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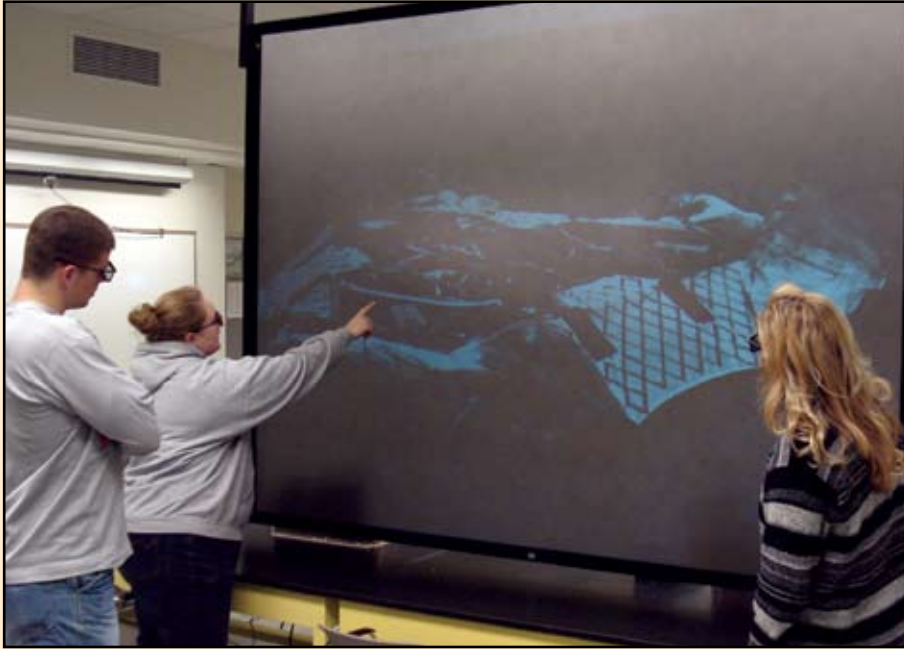
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Tech Profile **GEOWall BRINGS LEARNING TO LIFE FOR GEOSCIENCES**



GEOS 1000 students (from left) Megan Murray, Timothy Hiller and Cheryl Peters view 3-D images of the Mars Rover Expedition. The GeoWall allows students to use stereo-pair images in three dimensions to view the surface structure of Mars.

On the first day of class a good visual imagination used to be a requirement at the Department of Geosciences at Western Michigan University. It used to be that students and professors relied on the 2-D representations through maps and profiles that were occasionally enhanced by physical models.

Today, the GeoWall, an eight foot by six foot rear-projection passive

stereo wall, is being used to visualize, understand, interpret, and test three-dimensional geologic maps.

"The GeoWall system provides 3-D visualization that allows students to comprehend and understand

multi-dimensional systems," explains Christopher Jones, Geosciences graduate student and teaching assistant. "The students have a hard time understanding and visualizing our 3-dimensional world using 2-D pictures in classes and labs. We resolve these issues by bringing the 3-D capabilities into the classrooms. We now have in

place a series of 3-D pictures from the surface of Mars taken from the Rover; a picture of the global distribution of earthquake centers throughout the globe; volcanoes; crystal structures, and a live heart, all in 3-D. Every day

we are adding to our collection."

The GeoWall allows for students to actually see 3-D representations that would typically have to be imagined by the student.

The GeoWall is an eight foot by six foot rear-projection passive stereo wall, which examines subsurface models in a 3-D environment. Images are projected onto the screen from separate projectors. The user wears appropriately polarized glasses, and can see the image in three dimensions.

The GeoWall was introduced in a physical geology class during the fall 2006 semester when students first viewed the GeoWall to help them understand certain topics.

"This really helped students to understand tough Geosciences topics that revolve around a 3-D visual perspective such as plate tectonics, mineral structures, and more," notes Jones. "The next step this semester is to include the GeoWall within the physical geology lecture and then extend it to Earth studies classes to help students get a better visual of what is being discussed in class."

The future is here. Now, instead of relying on their student's imaginations, faculty may use the GeoWall to produce accurate visualization for the discussion.

"Visualizing in 3-D is something that geoscientists are inherently good at, but this can prove difficult for someone without that particular background. This is where the GeoWall comes in. I personally think that the GeoWall will help with the instruction of all Geoscience courses," adds Jones.

TWO FROM COLLEGE NAMED TEACHING EXCELLENCE WINNERS

Drs. Irma M. Lopez, professor of Spanish, and Suhashni “Sushi” Datta-Sandhu, associate professor of political science, have received the WMU Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award. Lopez and Datta-Sandhu will be the first faculty members honored for teaching since 2001, when the last WMU Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award was presented. That program, which began in 1966, has extended the honor to 131 faculty members. In 2006, the new program was launched and will honor up to three full-time faculty members each year.

WMU Interim President **Diether H. Haenicke** presented the awards to Lopez and Datta-Sandhu.

The teaching award carries a one-time cash prize of \$2,000 and a subsequent increase in base salary.

“These awards celebrate teaching, which is the core mission of our University,” says Dr. **Katherine Joslin**, professor of English, chair of the awards committee and a 1997 recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award.

Lopez, a faculty member since 1994, is an expert on Mexican literature and Latin American women writers. She teaches a full range of Spanish language and literature courses, with two-thirds of her teaching at the advanced level. Lopez, who directs WMU’s study abroad program in Queretaro, Mexico, also was praised for her ability to engage students, overcome any fears they have about travel-



Dr. Irma M. Lopez, professor of Spanish, and Dr. Suhashni “Sushi” Datta-Sandhu, associate professor of political science, have received the WMU Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award

ing abroad for language study, and infuse in them an appreciation for Mesoamerican cultures.

A former student who has gone on to a doctoral program at Harvard said the program changed his life and played a key role in the career path he has chosen.

“Her ability to communicate with students on many levels, generate and share enthusiasm for the study of language and culture, and support students’ interests in interdisciplinary research is what truly distinguishes her as an outstanding teacher and mentor,” the student wrote.

Lopez earned her bachelor’s degree from Weber State University in 1987, her master’s from the University of Utah in 1989, and her doctoral degree from the University of Kansas in 1994. She was a teaching assistant at Kansas for five years before joining the WMU faculty.

Datta-Sandhu, a faculty member since 1970, is an expert in the

field of African studies and is the creator and supervisor of WMU’s study abroad program in Cape Town, South Africa. She teaches in the area of international and comparative politics, and her offerings include a popular course called Women in Developing Countries.

A former student who has since gone on to a career in film production praised Datta-

Sandhu for her ability to “convert the casual academic passerby” and send him or her away “inspired, enthralled, or otherwise changed for the better” by taking her course.

“Dr. Datta-Sandhu has an uncanny enthusiasm, a flair for Socratic argument, a vast wealth of knowledge and a genuine passion for what she teaches,” he wrote. “Dr. Datta-Sandhu’s class was not about regurgitating a curriculum; it was about changing a local perspective to a global one, and understanding our lives, relationships and notions in the broader context of world and gender history.”

A native of Kenya, Datta-Sandhu first joined the WMU faculty in 1970 as an instructor in the College of General Studies. She earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WMU in 1969 and 1972, respectively, and her doctoral degree from the University of Nairobi in 1979.

Student Profiles **STUDENT AMBASSADORS**

Student Ambassadors play a vital role in communicating the messages of the College of Arts and Sciences to students, parents, faculty, administrators and donors. Their role is to act as goodwill ambassadors on behalf of the College and the University.

In the fall of 2006, the College of Arts and Sciences implemented its first-ever Student Ambassadors program. Students were selected from nominations for their academic achievements and social involvement at the University. Student Ambassadors represent the College of Arts and Sciences at a variety of events, many targeted at recruitment and retention. Among the events they attended this year were Major Excitement, Homecoming, CommUniverCity, Senior Visitation Day, and others.

Student Ambassadors play a vital role in communicating the messages of the College of Arts and Sciences to students, parents, faculty, administrators and donors. Their role is to act as goodwill ambassadors on behalf of the College and the University.

Meet the five outstanding students who were selected as the first Student Ambassadors and see what makes them so special.



Panther Deng Duot (left) chats with a visitor to the College of Arts and Sciences Celebration of Research and Creative Grants reception. Duot received his own \$500 award at the event.

PANTHER DENG DUOT

Panther Deng Duot took an unorthodox approach to a typical students' chronological life. He went back-packing through Sudan Africa first, then began his academic career.

Originally from Sudan, Africa, he was forced to abandon his village of Duk when a militia fighting for the Christian minority attacked and set the village on fire.

"I was confused during the attack and ran in a different direction from my parents," says Duot. "I never saw them again since that attack took place."

Feeling helpless and hopeless, Duot gathered all he could and went in search of help, in search of existence.

"On my journey I spent several days in a jungle where I could only hear the lion's roar while I was on the run for my own life."

While in the jungle, as he suffered alone, without the support of parents, he learned that suffering is the best teacher and necessity is the mother of invention.

After coming to America through a refugee camp, Duot is taking advantage of his golden opportunity where he is attending Western Michigan



Student Ambassador Will Johnson (right) ponders the mysteries of astronomy at Major Excitement, the College of Arts and Sciences informational event for undergraduate students and parents.

University and double majoring in Biology and Biomedical Science.

"Today there has been a great change in my life. I am progressing with my education, I live in a better place, I feel safe and more secure than ever before."

WIL JOHNSON

Wil Johnson didn't always want to be the physics major he is now. Up until the summer before attending WMU, Will had plans to attend Western as a music major.

"My experience at WMU has been nothing short of fantastic," says Johnson. "Studying physics at Western has been very rewarding given the small number of physics students at WMU. There is a high degree of personal attention toward each student."

Shortly after settling into Western's groove, Johnson began to explore the university's organizations and stumbled upon the Sunseeker Solar Car team, where he had a hand in the development of the car.

In the spring of 2006, Johnson was awarded the Lee Honors Col-

lege Undergraduate Research Award for preliminary research in molecular physics for work that would be done in the summer of that year. Working as an intern in 2005 at Western's Accelerator Facility under the guidance of Professor of physics **Nora Berrah** certainly helped develop the skills and knowledge to receive an award of that caliber.

LINDSAY MARTIN

Lindsay Martin graduated in December 2006. Martin majored in Public Relations and was involved in such student organizations as COMMA (the student communication organization) where she served as president. Martin also participated in School of Communication projects like COM Day and COMMA's Tailgate at the Tower during Homecoming weekend.

Just like many of the students presently at WMU, this was not her first choice for schooling.

"My freshman year I attended Grand Valley State University and then transferred

to Western, where I began classes late August 2004," says Martin. "Western seemed to be, and was, a much better fit for my personality and interests. The great, lasting relationships were a very satisfying factor in the switch."

Another way Martin made friends and built relationships was through the many organizations she led or was a part of, including: member of the board of directors for the Intercom/Professional Women Communicators of Kalamazoo, Student Ambassador for the College of Arts & Sciences, member of PRO (Public Relations Organization),



Lindsay Martin graduated in December 2006 from the School of Communication.

and member of the Lambda Pi Eta, Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Societies.

SARA STUART

Sara Stuart is a senior presently majoring in Public History. She is a part of the history honors fraternity Phi Alpha Theta, and has enjoyed helping to revitalize the organization by taking on the vice president and treasurer positions.

Stuart accepted an internship with the State of Michigan's Historical Museum in the state's capital in Lansing, Mich. At the facility, she was involved with cataloging collections and absorbing the deep and rich museum atmosphere.

Stuart also has some volunteer work under her belt (at the Michigan State University Museum's Collections Facility) as she helped clean and catalog collections.

Future plans involve, "...graduating in the Spring of 2007 and either attending graduate school or entering the big world of the adult workforce," according to Stuart.

JAIME TIMMINS

Jaime Timmins hails from South Lyon, Mich. and is majoring in environmental studies and biology, with a minor in chemistry.

Timmins earned the Medallion Scholarship from Western Michigan University and the Robert C. Byrd scholarship from the state of Michigan. In addition to these awards, since beginning college, she has been awarded the Undergraduate Creative Activities Award, membership in Western's Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and membership in the Golden Key International Honor Society.

Timmins "has found Western to be a good fit for her academic needs." She

says, "The school is small enough that I have not felt lost, and large enough that there are always new people to meet. Both in the upper-level classes in my major area and as a member of the Lee Honors College, I have had the opportunity to take classes with a small number of students," Timmins notes. "This has allowed me to get to know both my professors and other students at the university, many of whom have gone on to share several of my classes



Sara Stuart (left) and Jaime Timmins braved the cold to lend a hand at Major Excitement after spending the morning greeting high school seniors and their parents on visitation day.

and to become good friends."

In addition to her classes and research at Western, Timmins is a member of the Bronco Marching Band Drumline. She works part-time at Webster's in the Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Kalamazoo, and taught the marching band percussion at Hartford High School in the fall. In her free time, she plays with a competitive indoor percussion ensemble called Great Lakes Percussion.

Timmins plans to take one or two years to work between her undergraduate and graduate studies because she is unsure exactly what degree she wants to pursue. "In the meantime," she says, "I will be gaining some valuable job experience and marrying my high school sweetheart to whom I recently became engaged."

NAMES AND FACES: PEOPLE

Faces of Success

Mahendra Lawoti, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, has been elected the president of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS) for 2006-2009.



Mahendra Lawoti

The association brings together scholars and others interested in Nepal, Tibet, the Himalayan areas of North India (Kashmir, Ladakh, Sikkim, Himanchal Pradesh, etc.), Bhutan, North Pakistan and adjacent mountainous areas. ANHS is centered in the US, but its membership is worldwide. Members are from North America, East Asia, Oceania, Africa, several European countries and the Himalayan area.

Faces of Success

Ellen Brinkley (English) will travel to New York as a new member of the College Board's English Academic



Ellen Brinkley

Advisory Committee. Brinkley has done some contractual College Board work and now is joining this group which provides guidance

regarding CB programs focused on English. Brinkley is director of the Third Coast Writing Project at Western.

Faces of Success

Michael Barcelona (Chemistry) recently was reappointed to the Michigan Environmental Science Board by Gov. **Jennifer M. Granholm**. The MESB was established in 1992 to



Michael Barcelona

provide sound scientific and technical advice to the Governor on matters affecting the protection and management of Michigan's environment and natural resources.

Faces of Success

Third Coast Writing Project has been awarded a \$15,000 grant by the National Writing Project (Berkeley, Calif.). The award is being used for ongoing work with K-12 teachers in exploring multimedia (especially digital storytelling) as a writing and thinking process that can support learning across the curriculum. Last year TCWP worked with more than 1,300 teachers from southwest Michigan school districts through the summer programs on campus and school-based professional development programs. The young writer's summer program brought more than 90 students and their parents to campus.

Faces of Success

A documentary film by **Linda Borish** (History), entitled "Jewish Women in American

Sport: Settlement Houses to the Olympics," has been completed and was screened by Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel. The film explores the ways Jewish women challenged ethnic and gender barriers and shaped American sports and society and achieved athletic excellence. The film has been cited in an article in "History News Network," circulated nationally.

Faces of Success

Zoann Snyder (Sociology) was awarded the 2006 Outstanding Alumna Award from the



Zoann Snyder

School of Natural and Social Sciences at Wayne State College (in Nebraska). The award is based on career

achievements of alumni who are nominated by faculty at Wayne State. Snyder graduated with a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Wayne State College in 1985.

Faces of Success

Thomas Van Valey (Sociology) has received "The Marvin Olsen Award for Distinguished Service" which is given at the annual meeting of the Michigan Sociological Association. Van Valey has been a member of the MSA for more than 25 years, has served as president and vice-president, and been an elected member of the Council for nearly 10 years. He also served as

program chair all three times that WMU hosted the annual meetings (the most recent being three years ago).

Faces of Success

A cooperative of independent booksellers has chosen a children's book written by **Janet Ruth Heller** (Gender and Women's Studies) a Western Michigan University part-time instructor, as one of its picks for summer 2006. "How the Moon Regained Her Shape" was selected as a Book Sense Pick, a monthly and seasonal selection of eclectic new books chosen by independent booksellers.

Faces of Success

William Merrow and **Deb Stoyanoff** (Mallinson Institute for Science Education) have been named recipients of WMU 2006-2007 "Make a Difference" Awards.

Make a Difference is a campus wide peer-to-peer program that recognizes staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards that go to non-faculty employees who provide exceptional services to the university.



William Merrow



Deb Stoyanoff

IN THE NEWS, ON THE MOVE

Faces of Success

Onaiwu Ogbomo, director, Africana Studies, presented a paper titled "Benin-Igbo Relations: A Perspective on Inter-Group Relations in Nigeria" at the African Studies Association 49th annual meeting held in San Francisco, Calif. Ogbomo, who received his Ph.D. in history at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, was named chair of the Africana Studies program in fall 2006.



Onaiwu Ogbomo

have contributed funds to create this program with the goal of encouraging professional growth of majors, as well as acknowledging and rewarding outstanding student work. History students wishing to conduct research, present papers at conferences, attend professional meetings, participate in internships, or engage in other professional activities may apply for grants ranging from \$50 to \$500 for such purposes.

Faces of Success

Angela Moe (Sociology) was elected as Chair/President for Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society and will serve in this capacity in 2007-08.



Angela Moe

Faces of Success

Paul Ciccantell (Sociology) is serving in the position of Program Director in Sociology at the National Science Foundation.

Faces of Success

The **James Park Thomson Medal** by the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, Australia, has been awarded to **Joseph Stoltman**, (Geography and the Mallinson Institute for Science Education). The award recognizes Stoltman for his research and leader-

ship in the professional fields of geography and education. It is named for an Australian geographer and public servant who founded the geographical society in 1885. The medal was presented by Thompson's great granddaughter during a July ceremony in Brisbane, Queensland, after which Stoltman presented the J. P. Thomson Lecture, speaking on "Public Views and Uses of Geography: Our Subject Through Different Lenses."

Faces of Success

Robert Vann, associate professor of Spanish, was honored to speak as one of the experts on linguistic archiving at the international panel on linguistic archiving recently held at the 2006 EMELD Workshop on Digital Language Documentation. Vann's paper can be found online in the proceedings of the conference at <http://linguistlist.org/emeld/workshop/2006/proceedings.html>.

Faces of Success

Jeffrey Angles, assistant professor, Japanese Literature and Language and director of the Japanese language program, was interviewed by National Public Radio about the anthology of Japanese short stories that



Jeffrey Angles

he put together with **Tom Rimer** for Whereabouts Press.

NPR broadcast the interview nationally and usually posts its book reviews on the web (www.npr.org <<http://www.npr.org/>>) after they air.

Faces of Success

Peter Krawutschke (Foreign Languages) presided over the annual Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs (International Federation of Translators) Council meeting—of which he is president.



Peter Krawutschke

The meeting took place at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, in conjunction with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the South African Translators' Institute.

Faces of Success

Bonfas Odour-Owina, a Ph.D. student in Political Science, wrote an analysis on the transparency of the Kenyan budget process for Open Budget Initiative 2006, a project of the International Budget Project funded by the Ford and Hewlett Foundations and the Open Society Institute. The Open Budget Index was unveiled on Oct. 18. Odour-Owina also was an invited presenter at a World Bank workshop on poverty reduction at the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore in mid-September.

Faces of Success

James Butterfield (Political Science) provided analyses of recent advances in poverty alleviation strategies in developing countries to conference panelists and attendees at this year's annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative in New York.

Faces of Success

Charles Henderson (Mallinson Institute for Science Education) was recently elected as the second vice president (to progress to president) of the Michigan Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Faces of Success

The Department of History has established an Undergraduate Fellows Emeriti Grant Program. History Emeriti

NAMES AND FACES: PEOPLE



From left, Wilson Warren, Fred Dobney, and Lynne Heasley have earned a \$250,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant to develop workshops for teachers.

Faces of Success

Department of History faculty **Fred Dobney**, **Lynne Heasley**, and **Wilson Warren**, together with collaborator **Richard Roosenberg** of Tillers International, have earned a \$250,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant to develop workshops for history and social studies teachers. The team expects to attract participants from around the country. Their innovative project, "The American Farm in U.S. History: The Policy, Technology, and Landscapes of Everyday Life" will result in a series of teacher workshops during July 2007, using the properties of Tillers International. Tillers is an organization located on historic farm properties just southeast of Kalamazoo dedicated to "preserving, studying, and exchanging low-capital technologies that increase the sustainability and productivity of people in rural com-

munities." The project was funded at the requested level (approximately \$225,000). It is funded under the NEH program, "Landmarks of American History: Workshops for School Teachers."

Faces of Success

Fritz Allhoff (Philosophy) will serve as part of a team which will study ethical issues related to human enhancement and nanotechnology as a result of nearly \$250,000 in grants from the National Science Foundation. The grants will fund collaborative research between Dartmouth College and Western Michigan University for the next three years.

Faces of Success

Charles Henderson has received a National Science Foundation award of \$97,011 for a project titled: "Facilitating Change in Higher

Education: A Multidisciplinary Effort to Bridge the Individual Actor and System Perspectives." The project will run for two years and involves planning a national multidisciplinary conference for researchers interested in studying and promoting change in higher education.

Faces of Success

Gene Freudenburg, chair of the Department of Mathematics, recently published "Algebraic Theory of Locally Nilpotent Derivations." This book explores the theory and



Gene Freudenburg

application of locally nilpotent derivations, which is a subject of growing interest and importance not only among those in commutative algebra and algebraic geometry, but also in fields such as Lie algebras and differential equations.

Faces of Success

Amy McGinnis (former MFA English student) has won the 2006 Holland Prize for her poetry collection "Cut River," which will be published by Logan House Press.

Faces of Success

Elizabeth Kerlikowske, a current Ph.D. student in English, will have her poetry collection "Dominant Hand," published by Mayapple Press.

Faces of Success

Professor Susan Pozo (Economics) was cited in an article appearing on the front page of the "Wall Street Journal" entitled "Migrants Money is an Imperfect Cure for Poor Nations." In this article they cite research on the impact of remissions undertaken by Professor Pozo and her co-author and WMU graduate **Catalina Amuedo Dorantes**.



Susan Pozo

Pozo also has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to study the impact of emigrant remittances in South America.

Faces of Success

Joe McKean (Statistics) gave a two day workshop on "Robust Nonparametric Methods for the General Linear Model" at the U.S. Army Conference on Applied Statistics 2006, Research Triangle Park, N.C. It was conducted jointly with **Jeff Terpstra** of North Dakota State University.

Faces of Success

Chemistry faculty **Elke Schöffers**, **John Miller**, **Don Schreiber**, **Steve Bertman**, and **Michael Barcelona** participated in Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. The event attracted 1,700 visitors and proved to be quite an opportunity to help the public understand the roles which

IN THE NEWS, ON THE MOVE

chemistry plays in their lives. Children and adults were able to make their own biodiesel, make slime, and participate in many other experiments.

Faces of Success

Robert Vann (Spanish) was awarded \$2,000 from the Haenicke Institute for Global Education for a site visit in March 2007 to the University of Lleida in Spain.

Faces of Success

Sisay Asefa (Economics) recently was invited to participate in the International Conference on the State of Affairs in Africa. Asefa also moderated a plenary session on the "State of Economic Development," and presented a paper on the "Political Economy of Poverty and Food Insecurity in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa," at the International Conference on the State of Affairs in Africa (ICSAA), in Boston.



Sisay Asefa

Faces of Success

Nora Faires (chair, Canadian Studies Initiative) received a State History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan for her co-authored book "Jewish Life in the Industrial Promised Land, 1855-2005," a study intertwining the story

of Flint's Jewish community with the saga of this iconic boom-and-bust city. Earlier this year the book was named a finalist for an Independent Book Publishers Award.

Faces of Success

The Mallinson Institute for Science Education is pleased to note that **Betty Udongo**, doctoral student from Uganda, participated in a panel discussion on "The Education of Girls in the Developing World," on Sept. 26, 2006, at Wayne State University. This event was sponsored by the United States Mission to the United Nations and moderated by **Gershem Bolton**, the wife of the US Ambassador to the UN.

Faces of Success

Jocelyn Steinke (Communication) has been elected to the rank of American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow. Steinke is being honored for distinguished contributions to the public understanding of science through research on media representations of women in science.

Faces of Success

School of Communication faculty members **Chad Edwards** and **Autumn Edwards** and graduate student **Qing Qing** published an article on the influence of computer-mediated word-of-mouth communication on student perceptions of instructors

and attitudes toward learning course content. The article appeared in the Instructional Communication journal—*Communication Education*.

Faces of Success

Associate Professor **J.D. Dolan** (English) published a feature article in the January/February 2007 issue of *Details* magazine. The article chronicles the rise and fall of the International Pool Tour, which was founded by **Kevin Trudeau**, an infomercial giant (and a convicted felon). Dolan's research often involves pool; his feature article "Pool, a Love Story," was published in *Esquire* and reprinted in *Best American Sports Writing*.

Faces of Success

Robert C. Ulin (chair, Anthropology) has had a second work translated into Chinese. The article, which Ulin was asked to write after **Paul Ricoeur's** death, was originally published in English in *Anthropological Quarterly*. **Dr. Guoqiang He** of Sun Yat Sen University is the translator (he was a visiting professor at WMU). He also translated Ulin's book (Understanding Cultures) which is published in Chinese with Peking (Beijing) University Press. It is the ninth best selling academic book in the Peoples Republic of China.



Robert Ulin

Faces of Success

Vladimir Pintro (Philosophy) of Haiti is the second WMU graduate and one of fewer than 100 students worldwide to receive a 2006-07 Gates Cambridge Scholarship, one of the world's most prestigious awards in higher education. Pintro completed a master's degree in philosophy in July 2006 from WMU.

Faces of Success

Western Michigan University's Ethics Bowl team placed ninth among 32 teams at the 2007 Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl National Championship in February. The students participating were **Natalie Kaftan** of DePere, Wis.; **Shawn Myers** of Jackson, Mich.; and **Jennifer Praner** of Battle Creek, Mich.

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Staff Profile **BRENDA BREWER**



Brenda Brewer, office coordinator for the Department of History, has been with the University for more than 18 years.

“Time has really flown by,” is the phrase Department of History Office Coordinator Brenda Brewer uses most often to describe her 18 years at Western Michigan University.

Brewer began her career at Western Michigan University in the Provost’s Office where she worked for

two years after moving to Kalamazoo from Battle Creek. She had originally applied to the College of Fine Arts, but was recruited to the Provost’s Office. She then was offered a position in the Dean’s Office of the College of Arts & Sciences where she remained for 12 years.

For the past five years—since her position with the Dean’s Office—Brewer has been working with the largest department in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department

of History. Being the office coordinator, her main responsibilities for the department include handling the budget and any financial matters as well as hiring students each semester to work in the department.

“All people deserve the same treatment no matter what their status may be.”

***—Brenda Brewer
Department of History***

“Every job I’ve had has prepared me for the next,” Brewer said.

And Brewer has really “appreciated the opportunity to advance and work with faculty and staff,” at WMU.

“I like the climate and atmosphere. I really like the people,” Brewer said when describing what she enjoys most about being a WMU staff member.

Brewer has always had a love for working in hospitals and schools, so

the college atmosphere was “right up her alley.

“I’m a people person. I like dealing with people,” Brewer said. She spends time with graduate-level students, particularly, guiding them in their future career decisions. Over the years, Brewer has developed compassion and patience which she feels helps her with her job today.

When comparing the Department of History with other departments on campus, Brewer says she enjoys the advantage of having both an undergraduate and graduate director. The Department of History recently recruited three Ph.D. applicants—something many departments on campus do not have the resources available for. Brewer feels that they look for the best which allows for flexibility.

Brewer has been married for 29 years and has three children. With a strong faith in God, Brewer and her husband have been pastoring for two and a half years. She plans to continue her work at WMU for at least another five years. She also is a happy grandmother who plans to spend more time with her grandchildren when she can.

Upon her retirement, Brewer plans to fully commit herself to ministry.

Throughout Brewer’s life and career experiences, she offers this advice to others: “Do unto others as they do unto you.” Brewer said, “People can get caught up and forget their starting point. She is a firm believer in the adage that “all people deserve the same treatment no matter what their status may be,” and tries to educate others to realize this as well.

DONOR RELATIONS

Starting this month, please be expecting a friendly phone call from a Western Michigan University student to discuss support for the College of Arts and Sciences annual fund. Annual fund gifts may be designated to any department, program, or scholarship, or to the greatest need of the college. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the students, faculty and staff.

During these difficult budget times, these funds are imperative to the success of our college and programs. These funds will provide temporary funding to programs until permanent funding can be allocated. These annual fund dollars allow us to take advantage of current opportunities for student travel, research, scholarships, recruiting, and retention of our top faculty. These funds are a critical source of operating revenue to support short-term goals and ideas.

Last fiscal year, our annual giving program rose over \$120,000 in support of our college. That support has allowed the college to provide scholar-

ships, student travel, faculty research support, and new equipment for classrooms, as well as to provide funding to the Mock Trial program, the Fort St. Joseph Open House and Field School, and the Chemistry Building Open House.

The amount of the gift is not the most important aspect of giving back. The percentage of alumni who donate to WMU is very important and is considered in criteria used for national rankings—which will in turn increase the value of your WMU degree. Each gift makes a difference no matter the size.

Thank you once again for your support and interest in the College of Arts and Science. To learn more about the development priorities in the College of Arts and Sciences, or to make a donation, please contact **Nicklas McLaren** at (269) 387-4399 or at nick.mclaren@wmich.edu.

If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to the College of Arts and Sciences or one of its de-

partments, please complete this form, and return it to:

*Western Michigan University
WMU Foundation Office
1903 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5403*

I would like to contribute \$_____ to:
(select one)

_____ WMU College of Arts and Sciences
or
_____ WMU Department of _____

Please indicate level of affiliation based on this contribution: (select one)

_____ Founder \$1,000 or more
_____ Benefactor \$500-\$999
_____ Partner \$250-\$499
_____ Affiliate \$100-\$249
_____ Friend \$10-\$99

Payment Method: (select one)

_____ Check (to "WMU Foundation")
_____ Credit card (check one)
_____ Mastercard
_____ Visa

Account #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature (required): _____

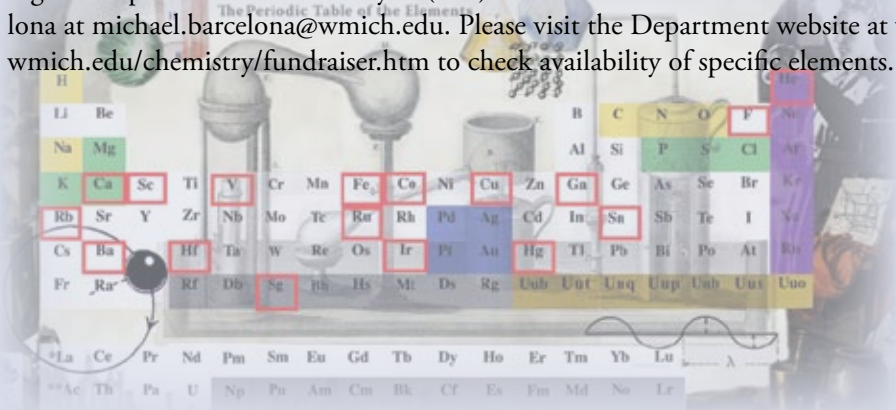
FUND-RAISER FOR CHEMISTRY SCHOLARSHIPS

To raise funds for student scholarships, the Western Michigan University Department of Chemistry has developed a unique funding opportunity—purchase an element. Mounted prominently in the main foyer of the new chemistry building is a large scale periodic table mural. Donors are recognized by a plaque mounted on the element sponsored.

Elements may be sponsored at the levels indicated in the table at right by contacting the Department of Chemistry at (269) 387-2846 or via e-mail to Michael Barcelona at michael.barcelona@wmich.edu. Please visit the Department website at www.wmich.edu/chemistry/fundraiser.htm to check availability of specific elements.

ELEMENTAL FUND KEY

- \$10,000 (Precious metals)
- \$5,000 (Biochemically essential, bulk)
- \$1,000 (Biochemically essential, trace)
- \$1,000 (Noble gases)
- \$1,000 (Transuranics)
- \$1,000 (Predicted, unnamed)
- \$500 (other)
- Sold



INSIDER

Doctoral Student Interviews Renowned Latin American Writer



Department of Spanish doctoral student, **Hedy Habra** (left), after her interview with Mario Vargas Llosa at his home in Georgetown.

Hedy Habra, a doctoral student in the Department of Spanish, recently received a Fellowship for Dissertation Completion and is writing her doctoral thesis on the narrative of **Mario Vargas Llosa**, one of the foremost Latin American contemporary writers. On the Nobel list for decades, Vargas Llosa is one of the leading exponents of the Latin American “Boom” alongside **Gabriel García Márquez**, **Carlos Fuentes** and **Julio Cortázar**.

His work has been translated into 32 languages. An award-winning essayist, novelist and playwright, Vargas Llosa’s novels cover a wide range of genres, from historical and political narratives to novels with lyrical or humorous overtones. He has just been granted the Maria Moors Cabot Prize from Columbia University for his exceptional journalistic achievements. Vargas Llosa is also a recipient of the most prestigious literary award in the Spanish-

speaking world, the Premio Cervantes.

Habra has developed a great interest in Vargas Llosa and has published several refereed articles on some of his novels. On Oct. 19, she was granted an interview from Vargas Llosa in Georgetown where he is currently teaching as a Visiting Professor. She was able to discuss several points relevant to her thesis and address specific questions that he graciously answered in detail. This meeting was stimulating and useful for a better understanding of his work.

For her doctoral dissertation Habra has chosen a combined critical approach, which consists of the linking of the function of the visual to the concept of “small worlds” which

stem from characters’ fantasies. Vargas Llosa transforms his characters into producers of short films, which multiplies the levels of interpretation and sheds light on the fictional plot, inducing reader’s involvement in the interpretation and recreation of the text. She feels that meeting Mario Vargas Llosa was instrumental in improving the depth and quality of her research and insights on his complex narrative.

For more about Habra or Vargas Llosa, visit one of the following websites:

- www.hedyhabra.com
- <http://www.mvargasllosa.com/> (Vargas Llosa Official Website)
- <http://www.mvargasllosa.com/distin.htm> (Awards and Distinctions)
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mario_Vargas_Llosa (English and other languages)

Kalamazoo citizens could breathe cleaner air, ride more efficient public transit and see their tax dollars stretched further, as city buses begin using a Western Michigan University fuel product generated from one of the least-used sources of biodiesel—waste grease from restaurants.

The City of Kalamazoo announced Oct. 13 it will begin piloting Bronco Biodiesel in Metro Transit buses. Bronco Biodiesel is the brainchild of a group of WMU faculty members who secured development funds in 2006 through the President's Innovation Fund. They will produce as much as 100,000 gallons of the product by recycling restaurant trap grease through a facility at the Kalamazoo Wastewater Reclamation Plant. Bronco Biodiesel is expected to be in full production by summer.

The move could make Kalamazoo the first community in the continental United States to use trap grease as a fuel source and could establish a model for alternative energy use and university/community cooperation that other cities can emulate. The city expects to begin using the fuel in about a quarter of its 20-bus fleet early in 2007.

"This is a model of biodiesel production that could be exported to any municipality," says **Steve Bertman**, WMU professor of chemistry and co-director of Bronco Biodiesel. "This is an effort that's complementary, not competitive with other biodiesel production. We're using trap grease, a source for fuel currently not being used. Right now, those are BTUs down the drain—literally."

Biodiesel, a proven renewable fuel, can be made from any fat or oil. It burns more completely than petroleum diesel, emits fewer noxious by-products and significantly lowers greenhouse gas production. Its superior lubricity can



Sarah Hill (Anthropology) John Miller (rear) and Steven Bertman (Chemistry), project co-directors of the Bronco Biodiesel pilot project.

reduce engine maintenance costs, and it is safer to use and transport.

Bronco Biodiesel will make fuel for city fleets from trap grease, a substance that accumulates under commercial kitchen sinks. If commercial traps are not properly maintained, they discharge grease into city sewer lines, where a messy accumulation becomes a costly problem for city maintenance workers.

**—Sarah Hill, WMU
Professor of Anthropology**

"Brewing biodiesel from such waste could have a positive effect on city sewer and water rates, by preventing costly maintenance and clean-up problems," says **Sarah Hill**, WMU professor of anthropology who also is a project co-director. "What's now a headache for the city is an opportunity for Bronco Biodiesel."

John Miller, WMU associate professor of chemistry is the third project director for the initiative. He says the city/university partnership will put Kalamazoo ahead of the game in building a sustainable urban environment. "We're using a simple, low-tech process to make a biodiesel product that meets all the quality standards that exist for such fuels," says Miller. "We think using biodiesel widely is inevitable, and this is the kind of effort that will serve as a national model. We're delighted with the support the city is showing."

FROM THE DEAN

Come Visit the New Chemistry Building!

On January 26, the university and our college sponsored the grand opening for our new Chemistry Building—a building that will enhance and enrich the academic lives of our students, staff, and faculty. Obviously, a facility such as this one could not have come into being without the hard work and dedication of a great number of people, and in this space, I would like to thank just a few of these important benefactors and contributors.

I would like to thank first our former president, **Judi Bailey**, who initiated this project. I would like to thank **Dennis Vovos**, **Kevin Boyer**, and **Chris Bremer** from the Architecture firm of Holabird and Root in Chicago for their sensational design work. Our Construction Contractor, Miller-Davis in Kalamazoo, and especially **Michele Wreggelsworth** from Miller-Davis, literally worked overtime to complete the building. At times, the worksite looked like a beehive with two or three shifts working around the clock, so Miller-Davis has certainly earned our sincere gratitude for their tremendous effort and devotion to this project. The Civil Engineering firm Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber in Grand Rapids also performed yeoman

work to help complete the building on time. I need also to thank our Campus Facilities Group—**Bob Beam**, **David Dakin**, **Evie Askin**—and many others who worked tirelessly here on campus to coordinate and to guide both the conception and the construction of the new building.

“If you should like to visit the Chemistry Building, don’t hesitate to contact our office, and we will be happy to arrange a tour.”



Nearly 4,000 WMU students enjoy the classroom facilities each semester. The new instructional facility replaces McCracken Hall, which was built 58 years ago.

When you visit the new building, and I hope that you do visit, you will notice the remarkable mural located in the lobby area. The mural artists are Amy Baur and Brian Boldon of In Plain Sight in Okemos. I’m told that for this mural they “integrated high-resolution photography with traditional architectural materials of ceramics and glass,” but whatever they did technically, Amy Baur and Brian Boldon achieved visually a genuine triumph and achievement. Finally, I would be absolutely remiss if I did not thank the faculty of the Department of Chemistry and their fearless leader Mike Barcelona for their consultation, inspiration,


and, in some cases, perspiration in helping bring to

—Dean, Thomas Kent

completion this classroom facility that will help the department enhance its already outstanding service to our students. All of these people and many more deserve our sincere appreciation.

As you may know, the new Chemistry Building will be employed exclusively for classroom instruction, and the location of the building, directly adjacent to our library, is especially pleasing. Dedicated to the dissemination and the creation of knowledge about the physical and material world, our new Chemistry Building stands right next door to a building dedicated to the preservation of knowledge and the nonmaterial or metaphysical world of ideas and human thought. This union of the concrete and the abstract, the union of our Chemistry Building dedicated to the concrete investigation of the material world linked and conjoined physically and symbolically with a building dedicated to the preservation of ideas is, it seems to me, especially fitting and proper.

So, this sensational new facility will serve us all wonderfully well and make our campus environment a better place to learn, to work, and to visit. And if you should like to visit the Chemistry Building, don’t hesitate to contact our office, and we will be happy to arrange a tour.


Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

CHEMISTRY BUILDING OPENS JAN. 8 TO RAVE REVIEWS

Western Michigan University's new state-of-the-art Chemistry Building opened for classes Jan. 8, attracting rave reviews campus wide and in the community.

The \$28.5 million building has classroom technology including built-in teaching podiums with document cameras, DVD players and computer projection on dual screens. The technology allows instructors to cater to

students who solve problems visually as well as those who solve problems numerically, both benefiting from a deeper understanding of chemistry, says **Michael Barcelona**, chair of WMU's Department of Chemistry.

"Students walk into this building for classes, and they are simply awestruck by what they find. We have the capability to broadcast lab demos and lectures anywhere in the world, and we can receive broadcast materials that will materially improve our ability to deliver modern science education," Barcelona says. "With its focus on visual learning, energy efficiency and safety, this building will be a learning resource for decades to come."

Nearly 4,000 WMU students enjoy the classroom facilities each semester. In addition to chemistry, biochemistry, science, engineering and health studies majors, the new labs and classrooms serve students who take chemistry as a general

education class or to fulfill other course requirements.

The building includes a large signature artwork in the lobby honoring the role of science in generating new knowledge. The mural, "Knowledge Made Matter" created by Okemos, Mich., artists **Amy Baur** and **Brian Boldon**, is based on the Periodic Table of the Elements and is attracting donors who are "buying" elements to support a student assistance fund. (See Donor Relations,

page 11 for information on purchasing an element.)

Other features in the building include a main-floor auditorium and two large lecture halls, small conference rooms, instructional laboratories, a student lounge, a teaching assistants briefing room and spaces dedicated for use by student organizations. Faculty offices are in nearby Wood Hall and can be accessed by a second-story enclosed walkway.

—Courtesy University Relations



Through improved video and audio technology, students have access to lab demos and broadcasts in the new main floor auditorium.



In addition to chemistry, biochemistry, science, engineering and health studies majors, the new labs and classrooms serve students who take chemistry as a general education class or to fulfill other course requirements.

FEEDBACK

We would like to learn more about our alumni. Please complete this brief questionnaire and return it to the College via one of the methods listed below. To learn more about us, please visit our Web site at www.wmich.edu/cas.

Name

Current Address

Year of Graduation/Degree Earned/Department

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE GRADUATION FROM WMU

Do you no longer wish to receive this newsletter? Do you have comments or concerns? Contact Coordinator of Communications and Events, Cheri Bales, by e-mail at cheri.bales@wmich.edu, fax at (269) 387-3999, or mail to: Office of the Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5308.

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