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A Publication for Friends of the College of Arts & Sciences

Spring 2006 • Vol. VII. No. 2

Four President's Initiative Recipients are College of Arts & Sciences faculty

Dr. Subra Muralidharan, the late Dr. Marc W. Perkovic, Dr. Allen Webb, and Kathleen Wong (Lau) and their teams from the College of Arts & Sciences developed four of the seven proposals to receive support from Western Michigan University President Judith I. Bailey's President's Innovation Fund.

"I am delighted not only with the caliber of the proposals submitted, but with the kind of energy and creativity the competition has sparked campuswide," says Bailey. "We had 80 teams submit ideas for consideration, and their ideas showed great energy and creativity, as well as a commitment to the University's goals and mission. Many of the proposals focus on our

engagement with the communities we serve. Others use technology in ways that will serve our students and our state and nation."

The President's Innovation Fund provides one-time monetary awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$1 million. The president made the final selections after receiving the advice and recommendations of a nine-member review panel led by Dr. Nicholas Andreadis, dean of Extended University Programs. Five criteria were used by the review panel to develop their recommendations. The innovative idea had to advance the mission of WMU, have a significant impact on student education or University outcomes, produce measurable results, be feasible to implement and be led by individuals with expertise and experience.

Bailey established the President's Innovation Fund in the fall of 2005, using unrestricted gifts to establish a pool of \$2 million for a series of one-time awards for work done over the next two years.

Highlights of the four innovation grants awarded to College of Arts & Sciences faculty include:

Innovation-Establish a Center for Nano-Enabled Instrumentation and Nanofabrication

Project Director Dr. Subra Muralidharan and team

members Nora
Berrah, Sherine O.
Obare, Brian Tripp,
Dongil Lee and Yirong
Mo from the Departments of Chemistry
and Biological Sciences.

The team will establish a Center for Nano-enabled Instrumentation and Nano-fabrication in which the focus will be the visualization and real-time manipulation of nanomaterials to construct highly specific nanostructures

that can be used as sensors, accomplish targeted drug delivery or lead to the next generation of computer chips and fuel cells.



President's Innovation Fund recipients (back row, from left) Dr. James Schultz, Dr. Marc W. Perkovic, Western Michigan University President Dr. Judith Bailey, Nick Andreadis, M.D., and Dr. Allen Webb; and front (from left) Dr. Ikhlas Abdel–Qader, Kathleen Wong (Lau), Kevin Abbott, and Dr. Subra Muralidharan.

Bronco Biodiesel—Alternative Fuel Leadership: Recycling Waste Oil into Biodiesel

Project Director Dr. Marc Perkovic and team members Sarah Hill, Steve Kohler, Steve Bertman from the Department of Chemistry and the Environmental Studies Program.

The project is designed to address the lack of biodiesel availability in southwest Michigan and dem-

please see "Innovation", page 2

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News

"Innovation," continued from page 1

onstrate WMU leadership in the search for viable alternative fuel sources. The team will focus on developing a systematic recycling effort that will convert waste vegetable oil into high-quality fuel called "Bronco Biodiesel." The effort is designed to show the viability of a community-based biodiesel production business as well as to develop a revenue-generating analytical service for the nation's growing community of biodiesel producers.

INTEGRATE VIRTUAL REALITY ENVIRONMENTS INTO TEACHING AND LEARNING

Project Director Dr. Allen Webb and literature professors Gwen Tarbox, Jon Adams, Chris Nagle, Cynthia Klekar, Steve Feffer, Casey McKittrick, Todd Kuchta; Gunilla Holm, educational studies; doctoral students Joe Haughey, Todd Bannon, Gretchen Voskuil and Diana Fox; and part-time faculty member Linda Dick.

The project is designed to level the playing field for literature instructors by putting the power of new technologies to work in service of teaching great literature. By creating virtual realities that hinge on the specific literary works assigned in their classes, WMU students will be able to explore and interact in virtual literary worlds, role playing and interrelating as characters, extending and altering character conduct and analyzing the impact of setting, language and dialogue on behavior and events. The virtual worlds will be created online using an award-winning open source software package called EnCore 4>.

Online Curriculum Module on Diversity and Engineering

Project Director Kathleen Wong (Lau) and team members Jennifer Machiorlatti, associate professor in media studies (School of Communication) and Edmund Tsang, Associate Dean of the School of Engineering. Advisory members are Mark Orbe (intercultural & interpersoal communication) and Martha Warfield (Assistant VP of student affairs and director of the division of multicultural affairs). The goal of the project is to develop an innovative, self-paced supplemental diversity curriculum that could be used for students in core engineering courses. The curriculum would help meet overall diversity goals and objectives in the college, demonstrate WMU's commitment to diversity in technical fields to external audiences, serve as a model for other engineering schools and position WMU's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences as a leader in innovative diversity initiatives in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.

CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR DEAD AT 73

Herbert D. Warren, associate professor emeritus of chemistry at Western Michigan University, died Feb. 10 in Kalamazoo. He was 73.

Warren came to WMU in 1963 and retired in 1996. He taught and conducted research in analytical chemistry and the history of chemistry, and was a long-standing member of the American Chemical Society and the History of Science Society.

Before entering academia, Warren spent 1956 to 1958 working as a chemist at the General Electric Co. in Hanford, Wash., and 1954 to 1956 serving as an officer in the Navy. He earned a bachelor's degree from Rice University in 1954, a master's degree from the University of Idaho in 1959 and a doctoral degree from Oregon State University in 1966.

Dr. Marc Perkovic—Innovation Grant Recipient—dies unexpectedly

Dr. Marc W. Perkovic, associate professor of chemistry, died April 1 in Kalamazoo. He was 45.

Perkovic, who died of complications from openheart surgery, joined the faculty in 1996. He came to WMU from Wichita State University, where he was director of research instrumentation. He also was a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Fellow at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and a research associate at the U.S. Department of Energy's Notre Dame Radiation Laboratory.

During his years at WMU, Perkovic's research interests covered such areas as solar photochemistry and environmental photochemistry. He received two major awards from the National Science Foundation

and another from the American Chemical Society for research that focused on the development of molecules capable of indicating the presence of environmental contaminants through luminescence.

Earlier this year, he was named one of the winners of a President's Innovation Fund award for a project he led aimed at developing Bronco Biodiesel, an alternative fuel source produced by recycling waste vegetable oil.

Perkovic earned his bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University in 1984 and a doctoral degree from Wayne State University in 1990.



Students honored with Monroe-Brown, Research and Creative Activities awards

Fifteen Western Michigan University students were awarded Monroe-Brown Research Fellowship Awards and 36 students received Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Awards from the Monroe-Brown Foundation and WMU's College of Arts and Sciences.



Victoria Koepke and faculty mentor Dr. John Geiser. Koepke's project was titled: Bubonic Suppressors Light the Way to Cellular Targets.

The Monroe-Brown Research Fellowship is the most recent addition to the College of Arts and Sciences' repertoire of funding set aside specifically for undergraduate and graduate student research with faculty in the life sciences. Funded by a gift from the Monroe-Brown Foundation, the awards further strengthen WMU's commitment to the growth and development of student research.

The Monroe-Brown scholarship is modeled after the College of Arts and Sciences' already successful Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Awards, which pairs a student with a faculty mentor and supplies funding to facilitate the growth and development of the student in their specific field of research. Students who are awarded the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Awards receive \$500. Monroe-Brown award recipients receive between \$2,000 and \$5,000 to use for travel expenses, supplies, or as a stipend.

Monroe-Brown Life Science Research Award Recipients— Graduate Students

Jonathan Allen: Biological Sciences James Berger Anderson: Psychology Eric Bushrow: Biological Sciences Tsigabu A. Gebrehiwet: Geosciences Adiyodi Veetil Sandhya Nair: Chemistry

John Panos: Psychology

Monroe-Brown Life Science Research Award Recipients— Undergraduate Students

Jayni M. Angeli: Chemistry Panther Duot: Biological Sciences Shannyn Fowl: Biological Sciences Stephen McGinnis: Biological Sciences

Joel Parraghi: Psychology Peter Skellenger: Biological Sciences Sarah Elizabeth Todd: Biological Sciences

Andrea Towlerton: Biological Sciences

Jennifer Watry: Biological Sciences

Undergraduate Research Award Recipients

Michael P. Alwine, Collin DeCourcy, Timothy S. Fuller and Melissa Rose: Communication Jayni M. Angeli: Chemistry Daniel Beaudoin: Chemistry

Natalia Grace Berrios: Communication

Kristen Buckley: Anthropology Eric Lee Carter: Biological Sciences Christopher R. Davis: Chemistry Ashley Deming: Anthropology Jen M. Farman: Anthropology Daniel F. Garvin: Physics Michael Gregor: Political Science Will Johnson: Physics Kevin Kane and Brooke Pearson: English

Anthony Kingsley: History
Victoria Koepke: Biological Sciences
Jeff Kukulski: Economics
Christopher J. Landry: Geosciences
Paul Livingston and Chelsea Waite:
Anthropology

Tracy J. Lund: Geosciences
John Maltby: Anthropology
Danielle Rachel Odette: Geosciences
Steven M. Orr: Chemistry
Matthew Paris: Anthropology
Sarah Ann Primeau: Environmental
Institute

Kasandra Posey: Communication Andrew Raklovits: Communication Anthony Edward Robinson: Communication



Cecilia Root (left) with faculty mentor Dr. Bilinda Straight. Root's topic was: Saen Lenkwe: A History of Samburu (Northern Kenya) Women's Head Ornaments.

Cecilia Root: Anthropology Tony Schepers: Political Science Kate C. Shaw: Chemistry Linsay M. Singer: Communication Diane Strochschein: Physics

Sciences & Mathematics

Biological Sciences • Env. Inst. • Env. Studies • Chemistry • Geography • Geosciences • Mallinson Institute for Science Education • Mathematics • Physics • Psychology • Statistics

NSF grant to fund study of nanoscale materials

Dr. Sherine Obare, assistant professor of chemistry, has been awarded \$509,972 by the National Science Foundation to conduct research on nanoscale materials and to develop real-world experiments to excite elementary and secondary students about science.

The award was made through the NSF's Faculty Early Career Development Program, known as the CAREER Program. CAREER grants recognize and support the



Dr. Sherine Obare, assistant professor of chemistry, has been awarded \$509,972 by the National Science Foundation.

early career work of teacher-scholars who are expected to become the academic leaders of the 21st century. Obare's project, "Rationally Assembled Nanoparticles for Multi-Electron Transfer Processes," seeks to create nanoscale materials that trap and store the sun's energy and use that energy

to carry out chemical reactions for specialized purposes, including breaking down pollutants in groundwater and generating hydrogen for use as an alternative fuel.

The 10-person research team—which has been working on the project for about six months—will spend the first year of the CAREER grant studying the theory behind how different configurations of metal and semiconductor nanomaterials that they already have created affect chemical reactions.

In addition to helping train the students on her research team, Obare is working with WMU's Mallinson Institute for Science Education to use the results of her research to explain basic nanoscale science concepts to the general public, especially elementary and middle school teachers.

Initially, Obare and her research team will develop intriguing experiments that address real-life problems and demonstrate these experiments in area classrooms. Then the researchers will work with teachers, educating them about nanotechnology and designing experiments that will be incorporated into their schools' science curricula.

A member of WMU's Nanotechnology Research and Computation Center, Obare came to the university in 2004. She teaches inorganic and analytical chemistry and conducts research in the areas of inorganic materials chemistry, nanoscale materials fabrication, chemical and biological sensors, and mechanisms by multiple electron transfer.

RECENT GRADUATE EARNS GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP



Tristan Brown of Franklin, Mich., is one of 40 U.S. students—and the first from WMU—to be selected for the 2006-07 Gates Cambridge Scholarship; one of the world's most prestigious awards in higher education.

Other U.S. recipients include students from Harvard, Princeton and Yale universities; the U.S. Naval and Military academies; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and the University of California.

Brown, who completed an environmental studies major and a broad-based student planned major, earned his bachelor's degree in April 2005 and finished a two-vear fellowship at the WMU's Gibbs House for Environmental Research and Education this past August. Next fall, he will start graduate school at Cambridge, where he plans to pursue a master of philosophy degree in environmental policy with a concentration in law and economics.

The following books were published in 2005 by Science and Mathematics faculty:

"A Thousand Pieces of Paradise" Lynne Heasley. Wisconsin Univesity Press.

"Geology for Engineers and Environmental Scientists," 3rd ed. Alan E. Kehew. Pearson/Prentice Hall.

"Introduction to Mathematical Statistics," 6th ed.

Robert V. Hogg, Joseph W. McKean, and Allen T. Craig. Pearson (Prentice Hall).

MALLINSON INSTITUTE RECEIVES TWO NSF GRANTS

Beginning with the "No Child Left Behind" legislation, the federal government has emphasized the need for "scientific-based" evidence for the improvement of education. Agencies such as the National Science Foundation responded with calls for research proposals based on experimental research designs.

The Mallinson Institute for Science Education has won two such NSF grants. The Institute received just under \$2 million to conduct an experimental study of the effectiveness of inquiry science instruction at the eighth grade as opposed to direct methods of instruction.

The second grant was for \$400,000 and uses a quasi-experimental design to demonstrate the effectiveness of a new test of teacher knowledge of science pedagogy to predict teacher practice in the classroom. In both cases, NSF funded less than 10% of the proposals received. The WMU projects will run through 2009.

Comparative Religion • Communication • English • Foreign Languages

The following books were published in 2005 by **Humanities faculty:**

"A Business Trip to China: Basic Business Chinese," vols. 1 and 2. Xiaojun Wang. Beijing: Beijing Language and Culture University Press.

"Chaucerian Apocrypha" ed. Kathleem Forni, TEAMS.

"Confessio Amantis" vol. 3 John Gower, ed. Russel Peack TEAMS.

"Dialect and Dichotomy: Literary Representations of African American Speech"

Minnick, Lisa Cohen. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press.

"Engineering Ethics: Concepts & Cases," 3rd ed.

Charles E. Harris, Michael S. Pritchard, and Michael J. Rabins. Thomson/Wadsworth.

"Integrated Chinese, Character Workbook," 2nd ed.

Xiaojun Wang, co-author. Boston: Cheng & Tsui Company.

"Japanese Temple Buddhism" Stephen G. Covell. Honolulu. University of Hawaii Press.

"La Vie Seint Marcel de Lymoges," Edition critique.

Molly Lynde-Recchia. Geneva: Droz.

"Rapunzel's Hair"

Judi A. Rypma. Mineral Treasures, Finishing Line Press.

"The Book of Forty" Patricia Hollohan, MI/MIP joint publications.

"The Double Content of Art" John Dilworth. New York. Prometheus Books.

"The Turquoise Ring" Grace Tiffany. HarperCollins.

"Validating Bachelorhood: Audience, Patriarchy, and Charles Brockden Brown's Editorship of the Monthly Magazine and American Review"

Scott Slawinski. Routledge.

HERB SCOTT POETRY IS INSPIRATION FOR CAMPUS CONCERT

A musical presentation inspired by a series of poems by Herbert Scott, the Gwen Frostic professor of creative writing, was presented on campus at the Dalton Center Recital Hall on Jan. 18, 2006.

Scott, who passed away on Feb. 12, was a long-time Kalamazoo resident and retired WMU English professor. He was the founding editor of the literary press, New Issues Poetry &

"A Love Imagined" is an eight-song cycle, composed by Frank Stemper that uses poetry from Scott's new book, "Sleeping Woman," and is scored for tenor and piano. The performance featured New York-based tenor



Matthew Chellis and pianist Heidi Louise Williams, who heads the piano department in the School of Music at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

COMMUNICATION PROFESSOR GOES TO LATVIA ON FULBRIGHT

Dr. Michael Kent, assistant professor of communication, will visit the Baltic nation February through May 2006 and will spend the four months at the University of Latvia in Riga. Kent plans to teach and



conduct research while in Latvia; begin working on a public relations writing textbook; and conduct interviews with scholars and public relations professionals.

MEDIEVAL INSTITUTE RECEIVES KALAMAZOO CHAMBER AWARD FOR TOURISM

The Kalamazoo County Convention and Visitors Bureau, a division of the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce, awarded Western Michigan University's Medieval Institute with its 2006 Discover Kalamazoo

Award. The award recognizes individuals or organizations who have made an outstanding contribution to the convention and tourism industry in Kalamazoo County. The Medieval Institute has generated a significant



Representatives of the Medieval Institute faculty and staff, from left, Dr. Elizabeth C. Teviotdale, Dr. Paul Szarmach and Elisabeth Carnell.

amount of revenue for Kalamazoo County by bringing more than 3,000 visitors into the county for its annual Medieval Congress.

Question: What is the significance of the number 861?

Answer: It's the number of degrees awarded by the College of Arts & Sciences at the Spring 2006 Commencement ceremony.

Political Science • Gender & Women's Studies • School of Public Affairs and Administration • Sociology

The following books were published in 2005 by Social Sciences faculty:

"A Grammar to Waking" Nancy Eimers. Carnegie Mellon University Press.

"African American Settlements in West Africa: John Brown Russwurm and the American Civilizing Efforts" Amos J. Beyan. Palgrave Macmillan Press.

"Ethics and the Workplace" Fritz Allhoff, with Anand Vaidya. Sage Publications.

"Social Movements and Free-Market Capitalism in Latin America: Telecommunications Privatization and the Rise of Consumer Protest" Sybil Rhodes. Albany: State University of New York Press.

"The Economics of Sustainable Development"

Sisay Asefa. W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. Bill Kern, Economics.

"Towards a Democratic Nepal: Inclusive Institutions for a Multicultural Society."

Mahendra Lawoti. New Delhi, Thousand Oaks, and London: Sage Publications.

"Understanding Cultures: Perspectives in Anthropology and Social Theory"

Robert C. Ulin. 2nd edition. Blackwell Publishers.

YOSHIDA GARNERS ABE FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Takashi Yoshida, assistant professor of history, has been awarded the Abe Fellowship by the Social Sciences Research Council in coordination with the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.

The Abe Fellowship is named for a former prominent Japanese statesman. The grant will enable Yoshida to take a year's leave of absence to conduct research in Japan, China, Korea and the United States for his new project, "Remembering War, Commemorating Colonialism: A Comparative Analysis of Postwar Japanese Peace Activism and Museums."

Grant helps area teachers improve history instruction

Western Michigan University's Department of History has received a second Teaching American History Grant of nearly \$1 million to help teachers improve U.S. history instruction in southwestern Michigan.

"This is a big grant, and we're one of only a handful of institutions in the nation to have received it more than once," says Dr. Wilson Warren, WMU associate professor of history. "It's truly a mark of distinction for the University."

The three-year grant is part of the "Teaching American History Initiative" developed by West Virginia Sen. Robert Byrd and administered by the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of the initiative, which is in its fifth year, is to improve the teaching of U.S. history at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

The Teaching American History Grant targets middle school instruction. The University won both grants in partnership with KRESA—the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency—and several Michigan public history institutions.

Warren, who is directing both grant projects, says they support summer institutes for area teachers taught by WMU history faculty as well as public history partners from the community. About 100 high school teachers will have participated in the institutes when the first grant project concludes next summer. Another 75 middle school teachers are slated to participate in the three institutes that will be funded under the 2005 grant.

Public Affairs students attend nonprofit management institute



Twenty students from the School of Public Affairs attended the American Humanics Management Institute in San Diego in January.

Krawutschke leads international translators

Dr. Peter W. Krawutschke, professor of foreign languages, has been elected president of the Federation of International Translators.

Krawutschke will head the organization for three years, until the next world congress is held in Shanghai. That event also will mark the completion of FIT's work with China to prepare for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Thank You

A Special Thank You to Our Donors

The College of Arts and Sciences would like to thank the many individuals and businesses for their commitment to the advancement of higher education. Below are those donors who have made contributions of \$500 or more since December 2005.

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We apologize for any omissions or errors. Please contact Cheri Bales, Coordinator of Communications & Events, College of Arts & Sciences at cheri.bales@wmich.edu or (269) 387–2564 with corrections.

Would you like to make a TAX DEDUCTIBLE contribution to the College of Arts and Sciences or one of its departments? If so, please remove and complete this form, then return it to the following address:

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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. If you would like to learn more about us, please visit our Web site at www.

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