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INSIDER



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences

Fall 2011 • Vol. XI, No. 2



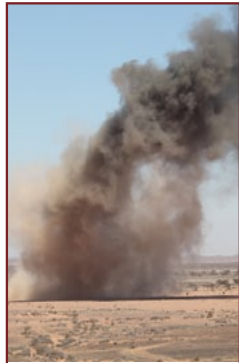
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Researchers
Fighting
Colorectal
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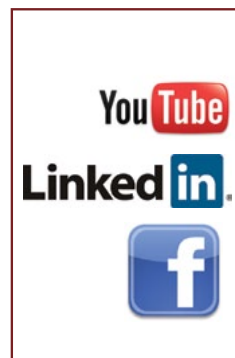
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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Insider, Summer 2011 • Vol. XI, No. 2
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First-ever Brain Bee hosted by WMU

WMU hosted its first ever Brain Bee event, aimed at increasing neuroscience literacy at the K-12 level. According to Professor of Biological Sciences, John Spitsbergen, "The local competition hosted students from four different school districts in the area. The winner was Hanna Larcinese (Paw Paw High School) and the runner-up was Madeline Price (Portage Northern High School)." The winner receives a \$500 travel award from the Michigan Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience to travel to the National Brain Bee in Baltimore.

The Society for Neurosciences (SFN) sponsors the International Brain Bee program, a neuroscience competition for high school students. The event runs in coordination with Brain Awareness Week (BAW) activities sponsored by the Society for Neuroscience and the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives.

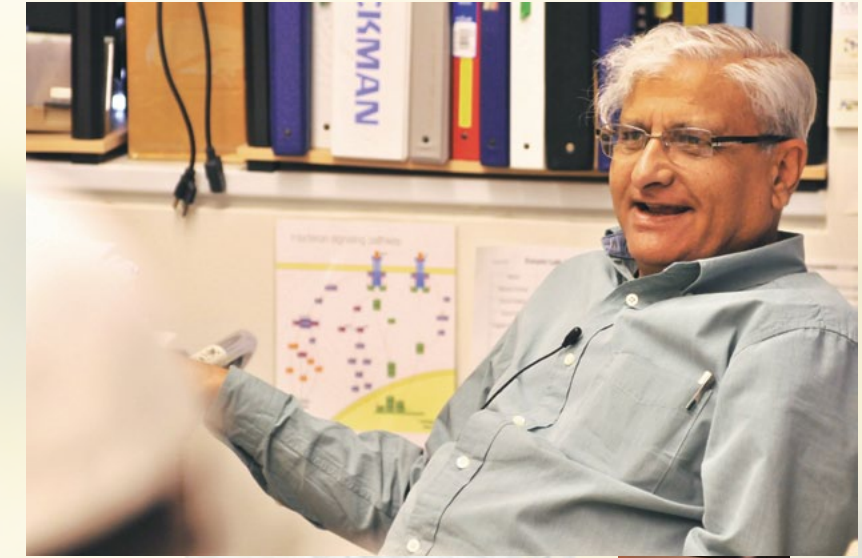
The Brain Bee is an attempt to motivate students to learn about the brain, capture their imaginations, and inspire them to pursue careers in biomedical brain research.

<http://www.wmich.edu/biology/>





FIGHTING COLORECTAL CANCER



*"We thought if we could take this virus and modify it in such a way that it will only infect and destroy human colorectal cancer cells and not normal cells, that would be really outstanding."
—Dr. Karim Essani*

The National Cancer Institute, within the National Institutes of Health, has awarded a three-year \$400,000 grant to Western Michigan University professor Karim Essani to research and develop a new treatment for colorectal cancer. The grant to the WMU virologist and professor of biological sciences, will fund the Experimental Oncolytic Virotherapy Project which will attempt to use viruses to attack cancer cells without harming normal cells.

The new virotherapy, as opposed to chemotherapy and other conventional cancer treatments, holds great promise and could prove more effective in treating colon cancer and not harming healthy cells, thus avoiding nausea and other undesirable side effects common with other treatments.

"This is not a new idea, but it has generated new interest in the last 10 years," Essani says. "What we're doing is really in the beginning, experimental stage."

The idea for the research comes from a decades-old case in which a person with cancer contracted rabies. When the rabies vaccine was administered, the cancer disappeared.

Some research already is under way using viruses to attack tumors, Essani says. Viruses are very specific in the cells they attack. They often differentiate between species of animals and even the type of cells within that species. So theoretically, a virus could be

developed to attack specific cancer cells and leave other cells untouched.

Essani's project will take a rare, nonfatal African virus known as the tanapox virus (which infects monkeys and humans), and use it to treat colon cancer. Colon cancer is a particularly troubling and potentially deadly cancer for which conventional treatment is not often effective, and which often causes unwanted side effects.

"We thought if we could take this virus and modify it in such a way that it will only infect and destroy human colorectal cancer cells and not normal cells, that would be really outstanding," Essani says.

The viral cancer therapy would work something like penicillin, Essani says. Penicillin targets bacterial cells, but does not harm normal human cells. An oncolytic virus, in a similar manner, infects and destroys only cancer cells without harming healthy human cells.

"Unfortunately, it has been very difficult to find such targets in cancer," Essani says. "It is very difficult to differentiate between a normal cell and a cancer cell at the molecular level."

Essani and his team of students plan to take human colorectal cancer cells and transplant them onto nude mice—specially bred laboratory mice that do not mount a rejection response because they have an inhibited immune system. The team then will treat

the nude mice with tanapox virus mutants they have genetically designed to see if they can kill the human cancer cells. If successful, they then move to experimenting with monkeys and finally humans.

The tanapox virus was selected because it is confined to equatorial Africa and people outside that region have no immunity to it. If people were immune to the virus, it could not replicate itself and attack the cancer cells.

Additionally, it causes only mild side effects which are self-limiting in humans.

Currently, chemotherapy and radiation are used to fight colon cancer, but neither is always effective and both may be accompanied by serious side effects, including nausea, diarrhea and suppression of the immune system. In addition, cancer cells can eventually become resistant to chemotherapy drugs. "With viruses, we do not expect to see any of this," Essani says.

<http://www.wmich.edu/biology/directory/faculty-profiles/essani.htm>



SUPER RODENTS SNIFFING OUT MINES AND TB?

Rodents rarely come to mind when people think of superheroes, but one Western Michigan University psychologist is hoping that will change.



Alan D. Poling, Western Michigan University professor of psychology, is part of a team of specialists working with a non-governmental organization in Tanzania that has had success using large African pouched rats to sniff out landmines and tuberculosis bacteria.



The rat Poling is holding is just a few months old.

Dr. Alan D. Poling, WMU professor of psychology, is part of a team of specialists working with the non-governmental organization APOPO, which has had considerable success using large African pouched rats to sniff out landmines and tuberculosis bacteria. APOPO, which is headquartered in Tanzania, is an acronym for what in Dutch means Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development.

Poling says the rodents, dubbed HeroRats, have an acute sense of smell and do well at detecting explosive devices and live TB bacterium. They're also cheaper to train and maintain than dogs, making them a valuable alternative for landmine detection in developing countries.

"Product developers, not scientists, founded APOPO. They asked me to get involved because of my expertise in animal learning," Poling says. "On the one hand, I thought their work was innovative and interesting. On the other hand, I thought it was kind of counterintuitive—rats don't come immediately to mind when one thinks of diagnosing diseases."

A psychopharmacologist and behavior analyst, Poling joined APOPO and the HeroRat team in August 2009 to increase its research capacity, improve the scientific rigor of that research and further streamline rat-training processes. Among his specific activities are developing research protocols, analyzing data, and writing grants and articles.

The organization has been garnering national and international attention, with stories about its work featured on MSNBC and CNN as well in the United Nations publication "Freedom from Fear" and numerous scholarly journals.

In addition, Poling has been interviewed by CBS News and Voice of America. He is lead author of a study published in the December issue of the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and was featured in an edition of the American Psychological Association publication, APA Monitor.

Poling has been going to Tanzania periodically since joining the team, and will be traveling there early this year to work on several projects with two doctoral students from WMU.

"A unique aspect of APOPO is that it's dedicated to coming up with local solutions to local problems. This is a real team effort, and the rats are already doing a good job of detecting landmines," Poling says. "The real challenges come from working in the developing world. Tanzania is one of the poorest countries on Earth, and it's a tough place to work. For me, this has certainly been a life-changing experience and a great opportunity to do humanitarian work."

Landmines kill and maim thousands of people around the world every year, in addition to hindering agriculture, reconstruction, repatriation of refugees, and other aspects of social and economic development.

Poling says rats can clear landmines for about \$1.25 per square meter (roughly a square yard), which is well below the \$2 to \$2.50 rate typical of most clearance projects. Their highly sensitive and accurate sense of smell can identify the presence of both metal and plastic-cased landmines, while their petite size makes it highly unlikely they will set off a

pressure-activated mine. In fact, the trained animals are far too precious to be treated with anything but great care and attention.

Although a wild species, the African giant pouched rats have proven to be the perfect species to breed as HeroRats. A widespread indigenous animal, according to Poling, they're comparatively calm, docile and easy to tame. They're also adaptive to the local environment and may live up to eight years in captivity, optimizing the return on training investment.

"Wild rats are really nasty," Poling admits, adding that APOPO has procedures to socialize and gentle them. "Trainers play with the rats, take them for rides and get them used to different sounds, places and people," he explains. It takes about 175 days to socialize and train them to find landmines, less time for TB detection."

Poling says the next real potential of HeroRats is in screening for tuberculosis. The early signs are promising, and trained rats already have increased TB detection rates in five Tanzanian hospitals by more than 44 percent.

"Two billion people around the world are exposed to TB—it's just a scourge in the developing world," Poling says. "There is no cheap and accurate method of detection, so if we improve screening, it will be a huge benefit to humanity."

Health officials report that TB kills more youth and adults than any other single infectious disease in the world today, with Africa having the highest number of lethal cases per capita.

To detect the active TB bacteria, sputum samples typically are prepared and examined under a microscope or are cultured to see if any bacteria will grow.

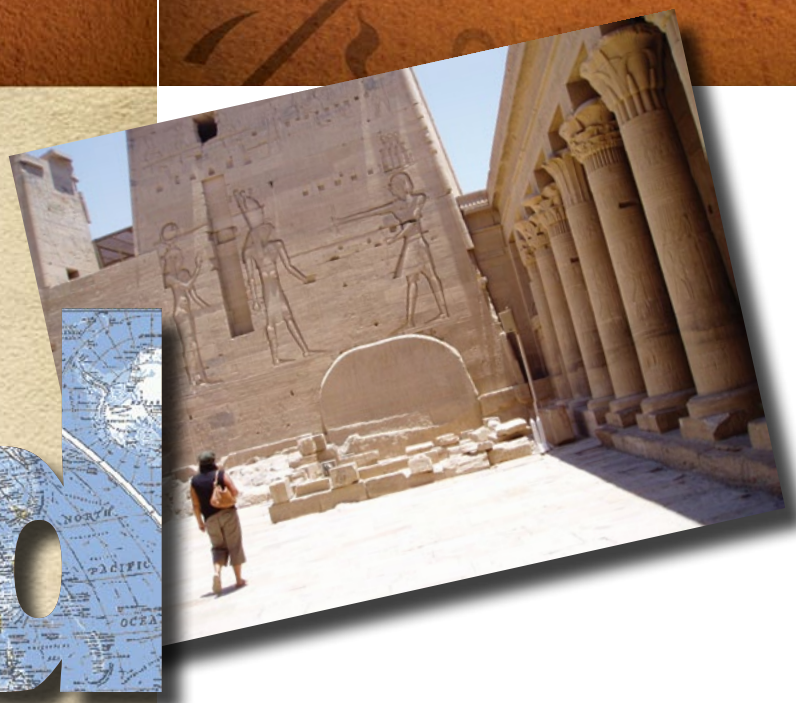
"Microscopy misses 60 to 70 percent of active infections and is slow—a technician can only do 30 to 40 smears per day. Cultures allow for accurate detection, but take six weeks to grow," he says. "Rats can analyze hundreds of samples in a day, and we're reasonably sure they are as accurate as microscopy, and probably substantially more accurate. The next step is to study how rats do compared to culturing."

Poling says that when he joins his doctoral students in Tanzania this year, he will be working on that type of comparison as well as moving ahead with other experiments and projects. He's particularly interested in investigating how detection rats can be adapted to screen for explosives in cargo shipments and whether their natural burrowing talent can be harnessed by fitting them with miniature cameras so they can search for survivors in the rubble of disaster sites.

A WMU faculty member since 1977, Poling has written or co-written 11 books, along with some 250 articles that have appeared in 40 different professional journals. He is a fellow of three divisions of the American Psychological Association and the recipient of WMU's Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. He earned a bachelor's degree from Alderson-Broadus College, a master's degree from West Virginia University and a doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota.

Visit Dr. Poling's website by clicking here: http://homepages.wmich.edu/%7epoling/AI_Poling/Home.html

LEARNING THE Language OF THE World



Foreign languages have been a major part of Western Michigan University since its earliest days, and for good reason. Learning about languages is an integral link to the world at large; it serves as a bridge across culture and perception.

As global openness increased over the last century, interest in other languages expanded past the traditional study of the classical languages. Languages clear roads and enable cultural discourse and expression. At Western Michigan University, the Department of Foreign Languages is growing to accommodate this global outreach.

Department of Foreign Languages Chair Dr. Cynthia Running-Johnson explains that there are multiple benefits to learning another language: when working between languages for a long period of time, she says, "you learn more about your own language."

From its beginnings as the Department of German and Latin in 1904, the Department has grown to offer three language majors and seven minors. Students now major in German, French, or Latin, or minor in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian, or World Literature. Beginning courses also are offered in Italian. Historically, the Department housed Spanish instruction, but due to increasing demand for Spanish courses, 2003 saw the creation of the Department of Spanish. The department will begin offering a new major—Japanese—in fall 2012.

The Department of Foreign Languages offers exceptional opportunities and support to its students. Over a dozen study abroad programs across the globe range in length from a few weeks to a full academic year; students have the choice of immersion in one

of many options through the Office of Study Abroad. WMU language instructors join students on these trips abroad, serving as mentors and fellow researchers in the field.

The annual Summer Translation Institute, sponsored by the department, presents valuable experiences for speaking and writing in a second (or third) language. Says Running-Johnson, "Nationally, language is becoming more of an interest. It reflects the global interest of the world. Businesses and government are much more involved in the world now; there is a need for practical, as well as literary, translation."

She also gives a nod to the future goals of the program. With these translation courses, as well as possible graduate certification, the Department hopes to lure more international students to Kalamazoo. "It enriches our program and university to have people from outside our culture," notes Running-Johnson.

One driving factor of the Department's success has unquestionably been its faculty. WMU language professors are involved in a constant cycle of research—breaking new ground while simultaneously sharing findings with students. Department faculty have been lauded as researchers, translators, and, of course, top-of-the-line instructors. When asked about outstanding

faculty, Running-Johnson laughs. "You can be working and working and working on different projects, and suddenly the book comes out or you get the grant," she says. This makes it difficult to pick only a few names.

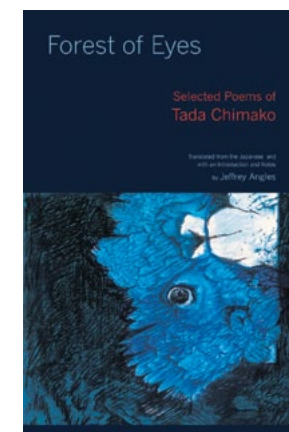
Running-Johnson notes that the trends in language learning have been interesting to watch. "The trend is the boom in global interest among students and professors." She attributes the growth of languages such as Chinese, Arabic, and Japanese to enthusiastic students interested in international politics and recent world events.

"Students are becoming more aware of developments in the world, and are beginning to tailor their education, and their interests, with their global environment in mind," she concludes.

www.wmich.edu/languages



Noted Accomplishments



Japanese professor **Jeffrey Angles's** translation of the popular Japanese poet Tada Chimako's work in "Forest of Eyes: Selected Poetry of Tada Chimako," won him the 2009 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Award for the Translation of Japanese Literature. His book on Chimako garnered another prize as well, the Landon Translation Prize from the American Academy of Poets.

His book, "Writing the Love of Boys: Origins of Bishonen Culture in Modernist Japanese Literature," was published this year.

Peter Blicke, professor and advisor in German, whose book on the concept of "homeland" within German society has, since its publication, become one of the standard works on the subject, also is the winner of the 2009 Geertje Potash Prose Prize of the Society for Contemporary American Literature in German. In addition, he has just published his second novel in German, "Von einer Liebe zur andern" ("From Love to Love"), July 2011.



Peter Krawutschke, professor of German, received the Alexander Gode Medal, the most prestigious award of the 11,000-member American Translators Association. He is an officer in major national and international translation organizations.



The department begins offering a new major in Japanese in fall 2012

50 YEARS OF HISTORY AT WMU

When Dr. Paul Maier delivered his last lecture on the history of ancient Rome this spring, Western Michigan University closed the book on a long chapter in its history.

Maier, WMU's Russell H. Seibert Professor of Ancient History, will retire at the close of the spring semester after more than 50 years on the history faculty and 52 years as a member of the University community. He is WMU's longest-serving faculty member ever, and his expansive research findings and prolific writing career have put him in demand among scholars and reporters as an internationally known expert.

His attitude about his WMU role remains as fresh as the day he was hired.

"There is no greater job than being a university professor," he says. "I've actually had a little pang of conscience all these years about cashing my paychecks."

The Rolodex had just been introduced when Maier launched his academic career at WMU, and he quickly became a fixture on the files of reporters at some of the nation's leading publications. Reporters have long since moved Maier's name from the Rolodex to their Smartphone directories, and the calls keep coming. He has been a favorite source for reporters at media outlets ranging from U.S. News & World Report to Time,

Newsweek and the "NBC Nightly News."

One of the nation's foremost authorities on early Christianity, Maier is a Harvard- and University of Basel-educated historian and a seminary graduate who first came to WMU in 1958 as the Lutheran campus pastor (a position he held until 1999) and a visiting professor. However, he views his official start date as 1960, when he accepted an offer to become a full-time member of the history faculty.

As a faculty member, his research has focused on manuscript and text analysis, archaeology, and comparison of sacred and secular sources from the first century A.D. That means he's been able to uncover fresh information on such topics as the actual date of the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth, the hidden politics behind His trial and condemnation, the circumstances of the persecution of Christians under Nero, and many other topics he has explored in nearly 300 published articles and reviews.

Maier has written 25 books—academic tomes, translations, biographies, novels and children's works—that have sold more than four million copies and been translated into 18 languages. Nearly every weekend during the academic year, he gives seminars across the country on topics reflected in the seven DVDs he has

produced that offer new light on Jesus, St. Paul, the early church and current Christianity.

He's been named WMU's Distinguished Faculty Scholar and a winner of the WMU Alumni Association's Teaching Excellence Award. In 1984, he earned a citation as one of America's 25 finest educators by the Washington-based Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

During his WMU tenure, Maier has worked under the administrations of six of the University's eight presidents, and he's fond of pointing out that

"They kept me teaching the introductory course so that students would learn that history can be pretty entertaining."

today, most people know about the people he worked with during his early years on campus for far different reasons than their personalities or teaching skills.

"Most people I've known through the years are now buildings," he says. Those who have had University buildings named after them include Maier's early history colleagues Willis Dunbar and Robert Friedmann as well as friends in other disciplines like George Kohrman and administrators like Paul Sangren and Russell Seibert.

Those who think his retirement may mean he'll be easier to reach or that he'll spend more time indulging his favorite nonscholarly hobby—operating heavy equipment—are in for a rude awakening. His post-WMU life is already beginning to take on the frenetic pace he kept up as a faculty member.

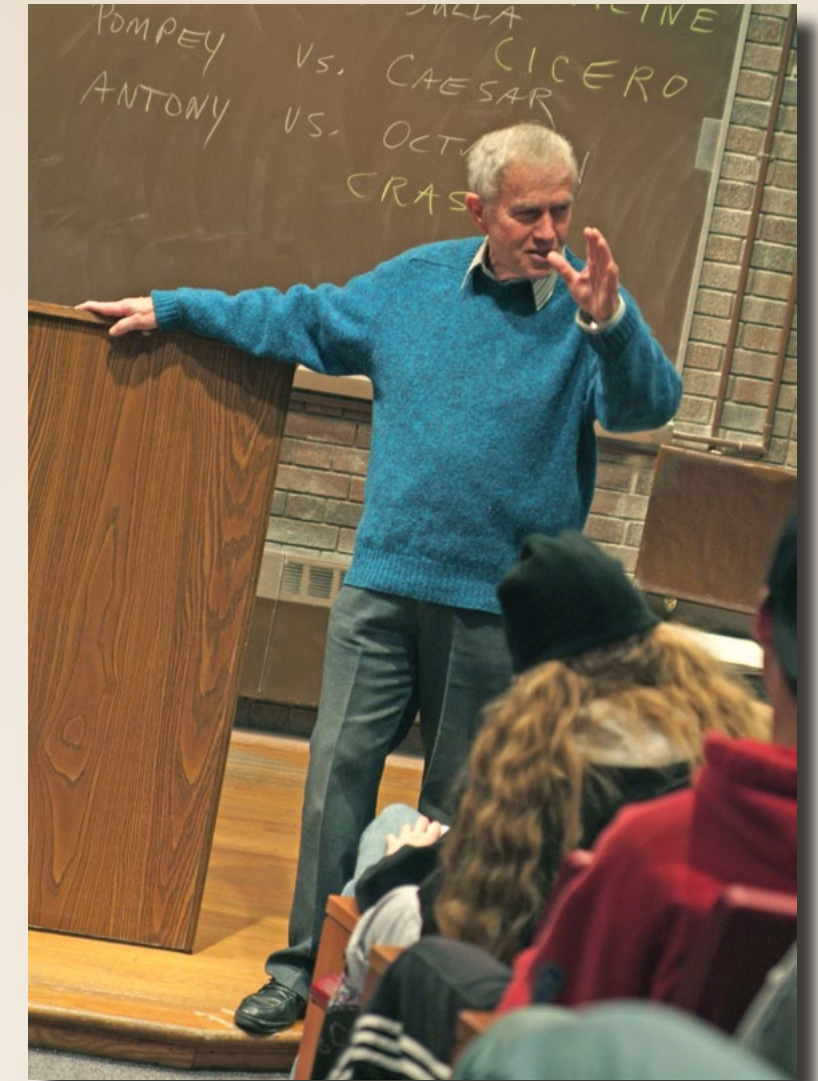
His plans during the coming years include:

- Releasing and promoting "The Constantine Codex," the third novel in his best-selling "Skeleton in God's Closet" series that follows the global exploits of Harvard scholar Jonathan Weber.
- Stepping up the number and length of his visits to conferences.
- Working on a new History Channel project.
- Continuing his leadership role in his national church body as a vice president of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- Expanding one of his great loves—leading travel tours to explore the history of the regions he knows so well.

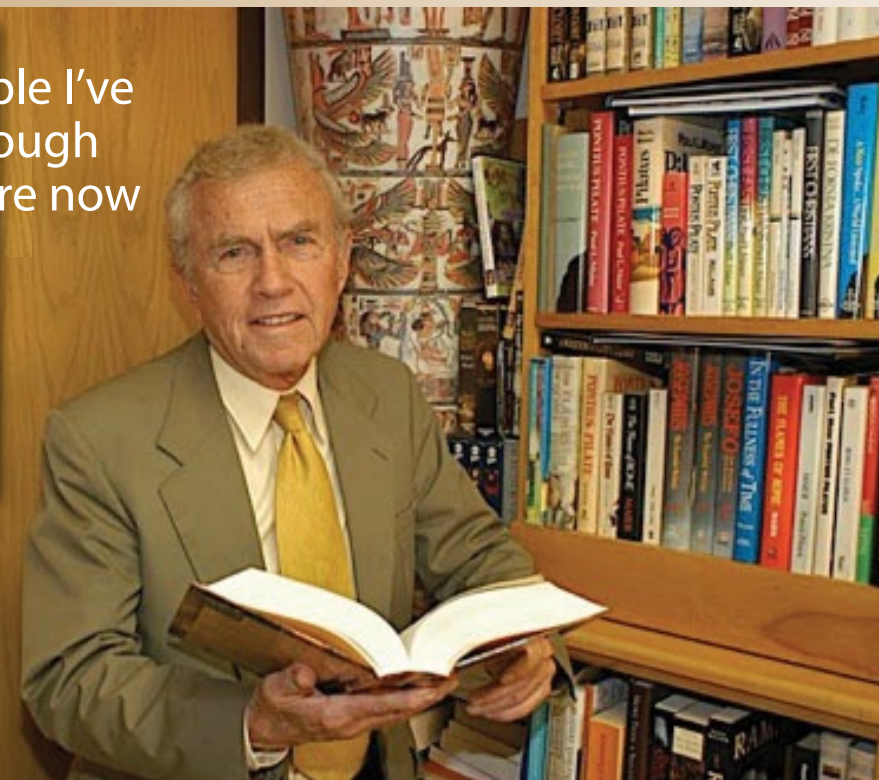
It's the latter plan that best characterizes Maier's approach to studying and learning history. Ever the student himself, Maier relishes the opportunity to share what he knows and learn even more.

"That sharing is very big for me," he says. "I don't want to ever be bored with my own lectures."

That commitment to making lectures exciting and



"Most people I've known through the years are now buildings."



interesting has led to a decades-long role as a beloved professor who teaches introductory history courses in addition to his advanced offerings.

"They kept me teaching the introductory course so that students would learn that history can be pretty entertaining," he says.

Asked to single out any regrets he has in what, by any measure, would be called an exemplary and productive career, he points to a lifelong addiction to the construction/landscaping equipment he has collected, restored, repaired and used to clear his 50-acre Oshtemo Township property.

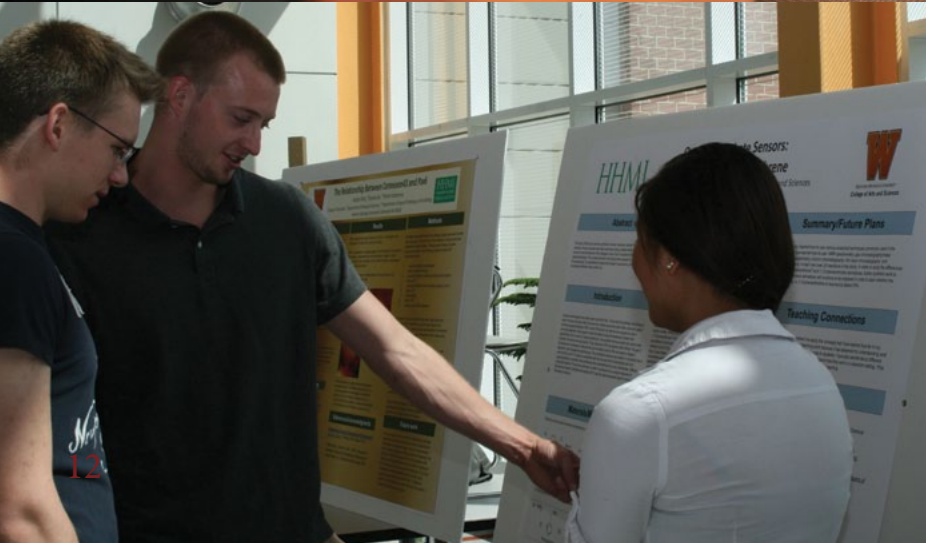
"I'd be several books ahead if I hadn't devoted so much time to heavy equipment," he confesses. "But I couldn't resist it. It was something so quintessentially different than what I was used to doing every day."

Research for Undergraduates at WMU? Yes!

Undergraduate students are now doing hands-on research at WMU thanks to a National Science Foundation-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program. The Departments of Biological Sciences and Chemistry at WMU work together to bring in undergraduates from around the country to participate in interdisciplinary research and undergraduate research opportunities with a variety of faculty at the University.

The REU experience at Western Michigan University includes: participation in a research project; presentation/discussion series on the process of science; considerations of scientific ethics and integrity; research seminars; and career-oriented discussions.

"REU supports active research participation by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the National Science Foundation," explains Dr. Susan Stapleton. The students intern with faculty mentors for 10 weeks the summer before their junior year, learning, as Stapleton says, to become "scientists, not just content-knowledge experts. We're out to create scientists who choose the profession of teaching," says Stapleton, also WMU's Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant project director.



This year's participants in the REU program, their area of research and their faculty mentors are:

- **Trung-Quan Tran**, (Oxford College at Emory University) and Dr. Sherine Obare: The project focused on developing chemical sensors that could distinguish between various organophosphorus pesticides by providing an optical signal in the form of color change.
- **Jennifer Meloche**, (Alma College) and Dr. Elke Schoffers: The project goal is to synthesize known and new inosamine derivatives in order to test their ability to function as nutritional mediators for bacteria that are able to fix nitrogen.
- **William Thayer**, (WMU) and Dr. James Kiddle: The project was focused on creating a catalyzed, and thus environmentally friendly, method to synthesize 5 atom carbon ring molecules.
- **Vanessa Pinto Burgos**, (University of Puerto Rico at Cayey) and Dr. Lisa Baker: The project examined if eight weeks of moderate forced exercise will improve radial arm maze acquisition (task that measures spatial learning and memory in rats) in one year old male Sprague-Dawley rats, comparing them with a group of non-exercise rats.
- **Lyanne Rolon Rosario**, (University of Puerto Rico at Cayey) and Dr. John Spitsbergen: The project examined whether two weeks of involuntary exercise increases neurotrophic factor expression in skeletal muscle and prevents death of motor neurons in a mouse model of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).
- **Katie Mulka**, (WMU) and Dr. Sharon Gill: I studied the nesting success and nest-site selection of chipping sparrows in an urban environment.
- **Carolyn Huston**, (WMU) and Dr. Steve Kohler: The project examined whether parasitic infection affected the feeding behavior of a carnivorous fish (mottled sculpin).
- **Eduardo Hernandez Calo**, (University of Puerto Rico at Cayey) and Dr. John Geiser: The pathogenic Gram-negative bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*, is the responsible agent for the black plague, causing millions of deaths in Medieval Europe. The current study was aimed at identifying naturally occurring molecules that could act to block entry of the e pathogenic Gram-negative bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*, into host cells.
- **Hema Balkaran**, (University of the Virgin Islands) and Dr. Pam Hoppe: The purpose of this experiment was to help answer the question of how the unc-82 kinase enzymes is activated. The unc-82 mutant causes muscle organization defects.
- **Michelle Alfert**, (Texas A&M University) and Dr. John Jellies: This project studied the neural networks in the medicinal leech that are responsible for controlling blood flow in hopes of better understanding how a simple neural network can regulate vascular contractility in this model organism.

TIM program named "Program of Excellence"

Western Michigan University's Telecommunications and Information Management (TIM) program received a Program of Excellence Award for undergraduate education in the field of information technology management at the International Telecommunications Education and Research Association National Case Study Competition.

In addition, three students won a national case study competition for the group for the second consecutive year. Competing against teams of graduate students, the final round of the competition and public presentations were held during ITERA's annual Conference on Telecommunications and Information Technology in Indianapolis. In the final round this year, WMU faced teams from Ball State University, James Madison University and Murray State University.

Team members include: George Sesi, a telecommunications and information technology (TIM) major; Travis Ross, a communication information systems major; Hugo Martinez Rodriguez, a TIM major, from Santiago, Dominican Republic; Dr. Pairin Katerattanakul, associate professor of business information systems. Tharyn Taylor, a TIM major, presented a research paper at the conference.

The program is offered through the Department of Business Information Systems in the Haworth College of Business and the School of Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences. It is co-directed by Dr. Pairin Katerattanakul, associate professor of business information systems, and Dr. Rick Gershon, professor of communication.



From left: James Gantt, Chairman of the Board, ITERA and Director of TSM at Murray State University; Richard Gershon; Hugo Martinez, TIM major; George Sesi, TIM major; Pairin Katerattanakul; Travis Ross, CIS major; Ann Marie Guidy-Oulai, Instructor, Computer Information Systems; Tharyn Taylor TIM Major, Western Michigan University; Mike Tarn, Chair, Department of Business Information Systems; and Phil Rawles, President, ITERA and Associate Professor, Department of Computer Technology Purdue University.

Alums! Get ready to rally like never before!



September 15, 2011: THE CANNON CUP Golf Challenge (Tullymore)

- our first golf event partnering with CMU. Two-person scramble; \$150 per player – includes lunch, golf and dinner. Each foursome will have a team from CMU and a team from WMU.



September 23, 2011: The ArtPrize After Party

- WMU Downtown (GR) – the experience begins at 7 p.m. It's \$25 per person – drinks and food. The Western Jazz Quartet will perform from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. – followed by a presentation from Revere to the group and then the "unveiling" of The Epic Broncos on the side of the building.



September 17, 2011 & October 8, 2011: THE CORRAL Entertainment Village

- open from 8 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. next to Waldo Stadium on the baseball field. Beer and Wine, Food, Live Entertainment and FUN! Free admission with football ticket or student ID.

October 7, 2011: WMUFAMILY Mentor Luncheon

- a new experience here at WMU. We are inviting WMU ALUMNI and Deans to host a WMU freshman for lunch at the Fetzer Center. The fun begins at 11:30 a.m. Deadline to sign up is September 9!



October 7, 2011: PAINT THE TOWN BROWN Pep Rally

- at The Arcadia Creek Festival Place in downtown KZOO. The fun begins at 7:30 p.m. The Bronco Marching Band, cheerleaders, football team and coaches will be in attendance. We'll also be honoring a team from the '60s at the event.

December 7th: HOLIDAY CONCERT

- at DeVos Performing Arts & Worship Center (GR) begins at 7 p.m. – \$10 per person. A 90-minute "Brass Christmas" performance.



November 11, 2011: THE BROWN & GOLD GALA

- Frederik Meijer Gardens (GR) begins at 6:30 PM – our "signature" event! WMU's Gold Company will be performing – we'll honor WMU Alumnae Suzanne Geha this evening. \$150 per person – a "best-in-class" event!

LinkedIn Shout Outs!

from the WMU College of Arts and Sciences Alumni and Friends group on LinkedIn

David Gorski

B.A. '10 Public Relations
I manage Multimedia Services at the College of DuPage, a community college 35 miles west of Chicago with a student population of about 30,000. With a staff of 10, Multimedia Services provides most media services to students, faculty and staff. We specialize in live satellite production, on-demand training and media streaming.

I currently am the director of Public Relations/Communications for Pricefalls.com, an internet marketplace. Everything I learned at the School of Communication is being used on a daily basis and I love it!

Pamela S. Jackson

B.A. '76 Secondary Education: Math, Communication minor
Pamela S. Jackson is a professor of mathematics, construction management and concrete construction management at Oakland Community College in Waterford, Mich.

Susan Dearing-Bond

B.S. '90 Communications, Theatre Minor
Susan Dearing-Bond is the annual fund coordinator for Lakeland Health Foundations. Lakeland is a not-for-profit, community-owned system of care serving the southwest Michigan region of Berrien, Cass and VanBuren counties.

Mark Garalczyk

B.S. '93 Communication, Sociology minor
Mark Garalczyk was inducted into the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame in October. He was drafted in the sixth round of the 1987 NFL Draft by the St. Louis Cardinals and went on to play for three other professional teams. He ended his professional career in 1991 and is now the defensive coordinator for Estrella High School's varsity football team in Avondale, Ariz.

Douglas Maslanka

B.A. '04 Organizational Communication
I moved to Denver and work for Wolverine World Wide. I am a territory sales manager for Harley Davidson Footwear. My degree equipped me with the ability to work with many different people.

Michael Betz

B.S. '77 Communication, Business; M.A. '87 Public Relations
I co-own a new media production company just down the road from good old WMU. We are always working on interesting projects and learning new things, and we get to travel the world. A WMU Communications degree can take you places!

Kina L. Brown

B.S. '95 Broadcast/Cable Production, Criminal Justice and Black American Studies Minors
Kina L. Brown was inducted into the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame for women's basketball. She was a three-time First Team All-MAC selection, earned Second Team National Team. She recently completed coursework for a master's degree in physical education and health and is completing student teaching.

Kristin Koetsier-Miller

B.A. '06 Sociology: Criminal Justice, Sociology minor
Kristin Koetsier-Miller was inducted into the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame. She is a WMU assistant women's basketball coach.

Mark Meadows

B.S. '71 English, Technology minor
Mark Meadows was elected to a third term as Michigan State Representative, 69th District in Lansing, Mich.

Brenda L. Hunt

B.S. '83 Communications/Sociology, Women's Studies minor
MPA '86 Public Administration
Brenda L. Hunt, president and chief executive officer of the Battle Creek Community Foundation, is the 2010 recipient of the Dale G. Griffin Healthcare Leadership Award. The award recognizes exemplary contributions that improve the quality and accessibility of health care in Battle Creek, Mich.

Sara Gabriel Dillon

B.A. '98 Communication, Philosophy, M.A. '03 Organizational Communication

I started my career as a radio broadcaster and most recently worked as the marketing and membership director for the WMU Alumni Association.

Glen Dillon

B.A. Communication
I'm the Program Director and do middays at 103.3 WKFR in Kzoo. I use my communication skills all the time. Group Problem Solving with Dr. Yelsma continues to be one of the best classes I've ever taken. I've used it almost every day since taking it. The only trouble is that while I have a B.A., my wife Sara has her M.A. in Organizational Communications and uses that as the trump card when we disagree. Go Broncos!

Bruce Madej

B.A. '74 Communication/Education, English minor
I am the associate athletic director of special projects at the University of Michigan. Over the last 30 years, I have led the media relations unit of the athletic department.

Charles (Roy) Brockie

M.A. '87 Industrial/Organizational Psychology
Charles is Director of Human Resources, Cancer and Hematology Centers of Western Michigan, PC, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Nichole Allen

B.A. '08 Public Relations, English
I am a creative designer and write copy as a digital marketing specialist for major brands. Although I don't get the external communication drive from my public relations degree I am doing something different everyday. I convey the client's message in a creative manner to drive visitors to their websites and increase online sales. Some days I work the technical aspects of the back end of their ecommerce sites, some days I work strictly on the creative side and some days I do both.

Join the WMU College of Arts and Sciences Alumni and Friends group on LinkedIn

NEED TICKETS?

WMUFAMILY Experience Concierge Service created specifically for WMU Alumni

- tickets may be purchased to all of the WMUFAMILY events! Please call 269-387-8746 so that we may personally assist you!
Hours of operation include: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. until 9 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 3:30 until 9 p.m.

Our Alumni Write...

Megan Coatley, B.A. '02 Psychology M.A. '05 Applied Behavior Analysis

"For the past several years, I've been working in the field of behavioral treatments for children with autism and developmental disabilities. And, currently, I am making an exciting segue into a role that will hopefully meld my behavior analytic skills, my penchant for health and fitness and my love of travel and volunteering!

After graduating with my master's in 2005, I headed out into the world to help families and children who were struggling with autism and developmental disabilities. My world was turned upside down (in a great way) by an amazing volunteer vacation on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana!

I have spent the past year trying to figure out how I could share these life-changing travel experiences. What could I do to fuse the vehicle of adventure travel with my skills and background in behavioral psychology? Could sustainable, meaningful travel somehow be my venue for 'saving the world' (as my advisor, Dr. Malott would say) with behavior analysis?

I finally found my answer... on a stunning beach in Uvita, on Costa Rica's Pacific coast. After just a week, we were hooked... Hooked on surfing, hooked on Bahia Ballena, hooked on the peace, simplicity and *pura vida* (pure life) we found in Costa Rica. I have become committed to sharing this inspiring space and its beautiful people with others.

Over the past month, I have been coordinating with Travis and Gibran at Bodhi Surf School to develop a very unique surfing, yoga and behavioral life coaching retreat in Costa Rica (www.bodhisurfschool.com/retreats/empowered-self). My role as the retreat leader and behavior coach will be to provide participants with practical tools and skills so they



are empowered to initiate lasting behavior change in their everyday lives.

From a behavioral perspective, I plan to incorporate a pre-retreat assessment, SMART goal setting, self-management training, some BST, planning for generalization at home, and training in data collection as well as post-retreat Skype consultation for troubleshooting and checking progress. All of the skills I learned in my time at WMU will be in full force during this week-long, all-inclusive adventure! I may be a dreamer, but I think that this could be a really great opportunity for behavior analysts to join a great community of 'doers' and really work toward 'saving the world.'"

Megan Coatley earned her master's degree in applied behavior analysis under Dr. Richard Malott in 2005.

Penny Smeltzer, B.S. '78 Mathematics, History and English

Penny Smeltzer, an advanced placement statistics teacher at Westwood High School in Round Rock, Texas, has been named the recipient of the third annual O'Donnell Texas AP Teacher Award for her outstanding record in helping high school students master college-level work through rigorous AP courses

Smeltzer has been teaching for 31 years, including 14 years of teaching AP statistics. According to nominators, Smeltzer has grown the AP statistics program at Westwood to one of the largest in the nation. "She brings a confident, can-do approach to teaching, and gets her kids out of the classroom, teaching in cross-curricular ways that are more in touch with real-world work. Her lesson plans rarely include sitting at a desk, and students are often seen in non-traditional settings gathering data while doing a variety of activities" [Brandon Smulyan].

Her achievements include extensive work with the College Board presenting at conferences and authoring materials. In 2009 she was named the Texas Exes Outstanding Teacher by the University of Texas and was the National Winner of the Siemens Award for Science and Math Advanced Placement Teaching in 2008.

Mary Jo Deegan B.S. '69 Chemistry, M.A. '73 Sociology

Mary Jo Deegan delivered the Jane Addams Lecture on Social Entrepreneurship at a conference sponsored by the University of Uppsala and the Nobel Museum in Sweden. She is a professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Lauren (Szostak) Dunn B.A. '07 English, Latin minor

Lauren (Szostak) Dunn, in addition to her degree from Western, earned a J.D. from Wayne State. Dunn has joined Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC, in its Lansing, Mich., office. She is a member of the firm's employment, labor and benefits group and focuses in the areas of employee benefits and employment law.

Tell us what you're up to [here](#), or see page 24.

Our Alumni Write...

Bob Hercules, B.A. '79 Communication, Creative Writing minor

I am finishing two new feature-length documentaries about dance. The first, "A Good Man," chronicles famed choreographer Bill T. Jones over two years as he creates a modern dance work about the legacy of Abraham Lincoln. The film will premiere at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival in mid-April and was broadcast on PBS' "American Masters" program in October.

The second film, "The Joffrey Ballet: Mavericks of American Dance," tells the remarkable story of the groundbreaking ballet company from their founding in 1956 to the present. It is co-produced by director Harold Ramis and is narrated by actor Mandy Patinkin.

In addition, my production company, Media Process Group, just celebrated our 25th anniversary.



Morris C. Davenport, B.A. '79 Communication



Morris (Mo) Davenport has been named a 2011 Distinguished Alumni by Western Michigan University. Davenport is the senior vice president and general manager of ESPN Radio. He is responsible for all aspects of ESPN Radio content as well as distribution, advertising sales and marketing initiatives for ESPN Radio's 700 affiliated stations and five owned stations.

Davenport, a communication major at WMU, was a member of the Bronco football team from 1975 to 1979. Upon graduation, he began his career as an account executive with WQLR-FM in Kalamazoo. In 1982, he was hired by ABC Sports as a production assistant assigned to Major League Baseball, college football, Wide World of Sports and boxing.

Three years later, Davenport joined

ESPN as an associate producer and became a key force behind the network's critically acclaimed NCAA men's basketball tournament coverage and extensive women's NCAA basketball tournament coverage. A short time later, he was promoted to producer and began to work extensively on ESPN's college football coverage.

After several other promotions, Davenport was named vice president of remote production in 2006 and assumed responsibility for the day-to-day administration of non-professional sports on ABC and ESPN.

He was appointed to his current position in August 2007 and is responsible for all aspects of ESPN Radio content, including talk programming, event play-by-play coverage, podcasts and other online content, commentators and production.

A two-time Emmy winner, Davenport received his first Emmy, and ESPN's first, for his work on animation. His other honors include being named as one of the "Top 50 Most Influential Minorities in Cable" in 2007 by Cable-World Magazine.

Jon Ebright, B.S. '95 Biomedicine

Jon Ebright currently is a district sales manager with Genoptix, Inc., a medical laboratory based out of California. Jon works in the greater Detroit area, and has worked with Novartis, Genoptix Inc.'s parent company, since 2006 in various functions within his field. He has enjoyed a great deal of experience within the pharmaceutical and health care fields, and has been ranked #1 in his region for sales performance.

Jason Skipper, Ph.D. '05 Creative Writing

Jason, a former fiction editor for the Third Coast Writing Project, just published his first book, "Hustle." His stories have appeared in numerous literary journals, with awards and recognition from Zoetrope: All-Story, Glimmer Train, and Crab Orchard Review. He also is the recipient of grants from Artist Trust and the Vermont Studio Center, as well as nominations for the Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses and Best of the Web anthologies.



Marilyn Mayes, B.A. '80 Communication

I have been in a human resources training administrator/recruiter position, an automotive manufacturing position, and now have obtained a position at Steelcase as an aircraft coordinator to shuttle customers to and from Grand Rapids on our company jets.

My role as aircraft coordinator, is to arrange corporate flights in courting customers. We cater to customers coming to and from Grand Rapids and Steelcase to view our product and buy! We are the first and last impression. I'll be scheduling jets, pilots, and all the detail that goes with it for a smooth flight.

Tell us what you're up to [here](#), or see page 24.



Keeping up with alum Matthew Kern, B.A. '09 Environmental Studies and BBA, Business Finance

Graduation is a time of uncertainty for most. It is hard to think about stepping outside the school system when it is all most of us have known. It took me five and half years and plenty of introspection to prepare for this step. I concluded that I needed to take ownership of my own career ambitions and plan the direction I wanted to go, because no one else was going to do that for me.

I began this process by adding an environmental studies major and a holistic health minor to my degree in business finance at the beginning of my fourth year. I made this leap to follow my intuition and throw logic aside for the time being. Starting over was difficult, but I found like-minded individuals in the members of the Registered Student Organization Students for a Sustainable Earth. The cultivation of these relationships gave me new friends and helped interest me in my class work.

Half way through my fifth year I was considering going into the Peace Corps, so I thought about what skills would be handy for me in that kind environment. This led me to apply to teach CPR/First Aid at the Greater Kalamazoo Area Red Cross. At the time, the Red Cross was looking to establish a presence on WMU's campus and asked me to spearhead the creation of the Red Cross Club-WMU Chapter with other student volunteers. Working as President of the Red Cross Club gave me a creative outlet for my business knowledge, while using my environmental education to make the organization as green as possible.

After graduation, I knew I wanted to do something challenging to engage my skills in hands-on work after spending so much time in a classroom. I did not even look for a conventional job; I began by scrolling through the hundreds of opportunities AmeriCorps has to offer recent graduates. Here I found a position in the Alaska Service Corps.

I leveraged my college experiences and applied to be a Trail Crew Leader. My Term of Service included a three-month training program in hard and soft skills and five months leading a team of seven other AmeriCorps mem-

bers in the National Parks and Forests of Alaska.

I currently am in the application process with a number of other AmeriCorps positions focusing on environmental health, and plan to attend graduate school for this discipline in the next two to four years.

My path has been and will continue to be unconventional, and whether you subscribe to this methodology or not, I would like to share with you three themes that have helped me and continue to provide opportunities.

- The first is diversifying your education. Not only do multiple majors and minors give each other synergy while in school, but they broaden your horizons when searching for opportunities afterwards making you a well-rounded candidate for potential employers.
- Second, if you cannot find a paying position in your field, you can easily gain experience by volunteering with registered student organizations, community non-profits, or by taking unpaid internships. These organizations are usually flexible to your schedule and are happy to have the help. They provide skills and experience that will be invaluable in the future.
- Lastly and most importantly, follow your passion. If you are not excited learning about your major, what makes you think that you will enjoy a job in that field? Ask yourself where you want to be and what you will be happy doing for years to come. These questions do not require concrete answers but will help you discover your own direction.

Education and experience enable you to be competitive in the professional world. The more competitive you are the more likely it is that you will find an enjoyable job and be offered a higher salary. This can all be accomplished by making personal and career goals that are S.M.A.R.T (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely). There are many paths to success, find your own and let your imagination run wild because your only limitations are ones you put on yourself.

“There are many paths to success, find your own and let your imagination run wild because your only limitations are ones you put on yourself.”

Tell us what you're up to [here](#), or see page 24.

Our Alumni Write...



Jared Randall, B.A. '06 English: Creative Writing

My book of poetry, "Apocryphal Road Code," came into print in December 2010 with Salt Publishing out of the U.K. I was fortunate to have studied with the British poet John Wilkinson during my time in the MFA program at the University of Notre Dame from 2007-09, and he liked one of my workshop poems enough that he sent it (without my knowledge) to Salt, which is also his publisher. Chris Hamilton-Emerly at Salt liked it enough to want to see the whole project in which I was engaged, and the rest is the mundane history of getting the book to print.

The book itself came into being as I was struggling to find a way to write about childhood memories and family history. In an odd turn of events involving lost homework (yes, even grad students lose their homework!), I struck on a poetic voice tied to the lonely life of the road, railroad tracks and boxcars, and homelessness. On researching these aspects of a life lived from the outside looking in, I naturally struck on the history of the American hobo. Especially influential was the discovery that a group of hobos in the late 19th century formed a card-carrying labor union and voted on a set of principles to govern their travels for the benefit of all. This "code of the road" became the structural and ethical backbone of my book in a series of poems that all go by the name "Road Code" (accessible in series at the online literary journal Danse Macabre, for those who would like a taste: <http://dansemacabre.art.officelive.com/Road-Code.aspx>).

Of course, I would be remiss not to mention those of my professors at WMU who were influences on my work and have supported me in various ways since graduating, among these Stuart Dybek, Nancy Eimers, Jaimy Gordon, Peter Blickle, and Herb Scott (who was rather rough on my work as a young sophomore, but without whom I would not have progressed as a writer).

"Apocryphal Road Code" is available at Michigan News Agency and Kazoo Books or from various online sources, including my publisher's website, saltpublishing.org. Anyone wanting to get in touch with me should check out my blog at <http://wanderingstiff.com/mainstem/>.



Tell us what you're up to [here](#), or see page 24.

Anne Zahradnik, M.A. '91 Organizational Communication, Ph.D. '06 Public Administration

My Master's in Organizational Communication helped throughout my career in marketing, and 10 years later I got my doctoral degree. Now I am an assistant professor of health care administration at Marist College. My research lines combine health administration and communication.

Diane Ariza, M.A. '87 Anthropology (Thurgood Marshall Fellowship), Ph.D. 2000 Sociology

Diane Ariza is the associate vice president and chief diversity officer at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn. She also served as the associate director of WMU Admissions, and was on faculty at Albion College in Ethnic Studies. Ariza was the associate vice president for academic affairs and chief diversity officer at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Loyal Members of the Class of 1975 from Jack Klarr

This year marks the 40th "meeting" anniversary of my WMU family. In August '71, several of us met on the second floor of Bigelow Hall. We were roommates in various combinations in the ensuing years. We've stayed friends ever since, gathering several times a year: New Year's Eve, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, homecoming, and various dinners, vacations, birthdays, weddings and so on. Of the inner circle, we've spread to about 30 people when we can all make it. Of the originals, six are still together, two have Ph.D.s, two have M.B.A.s and one, myself, is a lawyer.

So far six of our kids have attended/graduated from WMU — we are, in every sense of the word, family (Bronco genus).

Our Alumni Write...

Megan Dietrich B.A. Organizational Communication '06

For the last 11 months, Megan Dietrich has been trekking the globe with The World Race, a program which gives young people the opportunity to perform missionary work across the world. In the last year, Dietrich has visited and lived in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Ireland, Moldova, Romania, Malawi, South Africa, Mozambique, the Philippines, Thailand, China, and Malaysia. She kept an ongoing blog of her travels, detailing her experiences in each new region.

While abroad, Dietrich was able to live in widely varying communities, cultures, and in vastly different environments. Originally from Flushing, Mich., Dietrich had the opportunity to widen her global and cultural experiences with a unique organization.

Dietrich's blog allowed friends and family to keep up with her on her travels. She often used the blog as a way to bring attention to issues she witnessed firsthand, such as the HIV/AIDS epidemics in Africa and Thailand; poverty in Moldova; and the ongoing effects of the earthquake which hit Haiti Jan. 12, 2010. Of that catastrophe, she wrote, "...even in the devastation they are not breaking. [There are] stories of people being saved after being trapped for eight days, husbands, fathers, mothers, standing and fighting to find their children for days, people living against all odds ... They are in need now."

It wasn't easy to be so disconnected from her friends and family in America, but Megan made the most of it, creating special posts for holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas, and giving those back home a description of how some holidays are practiced abroad. But despite the difficulty and stresses, she acknowledged in a post that "This is my journey...I'm learning. I'm in a process and it's going to be hard at times but I'm walking."

She also wrote about the highlights of the trip, such as driving through the lush countryside of Mozambique, getting the opportunity to spend time in and learn the cultures of each country, and working with children in local orphanages. One of these orphanages in particular, Door of Hope, impressed Dietrich: "They are an organization that seeks to rescue and receive any babies and children in cooperation with other agencies. [They] also provide a temporary home" for the children during the search for permanent placement.

Now, Dietrich sums up her views on The World Race: "This is my life: I find myself on a ferry boat after a nine-hour bus ride, a two-hour stop at a bus station in the middle of the night, a four-hour van ride, and two border crossings ... I walk into a new hostel, with a new contact, in a new culture ... In one night my world completely changes.

One minute I am eating curry and rice, 20 hours later I find myself eating a quesadilla salad at Chili's watching the British royal wedding on CNN Live. It's a life of discomfort, disunity, and disorder to some. But it's a life of trust, dependence, and normalcy to me.

This isn't an experience; this is...the life I am choosing." Almost a year after beginning her race around the world, Dietrich has realized a dream and made her own unique mark on the world.

Check out her blog to get the full story of how her diverse experiences changed her life at megandietrich.theworldrace.org.



The World Race is on!

COUNTRIES VISITED:

- CHINA
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- HAITI
- MALAWI
- MALAYSIA
- MOLDOVA
- MOZAMBIQUE
- PHILIPPINES
- ROMANIA
- SOUTH AFRICA
- THAILAND

I worked as an environmental geologist for two years before moving back to Michigan to be close to my family and take another environmental job in Toledo, Ohio. I worked as a geologist for two more years before deciding to go back into education.

I am proud to say I am teaching again where I went to high school and I am pursuing a Master's in Education Leadership. Because of the opportunities my degree was able to give me I can say I have traveled the United States, made a lot of interesting and cultural friends and gained memorable opportunities throughout my travels."

Scott Carrico B.S. '03 Earth Sciences

"At a young age I knew I wanted to follow in the footsteps of my mother and become a teacher and a Western Michigan University graduate. I am proud to say in 2003 I accomplished my goal. That spring WMU held its annual teacher fair where I was offered my first opportunity to teach in southern California.

I taught three years in California as both a high school and middle school teacher. During my third year of teaching I was offered a position as a geologist for a local engineering firm. I accepted the offer thinking it would be a great opportunity to learn more about what I was teaching to my students.

Our Alumni Write...

Ron Lee, MPA '81 Public Administration

My MPA helped me to refocus my career. I was a community planner when I moved to Michigan in 1977 with two thirds of the grad credits to complete my Master's in Planning. However, none of the Michigan grad schools would accept more than SIX credits as transfer. Bummer, felt like I wasted a few thousand dollars @ \$120/credit.

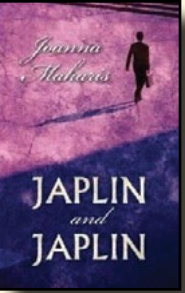
So I started over. WMU was willing to take my six grad credits and gave me a lot more for work experience toward an MPA/land use policy. I completed it in 1981 and took my first job in local government management in 1983 as a county administrator. I now am in my 30th year in public management. A great ride, and it continues...(one subtle distinction: I was the first Asian county administrator, city administrator and now township manager east of the Mississippi up until about 2000).



Kiki Stamatiou, B.A. '92 English, History

Since graduation from Western, I have had two books published under my pen name Joanna Maharis. My first book, "A Blanket of Fog" (poetry), was published in October 2010. My second book "Japlin and Japlin" (novella) was published in November of that same year.

My advice for current students is: don't give up on your dreams. Keep trying for your goals in life, and you can achieve anything.



Zak Walsh, B.A. '05 Public Relations

In January, I was promoted to Senior Account Manager at Farmington Hills, Mich.-based Tanner Friedman Strategic Communication (<http://www.tannerfriedman.com>), which provides public relations, adversity management, social media and marketing communications counsel to public and private companies, nonprofit organizations and associations.

Since joining Tanner Friedman in 2007, I've managed multiple award-winning client strategic communication efforts, including creating and implementing multi-platform campaigns that support business objectives and organizational goals. During that time, I've worked with a large regional nonprofit service organization, leading multi-state professional services firms and innovative technology companies, along with events and entertainment venues.

Immediately after graduating from WMU, I took an unpaid internship with the Detroit Tigers. I was able to participate in some of the Detroit All-Star Game festivities, learned a lot about the sports business world and met some amazing people. That opportunity led to a job as the public relations coordinator for the Detroit Red Wings, another outstanding opportunity. I spent about a year with the Wings before leaving the sports PR dream behind in favor of agency life. I spent a little more than a year with another public relations agency before joining Tanner Friedman. I currently am working toward an MBA, focusing on marketing, at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business.

Words of wisdom for other CAS students? Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. If you feel the opportunities aren't coming to you, go out and find them. I had four internships and took leadership roles in multiple campus organizations (HSA, WSA) before I landed my first "real job." I can connect the dots and draw a clear path showing how each of those opportunities led to the next.

Current students and alumni can connect with me on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/zakwalsh> or at zwalsh@tannerfriedman.com.



Michael S. Bogren, B.A. '79 Linguistics, English minor

Michael Bogren has been named to the 2010 list of "Super Lawyers" by Michigan Super Lawyers magazine. He is employed at Plunkett Cooney in its Kalamazoo office. Bogren earned his J.D. at the University of Detroit.

Antonina Morcelle, B.S. '01 Chemistry minor: Mathematics

is the recipient of the 2011 President's Recognition Awards at SUNY College for Outstanding Classroom or Alternative Instruction.

Sarah Lee, B.A. '05 Journalism, M.A. '08 Organizational Communication

I currently am the marketing manager for Greenleaf Hospitality Group.

WMU has played a huge role in helping me achieve my career goals, specifically in the area of marketing communications, with the support of great professors and opportunities to expand those skills through internships. Without the connections I made at WMU, I would not have found my former job opportunity with the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce.

I found out about an events internship at the Chamber through a professor in the School of Communication just before I graduated with my master's degree. After spending two months in the internship, a position opened in the communications department and I applied for it. Three years later, I'm a marketing manager, and spreading the good word to my current interns of the importance of connections with professors.

The professors I have had the pleasure to work with and learn from are not only a wealth of knowledge but also great contacts within the Kalamazoo community. I would advise students to take the time become close to their professors to learn of various opportunities. You never know, the connection you need to land a job you are interested in could be a simple conversation away with a professor that you have spent an entire semester with.



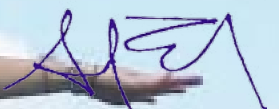
Dean's Excellence Fund Supports Student Activities

As Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, I recognize that my ability to affect change within the College is directly related to my ability to identify and access available resources quickly. With this in mind, I am embarking on a newly established fundraising effort called the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Excellence Fund.

This fund will make on- and off-campus academic and experiential activities possible for students throughout the College...activities like studying abroad, student academic group competition travel, internship programs, student research and creative activities, and more. Our students will experience life outside the classroom while participating in these ventures, and former students have reported establishing mentoring relationships, or securing employment or internship opportunities during these encounters.

Forming valuable partnerships with area businesses to help connect students with employers also is a major goal of the Dean's Excellence Fund. Immediate funding for the Dean's Excellence Fund will directly—and quickly—provide funds to enhance existing learning opportunities and fund even more opportunities.

Thank you for all you do to continue supporting our students.


Alex Enyedi, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Please go to www.wmich.edu/cas, and click on the "Giving" link to support this fund.

We guarantee your donations will make a difference to these students.



Join us for our biggest event of the year...

Major Excitement!

Thursday, September 22
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Chemistry Building Walkway Western Michigan University



More than 2,000 students visited 38 information stations during the fourth annual Major Excitement event, sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences in 2010. A repeat of the event is planned for Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and YOU'RE INVITED.

The event provides students with a great opportunity to explore as many majors as they find interesting with visiting alumni, faculty, graduate students, advising and more.

Visiting alumni help students make personal connections and get advice on which courses and programs are most valuable to their chosen profession.

Faculty, chairs and graduate students meet with upwards of 3,000 first-year students during the event to advise and share stories.

To RSVP for the Sept. 22 event, or more for more information, go to

www.wmich.edu/cas/major-excitement.html



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TALK BACK TO US!

We love to keep in close touch with our alumni. What are you doing? Send us an email at cheri.bales@wmich.edu or fill this out and return it to the College via one of the methods listed below. To learn more about us, please visit www.wmich.edu/cas.

Name _____

Date of graduation _____ Degree(s) Major/Minor (s) _____

What are you doing now? _____

What advice do you have for current students and recent graduates? _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

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Online? Look us up!

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WMU College of Arts and Sciences Alumni and Friends



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