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Spring 2010

## Inquiry, Spring 2010

Office of Vice President for Research

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# INQUIRY

OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

## LITYNSKI APPOINTED VP FOR RESEARCH

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**OVPR MISSION**

THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH ADVANCES THE OVERALL RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AGENDA OF THE UNIVERSITY, SUPPORTS EXTERNAL FUNDING INITIATIVES, AND OVERSEES COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS.

[WWW.WMICH.EDU/RESEARCH](http://WWW.WMICH.EDU/RESEARCH)

Veteran researcher and administrator Dr. Daniel M. Litynski was named vice president for research in January. Litynski assumes the post following a search process that included consultation with members of the University community and campuswide feedback. A familiar figure on campus for the past decade, he is a professor of electrical and computer engineering who has held such positions as engineering dean, provost and interim WMU president.

"Dr. Litynski brings an enormous body of experience and a critical set of leadership skills for our research enterprise," said Dunn of the appointment. "Not only is he a highly regarded researcher in his own right, but he has also spent time in Washington, D.C., over the past few years and has become intimately familiar with federal funding practices and the organization of agencies like the National Science Foundation, where he served as a visiting program director. Those attributes and his deep knowledge of our University mean our research goals will be in the best possible hands as we move forward."

Litynski, a tenured faculty member, served as dean of WMU's engineering college from 1999 to 2002, before being tapped to serve as the University's provost and vice president for academic affairs. After just four months in that role, he became WMU's interim president for six months, and then resumed his duties as chief academic officer. He stepped down from the provost position in June 2004 and, after an administrative leave of absence, accepted a visiting position with the National Science Foundation, serving as program director for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. He later was appointed acting division director of the NSF's Division of Undergraduate Education in the Directorate of Education and Human Resources.

"This University is a special place," says Litynski. "Knowledge creation and research are part

of our core mission and are intertwined with our educational role. We have been building our research capabilities for several decades and have made substantial gains in the past 20 years. All the while, though, we've kept our focus on our students,



nurturing the creative process in them and helping them learn to build teams of creative people who can realize the potential of great ideas. On behalf of the University, I want to be a facilitator who can not only encourage individual entrepreneurship, but also bring together and integrate all the critical components—people and organizations—that will help our region prosper."

Litynski's background includes 23 years of service at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he ended his tenure as professor and head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. A decorated veteran, Litynski retired from the U.S. Army as a brigadier general shortly before starting his work at WMU.

Litynski has been active in research and teaching in electrical engineering, optics and physics for more than 25 years, and he has taught 24 different courses, including two he initiated in laser physics and photonics engineering. Active also in laser and electro-optic research, he is a patent holder and the author or co-author of many international conference presentations, technical papers and book chapters. He has served in numerous technical and advisory capacities, has been appointed to six honor societies and is a member of seven professional societies. He is a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and past president of the IEEE Education Society.

## RESEARCH AND DESSERT DRAWS RESEARCHERS TOGETHER AT FETZER CENTER

New this semester was the inaugural Research and Dessert Open House organized by the OVPR staff to bring together faculty from across campus to discuss their research projects with other researchers. Hosted at the Fetzer Center, the Research and Dessert event attracted over 170 participants.

The focus of the open house event was faculty resources, collaboration, and connections to enhance and sustain scholarship. Opportunities were provided for round table discussions, resource stations, and networking.

Resource stations included funding search tools and strategies, compliance tools, library resources for scholarship development and dissemination, technology transfer and commercialization, and connecting with governmental agencies and support from grants and contracts.

"We were pleased with the event," says Dr. Paula Kohler, associate vice president for research. "This was designed as a forum to bring research faculty together to collaborate, make connections, and share resources."

Kohler originally envisioned the open house back in December as a means to ignite excitement and generate discussion between and among faculty.



Participants were able to participate in interdisciplinary roundtables on sustainable energy, medical-related research, education, environmental issues, manufacturing, and research ethics.

"OVPR continues to sponsor events like the Research and Dessert Day," comments Dr. Litynski, vice president for research. "Our goal is to foster collaboration and innovation across the disciplinary areas at WMU. Events like this provide such opportunities for discussion and planning."

## RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES POSTER DAY APRIL 9

Graduate students and faculty showcased their scholarly work Friday, April 9, in the Fetzer Center as part of the Fourth Annual WMU Research and Creative Activities Poster Day.

Poster presentations ran from 9-11 a.m. in rooms 1035, 1045 and 1055 of Fetzer. At 11 a.m., the 2010 Emerging Scholars were invited to give their keynote addresses in Kirsch Auditorium: Dr. Michael Grammer, associate professor of Geosciences, and Dr. Takashi Yoshida, associate professor of History.

Lunch was at noon with an awards presentation from 12:45 to 1 p.m. The awards recognized the outstanding graduate student poster presentations and are sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and the Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC).

The event was sponsored by the Research Policies Council of the Faculty Senate and the GSAC, in collaboration with the Graduate Studies Council and the Office of the Vice President for Research. College sponsors included the CAS, COEHD, CEAS, and the CHHS.

## SUPPORT FOR FACULTY SCHOLARS AWARDS— 2009-2010

Nine faculty were awarded SFSAs in September. The awards ranged from \$1000-\$2000. Recipients were: Drs. **Luigi Berto**, Department of History; **Gary Bischof**, Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; **Karen Bondarchuk**, Department of Art; **Lori Brown**, College of Aviation; **Christine Browning**, Department of Mathematics; **Larissa Frias**, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; **Steve Kohler**, Department of Biological Sciences; **Bade Shrestha**, Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering; and **Bilinda Straight**, Department of Anthropology.

Recipients of the SFSA in January include five faculty members. They are: Drs. **Lofton Durham**, Department of Theatre; **Stephen Jones**, School of Music; **Gellert Mezei**, Department of Chemistry; **Rika Saito**, Department of Foreign Languages; and **Ann Veeck**, Department of Marketing. The awards ranged from \$1800 - \$2000.

## A MESSAGE FROM . . . THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

**To know and grow. . .** A university is a special place. Knowledge creation, research, and creative activities are part of the core of a university's mission that is intertwined with its educational role. We educate our students in the knowledge and practice of academic disciplines and professions.

But beyond that, a university enriches their education with the process and fruits of creative scholarship and research. At both the graduate and undergraduate levels, our scholar-teachers introduce and nurture creativity that can lead to life-long learning and contributions to society and the nation.

WMU stands at the gateway to another dimension. We have been building our scholarly capabilities for decades and have made substantial gains in the last twenty years.

Our dedicated faculty and staff have helped build these capabilities often at great personal sacrifice in time and expense. Yet we have done so while retaining our focus on our students and their education.

We have many treasures in our people, our programs, and our facilities. But we can do more.

Our University leadership has a vision for future growth. The global nature of creativity today requires multiple approaches for success. On the one hand, we want to encourage individual exploration and growth. On the other, teams of individuals are often needed to realize the potential of many great ideas.

Growth of regions occurs best when collaboration exists among knowledge generators such as universities and research organizations, representatives of the public and regulators such as government and communities, and engines of economic activity and producers of wealth such as industry.

We hope that the Office of the Vice President for Research, on behalf of the University, can encourage individual and collective creativity and entrepreneurship to help all to know and grow.

### TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND 2010 AWARD WINNER

The Technology Development Fund is an internal grant program to provide funding to further develop faculty inventions. As such, it represents the significant investment WMU has made to enhance the impact of WMU's research through commercialization.

The WMU IP Management and Commercialization Faculty Advisory Committee (IPMCC), after reviewing proposal submissions, awarded two proposals for 2010.

Dr. **Robert Bensley**, professor in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department, will receive funds for his proposal, iManageHealth. iManageHealth is designed to operate as a front-end system to fit within existing health promotion resource systems.

Dr. **Karen VanDeusen**, associate professor in School of Social Work, will receive funds for her proposal, Online Suicide Prevention Course. The OSPC is a training to disseminate information about suicide as a public health problem that is preventable.

### SPRING WORKSHOP AND RESEARCH DAY

OVRP offers workshops through the academic year on various topics that relate to funding searches, grant administration, proposal writing and development, and research compliance. This spring, a workshop offered on April 7 was followed by the Fourth Annual WMU Research and Creative Activities Poster Day on April 9.

- April 7, 12-1:30 p.m. — "Better Budgeting: Tips and Guidelines for Preparing Research Proposal Budgets," presented by Barb Wygant, OVRP; Carole Nelson, Grants and Contracts; and Virginia Bowlby, Graduate College. The workshop was scheduled in 209 Bernhard Center.
- April 9, 8:30-1 p.m. — Fourth Annual WMU Research and Creative Activities Poster Day in Fetzer Center. Detailed schedule of event on page 2 (see article).

Interested faculty and staff are encouraged to visit the OVRP website and to offer suggestions for future workshop topics. Contact us on the web with your ideas.

We also encourage you to check the calendar regularly for updates and details of upcoming events and workshops.

## NEW PROGRAM RESEARCH OFFICER APPOINTED

Dr. Dania H. Bazzi joins the OVPR staff as a new research officer. She comes to WMU with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Master's of Art in Teaching from the University of Michigan. Bazzi completed work on a Ph.D. from Wayne State University in Curriculum and Instruction in 2009.

With nine years of combined professional experience at Ford Motor Company as a project manager and with teaching experience at the university and high school levels, Bazzi brings experience and important research skills to her position as a research officer.

She will be assigned to areas within the College of Health and Human Services, the College of Education and Human Development and the College of Aviation.



## MEDICAL SCHOOL ACCREDITATION BEGINS

The national accreditation process is now under way for a new medical school proposed by Western Michigan University and its two community hospital partners, Bronson Health Care and Borgess Health.

A formal letter of intent has been filed with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, which is the accrediting body for medical schools operating in the United States. WMU is one of seven institutions listed with "applicant school" status.

To earn applicant school status, an institution must pay a \$25,000 application fee to the LCME to begin the process of applying for preliminary accreditation; and the LCME and its Canadian counterpart must determine that the school meets the basic eligibility requirements to apply for accreditation.

As schools progress through the accreditation process and successfully meet LCME requirements, they move first to "candidate status" and finally to "preliminary accreditation status," at which time student recruitment can begin.

A school of medicine in Kalamazoo has been under discussion and in the planning stage since late 2007. The primary partners in the initiative are WMU and Kalamazoo's two world-class teaching hospitals--Borgess and Bronson.

During a November 2009 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees endorsed the steps taken to date and voiced its support for the proposal for a privately funded medical school.

During that meeting, WMU President John M. Dunn announced a \$1.8 million anonymous gift made to provide seed money for the next steps in the development process, including the LCME accreditation application and the search for a founding dean for the school. The dean search was launched last month.

In January, representatives of Borgess, Bronson and WMU traveled to Chicago for the initial meeting with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education to begin the accreditation process.

## RESEARCH AWARDS AND SUBMISSIONS

Since July 1, 2009, submissions at WMU have totaled 298. A full listing of awards and the proposal project is available online at the OVPR homepage.

Granting agencies vary from corporations and foundations to federal funding agencies like the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education. Other funding sources include the Association of Performing Arts and Office of Naval Research.

Awards are updated and listed on the website.

### Contact Information

Office of the Vice President  
for Research

208 W. Walwood Hall  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-  
5456

Phone: 387-8298

### OVPR Research Officer Constituent Areas

Wil Emmert: Evaluation Center, CAS (Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Sociology, Math, Statistics, Geosciences, Geography, Physics), Mallinson Institute for Science Education, Environmental Studies.

Dania Bazzi: COEHD, CHHS, Aviation

Gina Betcher: CAS (Office of the Dean and Humanities), CFA, HCOB, COEHD, TGC, International Studies, HIGE, LHC.

Barb Wygant: CAES, Nano Research, Campus Facilities.

A complete list of constituency areas will be posted online. Check our website: ([www.wmich.edu/research](http://www.wmich.edu/research)).