Welcome to the inaugural issue of Prism, the new academic affairs newsletter at Western Michigan University. One key goal for the newsletter project is to develop a more visible chronicle of achievements that occur regularly throughout academic units at the University. This newsletter will provide members of the entire University community; the senior leadership team, including President Bailey and me; and the Board of Trustees with current information regarding the knowledge, activities, and talent among our faculty, emeriti, and academic leaders in the various colleges and related academic units. I hope this monthly newsletter becomes an informative and inspiring collection of noteworthy academic accomplishments. Items for inclusion in each issue should be sent to your respective academic dean or director. Additionally, please feel free to contact Eileen Evans (eileen.evans@wmich.edu) or me (linda.delene@wmich.edu) with suggestions or thoughts you may have regarding the contents and distribution of this newsletter.

**Items of Academic Interest**

## College of Health and Human Services

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, now ranks WMU's College of Health and Human Services as number six on its list of allied health professions schools receiving NIH awards. For fiscal year 2003, the college held three grants for a total of $1,535,974. The college moved up three spots from a number nine ranking in fiscal year 2002. This new ranking puts NIH funding for the College of Health and Human Services ahead of forty-four other institutions including the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Kansas, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Missouri Columbia, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

## College of Arts and Sciences

In July 2004, Susan Carlson, associate professor of Sociology, was elected Treasurer of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, one of sociology's national level professional organizations. She assumed her office at the annual meeting in San Francisco in August.

Diether Haenicke, professor of Foreign Languages and former president of WMU, was appointed chair of the Policy Committee and member of the Executive Committee of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a gubernatorial appointment.

## College of Education

**Childhood Obesity Prevention Research Project**

During the month of July, a team of College of Education researchers, Dr. Linda Dannison, chair of Family and Consumer Sciences; Dr. Joseph Morris, chair of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; and Dr. Mozhideh Bruss, assistant professor, Family and Consumer Sciences, traveled to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in the Pacific to conduct phase II of the Childhood Obesity Prevention Research Project. Phases I and II of this project took place in 2002 and 2003 respectively. Phase III, which began in May 2004 used stakeholder approach to develop an intervention for primary caregivers of 6-10 year old and Head Start children. A group of 35 teachers and other professionals from the CNMI public school system along with other agencies participated in a four-day training. The workshop offered participants knowledge and skills in facilitating sessions related to the prevention of childhood obesity. Participants also contributed to the development of lesson plans that will be used in a curriculum for primary caregivers. The next step in this process will be to (1) pilot test the lesson plans and (2) evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum in achieving the health-related outcomes in the prevention of childhood obesity. Funding for the Phase III of this project was made possible through the Larry L. Hilbloom Foundation and Diether H. Haenicke Institute for International and Area Studies, Western Michigan University.

Mexican-American Oral History Project—Dr. Lynn Brice, Department of Teaching Learning and Leadership and Elspeth Inglis from the Kalamazoo Valley Museum completed the Mexican-American Oral History Project. Other collaborative partners include MERC-GEARUP of Western Michigan University, and Bangor Public Schools. Through the oral history project, two cohorts of Bangor students had opportunities to contribute to a significant part of Michigan.
The products students created in this oral history project documented the history and cultural traditions of Southwest Michigan’s Mexican-American community. Working with artists, historians, writers, and other professionals as artists-in-residence at the school and museum, students created art, photography, poetry, and narratives. Students worked with state-of-the-art computer technology. They conducted oral histories of adults in the community. Students’ photography and writing from Bangor High School and Bangor Continuing Education Center are presented in the Museum’s exhibition Treasures/Tesoros that opened June 12, 2004.

Their work is also featured in a new planetarium show, Abuelo's Stories for the Seasons, opening in September 2004. The planetarium shows produced by the Museum are widely viewed by public and school audiences. The oral history project was unique in that the participating students contributed to the authentic documentation of the history and culture of the Mexican-American community. Being with the historians was a powerful experience for the students and will be a powerful experience for the public who will see their work.

For the remainder of the time, Dr. Breu used Istanbul as her base for research projects in the city and in other areas of the country. Much of the time was spent working within the Armenian community, where she has been conducting research of their historical sacred textiles and other artifacts, along with a colleague from the University of Minnesota, and working with the publisher of their soon-to-be published monograph on the textiles.

Dr. Breu reports many wonderful and varied experiences during the year, including spending the Ramadan vacation with the family of her graduate assistant in the largest olive-growing area of Turkey, collaborating with her Turkish colleague who lives in Izmir, and attending the openings of two important textile exhibitions at the Topkapi Museum in Istanbul, one of felted objects and the other the Josephine Powell collection of historical kilims.

Dr. Breu took lessons from a master weaver to learn how to weave kilims (flat-woven rugs) by the traditional methods, using an upright loom. She was fortunate to be able to observe his dyeing and finishing operations for the kilims, which he sells. She and fellow weavers accompanied him to the village where he contracts with residents to weave. Dr. Breu will be giving a presentation on Textiles of Turkey to the Weaver’s Guild of Kalamazoo, where she will share the kilim production methods and display many of the textiles that she brought from Turkey. Dr. Breu was invited to give three lectures on the Meanings of Dress to fashion and graphic arts students at the Doha, Qatar campus of Virginia Commonwealth University in April. She and her colleague from the University of Minnesota were invited to present a joint lecture on textiles to the general public, and to offer an exhibit of their collections of textiles from Turkey, Central Asia and the Middle East. The exhibit was on display at the VCU University City campus for six weeks.

Dr. Breu will be presenting a paper titled The Ubiquitous T-shirt & Fashionable “Islamic Dress”: Cultural Authentication in Turkey at the Textile Society of America Biennial Symposium in Oakland, California in October.

Metal casting workshop reaches out to area high school students—IME professor Dr. Sam Ramrattan has been offering hands-on metal casting workshops for up to 15 area tenth-through-twelfth-grade high school students. During the students’ five-day campus visit, Ramrattan, a technical advisor to the American Foundrymen’s Society and a Key Professor for the Foundry Educational Foundation, directs activities in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Parkview Campus Metal Casting Laboratory.

Field trips to metal casting industries provide students with opportunities to see real-world technology and to meet with professionals. Workshop topics include metal casting history and trends, and the relationship of manufacturing (molding, melting, filling, and finishing), engineering, quality, purchasing, marketing, and sales of castings. They also explore career opportunities and the use of computers, math and science in metal casting.

The metal casting workshop is funded by several chapters of the American Foundry Society (AFS) located within about a three-hour drive of WMU. Students are selected on the basis of an aptitude for math and science. “I want this to be a learning experience but I want it to be enjoyable,” Ramrattan said.

WMU has had a casting metal program in various engineering curricula since the college opened over 100 years ago. Its most recent accreditation began in 1992 when Ramrattan joined the faculty. “Our goal is to produce hands-on engineers as an integral part of what we do in manufacturing engineering programs,” he said. Metal casting is currently a program option in industrial, manufacturing, graphics, and engineering management programs. Ramrattan specializes in material and process improvement emphasizing casting and nontraditional manufacturing processes. His current research projects involve alternative foundry molding media, process improvement in metal casting, and thermal distortion of foundry sands systems. Before coming to WMU, Dr. Sam, as his students call him, taught at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, Iowa State University, and University of Technology Malaysia. He received a bachelor’s and a master’s from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University where he also did post doctorate work.
Graduate College

Orientation and Training for Graduate Students and Appointees
On August 23-25, The Graduate College delivered its tenth annual University-wide Graduate Assistant Training program. Some 300 new graduate appointees participated in the three day program receiving training from University faculty and staff. The program delivered plenary sessions on the mornings of August 23rd and 24th on University policies, procedures, and services. On the afternoons of August 23rd and 24th students were split into small groups receiving specific training in one of three tracts; teaching, research, and service. On August 25th each student selected and participated in two workshops designed to initiate professional development activities.

On August 23-27, The Graduate College in collaboration with the Career English Language Center for International Students (CELCIS) delivered its annual International Teaching Assistant Training Program designed to assist new international teaching assistants’ transition to the American classroom. This program runs concurrently with the University-wide Graduate Assistant Training Program with international students participating in that programs morning activities on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th but follow a different agenda during the afternoons.

On August 28, The Graduate College in collaboration with the Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC) delivered a new Orientation Program for first-year graduate students designed to ease their transition to graduate school. Students learned about a variety of campus offices and their services and were made aware of relevant policies and procedures that they will encounter as they pursue their degrees.

Graduate Diversity Summer Orientation Program
The Graduate College/Diversity Program conducted its first Summer Orientation Program for students of color in June 2004. Approximately fifty percent of the new students who participated in this event were from out-of-state. The four-day program included a welcoming reception and a Sunday cook-out where guests were greeted by faculty, staff and students from the University. During the orientation, opportunity was provided for the students to meet with their advisors, receive instruction on the “Survival Kit for Graduate Students,” tour the WMU campus and surrounding city, and secure housing.

The assistance of graduate students Charles Conner, Candace Dixon, Donald Mitchell, Blessing Bamiro, and Aaron Hardy helped to make the orientation a success especially since they were able to share information based on their first year of experience as graduate students at WMU. Visiting students appreciated being able to form friendships, meet faculty and staff, and simply become acquainted with campus and Kalamazoo before the hectic beginning of the fall semester. Plans are already under way for the next orientation in June 2005.

The Graduate College Diversity Reception
The Graduate College/Diversity Program sponsored its annual reception for graduate students of color on Friday, September 3. The reception is held to welcome new students to campus and to provide an atmosphere where students can meet their peers. Approximately seventy-five students enjoyed good food and making connections with other graduate students enrolled at WMU.

Diversity Chat Sessions—At the suggestion of many students, “chat sessions” will be held to give students of color a chance to connect throughout the school year. Dates of these sessions are: October 15, November 12, January 21 and March 18. Topics to be announced.

Haworth College of Business

Jocelyn Steinke, associate professor of Communication, Maria Lapinski, assistant professor of Communication, and Aletta Zietsman-Thomas, assistant professor of Physics received a $290,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a two-year research project designed to teach critical thinking about stereotyped portrayals of women in the media and about women in science, engineering, and technology (SET).

Steinke, Lapinski, and Zietsman-Thomas, along with a team of graduate research assistants, will begin work on the research project this fall. The project titled, “Assessing Media Influences: Effects of Media Literacy Training on Middle School-Aged Children's Perceptions of Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology” is being funded by the program in Research on Gender in Science and Engineering in the Directorate of Education and Human Resources at NSF.

This research project addresses the critical need for greater participation of women and other underrepresented groups in SET not only to help meet the demand for qualified people in these areas but also to insure a diverse workforce with the varied perspectives and experiences needed to develop new questions, approaches, practices, and interpretations.

Despite recent increases in the participation of women in SET, women still are underrepresented in several fields like physics, engineering, and computer science. While, a number of factors at home and in schools are likely to play a role in the under-representation of women in SET, this study focuses on the role of broader cultural factors, and specifically the potential influence of the media, as socializing agents that can affect children’s perceptions of women in SET and their attitudes toward SET and SET careers.

The project has three main objectives: 1) to assess the influence of media literacy training on middle school-aged children's ability to recognize stereotyped media portrayals of women scientists, engineers, and information technology professionals, 2) to assess the influence of media literacy training on their perceptions of women in SET, and 3) to assess the influence of media literacy training on their attitudes toward SET and SET careers.

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**Faculty Accolades**

**College of Arts and Sciences**


Peter Blickle, associate professor of German in the Department of Foreign Languages, is the winner of the international Eleven-Minutes-Sports-Novel Contest held in connection with the Blankenese Games in Hamburg, Germany. The competition, sponsored by the city of Hamburg, was organized in order to revive the ancient Olympic tradition of having competitions in arts and literature simultaneous with those in athletics.

Jorge Febles and Carolyn Harris, Professors of Spanish, wrote a Textbook for Spanish composition, working Title is Por escrito: De la palabra a la composicion. Published by Prentice Hall. Publication date Sept. 29, 2004.

Visit of Cuban/Puerto Rican novelist Mayra Montero, one of Latin America’s most well-known contemporary writers. Ms. Montero will lecture in Spanish and English, Sept. 27 and 28. Brought to campus by Visiting Scholars and Artists Program. Contact person Prof. Irma López, Spanish Dept.

Four Spanish faculty (John Benson, Jorge Febles, Patricia Montilla, Benjamin Torres) and five graduate students (Luis Flores, Mariana Hernández, Hedy Habra, Nuria Ibáñez, Carmen Febles) will read papers at the conference on Caribbean culture sponsored by the Journal Caribe. The journal, a joint publication of Western Michigan University and Marquette University, is edited by Prof. Jorge Febles of Western and Prof. Armando González-Pérez of Marquette. The conference will take place in Milwaukee, October 13-16.

**College of Health and Human Services**

Nickola W. Nelson, professor of speech pathology and audiology at Western Michigan University, received the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award from the University of Saint Xavier in Chicago. Saint Xavier's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders gives this award annually to one outstanding recipient.

Dr. Jennipher Wiebold, assistant professor of blindness and low vision studies was awarded a $148,392 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund training of students headed for careers as rehabilitation counselors.

A $492,080 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration was earmarked in an omnibus spending bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in December. Dr. James Leja, Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services and Jackie West-Fraiser, Assistant Faculty Specialist in the Department of Occupational Therapy are co-principal investigators.

**College of Education**

Dr. Andrea Smith, Professor, Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, received Fulbright to the United Kingdom (News Release by Mark Schwerin)

A Western Michigan University professor has been awarded a Fulbright grant to lecture and work with community groups at three universities in England. Dr. Andrea Smith, associate professor of Teaching, Learning and Leadership, has received a Fulbright Senior Specialists grant in social work at Northumbria University and, under a partnership agreement, also will work at the University of Warwick and Oxford University. Smith's visit will build on her recent work in kinship care, especially as it pertains to children living with their grandparents. In addition to lecturing on kinship care at the three universities, she will conduct workshops with community professionals to help them develop programming for high-risk parent populations. "Parents are pretty universal across the world," Smith says. "They all want what's best for their children. They just sometimes need some support and knowledge." Smith will be in England Nov. 6-20. The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program offers two- to six-week grants to leading U.S. academics and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at academic institutions in 140 countries around the world. Created to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, which was started in 1946, the Senior Specialists Program aims at increasing the number of faculty and professionals who have the opportunity to go abroad on a Fulbright. Smith's trip builds on previous lecture tours to Liverpool, England, and Dublin, Ireland, five years ago and Latvia two years ago. She conducted several seminars in Latvia along with Dr. Linda Dannison, chairperson of the WMU Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, who also is an authority on developing support programs for grandparents raising their grandchildren. Smith says she's looking forward to continuing her work overseas. "I'm very excited," Smith says, "because I've dabbled a little bit with other international experiences and I find that I learn as much from them as they learn from me."

Dr. Cynthia Carver, Katharine Cummings and Paul Vellom, Department of Teaching Learning and Leadership, were awarded a University Assessment Grant (2004-2006) to assess teacher candidate performance using portfolio artifacts submitted to iWebfolio. The results of this effort will be used to prepare for our upcoming NCATE accreditation visit, inform the program assessment process, and contribute to the knowledge-base on teacher preparation programs.
Dr. Karen Blaisure, associate professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, was the recipient of the 2002-2003 Atlantic Fellowship in Public Policy. She presented her final report at the American Embassy in London on Divorce Intervention and Prevention: Comparison of Policy Initiative in England and Wales and in the USA. During her sabbatical year in the UK, Dr. Blaisure was hosted as a Visiting Professor at the Newcastle Centre for Family Studies at the University of Newcastle. Prior to her sabbatical, Dr. Blaisure completed two national surveys where she contacted over 3000 counties in the US to determine whether they offered programs for divorcing parents. She has presented her research at multiple professional conferences and has published several papers and chapters. Her work has been utilized by state legislatures concerning bills on educational programs. Additionally, Dr. Blaisure will be coordinating the FCS study tour to Brazil in May, 2005.

Dr. Josephine Barry Davis presented a paper at the 2nd International Conference on European History.* The research funded by a FRACASE grant focused on the emotional lives of seventeenth century families living in poverty in the Southern ALPS. The study is an opportunity to show how hagiographical research honed medievalist can be extended into early modern period to achieve a broader understanding of social history.

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Four graduate students in Spanish, Luis Flores, Mariana Hernandez, Hedy Habra and Nuria Ibanez, will read papers at the conference on Caribbean culture sponsored by the journal, Caribe. The journal, a joint publication of Western Michigan University and Marquette University, is edited by Professor Jorge Febles of WMU and Professor Armando Gonzalez-Perez of Marquette. The conference will take place October 13-16 in Milwaukee.

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Two College of Education master's students enrolled in the Socio-Cultural Studies and Educational Thought program (Department of Educational Studies) will give papers at the annual meeting of the American Association for Teaching and Curriculum (AACT) this October in Portland, Oregon.

Jennifer Niedzielski is a middle school language arts teacher with Hamilton Community Schools. Her paper, "The Problematic Relationship between Standardized Testing's Implicit Curriculum and the Natural Environment," explores the hidden effects of high-stakes testing on human-Earth relationships. By drawing on the work of C. A. Bowers, Morris Berman, and others, she develops the argument that the current regime of school achievement testing reinforces habits of mind that run counter to environmental sustainability.

Dan Ouellette is a high school language arts teacher with Vicksburg community Schools. His paper, "High status vs. Low Status: Why the Values Reinforced in School Must Change," is a critical examination of schooling's modernistic assumptions. By using Gregory Bateson's epistemology as a conceptual framework, he brings into high relief aspects of school curriculum that are problematic with regard to social and environmental relationships. Additionally, Mr. Ouellette has been invited by the president of AATC, David Flinders of Indiana University, to participate in a panel discussion on teaching about the war in Iraq.

Participation at AATC's annual meeting is competitive, and proposals are blind-reviewed. Ms. Niedzielski's and Mr. Ouellette's proposals were accepted for regular paper sessions, not sessions set aside for graduate students. Thus, their selection for this conference is an exceptional honor for early career teachers and master's students, as well as for the College of Education and the Department of Educational Studies.

Dionne Gilmore, representing WMU, was recognized as a "Young Woman of Achievement" at the 2004 YWCA Women of Achievement Award Celebration, held May 6, 2004 in the Radisson Plaza Hotel. Ms. Gilmore is the daughter of Deborah and Charles Gilmore of Boston, MA.

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* Continued on page 6
Molly Crookedacre, Senior, Vocal Performance major was the Third Prize Winner in the 34th Annual AIMS Meistersinger Competition. She auditioned and was selected to participate in the 2004 American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria. The AIMS approach, modeled on the European studio system, is quite different from the conventional, American academic approach. A professional attitude toward the art, craft, and business of vocal music is maintained throughout the program and students are exposed directly to professional practices in the music world. As part of this intensive summer program, Molly competed in the 34th Annual Meistersinger Competition. She received third place and was able to perform in the final concert with the AIMS Orchestra in Graz. This competition is held in three rounds and prepares students for engagements with the AIMS Orchestra in Graz and other professional orchestras. The competition allows for European agents to hear young talent and represents the highest level of performance. Molly Crookedacre studies with Professor Elizabeth Cowan and is a member of the University Chorale. She is a graduate of Haslett High School.

The University Theatre production of WOMEN OF TROY performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland last month and received rave reviews. Pres. and Mr. Bailey accompanied the production for part of its run.

“Pleading My Redemption,” a dance choreographed by senior Bachelor of Fine Arts dance major Edgar Page, and performed by students at the Lewis Cass Technical High School (Detroit), was selected for the gala program of the 2004 Michigan Youth Arts Festival in May 2004.

Joe Buetel, a performance major from Fort Wayne, Indiana, was the only American selected for the 2004 World Youth Choir (UNESCO). The choir rehearsed in South Korea and performed in Korea and Japan. They were very impressed with his skills and voice and invited him to be part of the World Youth Chamber Choir. The Chamber Choir is meeting and performing in Italy this week and next. Joe's way is completely paid - including airfare. He is the youngest member of the 36-voice choir. The other American in the Chamber Choir is Erin Cramer-Erbes. Erin is another of our graduates. We are two for two!

Justin Avery has been selected (via competitive submission) to feature on the CD that comes with each issue of JAZZIZ magazine (www.jazziz.com). His original composition (“Counterfeit”) and performance can be heard on the CURRENT (Oct. ’04...which features jazz education) issue of Jazziz, plus a small article and photo in the magazine. To my knowledge, this is the first time a WMU student has been selected for this honor.
October 7, 2004
College of Education Emeriti Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Presidents Dining Room, Bernhard Center.

October 23, 2004
Golden Apple Awards Dinner, 6:00 p.m., Fetzer Center. The Golden Apple Award is given to honor three outstanding College of Education alumni presently working or retired from the many professions involved in the educational experience. The individuals are personally selected by their peers as being representative of educational excellence and commitment. This year's awardees are:

Mr. Terry Kuseske, BA '72
Teacher
Hamilton Middle School in Dowagiac

Mrs. Vivian Davis, MA '85
Counselor
Albion High School

Mrs. Bertha McNeal, BA '63, MA '75
Retired Music Teacher
Milwood Middle School

The Department of Theatre’s 25th Annual President’s Preview will feature "Opposite You," a concert by WMU alumna, Marin Mazzie and her husband Jason Danieley on September 17 in Shaw Theatre preceded by a dinner in the Bernhard Center and the Department of Theatre Alumni Induction ceremony welcoming four alumni into the Academy: Brent Menchinger and his father Jim Menchinger, Katherine Skarritt Swanborg and her father Daniel Skarritt.

Lynn Munson, Deputy Chairman of the National Endowment of the Humanities will present a lecture entitled, “Exhibitionism: Art in an Era of Intolerance,” in the Dalton Center Recital Hall on Friday, October 1, 2004 at 3 p.m.

A School of Music faculty recital, “Is Beauty Always Beautiful,” will be performed on Sunday, October 3, 2004 at 3 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Music creators from the School of Music will both perform and discuss excerpts reflecting beauty’s relativity from a variety of viewpoints—composer, performer, and consumer.

The Department of Dance, the School of Music and the Bullock Performance Institute will present Namely, Muscles, a witty one-woman dance theatre performance by New York choreographer Claire Porter. Performances are October 5 and 6, 2004 in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Tickets are $10.00 ($5.00 for students) and can be purchased at the door, Miller Auditorium Ticket Office or the Epic Center Community Box Office.

The Department of Theatre will present the production METAMORPHOSES in the Multi-Form Theatre, Gilmore Theatre Complex, on Sunday, October 10, 2004 at 2 p.m. There will be a pre-curtain discussion, “Adapting the Myths of the Poet Ovid, for the State,” at 12:30 p.m.

GRADUATE COLLEGE

Upcoming Diversity Events in October
Chat Session October 15
Doctoral Luncheon October 20
Master's Luncheon October 27

Thesis and Dissertation Review Workshops:
This Fall The Graduate College will be offering Thesis & Dissertation Formatting Workshops on the following dates:

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 9--10:30, Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall
Tuesday, Oct. 19, 10--11:30, Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall
Thursday, Nov. 4, 2--3:30, Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall

The workshops are designed to assist students who are in the process of writing their thesis or dissertation. Information will be provided regarding the specifications needed for publication.

Doctoral Graduates:
In recent years the University has averaged 55 doctoral graduates each year. In 2002-04 that number jumped to 86 graduates. During the 2003-04 academic year 76 doctoral degrees were awarded. Already for the 2004-05 year there have been 23 doctoral degrees granted. This compares with 11 degrees granted at the same time last year.

Support for Students Writing a Dissertation:
The Graduate College’s Center for Research, Writing, and Proposal Development sponsored the return of writing consultant and professor Dr. Dorothy Duff Brown to the campus of Western Michigan University. On Friday, September 17, 2004, Dr. Brown, who hails from the University of California, Berkeley, delivered a presentation on "Practical Strategies for Writing the Dissertation - A Pragmatic Seminar For Doctoral Students in All Disciplines" This program provided doctoral students with a framework through which the writing and organization of the dissertation becomes an attainable goal. Topics include the following:

*Getting Started
*Overcoming Procrastination and Perfectionism
*Identifying When and Where to Work
*Organizing Material
*Remaining Focused and on Schedule
*Managing Time
Workshop on Strategies for Successful Grant Writing:
A program to assist graduate students who are applying for
grant funding will be offered on Thursday, October 7, 2004,
from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge, second floor
of Walwood Hall, and is jointly sponsored by the Office of the
Vice President for Research and the Graduate College. The
workshop will provide strategies for researching grant
opportunities, as well as impart writing techniques and
guidance to assist doctoral students in garnering external
funding to complete their dissertations. This workshop is grant-
specific and will target the Spencer Foundation Dissertation
Completion and Mellon Dissertation Research grant
opportunities.

Visual art, on loan from the School of
Art’s University Collection, is now on
display in the Provost’s office suite
(third floor, Seibert Administration
Building). This exhibit showcases the
rich and varied accomplishments of
many art colleagues.

What We’re Reading

Several Department of Dance faculty are reading
choreographer Twyla Tharp’s The Creative Habit. This book
provides an overview of Tharp’s creative process and her
suggestions about establishing habits that assist with living and
working creatively.

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