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Fall 2011

## Inquiry, Fall 2011

Office of Vice President for Research

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# INQUIRY

OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

**MEDICAL HUMANITIES  
CONFERENCE THIS FALL**

**ENGINEERING DEAN TO  
LEAD SOCIETY**

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The Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference, the first of its kind at WMU, takes place Thursday and Friday, Sept. 29-30, and comes as WMU has taken the initial steps in building a new medical school. The conference will explore a wide range of themes within the medical humanities, though a primary focus will be on why medical humanities matter, whether in the practice or training of health care professionals. A secondary focus will be on what the medical humanities are.

"We're excited about the conference because it gives WMU an opportunity to develop a national presence in the medical humanities, both by bringing in presenters from around the country and by being able to feature our own faculty," says Dr. Fritz Allhoff, WMU associate professor of philosophy and conference organizer. "The School of Medicine is catalyzing such great energy on campus, and the medical humanities have been a big beneficiary in this regard."

The conference is being organized by the newly launched Medical Humanities Workgroup at WMU.

**For more information** about the workgroup and conference, visit [WMU's Medical Humanities Workgroup](http://WMU's Medical Humanities Workgroup) online or email [fritz.allhoff@wmich.edu](mailto:fritz.allhoff@wmich.edu)

*Source: University Relations*

**PATTEN NAMED ENERGY  
THOUGHT LEADER**

Dr. John Patten, professor and chair of manufacturing engineering, has been recognized by Business Review as one of its 2011 Thought Leaders in Energy.

Patten and four others around West Michigan were singled out for having "developed specialties in their professions" as well as "challenging the status quo and innovating every day." They were celebrated during a networking event this summer at the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Art Museum.

Dr. Anthony J. Vizzini, dean of the Western Michigan University College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has been elected the 2011-12 president of the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering, an organization that focuses on new materials and processing technologies.

Vizzini will lead the organization's seven-member executive cabinet that oversees yearly operations and long-term planning for the association. During the upcoming year, SAMPE will hold two North American conferences—one in Fort Worth, Texas, and another in Baltimore—as well as a major international conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The cabinet also will direct the implementation of new international policies and procedures for the society.

In addition to Vizzini, the cabinet includes professionals from such organizations as Johns Hopkins University, the Air Force Research Laboratory, Airbus and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. The cabinet is elected by the SAMPE Board of Directors.

Dean of WMU's engineering college since 2009, Vizzini was educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has earned a national reputation in aerospace engineering. He came to WMU to serve as dean and tenured professor of mechanical and aeronautical engineering after serving in faculty, research and administrative positions at Mississippi State University and the University of Maryland.

The Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering is an international professional member society that provides information on new materials and processing technologies through chapter technical presentations, two journal publications, symposia and commercial expositions in which professionals can exchange ideas and air their views. It is the only technical society encompassing all fields of endeavor in materials and processes, providing a unique forum for scientists, engineers, designers and academicians.

*Source: University Relations*

VISION AND MISSION

**VISION:** TO OPERATE AS A LEADER AND CATALYST FOR SCHOLARSHIP EXCELLENCE. OUR THREE-FOLD MISSION IS TO ADVANCE THE OVERALL SCHOLARSHIP AGENDA OF THE UNIVERSITY; TO SUPPORT THE RESEARCH INITIATIVES OF WMU FACULTY, STUDENTS AND STAFF; AND TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS.

**WWW.WMICH.EDU/RESEARCH**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

*Research with Impact* is exciting the over 60,000 recipients of our University Magazine that is trumpeting the broad spectrum of WMU scholarship to leaders and decision makers across the nation. Communicating Western's Edge in Research is just one part of the continual planning by the Office of the Vice President for Research that has produced a new OVPR Vision and Mission:

**Vision: To be a Leader and Catalyst for Scholarship Excellence**

**Mission:**

- 1) advance the overall scholarship agenda of the University
- 2) support the scholarship initiatives of WMU faculty, students and staff
- 3) assure compliance with all appropriate federal and state regulations

Last academic year witnessed outstanding faculty accomplishments in scholarship as documented in national award winning books, journal articles, patents, and creative works. Externally funded research brought in close to \$30 million that resourced research equipment, faculty and staff salaries, scholarships, and graduate student support. Over \$1.7 million dollars were provided by the University from F&A returns to help colleges, departments, and individual researchers to reinvest in scholarly research.

Fall now ushers in yet unknown opportunities in the coming academic year. WMU remains a strong research and learning University focused on student success, community engagement and collaborative research. This newsletter and our new research magazine touch just a small part of the research underway by you and your colleagues.

### JAPAN STUDIES RECEIVES GRANT

Japanese studies at Western Michigan University will be greatly enhanced over the next three years through a grant from the Japan Foundation's Institutional Project Support Program.

WMU is one of just eight institutions nationwide selected to receive a share of the nearly \$2 million dollars appropriated by the Japan Foundation for its 2011-12 award cycle. The University is slated to receive about \$140,000.

The other grant recipients are Duke University, Columbia University, Wittenberg University, University of Cincinnati, Furman University, Arizona State University and the Japan Center for Michigan Universities.

WMU will use its new award to fund a regional outreach coordinator position for the Japan Studies Program, as well as a faculty position in Premodern Japanese Culture and two workshops each year. Those initiatives already receive major support from the University's Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education and College of Arts and Sciences.

OVPR continues its evolution through strategic planning and a dynamic new staff to help lead the University's efforts in external grant funding. We have brought on new resources through a relationship with the firm of Hanover Research/Hanover Grants to augment our efforts in securing federal grant dollars and to build collaborative research projects with other research universities. WMU boasts a long tradition of working with land-grant universities and premier research institutions in the discovery of new ways to process, analyze and plan for solutions to today's complex technological problems and challenges. Hanover Research offers its expertise in reviewing proposal submission and helps to identify funding opportunities that align with particular grant proposals. They offer us on-call support as we increase our research efforts campus-wide.

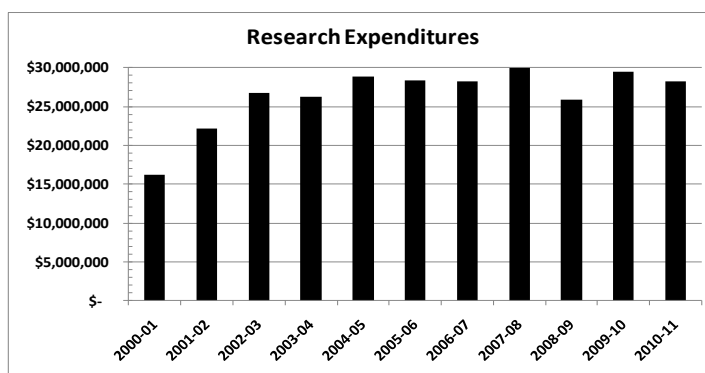
We have also engaged the services of Elsevier to identify areas of expertise linking funding agencies with our particular grant proposals. Elsevier helps access information through databases that help build literature reviews and the expertise needed in grant writing. Ultimately, many research programs rely upon the marriage of scholarly expertise and institutional support. Our goal is to bring these tools to your college, department and individual faculty members to help launch this year's research projects and ultimately discover new knowledge that can impact our community, state and society and change lives. Today's ideas – when nurtured, developed, and commercialized – are tomorrow's solutions.

We stand ready with our office, our research tools, and our talented staff to help you make an impact with your journey into the unknown through research. Best wishes for a successful start to the fall semester as WMU continues to make a mark as a unique, premier research university.

-Dr. Daniel M. Litynski

### RESEARCH EXPENDITURES HIGHLIGHTS

Research at WMU has been vibrant during the July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011 fiscal year. The chart below contextualizes this past year's activities in relation to the past decade and shows stability in submissions and receipts of external awards. New awards for faculty remained strong, with a year-to-date total of \$28,238,794. Submissions totaled 334 for the year, with 71% of those resulting in new awards.



## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COMMERCIALIZATION

Research performed at WMU produced 13 new, inventive ideas over the past year, including a potential treatment for glaucoma, a method for producing purified chemical feedstocks from waste grease, and components for a microfluidic device to detect chemicals in the environment.

This represents a substantial improvement over the previous year in terms of invention production.

Patenting and copyrighting activity continues at about the same pace as in previous years, and we continue to market these inventions to industry so that they can become new products or services.

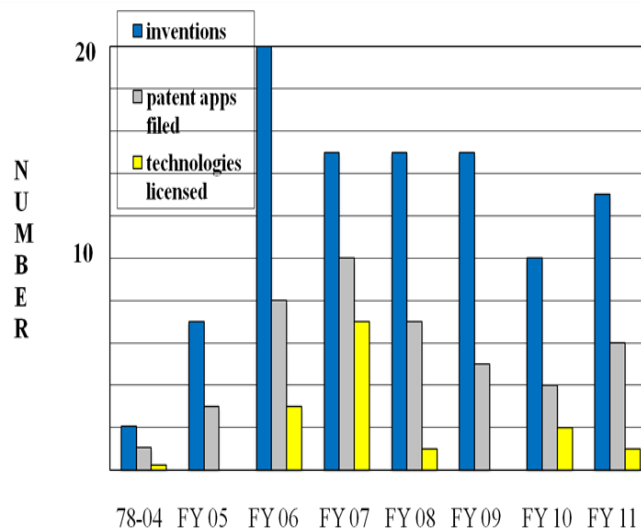
Several of these inventions are currently under evaluation by industrial partners, or are the subject of further research and development.

Funding for further development of an invention can come from sources such as WMU's Technology Development (TD) Fund, which requires that an invention disclosure be submitted before applications will be accepted.

For more information, see <http://www.wmich.edu/research/ip-technology/tech-dev-fund.html>

Dr. Michael Sharer, Director

### Technology Commercialization at WMU - Results



650 % increase in new inventions.  
300 % increase in technologies commercialized.

### RESEARCH MAGAZINE FEATURES CUTTING-EDGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Western Michigan University Magazine, *Research with Impact*, was delivered to our alumni, faculty and staff, and state and federal legislators and funding agencies. It was sent to higher education institutions around the country to showcase the outstanding research being done here at WMU.

In his opening comments, President Dunn remarks that the "mark of a great university is the impact it has on the constituents it serves." Within the pages of the summer issue of the research magazine, we know you will be able to identify the impact WMU continues to make in west Michigan and across the nation and the world.

From medical research, satellite technology, and commercialization of pharmaceuticals to weather

forecasting and improved services to families with autistic children, WMU's impact on people's lives is powerful in its ability to affect positive change and growth in our knowledge and progress to discovering new tools to help people.

We invite you to read and reflect on how our talented and dedicated University researchers continue to shape the future.

An electronic copy of the magazine will be available online at the University Relations website; go to University Relations ([www.wmich.edu/ur](http://www.wmich.edu/ur)) and select WMU Magazine.



## INTERNAL FUNDING SUPPORT SCHEDULE

The Office of the Vice President for Research provides internal funding for faculty scholarship. Application deadlines and details on submission of materials are available online at the OVPR home page. Funding opportunities include:

- The **Faculty Research Travel Fund**, which provides monies for travel. Ongoing through the fiscal year. Apply post travel.
- **Faculty Research and Creative Activities (FRACAA)**, which provides up to \$10,000 for research projects.

FRACAA 2011-2012 application form and guidelines available online, starting October 1, 2011. *Deadline for submission is January 13, 2012. Please note this is a revised deadline date.*

FRACAA proposal development workshops will be offered during fall semester. Check online during the fall for details.

- **SFSA – Support for Faculty Scholars Award** supports creative activities and research up to \$2,000. *Deadline for submission: September 30, 2011, and January 31, 2012.*
- **Research Development Award Program (RDA)** is a year-long program to prepare

junior faculty to achieve external funding. The application will be available January 9, 2012. *Submission deadline, February 24, 2012.* Award amounts up to \$2,500.

- **Undergraduate Research Excellence Award**— supports undergraduates working under externally funded faculty. *Deadline: September 30 and January 31, 2012.* Award amount up to \$500 for the undergraduate student working with externally funded faculty with an amount up to \$200 for the faculty member for student supplies.
- **Technology Development Fund Award** helps researchers transition from invention to commercialization. *Proposals will be sought in the fall. Check the website for the submission deadline. Funding is available up to \$20,000.*
- **PPP&E** funds up to \$500 for the support for Final Preparation and Publication of Papers and Creative Works once research and creative activities are completed. Review on-going during the year.

### Contact Information

Office of the Vice President for Research  
208 W. Walwood Hall  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5456  
Phone: 387-8298

Dr. Daniel M. Litynski, Vice President for Research  
Dr. Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research  
Editor: Diana Berkshire Herit

### Research Officer Constituent Areas

**Sarah Pratt:** CAS (Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Math, Statistics, Geosciences, Geography, Physics), Mallinson Institute for Science Education, Environmental Studies

**Kim Squiers:** CHHS, CDS, Unified Clinic, Aviation

**Gina Betcher:** Evaluation Center, CAS (Office of the Dean), Sociology, HCOB, TGC, International Studies, HIGE, LHC, Humanities Center, Evaluation Center

**Allison Green:** CEAS, FRACASF Internal Funding

**Christine Scheller:** COEHD, CFA, Humanities Center, Miller Auditorium

A complete list of constituency areas posted online at [www.wmich.edu/research](http://www.wmich.edu/research).

## INDIRECT COSTS (F&A) VITAL

Facilities and Administration costs (F&A), or indirect costs, are funds beyond the direct costs of your project. These funds help the University to defray some of the costs associated with the support for the grant/sponsored project.

As you work on your grants, the staff at OVPR encourages you to think about your needs and the costs of your research. We also remind you that WMU's rate for F&A is 49% of the direct costs. *It is University policy that submitted grants must request the full rate.* Any exceptions to the 49% F&A rate needs to be approved by the VP for Research. Situations that qualify as exceptions are detailed online.

The F&A is negotiated and set every 5 years.

## JAPAN STUDIES- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The Japan Foundation's Institutional Project Support Program was launched in 2007 with a mission to encourage innovative projects that emphasize institution building and sustainable contributions to the field of Japan studies in the United States.

WMU's successful Japan Foundation grant application was written by Dr. Stephen Covell, director of WMU's Michitoshi Soga Japan Center and chair of the Department of Comparative Religion, and Dr. Jeffrey Angles, associate professor of Japanese languages and literature.

*Source: University Relations*

## PATTEN—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A WMU faculty member since 2003, Patten is known for his work in the areas of energy-efficient vehicles and green manufacturing. He came to the University as the Department of Manufacturing Engineering's first chair, and now also is founding director of WMU's Battle Creek-based Manufacturing Research Center.

As that center's director, Patten launched the Green Manufacturing Initiative and related Green Manufacturing Industrial Consortium. The initiative provides a conduit between the University and industry to facilitate cooperative research programs that support industry's sustainability goals and efforts.

More details about Patten's work and thoughts on energy innovation in Michigan appear online in a May 19 Business Review interview titled "[Thought Leader in Energy John Patten: Driving automotive advances.](#)"

*Source: University Relations*