Dear friends:

I have known about and admired Western Michigan University for my entire academic career, and earlier this year, I was afforded the great privilege of being asked to lead this amazing University. I’m still learning the ropes, but after six months as president, my already high regard for WMU has grown tremendously. The more I learn about the incredible level of quality that permeates this University, the more proud I am to have the opportunity to help set the course for accomplishment in the years to come. Our focus is on student success. To ensure our students find success, we offer all the resources of a great public research university—top faculty, breadth and depth of programming, and an opportunity to be part of the generation of new knowledge. Successful students become successful, productive and happy alumni. That’s our goal.

In this issue of the WMU Magazine, you can learn about the successes of dozens of students, faculty and staff members and alumni. You’ll read about our campus “genius,” MacArthur Foundation Fellow Stuart Dybek; Peter Northouse, who has literally written the book on leadership; audiologist James Hillenbrand who is working to uncover the mysteries of the human ear; physicist Nora Berrah, who is on a mission to bring more women into science; and doctoral student Fodei Batty, who has won a wonderful award to support his research in Africa.

The stories you find on the pages of this magazine are really just the tip of the iceberg. There are hundreds more to be told. A major focus of my presidency will be to make sure those stories are repeated and heard. I want people around the state and nation to learn what I’ve come to know about Western Michigan University.

I hope you share the great sense of pride I feel as you look through the stories about your University on the pages that follow. Enjoy your reading.

Warmest regards,

John M. Dunn
President
Western Michigan University
4. The details get Dunn

WMU's eighth president has a penchant for details that lead to success on the big issues.

Cover photo by John Gilroy

12. The reluctant guru

Peter Northouse's work on leadership and management training is a must-read for Disney corporate trainers and students in top MBA programs.

18. More than meets the ear

James Hillenbrand's life work is determining how the ear processes speech and other sounds for the brain.

16. College news

24. Campus places

26. Classnotes/Obituaries

CLARIFICATION: An article in the summer 2007 issue of the WMU Magazine, described Betsy Kuhle as WMU’s “longest-tenured coach” in any sport. Kuhle, a WMU coach for more than 25 years, is the longest-tenured coach currently serving. Coach Fred Decker, now retired, was WMU’s head baseball coach for 29 years.
WMU women aviators complete 2,500-mile air race

College of Aviation pilots Jennifer Jakubiec and Alison Pierce successfully completed the 2007 Air Race Classic, a 2,500-mile women’s cross-country event that began June 19 in Oklahoma City and ended June 22 in St. John, New Brunswick.

WMU placed 12th out of 46 teams in the overall standings. Eleven of the 46 entries failed to complete the race, due primarily to severe storms along the final three legs of the race.

“Alison and I were relieved to even get here,” wrote Jakubiec after the race. “A handful of women had to scratch, because they weren’t able to make it through the last three legs of the race due to storms. We were sad to hear some of our fellow college teams were among those who couldn’t make it in.”

For the second straight year, WMU finished second for the Collegiate Challenge Trophy. Three of the seven collegiate entries were among those that failed to complete the race.

During their journey, Jakubiec and Pierce logged 2,236.2 nautical miles—more than 2,500 statute miles—and were airborne about 18 hours out of the 60 hours from start to finish of the race.

Originally from Walled Lake, Mich., Jakubiec is a WMU flight instructor and an April 2007 graduate of the College of Aviation. Pierce is from Burlington, Mich. She also is an April 2007 aviation graduate, who is now working on her flight instructor license. Both women were competing in their first Air Race Classic.

Women’s air racing traces its origins to 1929 with the first Women’s Air Derby, which was sponsored by the Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots. The Ninety-Nines was founded that year by 99 licensed women pilots, and famed aviator Amelia Earhart was the group’s first president.

Heller’s ‘How the Moon’ is among Children’s Choice books for 2007

“How the Moon Regained Her Shape,” an illustrated children’s book by WMU English instructor Dr. Janet Ruth Heller, was recently selected for Children’s Choices of 2007 by the Children’s Book Council and the International Reading Association.

Fewer than 100 books make the annual Children’s Choices list, which is based on the actual recommendations of about 10,000 children of various age ranges. Working with teachers and librarians, the children read from a list of more than 700 books and voted for their favorites. The Children’s Choices of 2007 were announced at the 2007 International Reading Association conference in Toronto.

During 2006, “How the Moon” was selected as a Book Sense Pick, a monthly and seasonal selection of new books chosen by independent booksellers.

The work deals with issues such as bullying and self-esteem and is influenced by Native American legend and rituals on why the moon changes its shape. It also includes a section of scientific information about the lunar cycles. The story was inspired by a Kalamazoo Gazette theatre review Heller wrote in 1992 about a production based on Native American legends and was influenced by her own childhood experiences.

Heller, who teaches English and women’s studies, joined the WMU faculty in 1999. She is a widely published writer of poetry and articles for professional journals, but “How the Moon” is her first venture into children’s literature.
Berrah puts physics and gender issues on national stage

The University’s Dr. Nora Berrah, professor of physics, was in the Washington, D.C., area recently to head an effort designed to help the nation’s leading research labs double the number of women engaged in physics research and teaching.

Berrah, an internationally renowned physics researcher, was co-chair of a workshop that attracted the chairs of 50 major research-oriented university physics departments in the United States as well as the managers of more than a dozen physics-related national laboratories. The workshop was sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science.

“This is an important issue,” says Berrah, “not only for the present generation of women with hopes to work happily in physics, but also for the next generation. Anyone who has a niece, daughter, sister, mother or spouse would want them to succeed without the road blocks and the historic gender biases in physics and related fields.”

Dr. Arthur Beinenstock of Stanford University joined Berrah as co-chair of the workshop titled “Gender Equity: Strengthening the Physics Enterprise in Universities and National Laboratories.”

Although women are at a disadvantage in many of the sciences, they are particularly scarce in physics, making up only 13 percent of faculty of all ranks from 760 degree-granting physics departments in the United States and 7.9 percent of faculty of all ranks at the major research universities. Comparable hard sciences, such as astronomy and chemistry, attract and retain women researchers at about twice these levels.

In addition to Berrah and Beinenstock, presenters at the conference included the leaders of five NSF divisions and three DOE divisions as well as a number of leaders in other NSF and DOE directorates and offices. Presenters also included representatives from Sandia National Laboratories and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory as well as researchers from a number of U.S. universities, including Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Michigan, Penn State, Stanford and Yale.

Doctoral student wins prestigious peace scholarship to support research

WMU political science doctoral student Fodei Batty has been named a 2007-08 Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar by the U.S. Institute of Peace, one of only 10 scholars nationally to receive the prestigious $20,000 award to support his field research and writing his dissertation.

Batty joins students from other universities such as Columbia, Cornell, Northwestern and Yale who were selected to receive the grant from among nearly 200 applicants.

A national of Sierra Leone, Batty is specializing in comparative politics at WMU, and his research interests are in development and modernization, democratization, ethnicity, public policy and institutions. His thesis attempts to dispel the belief that ethnicity is the major instrument of political mobilization in Africa. To accomplish this, he is using evidence from Liberia and Sierra Leone—two countries that have experienced two of the most brutal civil wars in recent history.

“In the past, talking about topics of subjects of a political nature was considered taboo by most people because of the atmosphere of fear and intimidation that existed under one-party rule. Now, most people are not afraid of expressing their opinions on major issues and even criticizing the government, if necessary,” says Batty, who is working on his thesis in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

“Fodei’s research is unique for several reasons,” says Dr. James M. Butterfield, WMU professor of political science and Batty’s dissertation advisor. “He is conducting survey research in places recently devastated by civil war and societies that score nearly at the bottom of the human development index. It links issues of peace, democracy and development—three of the core issues in the field of political science. I’m not surprised that USIP found it a promising project, nor that Fodei is competitive among graduate students nationally.”

A former refugee in neighboring Guinea during his country’s civil war, Batty earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Sierra Leone and his master’s degree from Indiana State University.
The details get Dunn

For WMU’s new president, a lifetime in the education arena has taught him that the smallest details are sometimes the most important.

Near the end of Dr. John M. Dunn’s fourth month as president of Western Michigan University, a crowd of eager campus and community members took their seats in the Dalton Center Recital Hall and waited in anticipation to hear Dunn’s first State of the University address.

The crowd had been promised Dunn’s speech would include hints about the vision he was developing and the direction he planned to move on critical University issues. It was to be the first such pronouncement by a president who had begun his tenure with a remarkable string of what can only be called big results—all of it achieved in the short period since July 1. Since becoming WMU’s eighth president, he had:

• Found a way to keep WMU’s 2007 tuition increase at the lowest level of any of Michigan’s public universities
• Introduced a four-year degree commitment as part of a new strategic plan called the Western Edge
• Crafted a budget during a state government impasse that left colleges and universities without a clue about state appropriations for the coming year
• Joined some of his fellow Michigan university presidents in what became a successful offensive to fight an attempt to split Michigan’s higher ed funding into two tiers—a move that would have diminished WMU’s status and been detrimental to the state of Michigan.

What, most in the crowd wondered, was the long-term strategy of a president who had hit the ground running at such a pace? Dunn began his remarks by reiterating his promise to explore “big ideas” and a sense of his vision.

“But first,” he said, “I want to tell you a story.”

As the crowd leaned forward in anticipation, Dunn spun a story from his early days in Oregon as a state consultant advising teachers who worked with children with disabilities. As the Dalton Center
crowd looked puzzled, Dunn talked of a simple moment revolving around an encounter with a child with Down Syndrome, a runny nose, a handkerchief borrowed and an incredulous teacher won over by a simple act of kindness.

Once the story was told, the crowd chuckled, relaxed and sat back to listen as the new president spoke of big-picture issues like student access, quality, diversity, collegiality, campus civility, telling the University’s story clearly and growing enrollment and research in ways he knows are critical to WMU’s future. All of these are important items on Dunn’s agenda, but with his opening story and the transition to the main part of his speech, he made the one point that is central to everything he does.

“We want to keep our eye on the big picture,” he told the crowd. “But let’s always pay attention to the details that make that big picture happen.”

Small gestures, words carefully chosen for their precise meaning, attention to service and even something as simple as a ready smile and a greeting—these are the things at the heart of the Dunn mantra. It’s the cumulative effect of such small details, he says to everyone within earshot, that makes a big impact on individual lives—the details that can trigger life-altering decisions and the details that can help win support for a big idea.

A career built on caring

Before coming to WMU, Dunn spent more than 30 years as an educator and administrator, building the skills that made him the right candidate at the right time to assume the WMU presidency. An Illinois native from a small southern Illinois town, he grew up in a family in which his mother sometimes worked three jobs to support the family. Because money was tight, his ability to attend Northern Illinois University hinged on a $300 county scholarship he received. That scholarship and the opportunities it opened left Dunn with a lifelong commitment to ensuring all qualified students have access to higher education.

At Northern Illinois University, the small-town resident had an entire world open up before him. He got his first experience of living and working with people from diverse backgrounds—both those from the United States and from nations around the globe. The impact of the lessons learned there echo today in his description of the benefits students receive when they attend a great university with a diverse student population.

“One of the greatest gifts we can give our students,” he says, “is the opportunity to eat with, be in class with and live with students from all around the world.”

At Northern Illinois, Dunn studied physical education with the intention of becoming a high school teacher. His first teaching job was in Lake Forest, Ill., where he spent three years while he continued his education and earned a master’s degree from NIU. It was while teaching there that he began working with and became an advocate for a developmentally disabled student. He had a knack for working with students with disabilities, he discovered, and he wanted to learn more. Eventually, that desire led him to Brigham Young University, where he entered the doctoral degree program in physical education.

BYU proved a life-altering experience for Dunn. He earned that degree and fell in love twice—with a fellow student who eventually became his wife, Linda, and with university life. From BYU, the Dunns were off to the University of Connecticut, where he began his career as an assistant professor in 1972.

Story continued on page 7
New first lady is a longtime volunteer

WMU’s new first lady, Linda Dunn, remembers the stories of the people she’s encountered during her decades of volunteer work—seniors who needed to be driven to doctor appointments, low-income families waiting in soup kitchen lines and disabled athletes on their way to the Special Olympics.

She remembers their familiar faces from being on the front lines helping others, recalling each experience with excitement and interest in getting to know a new person.

This year, she and her husband, Dr. John M. Dunn, are newcomers to Kalamazoo since he began his tenure at WMU July 1.

“I want to help make John’s time here successful, first by trying to be friendly and approachable. I want to be the best partner for John in this endeavor as I can be, to give as much of myself as I can. We are genuinely interested in people, visiting with them and finding out what they do and what they like,” says Linda Dunn. “I have always considered college campuses to be one of the best environments to be involved with. You meet so many different and interesting people.”

Her husband describes her as “not a tea and crumpets type, but someone who likes to roll up her sleeves and get things done.” It’s a role she expects to continue in their new home.

“I like to be an active participant, where you work and not just sit at a meeting. I also like the creative side, where you help come up with the ideas for how things could be,” she says.

Over the years, Dunn has worked at home and in a variety of community volunteer positions. She has been active with the National Assistance League as a committee member, and served as president of the Salt Lake City Assistance League.

In her last community, Carbondale, Ill., Dunn led “A Book in Every Home,” a drive to put books in the hands of every child enrolled at seven area Head Start centers. She also was a member of Southern Illinois University’s art advisory board and helped lead a successful fund-raising event to benefit SIU’s School of Art and Design. She was also a member of the Rotary Club.

Proving that her volunteering has a lighter side, her past experience also includes volunteering at schools and working events as a clown for eight years in Oregon. Wearing white makeup and a big red nose, she’d entertain, performing magic tricks as the character “Tickles.”

Born in California and also raised in Hawaii and New York, she met John Dunn at Brigham Young University when both were students there. “He had a very cute car,” says Dunn of her first encounter with her future husband. She just had to find out who the owner was of the British MGB sports car on campus.

After college, she taught health and physical education before getting married, relocating with her husband and starting a family. The couple has three grown children: Matthew, 34, who lives with his wife Lesley in Salt Lake City; Michael, 30, who lives in Idaho and Utah; and Kerry, 22, who lives in Portland, Oregon.

Story by Deanne Molinari

The Dunn family gathered to run WMU Homecoming Campus Classic. From left: Michael, Kerry, Linda, John, Mathew and daughter-in-law Lesley.
In 1975, Dunn accepted an offer from Oregon State University. Over the next 20 years, Dunn built his career there, moving up through the faculty ranks to earn tenure, become a department chair, assistant dean and associate provost. It was at OSU that Dunn established himself as a researcher and expert in the area of the long-term health of people with disabilities. He became internationally known for his research and writing on that topic, and he founded and directed Oregon State’s Special Physical and Motor Fitness Clinic.

It was in Oregon also where Dunn developed his leadership and mediation skills by serving for 13 years as a member of the Corvallis Board of Education. The experience, he says, taught him the importance of simply listening as part of the leadership role—of providing a way for people in the most heated of circumstances to have a forum in which their concerns were heard and valued.

In 1995, Dunn accepted a position as dean of the University of Utah’s College of Health, a position he held for seven years, before moving to the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale to serve as provost and vice chancellor. In late 2006, he became SIUC’s interim chancellor, and within months was approached about the opening at WMU.

A good match
Dunn’s style is relaxed, and he’s routinely described as approachable and user-friendly. He’s also committed to making sure both students and their university make the kinds of decisions that will allow students to find success. Those attributes, along with his fierce commitment to academic quality, literally set the stage for his presidency, according to those involved in the nationwide search and subsequent decision to name Dunn president of WMU.

A 14-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee first met Dunn in Detroit in March at the end of a long weekend of interviews designed to narrow a list of semifinalists for the position to a smaller group that would be invited to campus for an intense round of meetings and presentations. Dunn was the last person interviewed by the tired committee, but the impression he made was immediate and positive.

“Even in that terrible time slot, he walked in and brightened the room,” says Trustee Ken Miller, who led the search committee. “A lot of tired people sat up and took notice.”

For Dunn, the impression was equally positive. He had first been contacted about the WMU job by a search firm working for WMU. The information about the position validated what he already knew about WMU, he says. He knew about the University’s status as a research university, its success with students and the renown of some of its specialty areas like medieval studies. But the meeting with the WMU search committee that Sunday in March sealed the deal and ignited his desire to be the next WMU president.

“I came home and told Linda, ‘Wow! This is a very nice opportunity. It just fits,’” Dunn says.

Over the next few weeks, Dunn came to campus and met with dozens of campus and community individuals and groups. He gives high marks to the interview
process, which he has described as intellectually challenging and designed to keep the candidates a bit off balance. “I met people who were passionate about their university and who had good questions for me,” he says. “The whole process was designed to allow the campus community a chance to get a good ‘read’ on the candidates.”

That read was good.

“What really impressed us was his focus on students,” says Dan Pero, chair of the WMU Board of Trustees. “John’s ability to communicate is a great asset. His history working with the disabled set the tone for his administrative style. His focus on what every word means—that every word means something—is creating a positive environment on campus already.”

And then there’s the topic of student service.

“John’s relentless on that front,” says Pero. “That’s one of the things we found most attractive.”

A chance to have an impact

After arriving in Kalamazoo and during one of his first meetings with local newspaper editors, Dunn talked about how much small moments can mean. In typical Dunn fashion, he told a story to illustrate his point, recalling a time at Oregon State University when he had the opportunity to meet and have dinner with that school’s most famous alumnus, two-time Nobel prizewinner Linus Pauling. The iconic figure told Dunn a story about his own first days on campus and how he traced his career path to a single, simple event.

As an entering freshman, Pauling arrived on campus after a long train ride with suitcases in hand and found himself in the middle of the campus without a clue about what to do next. Where should he go? What should he do first?

Pauling posed those questions to the first official looking person to pass—a faculty member. That faculty member took Pauling under his wing, grabbed his suitcases, and the two set off to get Pauling situated in a residence and ready to begin classes. The bond forged that day between Pauling and a professor—a professor of chemistry—ultimately led Pauling to a career in that discipline and a lifetime of spectacular contributions that include launching the discipline of molecular biology.

The story that fell from Pauling’s lips at the end of his career had a lasting impact on Dunn as he heard it.

“It was such a seminal moment,” he remembers. “Several of us were at the table with Pauling, knowing he was sharing something profound and historic. I wish I’d had the presence of mind to record it. He spoke so powerfully about the power of that small act of kindness.”

More than 20 years later, perhaps without even thinking about the parallels, Dunn was busy almost repeating the event that Pauling had burned into his memory.

On a late August flight into Kalamazoo from Detroit, Linda Dunn met two international students headed for WMU to begin their studies. When John Dunn picked her up at the airport, she

Story continued on page 31
WMU honors three as Distinguished Alumni for 2007

The 2007 winners of the WMU Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Awards are Jim Hickey, B.A., ’69; James McKinley, B.S., ’66; and Dennis M. Nally, B.S., ’74.

They three were honored with the association’s most prestigious award during the a dinner awards ceremony held on Friday of Homecoming weekend, Oct. 19. Hickey and McKinley were in attendance, and Nally was honored in absentia.

Jim Hickey is a 27-year veteran of ABC News and has been an anchor and correspondent for ABC News Radio since 1995. As ABC News Radio’s national correspondent, Hickey has reported extensively on the war on terrorism, and he was in the anchor chair for ABC News Radio’s special coverage of the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

Jim McKinley heads what has become one of the largest minority insurance agencies in the United States. The McKinley Financial Services agency, founded in 1987, now has more than 50 agents and staff as well as regional offices in Atlanta and Orlando, Fla. He founded the company after a 22-year career as a collegiate football coach and athletic director.

Dennis Nally is a member of the PricewaterhouseCoopers U.S. Board of Partners and Principals and U.S. Leadership Team. A firm partner since 1985, he was first elected chairman and senior partner in 2002 and elected to a second term in 2006. He is a frequent speaker and guest lecturer on issues affecting the accounting profession and the U.S. capital markets.

Engineering professors study bird and insect flight capabilities for U.S. Air Force

Two engineering faculty members, Dr. Tianshu Liu, associate professor of mechanical and aeronautical engineering, and Dr. William Liou, professor of mechanical and aeronautical engineering, have been awarded a three-year, $470,000 grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to study the natural flying capabilities of birds and insects.

The primary purpose of this project is to replicate the way these flyers use their wing flexibility to effectively control airflow. In the past, such studies have been considered too complicated and dangerous because of the unsteady aerodynamics involved. Liu’s research adds a new dimension, introducing a flexible, sensor-embedded extension to the trailing edge of the plane’s wing. The extension has the ability to sense and react to changes in the surroundings.

“Natural flyers like birds and insects utilize their wing flexibility, particularly at the trailing edges, for effective flow control in different flight regimes,” Liu says. “Our research, which is inspired by these natural flyers, will help to design more efficient air vehicles using flexible trailing edges.”

Liu, who specializes in aerodynamics, secured the grant and is serving as principal investigator. Liou will deal primarily with computational fluid dynamics issues associated with the addition of a flexible trailing edge. The two are coordinating their efforts with Qamar Shams at the NASA Langley Research Center.

Liu, who came to WMU in 2004, serves as director of the Applied Aerodynamics Laboratory and advisor for the student chapter of the Society of Flight Test Engineers. Liou came to WMU in 1997 and directs the Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation.
Jazz students continue winning ways, rack up multiple DownBeat awards

Jazz studies students at WMU revived a familiar tune in June, taking multiple awards from DownBeat magazine.

WMU students scored five times in the 30th Annual Student Music Awards. Results of the annual contest were in DownBeat’s June issue. In a repeat of last year’s record, WMU was the only university in Michigan to win an award.

- Ryan Andrews of Kalamazoo, a member of WMU’s Lee Honors College, won two awards—one for Outstanding Performance on drums and a second for his performance as Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist.
- Aubrey Johnson of Green Bay, Wis., also a Lee Honors College member, was singled out for Jazz Vocalist Outstanding Performance.
- Logan Thomas of Portage, Mich., won in the Original Song, Outstanding Performance category for his performance of “The Legends Throne.”
- For more than a dozen consecutive years, WMU students have won multiple awards in the national contest. WMU tied for second this year with the University of Miami. The Manhattan School of Music won the most awards.

“DownBeat’s annual competition is regarded as one of the most important barometers of success in jazz education, while DownBeat magazine is considered the ‘dean’ of jazz publications,” says Tom Knific, WMU professor of music and director of the WMU jazz studies program. “Our program has amassed well over 100 awards in just over a dozen years.”

Knific says WMU’s chief competitors continue to be the University of Miami, the New England Conservatory of Music and Manhattan School of Music. He noted that the Julliard School, one of the nation’s more prominent programs, won just a single award this year.

Longtime faculty author Dybek wins MacArthur Foundation ‘genius’ award

After a 33-year career at WMU, in which he won acclaim as a short-story writer and poet, Stuart Dybek garnered new international renown this fall as one of 24 Americans to receive a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

Popularly known as the “genius awards,” the coveted MacArthur Fellowships go to nominees selected by an anonymous committee for their creativity, originality and the potential to make important contributions in the future. Each MacArthur Fellowship comes with $500,000, no strings attached, designed to provide support for the recipient’s work over the next five years.

A MacArthur Foundation news release announcing the awards described Dybek as “a short story writer borrowing from the Old World yet emerging from the New World to feed the imagination of contemporary Americans.”

Dybek, who retired from full-time teaching at WMU early in 2007, is a Distinguished Writer in Residence at Northwestern University. He remains closely connected to WMU as an adjunct faculty member, and he teaches in the University’s renowned Prague Summer Program.

Dybek said he had no inkling that he would receive the award before being contacted shortly before the September announcement by a representative of the MacArthur Foundation.

“I took the call and checked the number to see if it was a friend who was playing a practical joke,” he said.

Dybek says that, like all writers, his challenge is finding time to write, and he will use the MacArthur award to tackle projects he has planned for some time.

The author of three short story collections, numerous anthologized works of short fiction, and two books of poetry, Dybek roots his writing in the ethnic neighborhoods of his native Chicago. His fiction includes the books “Childhood and Other Neighborhoods,” “The Coast of Chicago,” and “I Sailed With Magellan.” Among many earlier honors Dybek has received for his work are a PEN/Bernard Malamud Prize, a Whiting Writer’s Award, several O. Henry Prizes, two Pushcart Prizes and the Lannan Literary Award for fiction.
Army grant funds environmental physiology research

How do hot and cold temperatures affect the human body? A new facility at WMU may help the U.S. Army find out.

WMU researchers are working with a $190,200 U.S. Army grant to create an environmental physiology laboratory that will be the only one of its kind in Michigan and will be used to study the effect of hot and cold temperatures on the human body in combination with other factors such as smoking and exercise.

The grant is from the Department of Defense Army Research Office and is part of the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program. Using the funding, faculty in the University's Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation have been busy buying and installing diagnostic equipment and creating an 11-foot-by-11-foot, state-of-the-art laboratory in which the effects of heat and cold can be measured in combination with other variables, such as nicotine intake.

Housed in the Student Recreation Center, the environmental physiology lab can measure a subject's cardiovascular system, body temperature, blood flow and other physical reactions to heat and cold in high or low humidity, says Dr. Chris Cheatham, assistant professor of health, physical education and recreation and the grant's principal investigator. Cheatham is being assisted by co-principal investigator Dr. Timothy Michael, associate professor of health, physical education and recreation.

“This grant will make this one of the best environmental labs around, certainly, in the state of Michigan,” says Cheatham. “Nobody will come close to us with respect to environmental physiology study.”

Cheatham is eager to begin using the new lab and conducting studies on high heat on human beings in combination with other factors.

“The first question we’ll follow up on is finding out how nicotine affects performance in high temperatures,” Cheatham says. “The effect of nicotine at cold temperatures is more well understood. But its impact at high temperatures hasn’t really been studied.”

Cheatham says the body's physical response to high heat and nicotine might be of particular interest to the U.S. military, since soldiers today are often deployed to hot parts of the world, and upward of one-fourth of service people use tobacco products. Cheatham's other interests include studying how heat and other variables can affect the quality and speed of decision-making, cognitive ability and other mental functions that would be of interest in a military situation. He hopes to roll it all into a three-to-four-year study. If all goes according to plan and a research grant is approved, data collection could begin by fall 2008.

Newly created office assists parents and families of WMU students

WMU has established a new office to engage parents and assist them in proactively supporting their students' growth, personal development and educational success.

The Office of Parent and Family Programs will serve as a contact point, liaison and information gateway for all parents, guardians and other family members of WMU students.

“We hope to forge stronger relationships with parents and families of our WMU students so they feel connected to the University and can help their students appropriately,” says Shari Glaser, director of parent and family programs. “We are here to help parents and families navigate through the University, so that if they don't know who to talk to, support and guidance is readily available.”

Among the office's first initiatives was the creation of the WMU Family Connection, a free and open support network that keeps families informed and involved in what is happening around campus. Upon registering their e-mail addresses with the Office of Parent and Family Programs, all interested family members will receive news and information of interest and invitations to seminars, activities and events, including the annual Family Weekend, which was held this year in September. The WMU Family Connection replaces the former WMU Parents Association, which was open only to dues-paying members.

The Office of Parent and Family Programs is located in the Faunce Student Services Building. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/parents, or contact Shari Glaser at shari.glaser@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4820.
The reluctant guru

Management training gurus like Tom Peters and Stephen Covey have nothing on WMU’s Peter Northouse, the author of the nation’s leadership ‘must-read’ and a scholar who likes to keep a low profile.

When it comes to teaching leadership, WMU communication professor Peter Northouse wrote the book.

Northouse’s “Leadership Theory and Practice” is the best-selling academic textbook on leadership and has been since it came off the presses a decade ago. Now in its fourth edition, it has been translated into six foreign languages, including Chinese and Arabic, and is used by hundreds of colleges and universities, including top MBA programs at Stanford, Dartmouth, Columbia, the University of Virginia and New York University. Disney College, the entertainment empire’s professional development program, as well as national leadership coaching firms list Northouse’s book as required reading.

“It is hands down the most popular textbook for teaching leadership in the United States,” says Sage Publications Senior Editor Al Bruckner. Based on figures provided by a national association of college bookstores, Bruckner says each new edition of Northouse’s book “has doubled in the number of students who use it.”

It probably surprises many who know Northhouse to hear he’s considered an expert in the field of leadership. A lanky man with a boyish grin, Northhouse doesn’t exactly exude the expected ego that comes with being a leadership guru.

“Peter is beyond modest,” says colleague and WMU School of Communication Director Steve Rhodes. “He consults and teaches at Disney and for the Canadian Armed Services—Disney even gave him an honorary ‘duck-torate.’ He goes to these national leadership conferences where he’s a featured speaker right there with the other big names in the field and no one here knows, because he would never tell you.”

Leadership can be taught

Northouse, a WMU faculty member for 33 years, admits to being shy about discussing himself and his work. “Leadership Theory and Practice” was written simply because he needed a textbook for a class he was teaching and no other texts fit the bill. He never expected it to be such a success.

“This book is a wonderful example, especially for young faculty, of how to write that first book,” says Rhodes. “The first edition was the leadership course that Peter was teaching. You look at that early syllabus and the topics and approaches in that became the outline he adopted for the book.

“He truly writes what he teaches and teaches what he writes.”

Each of the book’s 14 chapters analyzes a specific leadership approach, examines case studies and, perhaps most uniquely, provides a self-assessment exercise to measure the reader’s leadership style. Each revision takes Northouse about three years to complete, with careful attention paid to the fluidity of leadership trends and demographics.

“Being aware of leadership theories and research is important when you are a leader,” Northouse says. “You can learn leadership skills and philosophies that help you to change your behavior to be more effective.”

This view flies in the face of a prevailing philosophy that “leaders are born, not made,” a belief that makes millions for the Jack Welch-types who pen the “led-and-lived-to-tell-about-it” tomes currently filling bookstore shelves.

“Yes, without question, leadership can be taught,” Northouse says. “Some people are naturally more
charismatic, but you can be a good leader without being charismatic. There are hundreds of leadership traits—research has shown there aren’t any definitive traits that all successful leaders have. Leadership has to do with creating a vision, being a role model and empowering others.

“I believe everyone can learn how to be a leader because leadership is about how the leader behaves and responds to his or her followers.”

Northouse says the idea that leadership can be taught is becoming more accepted, as evidenced by the burgeoning number of leadership books and programs now being taught on all levels of academe.

“People are interested in being better leaders, there’s no doubt about that,” he says.

To that end, Northouse is now working on a new text, “Fundamentals of Leadership,” which will be more prescriptive in nature. Despite his success and work as a corporate consultant, he doesn’t seem totally comfortable with this new role.

“I’m not the person who marches into an organization saying ‘you do this and everything will be wonderful,’ so it’s hard to write a book about what someone ‘oughta do’ to be a good leader,” he explains. “It depends on the situation.

“I have a hard time seeing myself writing something like ‘Peter’s 10 Aphorisms of Leadership’—you know, a 100-page book that a user would pick up, read number four on the list that says something like ‘leaders listen with great care,’ and then goes off to work that day saying, ‘Oh, yeah, I can do that.’”

When Northouse was approached by a large publisher to produce such a book, he declined.

“Peter isn’t a person who thinks he’s a Pulitzer Prize-winning type of writer,” says Dr. Laurel Northouse, the Mary Lou Willard French Professor of Nursing at the University of Michigan, co-director of the Socio-Behavior Program at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center and Northouse’s wife. She co-authored the very first textbook Northouse wrote, “Health Communication.”

“He is a slow and methodical writer who sees himself as creating something important for students,” she explains. “He puts all his energies into college-level teaching. That’s where he has his heart. He’s not out there to be a big guru.”

Staying low-profile and committed

It seems where Northouse puts his energy, success follows. Nearly 30 years ago, he fought off Hodgkin’s disease, a cancer of the lymph system. And in typical Northouse fashion, his illness was not common knowledge.

“Shortly after he took his job at Western, he got Hodgkin’s Disease,” Laurel says. “He went through a year of chemotherapy and back then, it was pretty toxic stuff. But he arranged to take chemo on Fridays so that he would be ready to teach on Monday. He was sick all weekend but he never missed a day of work. He was that devoted.”

It was during his cancer treatment that Northouse began running, “as a way to reinforce his health and move on,” says Laurel. Rhodes, already an avid runner, became Northouse’s close friend and running partner.

“He needed to exercise, and we’d go to the track and run,” Rhodes recalls. “He could barely get around one lap.”
It wasn’t long, though, before Northouse was running marathons. He has since racked up 21 marathons, completing the Boston Marathon four times. “It’s an unusual year if he doesn’t run one marathon,” says Rhodes.

At 61, Northouse may not lead the pack anymore when running, but his wife says he was most definitely a leader when it came to supporting her pursuit of a career in academe.

“We were married 36 years ago, and that was a time when it was not common for husbands to support wives in their efforts to get graduate degrees,” she says. “We lived in Kalamazoo and I commuted to school. Then I received a large grant to do work at Wayne State University in Detroit. Peter said he was willing to take his turn with the commute and we moved to Ann Arbor so I could be closer to my work. He’s continued commuting since then and is absolutely committed to our dual careers.”

The Northouses have lived in Ann Arbor for 18 years, raising two children, Scott and Lisa. Rhodes admits he’s surprised Northouse hasn’t left WMU to teach at an institution closer to home. “It would have made his life a hell of a lot easier,” he says. “But he’s committed to Western.”

That commitment became more visible earlier this year, when the Northouses established a $20,000 scholarship in WMU’s School of Communication. The scholarship is not designed for the student with the perfect GPA, but for those who show promise and contribute in the classroom, says Laurel.

“Peter just doesn’t think like an elitist in any manner,” she says. “He cares about all students, not just the brightest students, and wants to help those students develop.”

Rhodes says that’s why Northouse is meant to teach leadership.

Who better?” he asks.
Haworth College of Business

Food marketing group honors two professors

Two WMU professors were honored during the University’s 42nd annual Food Marketing Conference held in Kalamazoo last spring.

Dr. Andrew A. Brogowicz, professor and chair of marketing, received the 2007 Adrian Trimpe Distinguished Service Award while Dr. Frank Gambino, professor of marketing, won an Outstanding Food Marketing Alumni Award.

The Food Marketing Conference is one of the best known events of its kind nationally and annually draws more than 500 food industry executives. It’s Trimpe Award is named for the founder of WMU’s renowned Food and Consumer Package Goods Marketing Program.

Brogowicz, a faculty member since 1979, retired June 30 after serving as chair of the Department of Marketing for the past 16 years. Gambino serves as director of the University’s Food and Consumer Package Goods Marketing Program.

College of Education

National organization honors three on HPER faculty


AAHPERD honorees were Dr. Debra Berkey, professor and chair of health, physical education and recreation, and Dr. Suzan Ayers and Dr. Jiabei Zhang, both associate professors in HPER.

• Berkey, who returned to the faculty in June after 13 years as department chair, received the AAHPERD Honor Award, which recognizes meritorious contributions of people of personal integrity who exemplify service to the professions.

• Ayers was named an AAHPERD Research Consortium Fellow, one of the most prestigious honors the consortium can bestow on its members.

• Zhang received the Adapted Physical Activity Professional Recognition Award from the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation, an AAHPERD affiliate, for his work in promoting physical activity to individuals with disabilities.

Arts and Sciences

New programs in math, Arabic approved

The University’s Board of Trustees voted in June to create a Master of Science in Applied and Computational Mathematics, as well as an undergraduate minor in Arabic.

The new graduate program is the result of a merger between master’s degree programs in computational mathematics and applied mathematics, which had grown similar in goals and requirements in recent years.

WMU’s new undergraduate minor will consist of courses in Arabic language, linguistics and culture. The program, which responds to growing regional and national interests, will be managed by the Department of Foreign Languages and will become effective with the start of the fall semester 2008.

Health and Human Services

Doctoral student shares findings with CDC

Barbara Cliff, a doctoral student in the University’s Interdisciplinary Health Studies program, recently traveled to Atlanta to present research at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s 12th Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference.

Cliff was invited by the CDC to present her paper “The Association between Body Mass Index and Waist Circumference in Adolescents,” for which she was awarded the Pisaneschi Prize for best research presentation at WMU’s 2006 Interdisciplinary Health Studies Conference in July. Cliff is the first recipient of the prize, which was named for former WMU Provost Janet I. Pisaneschi, who also served for 17 years as dean of the University’s College of Health and Human Services.
Lee Honors College

Honor society names WMU chapter among top in nation

The University’s chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta has earned the Order of the Torch, signifying its selection as one of the honor society's most outstanding chapters in the nation.

The National Council of Alpha Lambda Delta named WMU a 2006-07 winner along with Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, Morningside College, the University of California-Los Angeles, and the University of Texas at El Paso. There are more than 250 chapters nationwide.

The honor goes to chapters that have demonstrated excellence in the areas of programming, internal communication and campus visibility. WMU’s chapter, which is winning its first Torch Award, offers numerous leadership opportunities as well as scholarships. The group also is noted for its volunteer work, including regularly assisting in staging the University's annual Career Fair.

Fine Arts

Renowned composer, musician leads School of Music

On July 1, educator, performer and composer Dr. David J. Colson became just the eighth director of WMU’s School of Music.

Colson joins WMU from California State University, Chico, where he was chair of the Department of Music and taught music theory and composition courses. Professional musicians throughout the United States and Europe have performed and recorded Colson’s compositions, and he has conducted and performed as a percussionist with symphonies around the nation.

Colson earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan and a master’s degree from the University of Iowa. He earned a doctoral degree in composition from Rice University.

Colson follows a small group of dedicated musicians who have led the School of Music, beginning with Harper C. Maybee in 1913. Others were: Dr. Elwyn Carter, 1945-65; Dr. Robert Holmes, 1966-72; Dr. Robert Fink, 1972-78; Donald Bullock, 1978-88; Dr. Donald Gibson, 1988-92; and Dr. Richard O’Hearn, 1992-2007.

Engineering and Applied Sciences

Students get international grounding in China

In May, 18 engineering students from across WMU’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences spent four weeks in China learning about engineering in that nation as well as Chinese culture.

The students spent 25 days in China absorbing the culture, listening to college lectures, touring cities and industries, and mingling with Chinese people. Dr. Dewei Qi, an associate professor in paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, organized the trip, along with his department’s chair, Dr. Said AbuBakr.

Acting as host for the WMU students’ visit was Sichuan University. Students visited Dow Chemical facilities and Gold East Paper Mill. Students earned five credit hours for making the trip, taking part in a variety of educational activities and writing a paper reflecting on their experience. Each of the engineering college’s departments was represented on the trip. Also participating were students from the departments of Physics and Dance.

Aviation

Sky Broncos take fourth place at national intercollegiate flying competition

WMU’s precision flight team, the Sky Broncos, finished in fourth place at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association championship, which concluded May 12 at Ohio State University.

The Sky Broncos placed fourth, coming in behind three of the team’s longtime rivals—Emory Riddle Aeronautical University-Prescott, which captured first place, and the University of North Dakota and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona, which took second and third places, respectively.

The annual competition attracted more than 400 pilots from 31 of the top aviation schools in the nation, making 2007 event the largest in NIFA’s history. Among the other schools represented at this year’s national championship were the U.S. Air Force Academy and Purdue, Ohio, Ohio State and San Jose State universities.
Dr. James Hillenbrand remembers well the moment he first set out on a career path that led to fame as a leading researcher on the topic of speech and how we understand it.

It was 1973. Hillenbrand was in Bloomington, Ind., seated in the classroom of Dr. David Pisoni at Indiana University.

“Very little interested me in junior high and early high school,” explains the soft-spoken WMU scientist, whose studies today regularly garner million-dollar federal grants. “But by the time I got to college, almost everything interested me, so I had trouble settling on a major.”

Pisoni was delivering a lecture on speech perception in a course on the psychology of language.

“He described some problems in that area, some points that were not very well understood,” Hillenbrand recalls. “And I just thought that was the most interesting thing I’d ever heard in my life. I’ve spent the majority of my research career studying the handful of problems that Dr. Pisoni introduced in that lecture.”

Born that day was a career spent researching how bits of sound emitted by the human voice add up to words and the words into sentences that can be understood. Hillenbrand has been trying to fill in the blanks of how it all works ever since.

“The ear does for frequencies what a prism does for light. The ear is an acoustical prism.”
“You’d think I would understand it better after all these years,” he says with a chuckle, leaning back in a chair in his office in WMU’s new College of Health and Human Services building. He’s only half joking.

How do we do it, especially when you consider the wide range of communication styles out there? Even in a nation where people speak the same language, men sound much different than women. Children sound much different than adults. People speak at different rates. Some have accents, while others speak different regional dialects. Their word use and pronunciation are different.

How do our ears sort it all out?

That’s the question that Hillenbrand has been trying to answer for more than 30 years. His research has garnered some $7 million in grants, mainly from the National Institutes of Health. A fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, he’s the recipient of WMU’s Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. He has served on a number of NIH grant review panels, acted as editorial consultant or associate editor to a variety of professional journals and is in the process of writing a textbook on the “Fundamentals of Hearing Science.”
How does he do it? He spends a lot of time listening to speech, recording it, analyzing it, manipulating it, playing it back and asking others what it sounds like to them. He looks a lot at acoustic wave patterns that give a visual image of a particular sound coming out of someone's mouth.

What he's found, among other things, is it's not all done by the ears. A lot of the work takes place between them. Somehow the human brain fills in the blanks and detects very abstract pattern in the raw audio data picked up by the ear and transmitted to the brain.

Hillenbrand punches something into his computer and up pops a visual chart of people pronouncing different vowel sounds. Colored dots differentiate the sounds made by men, women and children. Each vowel sound is clumped in a group with an oval drawn around it. It's easy to see there's a lot of variation within each oval—people say the vowel sound a little differently. And within that group, say for the long vowel sound of E, men are grouped at one end of the oval, children at the other end and women roughly in between. The ovals overlap a lot, too, so that one vowel, as pronounced by one person, sounds a lot like a different vowel pronounced by someone else.

How can we take in such a wide range of audio information and come up with the right vowel, no matter who says it?

Things get more complicated when language is considered. Take English, for example.

“English is a fairly tough case,” Hillenbrand muses, “not as bad as Danish or some other languages. I don't know how those kids ever learn how to talk. But English is pretty tough. It has something like 16 different vowel sounds, depending on how you count them.”

“Many languages get by just fine with a half dozen or even fewer. Spanish, for example, gets by fine with just five vowels. This crowded vowel space makes English a challenging test case for understanding how speech is recognized.”

How do we differentiate them all? Hillenbrand likens speech to music. It's in the flow of the phonic notes and how they run together that lets us understand this melody of speech. He's also found that the ear is pretty good at sorting out sound frequencies and sending the pertinent information on to the brain.

“The ear does for frequencies what a prism does for light,” he explains. “The ear is an acoustical prism.”

Hillenbrand has conducted many of his studies in collaboration with two research associates, Bob Houde, an electrical engineer, and Rob Gayvert, a mathematician and computer scientist. He met both men while working as a research scientist at the Rochester Institute of Technology Research Corp. in 1985. Hillenbrand used to spend a lot of time in Rochester, N.Y., but the three colleagues rarely see each other today, doing most of their communicating via phone and the Internet.

Hillenbrand's latest experiment involves men's and women's voices. He thought it would be easy to transform one into the other by manipulating the pitch and resonance. Record a woman's voice, make it deeper, alter the tonal qualities and it would sound like a man. That worked about 80 percent of the time, but then there was that 20 percent that continued to sound female in spite of the downward frequency shifts. The same kind of thing happened to some men's voices shifted up in frequency to sound like women. Why? Another question awaiting an answer.
Hillenbrand’s work gets ‘Ig Nobel’ treatment

Just thinking about it can give you “the willies.”

Think about fingernails scratching down a dusty chalkboard. It can send chills up your spine.

Dr. James Hillenbrand, whose personal Web site touts his alias as “Dr. Strangenoise,” thinks about it and wonders, why? And when Hillenbrand wonders why something happens, it just may be the start of another study.

What is it about that sound and a few others that make you shiver? Hillenbrand wanted to know. So Hillenbrand, now a WMU researcher and professor of speech pathology, teamed up with two other scientists to try to find the answer.

That bit of research struck a nerve. It even won an award.

“Psychoacoustics of a Chilling Sound” was conducted with Drs. D. Lynn Halpern and Randolph Blake while Hillenbrand was a researcher at Northwestern University. The study last year won an Ig Nobel Award.

Founded in 1991 by science editor Marc Abrahams, the awards shed light on unusual projects being undertaken by researchers across the globe. Nature magazine has said the awards “come with little cash, but much cachet, and reward those research projects that ‘first make people laugh, and then make them think.’” Though Hillenbrand’s study came out decades ago, it was selected as a 2006 Ig Nobel winner.

Hillenbrand says he still doesn’t know exactly why fingernails on a chalkboard put people’s nerves on edge.

“The question was why that sound elicits such a terrible reaction from people,” he says. “We got to thinking about it, and it’s not the only one. There are others that get on people’s nerves. What do they have in common?”

Styrofoam rubbing together and various squeaky metal on metal noises also drive people crazy. The researchers decided the high frequencies of these sounds were what made them so objectionable. So they filtered them out.

“It didn’t work. They manipulated the sounds in other ways. People still complained.

“I think the bottom line is, this is another one that is just psychological rather than strictly acoustic,” Hillenbrand says.

After the study was published in 1986, Hillenbrand was surprised at the reaction it generated.

“I got a flood of e-mails from people about sounds that drive them up a wall,” he recalls. “Ice cubes in a glass, two pieces of cardboard rubbing together. Several people mentioned pulling cotton out of a bottle of aspirin. And that hardly even makes a sound.”
Teachers from around nation experience America’s agrarian past firsthand

About 120 K-12 teachers from around the state and nation took a step back in time last summer as part of an American history workshop that had them doing farm work using many of the same tools and techniques American pioneers used.

The teachers were in southwest Michigan in July experiencing firsthand the rigors and rewards of such activities as harvesting loose hay and plowing a field with oxen.

“The American Farm in U.S. History” workshop was offered in three week-long sessions and was made possible through a $250,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant to project directors Dr. Lynne Heasley, WMU associate professor of history and environmental studies, and Dr. Fred Dobney, WMU professor of history.

The curriculum was developed by the Department of History and Tillers International, a local educational charity. The grant is part of an NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture initiative that supports workshops for K-12 educators. Until now, the funded workshops have focused on specific historical landmarks. The WMU workshop took a much broader view.

“The Landmarks grants are very competitive, so we were competing with projects at Monticello and Pearl Harbor, while our landmark is the American farm,” says Heasley. “This was a research-intensive, hands-on professional development that gave participants new ways of looking at agricultural and environmental history. We had teachers from as far away as Hawaii sign up to come to the Kalamazoo area and work outside, on a farm, in July.”

The central site for the workshops was a 450-acre Tillers International farm in nearby Scotts, Mich. Tillers works to preserve as well as enhance low-capital technologies and land uses that will increase the sustainability of rural communities worldwide. The organization studies and combines the best agricultural practices and implements of yesterday and today, then teaches the resulting new strategies to people from around the globe.

Workshop participants received training in animal-powered agricultural methods, household gardening, historical machinery and tools, and farm building design under the tutelage of farmers, artisans, teamsters, architectural restoration specialists, living history museum curators and archivists. Specific activities included designing Victory Gardens appropriate for school settings; taking field trips to a nearby winery and the Benton Harbor Fruit Market, which is the world’s largest cash-to-grower produce market; and working with personnel from WMU’s Archives and Regional History Collections. An acclaimed group of rural historians, some of whom are farmers and gardeners as well as scholars, made up the workshop faculty.

Project takes economist to Madagascar

Dr. Christine Moser, an assistant professor of economics, was named a U.S. Embassy Science Fellow last year, and she has been functioning as an agricultural policy advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Madagascar.

Moser has been working on a U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded study aimed at finding ways to improve agricultural production technology and market capacity in the rice and potato markets.

A WMU faculty member since 2005, Moser teaches undergraduate environmental economics and graduate development economics. Her research interests include rural markets and market policy in Africa, agricultural technologies in developing countries, and sustainable agriculture and energy sources.

Most of her current research is taking place in Madagascar, where she focuses on markets and market integration over space, impact analysis of infrastructure, and public goods and deforestation.

Moser has been a consultant to the World Bank, helping design an impact analysis of bank-funded infrastructure projects, and the World Wildlife Fund, collaborating with an international team to model, predict and map forest loss in Madagascar to help the wildlife fund establish conservation priorities.
WMU telecommunications student takes top prize at national conference

A WMU student won the top prize in a case study contest at a recent business telecommunications conference. Steven Gole, a senior from Troy, Mich., majoring in telecommunications and information management, won the Best Student Case Study Award at the 2007 International Telecommunications Education and Research Association conference in Louisville, Ky. Gole was among four WMU telecommunications and information management majors who presented at the conference.

“We’re so proud of all four students for taking the initiative to participate in this event,” says Dr. Mike Tarn, co-director of the TIM program and professor of computer information systems. “Their successes, and Steven’s top paper, are outstanding for such a young program. All four students represented the best of WMU with their professionalism, knowledge and experience.”

The contest was very competitive, says Dr. Richard Gershon, co-director of the program and professor of communication.

Undergrad business students wrest third place from international graduate teams

Four WMU undergraduate business students recently took third place in a new international competition, beating many teams composed of graduate students.

The students are all enrolled in the University’s renowned Integrated Supply Management Program. They competed in late June in the first International ERP Simulation Game.

The contest is a competitive business simulation game created at HEC Montreal, Canada’s first management school, using SAP’s Enterprise Resource Planning—ERP—software as the interface. The software is used by a majority of Fortune 500 companies, including Kellogg and Whirlpool, to operate their businesses. Officially known as HEC Montreal since 2002, the formal, full name of the school that held the inaugural event is Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales.

In the game, students use the SAP software to design, produce and market different brands of muesli cereal. The ERP simulation game creates a virtual marketplace where customers buy cereal from the team that has the combination of ingredients and price that best matches the virtual customer’s preferences. The team that generates the most profit during the game is the winner.

Members of the WMU team were: Andrea Blankers of Portage, Mich., a member of the WMU Lee Honors College; Danielle Drabek of Canton, Mich.; Andrew Sarkipato of Kalamazoo; and Elizabeth Willyard of Grandville, Mich.

“We’re so proud of all four students for taking the initiative to participate in this event,” says Dr. Mike Tarn, co-director of the TIM program and professor of computer information systems. “Their successes, and Steven’s top paper, are outstanding for such a young program. All four students represented the best of WMU with their professionalism, knowledge and experience.”

The contest was very competitive, says Dr. Richard Gershon, co-director of the program and professor of communication.

WMU team of (from left) Andrea Blankers, Danielle Drabek, Elizabeth Willyard, Andrew Sarkipato

College; Danielle Drabek of Canton, Mich.; Andrew Sarkipato of Kalamazoo; and Elizabeth Willyard of Grandville, Mich.

Except for WMU, all teams consisted of MBA students. While the competition was conducted at HEC Montreal, most teams, including WMU’s, competed online. A team from HEC Montreal finished first, while a joint HEC Montreal and University of Cincinnati team took second.
**The Lee Baker Farm**, with its Greek Revival farmhouse and remaining two acres, is a laboratory where WMU students have been living since 2003 while researching and demonstrating environmental sustainability projects that benefit local residents.

John Gibbs bought the farm in 1832 and is thought to have built the 2,100-square-foot house in 1853-54. The home, now called the Gibbs House for Environmental Research and Education, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The same year, WMU dedicated the farmland to Lee O. Baker. Baker, who chaired WMU's Department of Agriculture for 23 years, managed the property for teaching and research and was a longtime occupant of Gibbs House.

WMU acquired the farm in 1959 from the state-operated psychiatric hospital in Kalamazoo. Two similarly operated parcels, the Asylum Lake property and Colony Farm Orchard, were deeded to the University in the 1970s. Baker managed all three parcels, collectively known as the University Farm.

In 2000, most of the Baker farmland was used to create WMU’s Parkview Campus, which encompasses the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences campus as well as the Business Technology and Research Park.

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**University welcomes returning military veterans with ‘mini GI Bill’**

U.S. military veterans leaving active duty can get a financial break to enroll in college, thanks to a tuition assistance program at WMU that supports new or returning students who are veterans during their first semester on campus and offers them in-state tuition rates.

WMU's Returning Veterans Tuition Assistance Program is an effort initiated by the University’s trustees and adopted by the WMU board. The program is designed to help veterans from across the country by allowing them to enroll and begin college coursework while they wait for their Veterans Administration benefits to begin. After an initial semester of tuition assistance, those enrolling through the program will pay in-state tuition rates.

“We wanted to find a way to thank our veterans and help them make a quick transition to college life,” says Dan Pero, chair of the WMU Board of Trustees. “We looked at several options, and this is the one that will be most effective in supporting veterans as they begin school. The tuition assistance will head off the kind of cash flow problems that are typical and often delay newly discharged servicemen and women from enrolling in school and moving ahead with their career plans.”

The program covers tuition not covered by the other tuition-specific programs for which some veterans are eligible. Those include tuition assistance provided through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, State Education Reimbursement Program or Army College Educational Benefits. Students must be eligible for VA benefits, which are expected to pick up tuition costs in subsequent semesters.

To be eligible for the program, students must be discharged or released from active duty for purposes other than training within six months of the beginning of the semester. Those eligible may receive tuition assistance for only one semester. Open to returning veterans from any state, those who enroll at WMU will be classified as Michigan residents for tuition purposes after their first semester.

Launched in April, the program has attracted national attention and has sparked an Ithaca, N.Y. community college to use it as a model for launching a similar program.
Willard A. “Bill” Brown, Jr., ’53, needs little introduction to the Western Michigan University community. He played for the Bronco gridiron squad from 1950-53 and was named the team’s most valuable player in 1952. He is one of WMU’s most well-known benefactors and volunteers.

A member of the WMU Foundation Board of Directors since 1983, he was past chair of the Board’s Real Estate Committee. It was through Brown’s vision and leadership that the Bill Brown Alumni Football Center campaign was successfully completed, and WMU’s top volunteer honor bears his name—the Bill Brown Award for Exemplary Service and Leadership.

It is no surprise then, that Brown is a frontrunner in finding innovative ways to support his alma mater. He has created two charitable remainder unitrusts (CRUTs) that provide WMU with significant support through his estate plan. The CRUTs provide Brown with an income stream during his lifetime, with the remainder of the proceeds coming to WMU at the time of his passing. Although the deferred gifts support many campus priorities, a central focus is the creation of an endowed faculty chair in the Haworth College of Business.

“I was in the first class that graduated from WMU with a B.S. in business administration,” Brown said. “It has been a pleasure to watch the growth of the Haworth College of Business, which has had fine leadership throughout its history. My investment in the business school is an indication of the value that I place in my WMU education from years ago, and the promise that I believe Western holds in training the business leaders of the future.”

CRUTs offer many advantages to a donor. Since they are tax exempt, savings can be significant. Brown’s first trust was funded with highly appreciated securities, while the second trust was funded with income producing real estate. In both cases, Brown was able to avoid capital gains taxes while receiving an income tax deduction. Unitrusts provide additional benefits for the donor because their payouts are adjusted annually, providing a “hedge against inflation” and may be more advantageous for some donors than fixed-rate deferred gift vehicles like charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder annuity trusts.

“In looking at my overall portfolio as I neared retirement, I reviewed some of the assets I didn’t really need and was able to turn them into an income stream, while at the same time helping the University,” he said. “It seemed like a ‘no brainer’ to me.”

Today, Brown remains active in real estate work, but notes that he is slowly “drifting” toward retirement in Harbor Springs, Mich., where he enjoys golf and boating.
Alumni are listed under their preferred class years. Names preceded by a circle (•) denote membership in the WMU Alumni Association.

Don’t hesitate to contact us when you have news to share in our classnotes or obituaries sections. For classnotes, make sure to include your name (first, middle, last, maiden), address, degree(s), year(s) graduated and phone number or e-mail address. We will publish your photo as space permits.

Write: Classnotes/Obituaries
WMU Magazine
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E-mail: dev-alumnote@wmich.edu

1949 to 1984

• **Barbara Lett Simmons,** BA ’49, was inducted into the Washington, DC, Hall of Fame, which honors residents for excellence in community service, dedication and leadership.

• **Oscar J. Frangquist,** BS ’55, was inducted into the Ironwood (MI) Area Sports Hall of Fame for his outstanding participation in track, tennis and football. He was a teacher, coach and administrator in Roseville, MI, for 42 years.

• **Konrad V. Lubas,** BA ’55, has joined Lakeview Family Care in Paw Paw, MI, as a general surgeon.

• **Jack L. Moore,** BA ’59, was honored with the California Society of Anesthesiologists’ Distinguished Service Award at its annual meeting in San Diego.

• **Constance M. Slack,** BS ’61, is a resident artist at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA, and recently exhibited her abstract works in a show titled “A Splash of Red.”

• **Bette L. Goodman,** BS ’63, MA ’68, was elected president of the International Society for Business Education in July 2006 and recently attended the 79th International SIEC/ISBE conference in Vienna, Austria. She is a professor and academic advisor of information systems at Mott Community College in Flint, MI.

• **David L. Reinhart,** BS ’64, MA ’71, has retired after 38 years as principal, teacher and central office administrator in Jackson (MI) Public Schools.

• **David L. Jordan,** BS ’65, has retired after 30 years in education, most recently as assistant principal from Van Elementary in Rensselaer, IN.

• **Phillip J. Booth,** BS ’66, is showing his artwork at the East Lansing (MI) Public Library. He is a retired football and baseball coach.

• **Martin E. Chard,** BS ’67, is retiring after 40 years in education, most recently as the superintendent of Union City (MI) Community Schools.

• **John T. Groves,** BA ’67, is dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Clarion (PA) University.

• **James P. Hickey,** BA ’69, national correspondent for ABC News, was the commencement speaker in May at the Monmouth University graduation ceremony in West Long Branch, NJ.

• **James J. Donoghue,** BBA ’70, was inducted into WMU’s Marketing Alumni Hall of Fame. He is the general manager of InterShore, the leading producer of conferences for the financial communities of individual investors, traders and financial advisors, based in Sarasota, FL.

• **L. Gary Lamit,** BS ’70, is the author of a new handbook for engineering managers and professionals in the design and manufacturing industries, titled “Moving from 2D to 3D CAD for Engineering Design: Challenges and Opportunities.” He is an instructor and CAD department coordinator at De Anza College in Cupertino, CA.

• **Michael D. McClintic,** BA ’70, MA ’72, EdD ’75, has been named vice president of the workforce development division of ACT (formerly American College Testing) in Iowa City, IA.

• **Dan Moore,** BA ’70, is the executive director of the Utica (MI) Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence.

• **Dale V. Conti,** BA ’71, has retired after 33 years of teaching primarily fourth grade from the Pinckney (MI) Community School District.

• **Merry E. Eason,** BA ’71, MA ’76, director of technology for Harper Creek Community Schools in Battle Creek, MI, was named the 2007 Technology Director of the Year by the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning.

• **William C. Hartzell,** BA ’71, MA ’76, is the superintendent of Mayville (MI) Community Schools.

• **John A. Kriekard,** MA ’71, has retired after 36 years in education from Paradise Valley Unified School District in Phoenix, AZ, where he served as superintendent.

• **Karl W. Linebaugh,** BBA ’72, president of Chemical Bank in Big Rapids, MI, has celebrated 35 years of service.

• **Linda M. Owen,** BA ’72, received the Midland (MI) Board of Realtors’ Professional Admiration Award for her outstanding professionalism and continued board activity.

• **Joanne M. Carl,** BS ’73, has retired from Coon Rapids (MN) School District where she was the middle school librarian and media specialist.

• **Jody V. Byland,** MA ’74, the principal at Daisy Brook Elementary School, has retired after more than 35 years at Fremont (MI) Public Schools.

• **Keith G. Harrison,** MA ’74, is the principal of KGH Environmental PLC and is a science advisor for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a research and educational institute headquartered in Midland, MI.

• **Timothy E. Bradley,** BS ’75, was recently chosen as a Distinguished Educator for Lapeer (MI) Community Schools. He teaches business classes and coaches varsity baseball and golf at Lapeer West High School.

• **Gary Reck,** MA ’75, has retired after 19 years with Bayer MaterialScience LLC in Pittsburgh. He most recently served as vice president of human resource strategy.

• **John A. Kennett,** BA ’76, MA ’82, is a sports writer for the Midland (MI) Daily News.

• **Madelyn Ann Porter,** BS ’76, was one of the recipients of the Women Who Make Magic Awards, presented by WMGC-FM (Magic 105.1) in Detroit. She also recently received the YWCA of Western Wayne County’s Women of Achievement Award in the arts and communication category.

• **Dennis N. Neubacher,** BSE ’77, pilots WXYZ-TV’s News Chopper 7, for the ABC affiliate in Detroit.

• **Michael J. Staszewski,** BSE ’77, is a senior mechanical engineer at URS Corp. Great Lakes, an architectural firm in Grand Rapids, MI.

• **Richard J. Syrek,** MA ’77, EdD ’90, is the superintendent of Saginaw (MI) Intermediate School District.

• **Ronald Sompels,** BBA ’78, is executive-in-charge of retail dealership services for Crowe Chizek and Co. LLC, a public accounting and consulting firm in Tampa, FL.

• **Roger L. Cornelius,** MA ’79, has retired after 32 years of teaching and coaching tennis at Gulf Lake High School in Richland, MI.

• **Samuel R. Germany Jr.,** MM ’81, a professor of music at Cedar Valley College in Lancaster, TX, was named a 2007 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor, an annual award to Texas professors for superior teaching at the college level.

• **Ronald L. Herron,** BBA ’81, is the superintendent of Marcellus (MI) Community Schools.

• **Gregory M. Barrett,** BS ’82, is the energy and utility operations director for General Motors Powertrain. Among positions that report to him are the energy conservation engineer for service parts operations and the store utility managers for Milford Proving, Grounds and Warren Technical Center.

• **Abby G. DeShane,** BA ’82, an instructor and reference librarian, has been named manager of instructional and career resources at St. Louis Community College’s new Wildwood, MO, campus.

• **Yvonne M. Wichtner-Zaia,** BS ’82, has been appointed Alcona County Michigan State University Extension director. She will provide administrative and managerial leadership and will conduct educational programs in economic development.

• **Howard L. Penrod,** MPA ’83, is the chief operating officer for the Monroe (MI) County Road Commission.

Hickey ’69

Kriekard ’71

26 www.wmich.edu/magazine
Fastball makes WMU pitcher one of major league ‘boys of summer’

Bronco standout makes move up to the pitching mound for the San Francisco Giants

If the lure of college soccer had won over baseball a few years ago, Pat Misch might never have turned into a two-time All Mid-American Conference baseball honoree at WMU.

And there is an even better chance the multi-sport talent would not be among just a handful of WMU alumni now working in major league baseball organizations, having debuted as a major league pitcher with the San Francisco Giants in 2006.

Misch said his fastball was clocked at about 79 miles per hour when he joined the Broncos straight out of high school in 1999. That is hardly fast enough to draw attention from professional scouts, but Misch kept working at his craft.

“My arm got stronger and stronger,” says the 6-foot-2 lefty who turned 26 on Aug. 18. His fastball is now clocked in the low 90s.

Misch, who holds the Bronco single-season (95) and single-game (19) strikeout records, improved so much he was drafted in the fifth round by the Houston Astros after his junior season at WMU in 2002. But he said no.

“I wanted to get close to (getting) my degree,” said Misch, who is a few credits shy of a bachelor’s degree in business. “I loved school.”

The Northbrook, Ill., native, was drafted in the seventh round by the Giants after his senior season in 2003. He worked his way up through the farm system, and made his major league debut in a game on Sept. 21, 2006.

“It was in Milwaukee, so my whole family was there,” he says. Misch struck out the first batter he faced in that major league game.

Misch began the 2007 season with Class AAA Fresno, the top farm team for the Giants. He was called up three times during the season from Fresno to the Giants. He started on the mound for the Giants Aug. 4 at San Diego, giving him a front-row seat to history the day teammate Barry Bonds hit the 755th home run of his career to tie the record held by Hank Aaron.

Bonds later broke the all-time record held by Aaron. And Misch made his second start for the Giants in 2007. Mostly though, he has been used out of the bullpen by Giants manager Bruce Bochy. In games through Sept. 5, Misch was 0-2 with an ERA of 3.47 in 23.1 innings over 14 games, with two starts.

“It was unbelievable,” Misch says of last summer’s experience. “A lot of the other pitchers have been helpful. The Giants are great at developing pitchers.”

His eventful year was scheduled to continue Nov. 10 when Misch planned to get married in the Detroit area to Teresa Hay, a WMU graduate and a former member of the dance team for the Broncos. The two met in a weight room at WMU. Misch, who attended Glenbrook North High near Chicago, now lives in Arizona.
New Life Members

John C. Arndts, BS ’84, has joined the law firm of Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones PLC in its Grand Rapids, MI, office. His practice includes providing general business advice and corporate legal services to public and private companies.

Ronald P. Mindykowski, BS ’84, is the speech and drama coach at Bay City Western High School in Auburn, MI.

Laurie A. Stewart, BS ’84, is the director of L.A. Stewart Presentations, a motivational public speaking and consulting firm based in Kalamazoo.

Anna M. Thompson, MSL ’84, is the executive director of the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts and the Judd and Mary Lou Leighton Director of Performing Arts at the University of Notre Dame.

1985 to 1999

Timothy M. Wittebor, BS ’85, has joined Howard & Howard Attorneys PC in its corporate and real estate group in Bloomfield Hills, MI.

Robin L. Flanagan-Balster, BS ’86, is a professional magician and performs in various shows worldwide for Theatreworks USA, based in New York.

- Kirk A. Hoffman, BBA ’86, has earned the Chartered Financial Consultant designation from the American College in Bryn Mawr, PA. He is the vice president of planning services at King Trust Co. in Spring Arbor, MI.

- William C. Skilling, MA ’86, is the superintendent of Oxford (MI) Area Community Schools.

Maxine L. MacLeod, MA ’87, recently exhibited her artwork at Our Gallery in Pentwater, MI. Her work is included in WMU’s permanent art collection, as well as other private and corporate collections.

Kelly K. Burns, BSE ‘88, has joined Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione, an international intellectual property law firm, in its Ann Arbor, MI, office.

Jerome B. Espy, BS ’88, is vice president of communications for the Midwest division of Comcast, a provider of cable, entertainment and communications products and services, in its Southfield, MI, office.

Deborah K. Kreps, BS ’88, is a graphic designer at LKJ Marketing in Kalamazoo.

Lisa L. Anspaugh, BBA ’90, has been appointed an officer of Fifth Third Bank, Western Michigan. She is a certified public account and portfolio manager.

- Steven A. Marovich, MA ’90, the assistant athletic director/sports information director at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, was awarded eight national publication citations by the College Sports Information Directors of America at a June workshop in San Diego.


- Kyle D. Caldwell, BS ’91, MA ’93, is the president and chief executive officer of the Michigan Nonprofit Association, a statewide professional trade organization with offices in Detroit and Lansing.

- Steven A. Marovich, MA ’90, the assistant athletic director/sports information director at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, was awarded eight national publication citations by the College Sports Information Directors of America at a June workshop in San Diego.

Caldwell ’91

Anspaugh ’89

Linda T. Dunn
Kalamazoo

Michaela L. Dutton
BS ’89, Elkhart, IN

Craig M. Farmer
BA ’10, Parma, MI

Mark J. Galvin
BA ’77, Stafford, VA

Eric J. Host
BBA ’98, Clarksville, TN

Jaimie L. Host
BS ’98, Clarisville, TN

Amber Kanski
BA ’01, Chelseafield, MI

Justin J. Knight
BS ’02, Kalamazoo

Elizabeth M. Leak
BS ’02, Chicago

Christopher J. Liddell
BBA ’96, Kalamazoo

Suzanne Liddell
BS ’97, MBA ’01, Kalamazoo

Caryla L. Marsh
BS ’00, Portage, MI

Betty Lee C. Ongley
BS ’47, MA ’58, Portage, MI

Leslie Lee Roell
BS ’53, MA ’72, South Haven, MI

J. Kevin Rowlinson
BBA ’73, Maitland, FL

Lucinda A. Sebalb
BA ’73, Union City, MI

Elaine C. Smith
BS ’75, Alpena, MI

Jessie J. Storey-Fry
BA ’68, Lansing, MI

Thomas L. Titcomb
BBA ’65, Harbor Springs, MI

Andrew J. VanDoren
BA ’80 Union City, MI

Patricia Van Volkingburg
BS ’70, Ann Arbor, MI

Corey A. Watt
BA ’99, Coralville, IA

Geraldine S. Williams
BS ’84, Portage, MI

A.J. Willitt
BBA ’95, Mattawan, MI

Nicolette T. Willitt
BS ’95, MA ’05, Mattawan, MI

William L. Jaconette, BBA ’91, is the private banking team lead for Fifth Third Bank’s mid-Michigan region, encompassing the greater Lansing, MI, market.

Jennifer E. Luzar, BA ’92, has been promoted to associate professor of language arts at Northwood University in Midland, MI.

Stephen C. Talaga, BM ’92, MM ’94, an adjunct professor of music at Aquinas and Hope colleges, performs with two jazz groups, Minds Eye Quartet and the Steve Talaga Trio, in Grand Rapids, MI.

Gregg R. Jankowski, BS ’93, is the chief technology officer and head of practice development for Conexio Technology Solutions, a full service information technology management firm in Madisonville, OH.

Ron Jelinek, MA ’93, Michigan Senate member from Three Oaks, MI, was the keynote speaker for the 40th commencement ceremony at Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac.

Kristine L. Kounetis, BBA ’93, is a member of the Mattawan (MI) Consolidated School District board of education.

Jeffrey A. Muck, BS ’93, is the director of recreation and community education at Huron Valley School District in Highland, MI.

Richard A. Niesen, BBA ’93, has joined the accounting firm of Seber Tans PLC in Kalamazoo.

Matthew V. Downs, BBA ’94, is a senior portfolio manager and trader for Blue Water Asset Management LLC, based in Battle Creek, MI.

Ronald J. Moore, BBA ’94, is the information technology manager for First Community Federal Credit Union for Southwest Michigan.

Deborah J. Williamson, BA ’94, is a shareholder in the law firm of Foster, Swift, Collins, & Smith PC in Kalamazoo.

John Minichillo, MFA ’95, had his short story, “Blind Man in the Halls of Justice,” published in “Next Stop Hollywood,” an annual publication created by movie industry insiders as possible sources for movies. John teaches fiction writing at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

Douglas A. Edema, MPA ’96, is the chief operating officer for St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital in Howell, MI.

Paul K. Kokales, BS ’96, is the clinical manager of the Battle Creek (MI) Health System Wound Healing Center.

Patrick D. Hitchingham, BS ’97, has joined Anderson Insurance Agency Inc. in Jackson, MI.

Kevin R. Kobiela, BBA ’97, has been appointed an officer of Fifth Third Bank-Western Michigan. He is a portfolio manager for the bank’s commercial line of business.
Peludat-Beatty ’98

Debra J. Peludat-Beatty. BBA ’97, was named an officer of Fifth Third Bank Western Michigan. She is a portfolio manager for the Lansing market.

David C. Carew. BM ’98, director of choral activities at Southwestern Michigan College, this summer directed The Dogwood Chorale and was one of the hosts of the Dogwood Chorale Camp in Dowagiac, MI.

Chris W. Hodshire. BS/W ’98, received an honorable mention for the University of Michigan Student Legacy Award, part of the Michigan Leadership Award program.

Gerald Son-Non-Quet Gould. BA ’98, recently presented an overview of Great Lakes Indian tribes at Delta College in University Center, MI. His presentation was a preview to a course he will be teaching in the fall.

Lynn M. (Templin) Townsend. MA ’98, is the co-author of a book titled “50 Dos for Everyday Leadership: Practical Lessons Learned the Hard Way (So You Don’t Have To),” used as a leadership tool by her employer, Humana Energy in Marshall, MI.

Vivian D. Barnett. PhD ’99, is director of counseling services at North Carolina A & T State University in Greensboro.

Guy Reece. MA ’99, is a physics teacher at Spring Lake (MI) High School.

2000 to 2007

Aaron J. Brown. BS ’00, is a physical education teacher at the Charyl Stockwell Academy in Howell, MI.

Larry A. Boekeloo. MPA ’01, is director of business services for WMU’s Snackuse Health Center.

Michael J. Brickley. BBA ’03, has joined McKenzie-Price Insurance Agency in Muskegon, MI.

Amy Veurink. BA ’01, is an international strategy analyst on the Asia/LatinCaribbean team for Delta Airlines in Atlanta.

Amy Lynn DeShon. MPA ’02, is the executive director of the American Community Gardening Association, a bi-national nonprofit membership organization of professionals, volunteers and supporters of community greening in urban and rural communities. Its offices are located in Columbus, OH, and she resides in Bay City, MI.

Tyler B. Lesneski. BBA ’02, is a pharmaceutical sales representative and resides in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

Ryan Traver. BBA ’02, is a brand manager for BluFish Consulting, an advertising and marketing firm in Marshall, MI.

Mathew S. Leland. BFA ’03, a musician and songwriter, has produced his own album titled “Another Day.” He is a producer/engineer in New York.

Danielle L. Mulholland. BBA ’03, has been appointed an officer of Fifth Third Bank. She is a relationship manager for the bank’s Lansing (MI) Private Banking Group.

Katie A. Beasley. BS ’04, is a third and fourth grade teacher at Hardy Elementary School in South Lyon, MI, and was recently chosen as Teacher of the Month.

Qaiser Ahmed Chishty. MBA ’04, is a manager for IRI Information Resources Inc., a provider of enterprise market information solutions and services for manufacturers, retailers and healthcare providers, headquartered in Chicago.

Ryan P. Findlay. BA ’04, is associate national legislative counsel for the Michigan Farm Bureau in Lansing, MI. He will be responsible for MFB lobbying activities on national and international issues.

Steven J. Liggins. BBA ’04, is a staff accountant at Yeo & Yeo PC CPA in Kalamazoo.

Heidi M. Purdy. MA ’05, is an academic advisor in the College of Natural Science at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

Samuel T. Kremer. BBA ’05, is an account executive at Newhall Klein, a branding, marketing and design firm in Kalamazoo.

Michael E. Kumeisha. BA ’05, is a Hazel Park (MI) police officer.

Jonathan M. Sanborn. BBA ’05, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones Investments in its Battle Creek, MI, office.

Geraldine K. Baarson. MPA ’06, is the executive director of outpatient and ancillary services at Battle Creek (MI) Health System.

Halbert L. Bates Jr. BA ’06, recently appeared on the NBC television drama “ER.”

Brian J. Bellware. BA ’06, is the owner of Platinum Painting Services in Kalamazoo.

Sarah E. Cilla. BBA ’06, is an administrative assistant in the Chicago office of BSA LifeStructures, which designs healthcare, education, research and technology facilities.

Michael L. Corwin Jr. BSE ’06, is a chemical engineer for ThermalTech Engineering, a mechanical and electrical consulting firm, with offices in Richland, MI, and Cincinnati. He will work at both locations.

Nathan B. Cronenwett. BSE ’06, is an electrical engineer for ThermalTech Engineering, a mechanical and electrical consulting firm, with offices in Richland, MI, and Cincinnati. He will work at both locations.

Ryan A. Frontczak. BS ’06, is the varsity volleyball coach at Dowagiac (MI) Union High School.

Aaron Gilbert. BS ’06, is an engineer at Delphi in Saginaw, MI.

Molley E. Harvey. BA ’06, has been selected by faculty judges to present her paper, which examines the concentration of negative words in English and explores possible reasons for this tendency, at the 2007 Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in Pittsburgh.

Laura R. Macks. BS ’06, is the owner of Crazed and Rip Girl boutiques in Pentwater, MI. She presented her second fashion show, Fusion, this summer.

Ronda C. Miller. MA ’06, is an admissions representative at Olivet (MI) College. She is responsible for recruiting prospective minority students.

Tracy L. Milliman. MSA ’06, has joined the Kalamazoo office of Yeo & Yeo PC as a staff accountant.

Nathan L. Oliver. BS ’06, is the resource room teacher at Marshall (MI) High School.

David L. Rich. DPA ’06, has been promoted to associate professor of public administration and political science at Cedarville (OH) University.

Gina M. Ross. BS ’06, a health education teacher at White Lake (MI) Community Education, recently competed in the Blox 5K Triathlon in Muskegon, MI.

Heidi Strock. BA ’06, is the assistant manager of sales and souvenirs for the Toledo (OH) Mud Hens baseball team.

Peter R. Stehouwer. BA ’06, is a staff assistant to U.S. Rep. Peter Hoekstra in Washington, DC.

Juliane Wrobel. BS ’06, is an advertising representative for The Fort Morgan (CO) Times newspaper.

Timothy C. Nicaisse. BSN ’07, is an extern at Battle Creek (MI) Health System.

Bradley J. Post. BA ’07, recently displayed his artwork at the Kalamazoo Public Library, as part of the June Art Hop.

Graham J. Sanford. BS ’07, presented his original designs at his second year fashion show, Fusion, in Pentwater, MI. He has done freelance work for Bravo’s, Project Runway and CNBC.

Amy E. Stump. BA ’07, is director of media relations for the International Hockey League in Rochester, MI.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Vigneault</td>
<td></td>
<td>1968, MA</td>
<td>88, Apr. 8, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith D. Dossin</td>
<td></td>
<td>1969, MA</td>
<td>69, Jan. 6, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary A. Johnson</td>
<td></td>
<td>1969, MA</td>
<td>78, Apr. 13, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther Warshawsky</td>
<td></td>
<td>1971, MA</td>
<td>75, July 5, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol A. Hulscher</td>
<td></td>
<td>1974, MA</td>
<td>73, June 13, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rita W. Walters</td>
<td></td>
<td>1974, MA</td>
<td>77, July 7, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eilen G. (Brunckhorst)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1975, MA</td>
<td>82, June 24, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard W. Willis</td>
<td></td>
<td>1975, MA</td>
<td>87, Apr. 18, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phillip G. Ackerman</td>
<td></td>
<td>1976, MA</td>
<td>82, Apr. 2, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerard P. Kopczynski</td>
<td></td>
<td>1976, MA</td>
<td>69, June 2, 2007</td>
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introduced the two students to her husband. The Dunns befriended the students, drove them to their overnight accommodation in town and

arranged to help one move into Davis Hall the following day—Sunday. They even took the student shopping at Target and T.J. Maxx to buy the basics for settling into a standard but sparsely furnished residence hall.

“She didn’t even have a shower curtain,” he noted. “And she didn’t know where they could buy one. For us these were simple things, but for young students from another country it was daunting.”

By Monday morning, Dunn was working on a letter to campus faculty and staff, urging them to be on the lookout for other students who might need help or just a friendly face.

For Dunn, that encounter sums up the potential he sees in every student interaction and in being an educator.

“It’s such a personal thing. We gave an opportunity to have such an influence, and small things make all the difference,” he says. “I have the honor and privilege of serving as president and I always have to be thoughtful and cognizant of that.”

To read President Dunn’s first State of the University address, go to www.wmich.edu/president/messages.

Story by Cheryl Roland.
Photos by John Gilroy, Mike Lanka and John Lacko.
Engineering group takes national championship

A WMU engineering team took its hydraulic bicycle to Cleveland in July and brought home $10,000 and a national championship trophy, after competing against top engineering schools from around the nation.

The student team won the third Chainless Challenge, sponsored by Parker Hannifin Corp. The competition challenges students nationwide to be innovative in the design and development of a bicycle that transfers the rider’s power from the pedal to the driving wheel without using a traditional chain or direct-drive mechanism.

The WMU team won the overall championship, which was based on a 12-mile endurance race. The team also took home top awards for design safety and reliability. Team members were mechanical engineering graduate students Manik Kapoor and Phani Chandar Sree and industrial education undergraduate Francis Schlaud.

The team competed against engineering teams from schools that included California State Polytechnic, Cleveland State and Purdue universities as well as the universities of Cincinnati, Illinois-Champaign Urbana and Wisconsin-Madison.

In addition to the endurance race, bicycle designs had to survive a 100-meter sprint circuit and the judges’ assessment of design ingenuity and novelty, reliability and safety, and workmanship. Relying on performance of the bike rather than the physical endurance of the rider was the key to WMU’s success this year, says Dr. Alamgir Choudhury, associate professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering who advised the team with his colleague Dr. Pavel Ikonomov.

To prepare for the competition, the WMU team reduced the overall weight of its bike and revamped the gear train to handle a variety of road conditions. “Our bike was the only bike that could complete the 12-mile race course without being pushed,” said Choudhury. The WMU bike was the lone survivor of the endurance race and completed the hilly course in just over two and one-half hours.

The WMU bike design was based on a design prototype from a WMU senior design project and developed in the engineering college’s Parker Motion and Control Lab, funded by the competition’s corporate sponsor.

Incoming freshman musician wins prestigious international solo competition

Trombone player Hana Beloglavec stepped into her first-ever Western Michigan University music class in September with a sparkling new instrument beside her and a significant accomplishment behind her.

The recent graduate of Kalamazoo’s Loy Norrix High School, a member of the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra and new freshman at WMU claimed first place in this year’s Gilberto Gagliardi/Weril Trombone Competition. The competition, which is sponsored by the International Trombone Association, held its finals last month in Las Vegas. Included in Beloglavec’s grand-prize award was a new Weril trombone.

Dr. Stephen Wolfinbarger, WMU associate professor of music and Beloglavec’s private instructor for the past year and a half, says the Gagliardi is the most respected student solo competition for trombonists.

“It is for those students of the highest caliber and includes the toughest international competition,” he says. “The list of alternates who didn’t make the finals includes names from the most prestigious music schools in the world.”

In addition to winning the 2007 Gagliardi Competition, Beloglavec finished second in this year’s National Trombone Solo Competition, held in Washington, D.C., and was runner-up in last year’s Gagliardi Competition, held in Birmingham, England. Locally, she won the 2006 Kalamazoo Concert Band Youth Solo Competition, the 2006 Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition and the 2007 Grand Rapids Symphonic Band Youth Soloist Competition.

“Some students have talent but no determination. Some have a great work ethic and drive, but less natural ability,” Wolfinbarger says. “Hana really has it all together. Rarely have I taught a student who loves a challenge more than she does.”
The WMU Alumni Association would like to congratulate the 2007 Legacy Award recipients. Each year, since 1990, the Association has provided awards to the children, stepchildren, grandchildren and stepgrandchildren of WMU Alumni Association members. The criteria was expanded in 2006 to also include siblings of Association members. To date, 134 awards have been distributed through the application process with a maximum benefit of up to $4,000.

The WMU Alumni Association is proud of the Legacy Award recipients and wishes them well as they begin their academic careers at Western Michigan University. The Association would also like to thank the families of the Legacy Award recipients for making Western Michigan University a family tradition.

Join the WMU Alumni Association online at www.wmich.edu/alumni or call us at (269) 387-8777. It’s a great time to join and show that you’re...
The tools and results of Gwen Frostic’s famed block print art are prominently displayed at WMU’s Richmond Center for Visual Arts. The Frostic School of Art is named for the late WMU alumna.