE to encourage others to intern abroad.” IAESTE is also seeking area internships to encourage international students to come to WMU.

Joel Wilke, who came to WMU from Chelsea, is majoring in paper engineering. He spent three months last summer working as an intern at Stora Enso, an international paper company in Eilenburg, Germany. Eilenburg is roughly a 20-minute train ride from Leipzig. He worked with mill engineers on research projects throughout the Stora Enso Sachsen mill. Stora Enso provided him with an apartment in downtown Eilenburg at the Helleshestrasse building, so named for the street where it is located. He also credited Dr. Abu Bakr for assisting him in connecting with John Bergin of the Paper Technology Foundation and a former vice president at Stora Enso. “I would recommend an international internship experience to anybody and everybody,” Wilke said.

Four members of the WMU’s student chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers attended the 2008 ASME Annual Meeting held in June at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort in Lake Buena Vista, FL. They included Jonathan Rumohr, Gregory Adamczyk, Andrew Hyder, and Neal Sheldon. All are undergraduates with programs in the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE). According to Sheldon, they attended many professional panel discussions and seminars about diverse topics, including entrepreneurship, project management, time management, the ASME Boiler Code, and insulation. “We were also selected to go on an Engineering Behind the Scenes Tour of Disney,” he said. “We toured the rides Expedition Everest and Dinosaur before the park was open to visitors.” The special tour offered 20 attendees an opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes engineering tour at Walt Disney World. Rumohr said one motivation for attending the conference was recruitment. “We felt that showing younger engineering students that joining the society is a positive way to travel and that to show that we do more in ASME than just have meetings.” The group offered thanks to their sponsors: WMU Physical Plant, WMU Printing, and WMU Trussville Engineering Center.

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Tower Pinkster & Associates, ASME Central Michigan Section, Armstrong International, WMU’s MAE department, and WMU’s CEAS Dean’s Office. “I really enjoyed the networking opportunities and the chance to represent WMU and our student society of ASME at a national conference,” Rumohr said. “The experience of being able to go behind the scenes at Disney is one I will not soon forget!” The 2009 ASME Annual Meeting is set for JW Marriott Resort and Spa, Palm Desert, CA, June 13-17, 2009.

Assessment of Student Learning

Last summer’s IME 3160 Report Preparation class gained real-world work experience writing standard operating procedures (SOPs). Students in a class taught by Thomas Swartz wrote SOPs for HECO, Inc. Industrial Service Groups. Headquartered in Kalamazoo, HECO is a repair and sales organization that has served the electric motor needs of more than 1500 companies. According to Todd Hatfield, vice president of engineering and repair, the company has been trying to update its SOPs, but something more important always “put them on the backburner.” A plan to have the 16 IME 3160 students work in groups of four and write SOPs was developed by Hatfield; Justin Hatfield, HECO’s equipment management specialist; and Swartz, who coordinates the CEAS technical communication program. Each group wrote one shop-floor SOP. The students – industrial, electrical, and engineering management majors – also proposed improvements to the SOP template and process. Swartz said IME 3160 students usually write textbook scenarios. HECO provided a SOP template for use as a starting point and encouraged students to be creative in the SOP design. The assignment challenged the students, whose first goal was to meet with support groups of HECO personnel who actually do the processes featured in the SOPs. “We had to learn how to disassemble an electric motor before we could write about it,” said Jason LaDuke, whose group wrote the SOP “Disassembly of a Standard AC Motor.” The students and HECO support groups communicated via phone and email. “Much of our work was planning, writing instructions, and letting everyone in the group and at HECO review them as we went along,” said senior Yenni Chen. Each group presented its SOP and proposed recommendations to an audience that included both Hatfields, who were impressed with the students’ presentations and final reports. For more information, contact thomas.swartz@wmich.edu

The 14-member WMU Sunseeker team won the Sportsmanship Award at 2008 North American Solar Challenge (NASC), an intercollegiate 2,400-mile race from Texas to Calgary, Canada. For WMU it was a year fraught with obstacles in funding, material procurement, design, and development. A seemingly final blow came from a wind gust that ripped loose and damaged the solar array during qualification trials and eliminated the vehicle from this year’s competition. However, the wind didn’t eliminate the team, who were invited to join teams that qualified for the race. They put their skills to work and gained a wealth of experience. While the Sunseeker advisors and three team members drove and displayed Sunseeker at the race checkpoints, 10 WMU students joined other solar race teams. Alex Hoeksema, an electrical engineering junior who worked with Iowa State, helped fix a brake problem so that Iowa could complete the race. “All the teams helped each other every night of the race,” he said. Dr. Paul Engelmann, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME) chair and a Sunseeker team advisor, said that the team as “the very best of what the college has to offer.” He said the team had – through no fault of its own – met obstacles at every turn. “Lesser teams would have given this up many times, and no one would have blamed them,” he said. “But this team persisted and thrived.” Abraham Poot, engineering lab coordinator for both IME and the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE) and a Sunseeker advisor, said that the team is preparing for next year’s solar competitions, the Formula Sun track race in Texas and the World Solar Challenge in Australia. Hoeksema and Nicholas

Continued on next page
Killoran, a mechanical engineering junior, are next year’s project leaders. For more information on Sunseeker and its future endeavors, check out www.wmich.edu/sunseeker

CEAS students, faculty, and administrators were among the roughly 800 who participated in the first WMU Day held in Lansing on the lawn of Michigan’s Capitol. All WMU colleges to showcase special projects for law makers and others. Among the CEAS displays were a concrete canoe, a life-sized robot, a solar car, a Formula race car, a hydraulic bike and chair research. WMU’s American Society of Civil Engineers [ASCE] student chapter brought Meridian – its entry in last year’s North Central concrete canoe competition. Dr. Tarun Gupta, a professor in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME), and a team brought RoboBronco, a six-foot tall robot with a friendly horse face. Gupta mentored a robotic team of area high school students who call themselves the Quantum Ninjas, in the FIRST competition. WMU professors Drs. Tycho Fredericks and Steve Butt and WMU’s Human Performance Institute team members showcased chair research. WMU’s Sunseeker solar car team, with advisors Abraham Poot and John Kapenga, brought its 2005 entry for up-close examination. The 2005 vehicle won the aesthetics award in the 2005 North American Solar Challenge (NASC) – a biennial, cross-country, international, intercollegiate 2,400-mile race from Dallas, Texas, to Calgary, Alberta, Canada. A WMU team of engineering students brought the Society of Automotive Engineers’ (SAE) Formula car that had participated earlier in the annual FSAE competition. Drs. Alamgir Choudhury and Pavel Ikonomov, IME assistant professor, displayed the hydraulic bike that won first place in the 2007 Chainless Challenge, a national competition to design and develop a bicycle that transfers the rider’s power without using a traditional chain mechanism. The Bronco’s engineering entourage was welcomed by several area legislators, including Rep. Lorence Wenke, who praised the WMU supporters for what he described as a unique and “impressive” presentation.

**Upcoming Events**

On Sat., Oct. 11, Sunseeker team will take its solar car to the Alternative Energy Fair at Abbott Nutrition, 901 N. Centerville Rd., in Sturgis, MI. The solar-powered vehicle will be on display from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is the first time Sturgis has offered an alternative energy fair. The Sunseeker team is gearing up for Fall 2008 semester with plans to meet on Tuesday nights at 5:30 p.m. in Parkview’s G 113. Project leaders Alex Hoeksema, an electrical engineering junior, and Nicholas Killoran, a mechanical engineering junior, welcome new members to prepare a solar-powered vehicle for next year’s competitions. Abraham Poot, engineering lab coordinator for both the Departments of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE) and Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering and a Sunseeker advisor, said that the team is that two events the team would like to enter are the Formula Sun track race in Texas next May and the World Solar Challenge in Australia set for the third week in October 2009. For more information on Sunseeker, check out www.wmich.edu/sunseeker

More than 65 students attended the Fall 2008 organizational meeting of WMU’s student chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). Membership is open to anyone interested in cars. This year’s major activity involves the design and development of a Formula car to represent WMU next spring in the 2009 Formula SAE® competition

**Continued on next page**
Another potential project is the design and development of a Baja vehicle for competition on Baja events. The SAE student chapter meet every other Wednesday at 6:30 in the F-115 study lounge area at the Parkview Campus. Because accurately conveying the biweekly meetings may be tricky, those interested in attending a meeting should email the team at wmuformularacing@gmail.com SAE information is available on the official Web site at http://www.rso.wmich.edu/sae

College of Fine Arts

Items of Academic Interest

The Department of Dance’s February 2008 Great Works production of Antony Tudor’s “Dark Elegies” was featured in an article in the August 2008 issue of Dance Teacher magazine. The article, authored by Associate Professor Sharon Garber, provides a detailed account of the staging of “Dark Elegies” on WMU dancers by Willy Shives, representative of the Antony Tudor Trust and principal dancer with The Joffrey Ballet.

Western Michigan University Theatre returned to the stage with a production that garnered international attention. “Seven Passages: The Stories of Gay Christians” performed a single show at 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, in York Arena Theatre at the Gilmore Theatre Complex. The all-student cast was in England July 27-Aug. 5, and was scheduled to give two performances of “Seven Passages” at the 2008 Lambeth Conference, which ran through Aug. 4. Led by the archbishop of Canterbury, the three-week summit convenes once every 10 years and brings the leadership of the Anglican church together to consider issues facing the church and pass resolutions on its governance, ministry and engagement in the world. More than 800 archbishops, diocesan, assistant and suffragan bishops were expected to gather this year, and “Seven Passages” was one of just 30 events chosen for inclusion in their conference schedules.

The School of Music will sponsor and host, as part of a celebration of the Music Therapy program’s 50th anniversary, world renowned author Dr. Daniel Levitin, on Friday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. In addition to Dr. Levitin’s residency, distinguished alumni from the Music Therapy department and representatives from the American Music Therapy Association will also participate in the two-day celebration in conjunction with the annual Michigan Music Therapists conference.

Faculty and Staff Accolades

Jay Berkow, director of music theatre performance, enjoyed great professional success this summer. His new play, THE CURE FOR LOVE received its world premiere production at the Barter Theatre in Virginia and he also traveled to Memphis to direct and choreograph THE PRODUCERS at The Playhouse on the Square. His production of TOMMY opens at the Circle Theatre in Grand Rapids on September 18. Exciting future plans include a recently signed contract that will send his Off-Broadway show JOLSON & CO. on a UK tour in the Spring of ‘09.

Karen Bondarchuk, assistant professor in the Frostic School of Art, has been part of two international exhibitions and included in an international publication in the past few months. The 33rd Annual Birds in Art exhibition, September 6- November 9, 2008 in Wausau, WI at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum included her large crow sculpture, Corvus Deflatus (2007). A full color catalogue for Birds in Art features 126 works of art by 113 artists from Australia, Belgium, Canada, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and the United States. Bondarchuk’s work can also be seen at the Tallahassee International 23rd Annual Juried Competition, August 25-October 5, 2008 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Florida State University. Her charcoal drawing, Kaw (2008), is included with another 50 pieces chosen by the jurors from a pool of near 500 works. Her work is also included in a catalogue put together by Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati, OH that features the drawings of a group of international artists who “explore drawing as a rich and culturally significant art form through the pursuit of scholarly activities.” The publication features Babel (2007) and Caa (2007).

This summer Jim Daniels, professor of theatre, directed Doubt at Hope Summer Repertory Theatre and then played Atticus Finch in To Kill a Mockingbird at the Wagon Wheel Theatre in Warsaw, Indiana. Jim has also completed the rough draft of his sabbatical project, So Far From God. The play is about the journey of two brothers returning home from the Mexican War. He intends to have a reading of it this fall.
Bill Davis, assistant professor of photography and Intermedia in the Frostic School of Art, was selected for his first solo museum show at the Poltava Museum of Art opening on July 11, 2008. Poltava is a Ukrainian city of 450,000 people with a strong history and commitment to visual art. Established in 1919, The Poltava Museum of Art exhibits the work of domestic and foreign artists and includes works by Tiepolo and Rubens in its permanent collection. The exhibit, titled Palimpsest, includes pieces selected from Davis’ ongoing chalkboard drawings, which visit the connection of light to time, distance, and sound.

Caroline Gore, assistant professor in the Frostic School of Art, spent three months as an artist in residence at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Omaha, Nebraska (May 1 – July 31). While there, she created a new body of work in site-specific sculptural installations with materials as varied as 24-Karat gold, silk, and organic objects encountered in her day-to-day environment. She is featured as one of 20 artists in the annual Exhibition in Print issue of Metalsmith magazine, as well as in a new book published by Lark, 500 Pendants and Lockets, Contemporary Interpretations of Classic Adornments. To top off a productive summer, she acquired gallery representation at the prestigious Ornamentum Gallery (Hudson, NY), which will carry her work at the Sculpture Objects & Functional Art expositon in Chicago this November.

Dr. Stephen Zegree, the WMU Bobby McFerrin Professor of Jazz, along with four singers and three instrumentalists who are either current or former WMU students, performed with the World Youth Choir in China, July 14 through August 11. Zegree was invited to conduct the choir. Four of the five singers in the choir representing the United States were either WMU students or alumni. Students included Torian Johnson of Kalamazoo, Partick Laslie of Fort Wayne, Ind., and April graduate Nathaniel Adams of St. Charles, Ill. All three sang in Gold Company, WMU’s acclaimed vocal jazz ensemble, this past academic year. In addition, the choir’s bass section leader was Derek Fawcett, a WMU alumnus from Chicago. WMU current and former students also played a key role as the choir’s back-up musicians. The choir’s rhythm section was composed of Medallion Scholar and three-year Gold Company drummer Ryan Andrews of Kalamazoo and WMU alumni Dave Izard of Summit, N.J., on piano and Aaron Tully of Cleveland on bass.

Student Accolades

Recent graduates from the Music Theatre Performance program, as well as current students, have been keeping very busy. MTP Lauren Zakrin appeared in “Finding the Next Elle Woods.” Lauren made a great impression on the national audience, hung in there to the final episode and now is on tour with the Broadway production. Current MTP students Cassandra Sandberg, Patrick Keefe, Billy Casey, and Kayla Peabody were featured in the Mason Street Warehouse production of Evita. Hannah Schubkege appeared in their production of As Bees in Honey Drown, as well as doing a stint with Second City in Chicago this summer. Joe Dely enjoyed his professional debut at the Barn Theatre. Zach Martins, Ashley Travis and Mikey Winslow enjoyed an amazing season at the Wagon Wheel Playhouse and then Mikey traveled to Pittsburgh where he played Baby John in the Civic Light Opera’s production of West Side Story.

Three students from the Frostic School of Art have been selected for inclusion in an international collaborative video project curated by Mryiam Thyes of Switzerland and Düsseldorf, Germany. Under the direction of Adriane Little, Assistant Professor of Photography and Intermedia in the FSoA, Sonya Mansour, Stacy Averill and Natalieann Rich created animation shorts.
that followed the project’s guidelines. These animations are now part of Flag Metamorphosis, in which, according to Ms. Thyes, “the flags of every nation in the world transform into each other through flash animations. Between each two flags, scenes appear to show an aspect of the relations between the two countries.” The project can be viewed online at www.flag-metamorphoses.net

Assessment of Student Learning

Ask a student in the Department of Theatre what he or she did on their summer vacation and the answers are a wonderful array of creative production experiences. To highlight a few.... Julia Mitchell went to the Big Apple to study with the New York City Rockettes. Crystal Lucas Perry studied at the Yale summer acting program. Kendra Kargenian attended the Voice and Speech Trainers Association conference forwarding her study of Fitzmaurice vocal training. We are particularly proud to note that all of the students were supported by funds from the D. Terry Williams Endowment for Theatre Student Enrichment.

Current dance student Lonnie Poupard, Jr. and June 2008 BFA dance major graduate Matthew Baker were featured dancers in the new work by contemporary modern dance choreographer Mark Dendy at the Past/Forward Concert at this summer’s American Dance Festival in Durham, NC. Dendy is now interested in working with Lonnie and Matthew. Current dance major Jeremy Neal was featured in the same concert in a dance by choreographer Erick Hawkins. At the same festival, Lonnie and Matthew auditioned for other dance companies. The Trisha Brown Dance Company was interested in Lonnie and Matthew. They encouraged Lonnie to finish his degree and Matt to study with the company in the fall. Matthew was hired to join choreographer Keith Thompson’s company. Lonnie, Matthew and Jeremy were awarded scholarships to attend the American Dance Festival.

Malleable Dance Theatre, directed by Department of Dance alumna Erin Malley, performed 7 Veils at the Philly Fringe Festival in September 2008. Carolyn Huckabay from the Philadelphia City Paper, called the dance a “…well-cared-for theatre production…”

Upcoming Events

The Richmond Center for Visual Arts is proud to exhibit the work of guest artist David Henderson. His exhibition, “Man O’War,” will be open to the public Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; and Saturday, noon - 6 p.m. David Henderson’s laminated wood and carbon fiber, and fiberglass sculptures are graceful, sometimes organic references to natural beauty, but with hidden agendas of the symbols of war, atomic bombs, and the mathematically designed devices of human conflict. The pieces are highly engineered but beautifully flawed. The sculptures yearn for something that is more than skin deep, and like the works of Martin Puryear or Richard Deacon, there is still a handcrafted subtly to their elegance and imperfect complexity.

How I Learned to Drive is being performed in the York Arena Theatre, Thursday through Saturday, September 25-27 and October 2-4, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, October 5, at 2 p.m. With haunting vision and subtle humor, this Pulitzer Prize-winning drama explores the complex relationship between a young girl and her uncle. It is a surprising story of growing up, survival, and forgiveness. Tickets are available at the Gilmore Theatre box office, 387-6222.

Moon Over Buffalo is a giddy farce that celebrates the turmoil and zaniness of life on the stage. Miscommunication and madcap adventure provide a wonderful evening of comic invention. This production runs in Shaw Theatre Thursday through Saturday, October 9-11 and October 16-18, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, October 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the Gilmore Theatre box office, 387-6222.

The School of Music’s Bullock Series offers a special concert featuring professor Tom Knific’s CD release, “Lines of Influence” on Friday, October 3, at 8:15 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

What We’re Reading

Margaret Merrion, College of Fine Arts, is reading Five Minds for the Future by Howard Gardner.
College of Arts and Sciences

Items of Academic Interest

WMU has been selected by the Partnership for Public Service (http://www.ourpublicservice.org/OPS/), a non-profit organization in Washington D.C., to receive one of the five Call to Serve grants (http://www.ourpublicservice.org/OPS/programs/calltoserve/) to help educate students about internship and employment opportunities in the federal government. Over the next two years, the federal government will hire about 193,000 employees for "mission-critical" jobs, which cover every occupational field and will be available across the country. “We are committed to creating cost effective and sustainable efforts that will help our students connect with federal agencies and young feds to get a realistic perspective on government service. To do this well, we need your help. Ewa Urban, Career and Student Employment Services say, "We are looking for four categories of faculty, staff, alumni, students, and parents who (1) have worked in any federal government agency in the U.S. or abroad, (2) completed an internship in the federal government, (3) have been awarded a federal fellowship in the federal government and (4) have received a federal grant. We would like to connect with these individuals and involve them in multiple ways in career-related events on our campus." If you can think of anybody in the above categories might share their success stories, please contact Naidra Walls, Marketing Relations Intern at cses-peer2@wmich.edu or Ewa Urban, Career Advisor-Arts & Sciences, at Ewa.L.Urban@wmich.edu or 387.2750. In addition, if there are any events hosted by CAS Departments where it would be beneficial to integrate speakers/panelists and information related to working in the federal government, please let us know.

The 2008/2009 Werner Sichel Lecture Series features six nationally and internationally recognized economists whose presentations will focus on the economic impacts generated by both natural and man-made disasters and the policy options that might reduce our vulnerability to these events. The series is directed by Professors William Kern and Christine Moser and is co-sponsored by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. All presentations are free and open to the public. They are held Wednesdays at 3508 Knauss Hall from 3 to 4:30 p.m. For more information please contact Dr. William Kern at (269)-387-5554 or email him at william.kern@wmich.edu. The Lecture Series is coordinated with a graduate/advanced undergraduate course entitled Guest Economics Seminar (ECON 5910,5920) taught by Professor William Kern. The courses are offered in the Fall and Spring semesters and are available to WMU students for one credit each. The College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Economics gratefully acknowledge the co-sponsorship of this series by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

The first lecture in the Werner Sichel Lecture Series is titled ‘At War with the Weather: Managing Large-Scale Risks in a New Era of Catastrophes’ and will be given on October 1 by Dr. Howard Kunreuther. Kunreuther is the Cecilia Yen Koo Professor of Decision Sciences in the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. His areas of expertise include decision processes, low probability events, natural disasters, regulation, and risk assessment. Dr. Kunreuther received his Ph.D. from MIT. He has taught at the Wharton School since 1972. Since 1984 he has also served as the Co-Director for the Center for Risk Management and Decision Processes at the Wharton School. In addition to his academic appointments he has also served as a Program Manager for the National Science Foundation's Decision Risk and Management Science Program as a Task Leader at the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis, as Research Adviser for the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, the Ford Foundation and the Institute for Defense Analysis. Professor Kunreuther is also a member of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program's Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction, the Committee on Bioterrorism Risk of the National Academy of Science and a member of the National Academies Board on Radioactive Waste Management. He has also served as a consultant to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Professor Kunreuther’s current research has focused upon ways in which society can more effectively manage catastrophic risks. He is the author (with R. Daniels and D. Kettl) of On Risk and Disaster: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina (2006) and Catastrophe Modeling: A New Approach to Managing Risk (2005).

Faculty and Staff Accolades

New Issues Poetry & Prose, a literary publisher at Western Michigan University, has been awarded a $9,000 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs to support the publication of three new titles in the Inland Seas Poetry Series. The three titles, each by poets who currently live in Michigan or who have strong Michigan connections, will be published in 2008-09:

Continued on next page
- Talking Diamonds, a new book of poetry by former Poet Laureate of Grand Rapids, Michigan: Linda Nemec Foster
- Beauty Breaks In, a fourth collection of poetry by Mary Ann Samyn, author of two other Inland Seas titles: Inside the Yellow Dress and Pur
- Hilarity, a third book of poems by Detroit-native Patty Seyburn, and winner of our 2008 Green Rose Prize in Poetry.

“It seems like Michigan really takes care of its own writers,” was a comment we received at a conference once, and yes, New Issues believes in supporting one of Michigan’s most precious natural resources. To date, the publication of over fifty books has been supported by MCACA as part of our Inland Seas Series. The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs serves to encourage, develop and facilitate an enriched environment of artistic, creative, cultural activity in Michigan. For more information please contact Marianne Swierenga, Managing Editor: new-issues@wmich.edu

David L. Huffman, assistant professor of Chemistry, plans to attend a conference in Sardinia, then travel to Florence. In Florence He will give a lecture to the International School of Florence (a college-prep school) and also visit with collaborators. He will be lecturing in Prague at Charles University and possibly at the Academy of Sciences. He will meet with students while there. After that he will give lectures in Halle and Berlin and Dusseldorf, then Newcastle.

David Evans, multimedia developer has learned that the 2008 Creation Arts Festival has awarded both of his films with a Creation Award: The Wartleys: Easter - Best Digital Media and Chronicles: New Vision - Best Drama Under 30 Minutes. The Creation Awards is held at the Shakers Acres Conference Hall A, 21530 - 103 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.


The National Science Foundation has awarded a grant of $186,953 to Heather Petcovic, Department of Geosciences, Western Michigan University for support of her project “Collaborative Research: Learning across the Expert-Novice Continuum: Cognition in the Geosciences.” This is a continuing grant which has been approved on scientific / technical merit for approximately 3 years. Contingent on the availability of funds and the scientific progress of the project, NSF expects to continue support at approximately the following level: FY 2009, $235,242. FY 2010, $141,458.

Student Accolades

Dr. Carlos Vargas-Silva, who received his doctorate in applied economics from WMU in 2006, has won the prize for best dissertation on migrant remittances in a competition sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C. The prize carries with it an award of $5000, the publication of a paper in the inaugural edition of a new journal entitled Remittances and Development published by the Bank, and a consultancy assignment with the Bank. Dr. Vargas-Silva’s dissertation contains three essays that examine important aspects of the economics of immigration, with one essay devoted specifically to the relationship between remittances (the payments that migrants send from the host to the home country) and economic conditions in the home country. Dr. Vargas-Silva is currently an assistant professor of Economics at Sam Houston State University in Texas.

Upcoming Events

October 3
Event: College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Reception
Location: South Ballroom, Bernhard Center
Time: 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

October 8
Event: Physics Colloquium
Title: “From the Physics Lab to Capitol Hill: A Story of Tuna, Spies, and Dial-A-Porn” presented by Joseph Finck, CMU
Location: 1110 Rood Hall
Time: 4 p.m.
Refreshments served at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2202, Bradley Commons, Everett Tower

October 9
Event: English Scholarly Speakers Series
Title: “Roman World, Egyptian Earth: Cognitive Difference and Empire in Shakespeare’s Antony and Cleopatra” presented by Mary Crane, Boston College
Location: 3025 Brown Hall
Time: 7 p.m.

October 10
Event: Biological Seminar Series
Title: “Uncovering similar cellular responses in arrested eggs and environmentally stressed cells”
Location: 1718 Wood Hall
Time: 3:30 to 4:50 p.m.

October 17
Event: Biological Seminar Series
Title: “Neurotrophic factor biodynamics in animal models of disease.”
Location: 1718 Wood Hall
Time: 3:30 to 4:50 p.m.
In July, the Occupational Therapy (OT) 5730 Assistive Technology students (Dr. Debra Lindstrom-Hazel instructor) and the Blondness and Low Vision Studies (BLVS) 5840 Computer Technology in Rehab students (Dr. Helen Lee— instructor) exchanged expertise in an interdisciplinary training session. The OT students taught the BLVS students about computer technology for mobility impairments—Dragon Naturally Speaking, a voice-activated word processing and SmartNav—a hands free mouse system. The BLVS students taught the OT students about computer technology for visual impairments—JAWS, a program that reads the computer screen, and ZoomText, a program to enlarge the content on the computer screen. At the close of the session, the 25 participating students were much more informed about computer technology. They also had a greater understanding of and respect for the knowledge of another discipline and benefitted from the experience of teaching computer technology to a colleague. This type of activity helps students become professionals who are ready to work collaboratively on inter and trans-disciplinary teams for the benefit of their clients.

For the past four years a group of faculty, staff, and administrators from WMU units including: Africana Studies, Division of Multicultural Affairs, Education, Intercollegiate Athletics, Literacy Studies, Mathematics, Nursing, Public Safety, Social Work, and Speech-Language Pathology, has been working together to address diversity, social justice, and inclusion at WMU. The goal of the Committee for Developing Leadership, Social Justice, and Inclusion (LDSI) is to make recruitment and retention of faculty, staff, students, and administrators viable by working to transform decision-making at WMU into a more equitable process. One action for achieving this long-term goal is to participate in the development of methods for identifying, understanding, and then eliminating racism and other sources of structural (systemic) exclusion. Members of LDSI work closely with the WMU Office of Diversity and Inclusion, as well as ERAC/CE (Eliminating Racism and Claiming Celebrating Equality) in the Kalamazoo community. LDSI members are part of a large network of institutions in southwest Michigan striving to become more democratic from the inside out. LDSI uses an organizing strategy that is relationship-centered and evidenced-based and has been effective in engendering a shared interest in moving this work forward on campus and in the community. Several activities are planned for the 2008 – 2009 academic year. For more information contact: Yvette D. Hyter, Ph.D. at yvette.hyter@wmich.edu or 387-8025.

CHHS Unified Clinics is sponsoring several Better Hearing Workshops this fall. Topics include: 10 Things You Need to Know Before Buying a New Hearing Aid, How Can My Hearing Aid Help Me on the Telephone?, Hearing Assistance Technology: What’s Out There to Help?, and Listening in Noise: Is there Anything to Make it Easier? For a complete schedule of dates and times, visit: http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/unifiedclinics/BetterHearingWorkshop08.pdf. All sessions are held at KCMS/Unified Clinics Building, 1000 Oakland Drive, 3rd floor. For more information or to register for a particular session, please contact Dr. Mary Peterson (269) 387-8062 or mary.peterson@wmich.edu.

Faculty and Staff Accolades

Helen Sharp, assistant professor in Dept. Speech Pathology and Audiology (SPPA) has been named as Section Editor for Ethics and Health Policy for the Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Journal and has authored two book chapters:

Dr. Diane Dirette, Associate Professor of occupational therapy, will be presenting at the Brain Injury Association of Michigan 28th annual conference on “Self-Awareness: Understanding Deficits and Finding a Solution” September 25 in Lansing. This is the largest brain injury conference in the nation.

Melinda Lockett, a CHHS Academic Advisor, has been honored with a Make a Difference Award, a campus-wide peer-to-peer honor that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. Melinda was one of up to 15 staff members selected in each of two semiannual award periods. It is a great honor that she was selected from among semiannual winners to receive one of four annual awards and $1000. Congratulations, Melinda! We at CHHS are proud of you and grateful for your exemplary service!

Debra Lindstrom-Hazel worked collaboratively with Alyce Dickinson and John Austin, WMU Psychology professors, and Kathy Culig, graduate student, on a research article entitled Combining Workstation Design and Performance Management to Increase Ergonomically Correct Computer Typing Postures that will be published in hard copy next month in the Journal of Organizational Behavioral Management.

Dr. Jan Bedrosian is on the Editorial Board for Topics in Language Disorders and Associate Editor for Evidence-Based Communication Assessment and Intervention. She is Program Chair of the 2008, 9th Annual Conference of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s Special Interest Division on Augmentative and Alternative Communication and has published the following article: Hoag, L. A., Bedrosian, J. L., McCoy, K. F., & Johnson, D. E. (2008). Hierarchy of conversational rule violations involving utterance-based augmentative and alternative communication systems. Augmentative and Alternative Communication, 24, 149-161. She has also received an R01 Research Grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders for the project, Communicative Competence and the Use of Prestored Text.

Student Accolades

Speech Pathology and Audiology’s (SPPA) student group, the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSHLA) does service projects. This past year, they adopted the MSU-KCMS Oral Cleft Clinic’s Bears for the Kids project, which gives bears to children to help them cope with the anxiety they experience from having facial differences such as cleft lip and palate. NSSHLA members raised enough money to donate a case of 12 “cleft” teddy bears for new babies in the clinic and ten, $10 gas cards to help families get to the clinic. Professors Teresa Crumpton (audiology) and Helen Sharp (speech language pathology) serve on the team along with KCMS staff and faculty, and community volunteers. The photo of the MSU-KCMS Cleft Team and NSSHLA members here was featured with a story in the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association/Cleft Palate Foundation newsletter.

Like all allied health professions, occupational therapists are asking if what they are doing makes a difference. They want to know how to measure the impact of what they are doing—to do it better—and how to share those results with others in order to provide the best for clients. Dr. Carla Chase and OT graduate students Katy Mann and Sarah Wasek will play a role in answering those questions and assisting occupational therapists who are already practicing. They have been invited by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) to participate in an evidence-based practice review project, completing a systemic evidence review of research articles related to the impact of home modifications and fall prevention interventions. They will read through and critique these studies in an attempt to answer a specific research question and guide OT practice in this area. Their reviews and summaries will be posted on the AOTA website and used by OT practitioners in support of evidence-based practice. Their completed manuscript will be published in the AOTA research journal, and they will present their findings at the national AOTA conference in 2010.
The National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators has announced that Raine, RN, BSN—a 2005 graduate of the WMU Bronson School of Nursing and current BSON graduate student—has completed the Certified Examination for Diabetes Educators successfully. This achievement demonstrates to people with diabetes and employers that the health care professional possesses distinct and specialized knowledge, thereby promoting quality of care for people with diabetes. Currently, there are 15,500 diabetes educators who hold NCBDE certification.

On Friday, July 18, the Ph.D. Program in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences hosted the 2008 Interdisciplinary Doctoral Research (IDR) Conference at the WMU College of Health and Human Services. At the conference, ten Interdisciplinary Health Sciences graduate students presented their research practicum studies orally and made poster presentations of their dissertation progress. A panel of judges selected Barbara Cliff, PhD, FACHE and President/CEO of Cheboygan Memorial Hospital, to receive the R.C. Wardley Award for the Best Scientific Poster and Stephanie Combs, PT, MS, NCS, Assistant Professor with the University of Indianapolis’ Krannert School of Physical Therapy, to receive the Pisaneschi Prize for the highest level of research presented in the oral format. Other presenters included Amy L. Freeland, MA, CVRT, COMS, Dawn L. Anderson, MA, COMS, Theresa M. Green, AA-C, MBA, Dae Kim, M.A., COMS, and Patricia J. Tattersall, M.A., CCC/SLP.

Andrew Zolp (Drew), a second year Physician Assistant (PA) student, is the recipient of the Michigan Physician Assistant Foundation scholarship for Western Michigan University. Drew is the president of the Class of 2009, Birch Student Society, the PA student society for WMU. This scholarship is awarded to one PA student from each PA program in Michigan who exhibits outstanding scholarly activity, demonstrates involvement in community service and displays leadership qualities and involvement within the PA profession.

Assessment of Student Learning

Yvonne Unrau, Ph.D. and Melinda McCormick, MSW are presenting Curriculum Development: Using Student Outcome Assessment to Improve Educational Objectives during the 2008 Assessment Institute to be held October 26-28, 2008 at the Westin Indianapolis.

Upcoming Events

On Thursday, October 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. at WMU’s Fetzer Center, the Aphasia Communication Enhancement Program of WMU’s Charles Van Riper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic will host a free event, open to the public, that will feature the documentary film Stroke of Genius and songs from the film by songwriter Marc Black. The songs and the film were inspired by the experience of Dan Mountain, one of Los Angeles’ premier advertising creative directors. Mountain suffered a massive, debilitating stroke that left him with aphasia, a communication disorder that impairs a person’s ability to read, speak and understand language. As part of his struggle to put his life back together and work through his aphasia, he wrote poems. His friend, songwriter and recording artist Marc Black, put those poems to music and recorded them. Inspired by Dan’s courage and by the recording, filmmaker, Bahman Soltani, produced a documentary film about the story, also entitled Stroke of Genius. Reviewed early on as “a melodic exploration that takes the listener on an odyssey shimmering with humor and light,” Stroke of Genius has since won the support of the National Stroke Association and the National Aphasia Association. The October 2 event, funded in part with a grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation/John E. Fetzer Institute Fund, is intended to raise awareness about stroke and aphasia, promote the active participation of individuals with aphasia in family and community life, and bring people of all ages and abilities together to learn that meaningful, purposeful and authentic lives can be built after a stroke.

The 26th Annual Van Riper Lecture Series, Social Communication Assessment & Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, will take place October 30-31 at the WMU Fetzer Center. Lecture series speakers will be Patricia Prelock, Rhea Paul and Sima Gerber. Dr. Prelock is a Professor and Chair in the Department of Communication Sciences at the University of Vermont (UVM) and an ASHA Vice President. She was the Project Director for the Vermont Rural Autism Project, co-sponsors an annual week long summer institute in Autism with the Autism Society of Vermont, and teaches an assessment/intervention course in Autism at UVM. Rhea Paul has published over 70 papers in referred journals, and has written seven books on children’s language development and disorders. She is Professor and Director of Communication Disorders section at the Yale Child Study

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The Barbara A. Rider Colloquium is an annual endowed lectureship bringing exceptional occupational therapy practitioners, educators, and researchers to Western Michigan University to share their knowledge and expertise on current topics. The Fifth Annual Barbara A. Rider Colloquium will take place on October 24, 2008 at the WMU Fetzer Center and will focus on autism. The keynote speaker will be Wendy J. Coster, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Department Chair, Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation Counseling Boston University - Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Dr. Coster has been awarded the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship, the highest honor given by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Given annually to a member of the association who has “creatively contributed to the development of knowledge of the profession through research, education, and/or clinical practice,” the award was established in 1955 as a memorial to Slagle, a pioneer in the field of occupational therapy. In addition to her work as an educator and leader at Boston University, Coster helped develop two assessment tools that evaluate functional capabilities and performance in young children, the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI) and the School Function Assessment. She has advanced theory and advocated evidence-based practice that promotes the well-being of people with disabilities. For more information and registration, visit http://www.wmich.edu/ridercolloquium/.

Dr. Wendy J. Coster, Keynote Speaker

In response to recent licensing requirements, the School of Social Work has initiated a series of lectures and workshops for which continuing education credit is available. For more information or to register for the following events, contact Melinda McCormick at melinda.m.mccormick@wmich.edu or phone (269) 387-3158. Upcoming lectures include:

- Susan Wilson, RN, BSN of Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan will be presenting a workshop on Pain Management on October 3 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in room 1010 of the College of Health & Human Services. The training is complimentary, although a fee for Michigan Social Work continuing education units applies.

- Mark Sloane, DO, of the Center for Behavioral Pediatrics and the Children’s Trauma Assessment Center, is offering a workshop on Neurodevelopmental Impact of Fetal Alcohol Exposure and Trauma: Understanding Difficult Behaviors on October 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in room 1024 of the College of Health & Human Services. This training costs $30, $20 for students, and social work continuing education units are available.

- Barbara Barton, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of the School of Social Work and Michele McGowen, MSW, of Disability Network Southwest Michigan, are offering a four-hour workshop on Disability: The Personal and The Political on October 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in room 1010 of the College of Health & Human Services. This workshop costs $40, $20 for students, and social work continuing education units are available.

On Tuesday, October 21, from 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. John E. Crews, D.P.A., will speak on Disability and Health Matters: The Intersection of Public Health and Disability in Room 1010 of the WMU College of Health and Human Services Building. Dr. Crews is the Lead Scientist, Disability and Health Team, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA. In this presentation, Dr. Crews will discuss the public health model as it applies to disability, the conceptual frameworks that portray disability, and the health status and demographic trends of people with disabilities. He will give special attention to the health of people with vision loss and the effects of multiple health conditions upon function and social roles. The presentation will end with suggestions for future directions in disability and public health research and a question and answer period. A reception will follow. For more information contact Dr. Richard Long at (269) 387-2540 or richard.long@wmich.edu.

Graduate College

Items of Academic Interest

Under the supervision of Dr. Julie Scrivener, Director, Awards and Special Projects, and with the help of the entire graduate college staff, the orientation and training of over 600 new graduate students and graduate appointees was a big success. The event took place on August 28 at Schneider Hall. Opening speakers were Dr. John Dunn, President of WMU, and Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College. Additional speakers included Dr. Leonard Ginsberg from OVPR, Dr. Amy Naugle, chair of HSIRB, Vicki Janson, HSIRB Research Compliance Coordinator and Dr. Michael Pritchard, Director of the Research Ethics Resource Center spoke, along

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with Marianne Di Pierro, Director of the Graduate Center for Research and Retention, on grant opportunities, grant writing, research proposal development, and research ethics.

Dr. Scrivener of the Graduate College and Mr. Mark Elorey of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships spoke on graduate award opportunities and financial aid. Offering valuable information were the following campus representatives: from the Ombuds office, Ms. Kathy Mitchell, Director of Disabled Student Resources and Services, Beth DenHartigh, Ms. Jewell Street from the Office of Institutional Equity and Dr. Diane Anderson, Vice President for Student Affairs. We thank all these busy people who came and spoke with students about student activities and resources, student conduct and conflict resolution resources. Brandi Pritchett, president of the Graduate Student Advisory Council, was also on hand to greet new graduate students and invite them to participate in the numerous professional and social events funded and hosted by GSAC. Representatives from WMU Public Safety and Parking Services, Sincenduse Health Center, University Libraries, Student Recreation Center, Financial Aid, University Libraries and the Registrar’s office also offered valuable information about the many services available to graduate students on Western’s campus. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all who participated in making these graduate students feel comfortable and well-acquainted with life on Western’s campus.

Faculty and Staff Accolades

In August, Dean Lewis Pyenson delivered an invited talk at celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.


Student Accolades

Ms. Natalie Gianatarro, graduate assistant to Ms. Jennifer Wendling Holm, Coordinator of Theses and Dissertations, has had several poems accepted for publication recently. Her poem “Scavenger” was published in Border Senses Summer 2008 issue. Another poem, “Armenia at the Dinner Table,” is scheduled for release in the Fall 2008 issue of Third Coast Literary Journal. She also has a review of Bruce Bonds “Blind Rain,” coming out in Third Coast in fall 2008. She recently graduated from WMU with an M.F.A. in Poetry and won the first Herbert Scott Award in Poetry for her achievements. She is in her first year of the Ph.D. program with a concentration in poetry. She teaches composition on the side and was recently the layout editor for New Issues Poetry & Prose.

Ms. Yazmine Watts, graduate assistant to Dr. Julie Scrivener, is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science at Western Michigan University (WMU). She currently holds a 4.0 GPA. In 2008 Ms. Watts was one of only 36 WMU students named in “Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges” for her outstanding campus leadership and for accomplishments in and out of the classroom. She is currently a member of Graduate Students of Color (GSOC) and is the Vice-President of the Kalamazoo Chapter of the National Action Network. Ms. Watts is busy these days writing her doctoral dissertation, working as a doctoral associate in the Graduate College at WMU and interning at the Fetzer Institute. The Fetzer Institute’s mission is to promote the power of love and forgiveness in a global society. At the Fetzer Institute Ms. Watts is working with program officers on the Individual & Community Transformation team on various projects in areas that include peace building, conflict transformation, racial healing, global leadership, business as an agent of world benefit and the politics of compassion. Her passion for serving others will lead her to pursue a career in philanthropy and the non-profit sector, which her status as the first intern to serve at the Fetzer Institute can only enhance. Prior to coming to WMU she earned her Master’s degree in Political Science at the University of Windsor in Canada. She also holds a Bachelor’s degree in both Political Science and French Language and Literature, which she earned at Kalamazoo College.

Upcoming Events

The Graduate College has several visiting speakers coming this fall. We are proud to announce Dr. Hayden White, (PhD U of Michigan 1956), Professor Emeritus of the History of Consciousness at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Professor of Comparative Literature at Sanford University. In Knowledge and Postmodernism in Historical Perspective (New York, 1996), the editor Joyce Oldham Appleby writes about Hayden White: “Only since the historical profession made the ‘linguistic turn’ has White become known as the foremost critic of the modern historiographical tradition. While his predecessors focused upon historical *methodology* White questions the very forms of language in which history is written (p. 393).” According to Brian Fay, White’s *Metahistory* (1973) is a watershed in the philosophy of history (Richard T. Vann, “The Reception of Hayden White,” *History and Theory*, 37 (1998), 143-61, on p. 143.) With co-sponsorship from the Departments of History, English, Spanish, Anthropology, Continued on next page
Foreign Languages and the Medieval Institute, as well as the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program we are planning a full schedule of activities, both social and intellectual, including a luncheon reception for Dr. White on Thursday, November 13, as well as a public lecture with reception to follow at the Fetzer Center that evening. He will speak on “The Practical Past.” Earlier in the day he will meet with a small group of students, selected by each sponsoring department, for a master class on the subject of “Modernist Historical Novels,” concerning writers such as Don De Lillo, Virginia Woolf, and W. G. Sebald.

The Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC) takes great pride in serving the graduate student population in a multitude of capacities. The GSAC is an advocating body for all graduate students on the university, state, and national levels. In addition to advocating for graduate student needs; the GSAC is also responsible for supporting registered graduate student organizations, hosting social and professional development opportunities, and bridging the gap between students and administration. Because building a relationship with administration is essential and valuable to the undergraduate and graduate student experience; the GSAC would like to cordially invite you to a Fall Presidential Forum, a collaborative event with the Western Student Association (WSA). This event will give students an open forum to share concerns, suggestions, and student successes with Western Michigan University’s President, John Dunn. This event will also give students an opportunity to connect with other administration, faculty, and students from a variety of disciplines. This event will take place on Tuesday October, 7, 2008 beginning at 5:00 pm in room 157 of the Bernhard Center.

Dr. Eloy Rodriguez arrives for a campus visit on Sunday, November 16 and will be giving several talks to selected groups of students, faculty and community members involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), AGEP (Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate) and in Hispanic culture and life in the United States. He will also present two public lectures. The first, on Monday, Nov. 17 at 2 p.m., is a science, research and biomedicine lecture titled “The Genesis of Organic Natural Medicines;” which will take place at the Fetzer Center with a reception to follow. On Tuesday, Nov. 17, he will give a public lecture on “The Excitement of Tropical Rainforest Exploration: Discovery of New Natural Medicines to Combat Disease.” Dr. Rodriguez, who is James A. Perkins Endowed Professor at Cornell University, began life as a Texas migrant farm worker in southwestern Michigan who ended up, with his family’s dedication to education, earning a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin. Dr. Rodriguez’s personal and professional history is an inspiration to all who hear him speak.

For graduate students who could benefit from a one on one discussion of concerns or issues in conceiving, researching and writing their dissertation, Dr. Marianne DePierro will be holding The Dissertation Café every Friday from 2-4 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge of Walwood Hall. Starting on Friday, September 19, students pursuing Ph.D. work can meet with Dr. DiPierro, Director of the Graduate Center for Research and Retention, in a small group setting tailored to each individual student’s needs. Please encourage your dissertation bound students to attend.

The Graduate College will be hosting an evening of light refreshments and sparkling conversation at the Cranbrook Institute Manor House on Friday, November 7 from 5-7 p.m. The event, designed for administrators, faculty, staff, prospective graduate students, alumni and interested others, promises to be unforgettable, as it will be held in the Library of Cranbrook’s Manor House, one of the most elegant venues available in Michigan. As the oldest of metropolitan Detroit’s historic manors, Cranbrook House has a long and illustrious past. It was built by George Booth and his wife, Ellen Scripps Booth, the eldest child of James Edmund Scripps, the founder of the Detroit News. The noted Detroit architect, Albert Kahn, designed an English Arts and Crafts-inspired mansion which was finished in June 1908. Later, the Booths turned their energy and fortune to establishing six institutions at Cranbrook: Brookside School for Children, Christ Church Cranbrook, Cranbrook School for boys, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Cranbrook Institute of Science and Kingswood School for girls. The Cranbrook Institute, is also world renowned for its fantastic gardens filled with sculpture and pavilions designed by famed architect Eliel Saarinen as well as its lavish interior design with antiques and works of art by old masters. Located in Bloomfield Hills, the Cranbrook Institute is a treasure to experience. We encourage all to attend if possible. To register for any of our programs please visit www.wmich.edu/grad.

Extended University Programs

Items of Academic Interest

The Southwest Campus has launched two new programs, which began fall 2008. Working with the College of Health and Human Services and the College of Education, students in the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph community now have access to two master’s degree programs: Master of Social Work and Master of Arts in Human Resource Development. Students entering these programs can take all necessary coursework at the Southwest Campus. Thank you to Dr. Nicholas Andreadis of Human Resource Development and Nancy McFadden of the School of Social Work for their assistance in bringing these programs to WMU-Southwest students.
**Upcoming Events**

On September 30, 2008 from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Lake Michigan College, Siena Heights University, and Western Michigan University – Southwest will be hosting “Degrees by Success” open house. The event will be held at the Mendel Center Grand Upton Hall on the LMC Napier Avenue Campus in Benton Harbor. Between the three schools, students can choose from over 130 degree and certificate program options. All are invited to the event, which aims to provide information about educational options available in the southwest Michigan community. WMU will promote available bachelor’s and master’s degree programs for WMU-Southwest.

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**Haenicke Institute for Global Education**

**Items of Academic Interest**

Headed up by a Western Michigan University alum, Tafila Technical University in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is sending graduate students to WMU to help build the faculty of this new university. The president of Tafila Technical University, Dr. Sultan Abu-Orabi, who earned a master’s in chemistry at Western Michigan University in 1977, followed by a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, visited campus in September to meet with the 12 doctoral students from TTU currently studying at WMU. The first cohort of eight doctoral associates has successfully completed their first academic year, studying engineering, physics, or English literature. Accompanied by Dr. Marwan M. Obeidat, TTU Dean of Arts and professor of American literature, Abu-Orabí’s visit also included meetings with several academic departments in the interest of expanding opportunities for TTU graduate students to study at WMU. This is Abu-Orabi’s second visit to Kalamazoo to discuss collaboration to help build the faculty for this new university founded in 2005 by King Abdullah II. In an effort to encourage development in South Jordan, the King granted university status to a regional college that had previously granted only two-year degrees to found TTU. Tafila Technical University is the first technical university and the ninth public university in Jordan. The city of Tafila is home to 70,000 inhabitants and is located 180 km south of Amman, in an area rich with natural resources, such as potash, cement, oil, shale and mines. Within close proximity is Petra, an ancient archeological site known as one of the “new wonders of the world.” “Our relatively new relationship with Tafila has attracted about 20 graduate students and their families to Western,” said Brett Berquist, executive director of international programs. “We are pleased to work with an alumnus to attract doctoral students to our campus who will return to Jordan as ambassadors of WMU, building on our strong relationships in the region.”

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**University Libraries**

**Items of Academic Interest**

Technical Services of University Libraries has been recognized for its contributions to the field of Librarianship by the Library of Congress (LC) and the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). According to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), a distinguishing feature of a successful research library is the “creation of bibliographic records and their availability on one of the major bibliographic networks.” Three catalogers have advanced the stature of University Libraries.

Judy Kirk contributed 48 new name authorities to the LC Authorities http://authorities.loc.gov/ as part of the Name Authority Cooperative (NACO). Lois Tolhurst and Anne-Marie Adams have been accepted into the OCLC Enhance program for music scores. They may directly correct, edit, and enhance items of academic interest.

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records for music scores in WorldCat (international catalog of library holdings hosted by OCLC). Few libraries at this time have been given this authority.

Materials, Full Service and Ubiquitous Accessibility: University Libraries has added new online databases (21) and collections as well as print resources over the Summer. For listings please see http://www.wmich.edu/~sg/358/6807/ and https://www.library.wmich.edu/cgi-bin/newbooks-6.1/newbooks.cgi or contact your department’s librarian http://www.wmich.edu/library/liaison/. Online chat reference service (Instant Messaging with Reference Librarians) is now available for students and all members of WMU community, Mon-Fri 8am-6pm and 12pm-6pm Sat & Sun. This service is available through the library homepage: www.wmich.edu/library.

Faculty and Staff Accolades


Michele Behr was elected Vice Chair / Chair Elect of the Distance Learning Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

Dr. Barbara Cockrell, Associate Dean for Collections and Technical Services, has been selected as one of 13 participants in the 2008/9 Faculty Leadership Academy a new program for the development and support of leadership at WMU.

Dean Joseph G. Reish was elected to a 3-year term on the Executive Board of the Michigan Library Association (MLA). He will represent the interests of the academic libraries within Michigan with other representatives from public and specialty libraries as the state organization reconfigures its structure and purpose to serve better the 2000 individual and institutional members.

Upcoming Events

The French in North America, an Enduring Presence, an exhibit located on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Waldo Library Rotunda, focuses on the French in North America and their legacy in southwest Michigan. Original panels created for the exhibit and display cases trace the activities of the French voyageurs, fur traders, military, and religious who were drawn to this part of North America. Their interactions with the native peoples through trade, the spreading of Christianity, and warfare are given prominence. The exhibit (until August 2009) and the symposia of mid-September reflect ongoing collaboration with the Canadian Studies Program, the College of Arts and Sciences, and University Libraries. For details see http://www.wmich.edu/library/events/.

The annual conference of the Michigan Library Association (MLA) will take place at the Radisson Plaza, Kalamazoo, on October 22 – 24 with the theme Shaping Our Tomorrows. University Libraries will play a prominent role at the meeting. Associate Dean Scott Garrison has served on the planning committee for the meeting and will coordinate the technology needs of the participants. Joining him will be Paul Howell, Randy James, and Ed Holloway from Systems. Dean Reish, member MLA Executive Board, secured sponsorships from Davenport University, Kalamazoo College, Kellogg Community College, and WMU for the “academic library” strands of the conference. Faculty and Staff presenters include:

- Birong Ho and Sheila Bair, Technical Services, “Inventing a Web 2.0 Catalog.” These faculty have been using the tag features in the open-source software VuFind to encourage users to establish personal bibliographic records of materials often used in teaching and research. A review of users’ common tags will analyzed. The speakers will make suggestions for creating additional access points to enhance the usability of the WMU Online Catalog (WebCat).


Interdisciplinary PhD in Evaluation Program

Faculty and Staff Accolades

Dr. Chris Coryn, director of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation (IDPE) program, will receive the American Evaluation Association (AEA) Marcia Guttentag Award, given for early career contributions to evaluation within the first five years after completion of his or her Masters or Doctoral degree and whose work is consistent with the AEA Guiding Principles for Evaluators, at the association’s annual conference in November. He also had a paper titled “Adding a Time-Series Design Element to the Success Case Method to Improve Methodological Rigor: An Application for Non-Profit Program Evaluation” accepted for publication in the American Journal

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of Evaluation. The paper was coauthored by Daniela Schröter (Nexus Market Research, Inc.) and Carl Hanssen (Hanssen Consulting, LTD.). Along with former IDPE director E. Jane Davidson (Davidson Consulting, LLC.), P. Cristian Gugiu (IDPE student), and Daniela Schröter, Coryn also recently published a paper in the Evaluation Journal of Australasia titled "Needs Assessment in Hidden Populations using Respondent-Driven Sampling." Coryn’s book Models for Evaluating Scientific Research is spotlighted in AEA’s September newsletter. Coryn and former IDPE director Michael Scriven (Claremont Graduate University) coedited a special issue of New Directions for Evaluation titled “Reforming the Evaluation of Research,” which was published in July, 2008.

Student Accolades

IDPE students Stephanie Evergreen, Anne Cullen, and P. Cristian Gugiu, along with IDPE director Dr. Chris Coryn, obtained contracts totaling more than $100,000 to conduct evaluations for Integrated Health Partners, Operation Frontline, the City of Grand Rapids, and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Battle Creek Community Foundation’s Latino Hispanic Community Project, in 2008. Cullen also had a review of the book Youth Participatory Evaluation: Strategies for Engaging Young People published in the 9th issue of the Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation. IDPE student Amy Gullickson had a review of the book Systems Concepts in Evaluation published in the 9th issue of the Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation. IDPE student Ronald Visscher had his paper “Hope for High Impact Aid: Real Challenges, Real Opportunities, and Real Solutions” published in the 10th issue of the Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation. IDPE student Margaret Richardson had her paper “JMDE—Five Years in Review” published in the 10th issue of the Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation.

Walker Institute

Upcoming Events

On October 9-10, 2008, Western Michigan University’s Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations will host a conference to promote the “knowledge as understanding” concept: The Peoples Conference: Ethnic and Racial Diversity in Michigan. Participants will be exposed to some of Michigan’s ethnic groups and take part in interactive, issue-based discussions. The content of the conference has been selected to make its participants better employees, employers, caregivers, service providers, and neighbors by learning more about the people they interact with every day.

Join us for both days or spend a day or a morning or afternoon. For more information go to: www.wmich.edu/walkerinstitute.