In this issue
Unlocking Andean history
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Chemical attraction
Dear friends:

My return to the campus as interim president last fall has proven to be a rare combination of joy, privilege and challenge. After my eight-year hiatus, many things had changed, but the campus community's dedication to students and to academic achievement have remained at the core of everything that happens here. Time has only magnified the level of achievement and the depth of that care.

My overwhelming impression of WMU as 2007 begins is that of an institution with enormous vitality. Our researchers work at an amazing pace. Our academic programs are garnering praise from the professional associations that govern their disciplines, and our performing arts groups regularly receive national and international acclaim.

As you look through the pages of this issue of the WMU Magazine, you'll see examples of what I see on a daily basis. You'll read about the work of a variety of researchers. They range from a Guggenheim Fellow whose work focuses on South America's Inca civilization to a holistic health specialist whose own encounter with cancer triggered new work on the role the expressive arts play in healing.

Enjoy your reading. I hope you take away a renewed and intense feeling of pride. It's part of being a member of the WMU family.

Warmest regards,

Diether H. Haenicke
President Emeritus and Interim President
2. Unlocking the secrets of the Andes

Ethnohistorian Catherine Julien has built a career around the lessons gleaned from understanding the history of the Americas' indigenous cultures.

Cover photo: Inside the ruins of Machu Picchu, the famed "Lost City of the Incas"

12. The art of healing

Her own encounter with cancer led therapist Gay Walker to an academic focus on how art can transform a patient's journey through illness.

24. Chemical attraction

A new teaching facility puts chemistry instruction at the very heart of the WMU campus.
Unlocking the secrets of the Andes

Catherine Julien says history of the Americas before Columbus is fertile ground for scholars.

Ask Western Michigan University historian Catherine Julien what she wants the world to know about the indigenous American cultures she's spent a career studying, and be prepared to put in some time listening.

The Incas, Dr. Julien says, developed a culture that produced wealth because of, rather than in spite of, the high elevations in which they lived. Their public works projects, which included 14,000 miles of highways, rivalled the Romans' structures for sophistication and engineering skill. Some of the oldest cities in the world are in the Andes. Food varieties and food storage techniques like freeze-drying developed there and allowed people to prosper in an otherwise high-risk environment.

But with the coming of the Europeans, a process of destruction began that resulted in the permanent impoverishment of the once-prosperous highland Andean people. There are lessons to be learned from that history, Julien says, but they'll be lost if people don't know the story.

A WMU professor of history, Julien is well aware of the fleeting knowledge most Americans have about the history of all of the Americas. Her career is focused on changing that—one student at a time.

She's a Guggenheim Fellow and an award-winning author of books that have piqued other historians' interest in and understanding of the Incas. Her 2000 book "Reading Inca History," for example, examines Inca histories before, during and after the arrival of the Spaniards.

A career sparked by a passion for Spanish

Today, Julien is at the peak of a career that began because she had a passion for the Spanish language. That passion was stoked by the opportunity to do field work in Peru when she was a student.

Thirty-four years have passed since her first trip to Peru, and she's spent more than six of them doing her own fieldwork in the Andes. She has introduced dozens of students in Europe, the Andes and the United States to Inca research. And Julien has her finger on the pulse of pre-Columbian history and her hand in the mix of some of the most important historical debates about that period.

- Her translation of Titu Cusi's "The History of How the Spaniards Arrived in Peru" was published in fall 2006 and offers the tale of conquest from the perspective of an Inca ruler. His version of what happened during the conquest period was designed to be put in the hands of history students everywhere. And it offers

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side-by-side Spanish and English text, along with notes about the historical, cultural and literary contexts that produced it. "It's inexpensive. I'm glad because I want him to be read," she says proudly.

- Supported by her Guggenheim Fellowship funding, Julien is comparing four separate accounts of the arrival in Peru of the Spaniards under Francisco Pizzaro and the resultant overthrow of the Inca empire. Two of the texts were written by Spaniards, the other two by Incas, so she's comparing timelines of events told from radically different perspectives, including one from an anonymous source whose identity is something of a mystery. "I need to figure out who that anonymous source is," she says.

- UNESCO has asked Julien to compare the Inca road system, which traversed the Andes at great altitudes, with Roman roads. The work will support the nomination of the main Inca highland road to the World Heritage list. Other linear projects that have been nominated include the Great Wall of China.

- Julien and WMU Spanish language specialist Pablo Pastrana-Perez are translating the records of Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, who traveled into the interior of South America in the 16th century and explored a region that now includes Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia and Brazil. That work, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, will be published in 2009 by the University of Nebraska Press.

- In a research initiative that's due to challenge conventional wisdom, Julien is examining the records of Spanish explorers who came to South America from the Atlantic side of the continent. She's found evidence of a densely populated, highly organized civilization in an area now known as the Pantanal, where Bolivia and Brazil meet. Her work dispels the notion of ancient Amazonians as similar to the foragers who inhabit the forest regions today. The documents reveal the existence of hierarchical communities that were supported through agriculture in a part of the rain forest presumed to be incapable of supporting dense populations.

That may sound like a large and varied plate of research for any one scholar, but Julien says it suits her research style. Rather than focus exclusively on one narrow track, she prefers to let things simmer, moving items on and off the back burner. She mulls her findings and insights before committing them to paper. The more thinking that goes on before she writes, she says, the better the final product.

"It's a lesson I try to pass on to my students," she says. "When they're working on a paper, I tell them to let it rest, let it breathe. I want them to become more aware of the act of thinking as part of historical writing."

Recruiting a new generation of historians

Good writing techniques are not all she's been passing on to her students. Although many of them will go into archival work, she teaches a large number of students who will become high school history teachers. She's determined that when students leave her classroom, they'll have a thorough knowledge of the Spanish conquest and what was lost—a topic most will cover when they teach 11th-grade history.

Clearly passionate about the nations that form the geographic backdrop for her work, Julien has been busy since her arrival at WMU introducing undergraduate and graduate students to the research potential and beauty of the area. More than a decade ago, she began taking WMU students to Peru to do field work. The payback has been a handful of students who have gotten hooked on Andean history—some of whom are still working with her at WMU.

"I don't know anyone who went to Peru in their 20s who didn't fall in love with it," she says.

Julien's own academic background is in both history and anthropology. She earned her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. As an undergraduate, she never considered graduate work, but she fell in love with research, had an opportunity to travel to Peru for the first time and was in a place and era when funding was available to support student research travel at an early career stage.
**History with a focus on indigenous peoples**

An ethnohistorian, Julien used her experiences both in and out of the classroom to develop the skills and credentials she uses to explore her geographical and chronological period of focus—the Andes during the 100 years before and the 100 years after the arrival of the Spaniards. That’s roughly the 15th and 16th centuries.

“Archaeology stops when the Europeans came, and for historians, the arrival of the Europeans is literally year zero,” Julien says.

Her work is a bridge between both disciplines. She uses the tools of history and archaeology to explore the culture of the indigenous people of the region—documentary sources and oral traditions, supplemented with archaeological data. Information may come from maps, music, paintings, folklore, oral tradition, ecology, site exploration, archaeological materials, museum collections, language and place names. Her work has taken her to South America and Europe to hunt through archives for all of these sources.

“Ethnohistory is still just history,” she notes. The “voice” of the history she’s after is that of the indigenous population. “You’re always only getting close to their voice in your text. This is all about people like us, who have European forms of communication, trying to understand other points of view. There are fragmentary sources you use, and you’re always trying to tease out a foreign way of understanding something.”

Something as simple as how geographic directions are given, she notes, can offer insight into the way a group of people perceived themselves and the world around them. The Incas, for instance, used metaphors in nature to describe the path of a conquering army—equating the power of the sun with the power of the conqueror.

Complicating the difficulty in finding that “voice” for the Andes’ indigenous population is the fact that the Incas did not use an alphabet-based language. Any documents or records they left were in the form of complex three-dimensional knotted textiles called khipus. Julien says those were sophisticated record-keeping systems that were not based on recording speech.

**Lessons from a lost civilization**

Why is it so important to understand what has been lost and what, from the perspective of indigenous people, really took place? Julien says the answer is tied to current national identity and an appreciation for what indigenous cultures accomplished before European ways of doing things forever changed them.

In the case of the Incas, she says, the introduction of European ways resulted in the total destruction of the only civilization in the world that was able to use high elevations as the basis for building great wealth. The Himalayas and the Alps, she notes, were barriers to be crossed rather than fertile ground for the development of civilizations. But in the Andes, the Incas used the advantages of elevation to build wealth by using animals for transport and cloth, freeze-drying food, controlling the water resources of the region and taking advantage of the proximity of different ecologies as they moved up and down the mountains.

The Incas’ public works projects were astounding. The main Inca highland road ran through what is now six Andean nations. It was a road system that was staffed and stocked with provisions for travelers.

“The destruction of the Inca empire and the Aztec empire in what is now Mexico needs to be understood,” Julien says. “The Spaniards took over two functioning empires, and their territories were the core of the Spanish occupation of the Americas for the next 100 years. From what we have learned about empires, they rise quickly and fall just as quickly. A small group that will stop at nothing can take down something seemingly too powerful to be vulnerable to such an attack. It is not their military power that is dangerous—it is the game they play.”

Julien says she’s usually disappointed with the way modern imagination depicts the past in the Americas. While she may, eventually, watch films like “Apocalypto” and “The Fountain,” she’s in no hurry. She’ll wait to rent the DVDs. “There’s usually a six-month lag between me and popular culture,” she says with a laugh. “That’s no big deal for someone who works with a lapse of half a millennium.”

Story by Cheryl Roland

Images provided by Catherine Julien
Student artists challenge campus with literary mural for Brown Hall

Navigating campus construction sites is not unusual at WMU, but these days, students, faculty, staff and visitors to the University are both enjoying the view and scratching their heads to solve the literary puzzle presented at one building location.

In October, art students completed a huge 21-panel mural along the entire west side of the construction site at the University's Brown Hall, a classroom building being renovated. Eight feet tall and more than 250 feet long, the mural depicts 10 famous authors and one quotation by each of them. More than just an attractive facade for the construction site, the mural is a literary challenge. The authors and quotes are not paired, side-by-side. They are randomly ordered, and the object is for passersby to correctly match each quote with its author. All of the quotes relate in some way, literally and metaphorically, to fences and barriers.

Karen Bondarchuk, assistant professor of art, guided 35 students in creating the painted panels in studios at East Hall. There is one image or quote per panel, and each panel is eight feet tall and 12 feet wide. Images of the literary figures and the quotes were projected on the panels, traced and painted by hand. "We used Andy Warhol's silkscreen portraits as a model for manipulating the images," says Bondarchuk. "The unmodulated, monochromatic flat areas make sense for the scale of this project. It permitted the students to create large-scale, identifiable portraits without the stress of faithfully rendering realistic imagery."

The idea for the mural began with WMU Interim President Diether H. Haenicke, who petitioned the School of Art for suggestions and provided support for the literary mural project.

Literary figures represented are Maya Angelou, Willa Cather, John Cheever, Leonard Cohen, Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, H.L. Mencken, Mary Shelley and Oscar Wilde.

The mural will remain on display through fall 2007 and the completion of the Brown Hall project. Answers to the literary puzzle and more information can be found at www.wmich.edu/art.

WMU's Meyer is Michigan Librarian of the Year

Bettina S. Meyer, assistant dean of University Libraries at WMU, has received the highest accolade of the Michigan Library Association and was honored Oct. 11 at the MLA Annual Conference in Detroit as the state's Librarian of the Year.

"Bettina is known for her ability to blend traditional roles with forward thinking, for focusing on the end-user and for embracing new technologies to enhance accessibility," wrote MLA Executive Director Gretchen Couraud in announcing the award.

Meyer has been involved in advancing library technology and accessibility since she joined the WMU library faculty in 1978. In the mid-1990s, Meyer delivered several public presentations on the general theme of the “21st Century Library,” predicting the rapidity and range of the sweeping technological advances libraries have experienced during the past decade.

She was a key member of the WMU team that produced “Dirt Roads to Super Highways,” a 1996 instructional video on using the University Libraries’ new state-of-the-art electronic resources. The video won an Award of Distinction in the university category at the Communicator Awards, a nationwide competition, which that year drew more than 2,700 entries from 43 states.

More recently, Meyer has received awards to support the libraries' digitization capabilities and was part of a WMU team that received a $95,000 grant to digitize the Civil War diaries of eight men from Midwestern states who served in the Union army.
Bronco Biodiesel to fuel 25 percent of Kalamazoo buses in 2007

Kalamazoo citizens could breathe cleaner air, ride more efficient public transit and see their tax dollars stretched further, as city buses begin using a WMU 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 busses. Bronco Biodiesel is the brainchild of a group of WMU faculty members, who secured development funds earlier this year 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 in the spring.

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 sometime in 2007.

“This is a model of biodiesel production that could be exported to any municipality,” says Dr. Steven N. 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 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.

“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 Dr. 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.”

Dr. 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.”

Bertman appointed to state’s alternative energy body

Dr. Steven B. Bertman, WMU professor of chemistry has been appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm to the new Michigan Renewable Fuels Commission.

The commission will focus on the promotion, production and distribution of alternative fuel in Michigan. Bertman is one of 25 commission members charged with investigating and recommending strategies that the governor and Legislature may implement to promote the use of alternative fuels and encourage the use of vehicles that utilize alternative fuel. The commission will also identify mechanisms that promote research of alternative fuels.

Other members of the commission include university researchers; representatives of the agricultural sector; representatives from Michigan’s Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Economic Development Corp.; auto, energy and petroleum industry professionals; and labor and retail experts.

Bertman, a WMU faculty member since 1994, is co-director of the Bronco Biodiesel project at WMU and has a lengthy research record in the area of atmospheric chemistry.
Fedotov wins Fulbright Funding for research on Russian-Soviet composers

A Fulbright award to a WMU musician will be used to help preserve and improve access to a vital part of Russian musical history.

Violist Igor Fedotov, associate professor of music and principal violist of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research in his native Russia.

Fedotov, who left last September and expects to return in July, says the primary objective of his travels to Russia is to continue research on music written for viola and piano by 20th-century Russian-Soviet composers.

“This music represents a vital part of the Russian musical legacy, but has been lost or become inaccessible due to a scarcity of reprints and recordings,” he says.

During his stay in Russia, Fedotov is slated to perform three programs compiled from the best examples of that music in a series of lecture-recitals in St. Petersburg and Moscow. The performances are being recorded on a Russian music label. He will conclude his residency by presenting a multimedia performance in collaboration with faculty and students of the Moscow M. Balakirev School of the Arts.

In addition, Fedotov will teach orchestral excerpts based on the unique method of Ellen Rose, principal violist of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and will give master classes to the students of A. Shnitke Moscow State Institute of Music and St. Petersburg Conservatory.

“Even though these lectures are not part of my research project, I feel that while I am in Russia, it is important for me to introduce this method to my Russian colleagues and their students and share with them my experience of using it with the students at Western Michigan University.”

Fedotov, who joined the WMU School of Music faculty in 1998, has performed solo recitals throughout the United States and abroad. As a chamber musician, he has performed with some of the world’s leading musicians and ensembles, including the Lemmov Trio, Thouvenel String Quartet, Camerata Boccherini Baroque Ensemble and Veronica String Quartet.

Engineering campus attracts bike racers from across region

More than 100 bicyclists from around the state were on hand for a blend of high-tech fun and intense competition Sept. 30, when WMU’s engineering campus and Business Technology and Research Park became the course for the first BTR Park Criterium.

Organized by the University, the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club and the WMU Cycling Club, the event was a blend of road race and block party as community members turned out to tour the park and watch a series of bicycle races as riders completed multiple laps on a challenging 1.1-mile circuit around the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. A criterium is the bicycling equivalent of the Indy 500—fast, exciting to watch and somewhat dangerous to race contestants.

“We wanted to do something to build a sense of community for the companies in the park and our neighbors,” says Bob Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach. “What better way than to build a day of fun around a sport that utilizes high-tech materials and advanced engineering—the very things the BTR Park is all about.”

Miller says the criterium may become an annual fall event. The most popular form of bike racing in the United States, a criterium racecourse is a closed circuit track that makes it convenient for spectators. Racers complete a lap a minute, traveling at speeds exceeding 30 mph. The BTR Park Criterium included separate events for racers of different ages and genders, with prize money totaling $2,500 as well as special recognition to collegiate bike racers.
WMU lauds Czech literary and political icons with honorary degrees

The University has awarded honorary degrees to two leading Czech figures who have distinguished themselves both in literature and politics.

The honorary degrees awarded July 3 to Vaclav Havel and Arnost Lustig stemmed from the two leaders’ association with WMU’s annual Prague Summer Program, the premiere summer creative writing program in the Czech Republic, which WMU has administered since 2002.

Havel is one of the most revered and celebrated cultural and political figures of modern times. He was the recipient of numerous national and international honors, including the Freedom Medal from the president of the United States, and has been on the short list several times for the Nobel Peace Prize and Nobel Prize for Literature.

Many consider Havel the father of his country. He was its first president, and in 1989 led what he termed the Velvet Revolution, the bloodless movement that led to the republic’s independence and peaceful dissociation with the Soviets.

A playwright of international renown, Havel is the author of such major works for the stage as “The Memorandum,” “A Hotel in the Hills,” “Protest,” “Mistake,” “Largo Desolato,” “Temptation” and “Redevelopment.”

Lustig also is no stranger to the WMU program, formerly the Prague Summer Seminars, and has been on its faculty for each of its 13 years in existence. He is professor of film and literature at American University in Washington, D.C. A founder of the much-celebrated Czech New Wave cinema in the 1960s, he is the author of numerous stories and 14 books, five of which were made into films in the Czech Republic.

A survivor of Theresienstadt, Buchenwald and Auschwitz, Lustig has made the Holocaust the exclusive subject of his fiction. He writes about the humanity of the dehumanized, the courage of the terrorized, and the possibility of moral triumph in the face of fear and humiliation. He has received the Carl Capek Award, one of Central Europe’s most prestigious literary awards, and also has been on the short list for the Nobel Prize for Literature. In addition, he is the recipient of an award from the American Institute of Arts and Letters and an Emmy.

Defense appropriations fund nanotech and vehicle research

Homeland security and safer military travel will both get a boost thanks to $2.3 million in U.S. Department of Defense funding for two WMU research initiatives announced this fall.

The 2007 appropriations bill includes funding for WMU projects that will lead to the development of tiny sensors capable of alerting troops to the presence of toxins and to improved military vehicle designs.

- A $1.3 million award for WMU research that will focus on the development of small, lightweight sensors capable of rapid detection and measurement of toxins and a rapid display of light alerts that can immediately warn users of danger. The nanosensor project is under the direction of Dr. Subra Muralidharan, professor of chemistry and director of the Nanotechnology Research and Computation Center.

Muralidharan’s work revolves around the development of molecules that emit light when they come into contact with harmful biological agents. The nanosensors will be small enough that they could be embedded in uniform fabric and even the paint on military vehicles. The molecules have been in development at WMU for several years.

- A $1 million award for WMU’S Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation will be used to develop applied research simulation capability that will lead to improved reliability and performance for military ground vehicles. The center, which is part of WMU’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, was launched last year in partnership with the automotive industry. It is under the direction of Dr. William Liou, professor of mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

WMU’S Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation—known as CAVlDS—will develop simulations that can predict the effects of changes to vehicle structure or the impact of use over rugged terrain on the performance of military vehicles. The simulations will allow engineers to test vehicles quickly and assess the impact of altering vehicles by adding more protective armor that can shield troops from roadside bombs.
Engineering program named best in nation

WMU’s graduate program in engineering management was named the top such program in the nation for 2006, while the University’s undergraduate program in the same discipline pulled into third place.

The American Society for Engineering Management announced the rankings in October at the group’s annual meeting, which was held in Huntsville, Ala. This is the third year both WMU programs have been listed among the nation’s top five. WMU is the only school in the nation with top-ranked programs at both levels.

“IT is faculty’s hard work and continued dedication that has brought this recognition to WMU,” said engineering Dean Timothy Greene in announcing the programs’ new rankings. “This recognition adds considerable value to our graduates’ degrees.”

In making its selections, ASEM considers the specifics of the programs as well as testimony from industry and letters from program graduates and current students.

Engineering management integrates technical engineering and project systems management skills to prepare students to lead people, projects and teams. In addition to traditional engineering course work, students focus on business, economics, systems management and supervision.

Gift to WMU aimed at honoring vets, encouraging aviation careers

A 1950 WMU alumnus who earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his World War II service has established a new outreach fund at WMU to honor his fellow DFC winners and encourage high school students to pursue aviation careers.

Edward V. Rossi of Kalamazoo, a former Detroit Tigers player and a longtime insurance executive in the Kalamazoo area, has established the Distinguished Flying Cross Education for Employment Fund at the WMU College of Aviation. The endowed fund, which uses matching funds from State Farm, was the result of a gift from Rossi, with the support of his wife, Jean.

Rossi checks out the college's new CRJ-200 simulator with flight instructor Lauren Kralowski, '06, and recruiting director Mark Hardy, '05.

The fund will be used to support a program held at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo in which high school students from 10 school districts come to the Air Zoo to learn about careers in aviation. As part of the program, the WMU College of Aviation takes students for rides in airplanes to provide the direct experience of flight. Rossi’s gift was intended to encourage WMU’s continued participation in the program at the Air Zoo as a recruiting tool for the College of Aviation.

Rossi served in the South Pacific during World War II as a member of a bomb group in the U.S. Air Force’s 65th Squadron. Following the war, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and “extraordinary achievement above and beyond the call of duty.”
New center’s mission to bring Japan closer to Kalamazoo

WMU has opened a new academic center that will strengthen Japan-related study, research and relationships.

The Michitoshi Soga Japan Center will serve as a community resource as well as a venue for coalescing research and scholarly activity at WMU that focuses on Japanese language and culture. Many of WMU’s Japanese alumni helped launch the center, which is housed in the Haenicke Institute for Global Education and reflects the University’s longstanding ties to Japan.

Those ties date back to 1955, when WMU graduated its first Japanese student, and grew significantly in 1961. That was the year Keio University sent a group of 66 students and three professors to campus for a summer institute, beginning WMU’s first academic linkage with a Japanese school.

The Japan Center is named for Dr. Michitoshi Soga, WMU professor emeritus of physics. Soga joined the faculty in 1968 and retired from teaching in 1993, then served nearly a decade as an administrative officer for the Office of International Affairs.

He worked tirelessly for decades to build the University’s Japanese studies offerings, establish programs with Japanese universities and build a Japanese alumni network. Over the years, he also played host to hundreds of Japanese students attending WMU and Japanese business people and academics visiting West Michigan.

“My fondest wish is that the founding of the Japan Center will lead, some day, to the establishment of a Japanese studies major at WMU,” Soga says.

The center’s multi-faceted mission includes supporting students interested in pursuing Japanese studies at WMU and in Japan, stimulating creative curricular development and extra-curricular activities that enrich students’ understanding of Japan, and bringing the Japanese student community together with non-Japanese students interested in learning more about the island nation.

The center will also promote and disseminate research on Japan, serve as the nexus between WMU and western Michigan’s Japan-related business community, build relationships with area schools and community centers, and deepen ties with WMU alumni groups and partner institutions in Japan as well as other relevant Japanese communities, notably in the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek area.

“Japan is very important to Michigan’s economy and has been for a long time, especially in western Michigan,” says Dr. Stephen Covell, assistant professor of comparative religion and Soga Center director. “Developing the University’s Japanese studies opportunities is critical. Part of our mission at the center is to bring people from America and Japan on board to satisfy demand for increased international study and the recruiting of Japanese students to raise all students’ global awareness. The center is a natural fit for that. Many of our Japanese graduates are now presidents and vice presidents in major Japanese corporations.”

Gold Company wins coveted spot on new Jazziz Magazine recording

A song by Gold Company, Western Michigan University’s award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, was selected as one of 15 cuts on a compact disc that has been released by a leading jazz publication.

The tune, “Soul Conspiracy,” was picked by Jazziz Magazine for inclusion on a compilation CD that accompanied its annual education issue published in October.

Composed and arranged by WMU alumnus Justin Avery, the song is from Gold Company’s 2006 release, “Absolute Integrity.”

Songs on the compilation were chosen by competitive audition. Other institutions represented include The Juilliard School, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory and the Berklee College of Music. Of all the ensembles on the CD, Gold Company is the only vocal group.
The art of healing

Encounters with cancer sparked Gay Walker’s transformation from a graphic designer to a new life as a college professor, expressive art therapist, art show curator and researcher into cancer outcomes. Now her focus is using art to help others transform the journey through illness into a celebration of creativity and the human spirit.

Gay Walker is reminded every day that she is a survivor. The WMU assistant professor has the physical scars from a mastectomy for breast cancer and a subsequent hysterectomy.

She can explain in detail the medical procedures that helped her stay alive. But to Walker, an art therapist, what is most significant is the creative process she uses and shares with patients and families to face loss and stay emotionally whole.
Through her experience as a cancer survivor, graphic designer and holistic health expert, Walker has crafted an approach to healing that uses art, writing, music, movement and drama.

Her students at WMU are future occupational therapists, nurses, social workers and psychologists—and rarely art therapists. Her courses complement other academic majors, especially in the health care and social service professions.

"Most of my students are service professionals who want to expand their awareness to other techniques in the healing process and get exposure to things they might not otherwise have. It's like having more tools in your tool box," says Walker, who teaches in WMU's Holistic Health Care Program in the College of Health and Human Services.

Including such a broad array of outlets for therapy is uncommon among other university art therapy programs. She also requires students themselves to go through the therapeutic self-evaluation process.

"The first part is for them to have the experience so they can see how this works. Then they can adapt and customize it for any situation," she says. "They find what they are learning is also helpful for them. I don't think you can care for someone unless you care for yourself."

Part of the students' assignment is to work with someone in the community with physical challenges and find creative ways for that person to be expressive.

"Just because they have a disability doesn't mean they can't express themselves. I believe everyone is creative. If you can scribble, if you can draw a stick figure or splat paint, you can express yourself," Walker says.

Her assertion is that people spontaneously turn to art to express themselves, whether or not they have any prior experience with art. Creativity can be a powerful method for healing.

"Being keenly aware of one's senses and direct experience can be as important for learning as hitting the books," Walker says. "I tend to learn through art, music and life in general, all of which inform me greatly."

In her teaching, her work for Kalamazoo Borgess Medical Center Hospice and as a volunteer for cancer support organizations, she helps others through an often painful journey that if uncharted can lead a person into isolation.

**Patients communicate through art**

"She's so full of ideas that extend creativity in ways maybe we haven't thought about," says Lou Hildebrandt, director of hospice and palliative care at Borgess, of Walker, who has worked there for the past five years. "There's the expectation that patients and families can still reach out and communicate even if someone cannot speak or see or move as well."

In honor of a former patient, Borgess hospice created Diane's Way Expressive Arts and Comfort Care program in 2001 to give Walker an outlet for her healing therapies. Walker helps hospice patients tap their creativity to help them express themselves during their final days.

There are traditional art methods such as painting, poetry and music. But Walker also works with gardening, movement and writing in personal journals called "Legacy Journals" that record everything from childhood memories to favorite recipes.

"Gay is someone who can see beyond what we might think is an end to a journey. She looks at the path that we might go, and what the options are on that journey," Hildebrandt says.

Borgess hospice patients helped by Walker and the Diane's Way program include Parlee, a grandmother who had several grandchildren spread across the country and was not going to be able to say goodbye to all of them. Her hospice companion brought her glass beads to string into prayer necklaces. She gift wrapped each one and included a note to each grandchild. These were sent to them after her death.

**Creativity reawakened by illness**

Art therapy was not always Walker's profession; but even before she fully realized it, it was her passion.

More than 20 years ago, Walker ran her own business as a graphic designer out of her home and also taught a design software class at WMU in the early 1990s. She says she often felt her creativity was strained but

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was reawakened when she volunteered for a Kalamazoo support group for children with chronic illnesses.

"There was a point when I thought my creativity had died, that it had been all used up. But when I came home from working with the children, I felt what I was doing was so worthwhile," Walker says.

It was not until her mother, her aunt and several of her close friends were diagnosed with breast cancer that she sought to take her graphic arts career into a new direction.

Her mother, also an artist, survived cancer and nearly 20 years later is still a driving force in her work. However, many of her other close friends at the time did not.

Walker earned her master's degree in holistic art therapy and began teaching at WMU in 1995 in the Holistic Health Care Program.

"By merging my interests in art and healing, I focused on an individualized degree to do art therapy in a holistic way," she says.

With the help of local grants, she organized a traveling exhibit of patients' therapy work as they expressed their fears, anger, sadness and triumphs through their art. The experience helped many who have no art background work through their illness, recovery and sometimes preparedness for death, Walker says. The first exhibit was expected to run two weeks in Kalamazoo. Yet, with 125 art pieces, it traveled around Michigan and to Washington, D.C., during the next two years.

In May 1998, her life took another turn when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and had a mastectomy shortly after. Complications from a medication she took to fight the breast cancer caused polyps to form in her uterus. A hysterectomy followed in 2001.

"When I had my own diagnosis, I did the art therapy for myself. I did my own art, but not to show at first. I was really uncomfortable with showing my vulnerability," she says.

Being able to show her art work, which is as varied as the emotions that go into it, was a vital part of her healing.

"When you put it on the wall, it's the letting go, the willingness to be vulnerable," she says.

Art that lets emotions pour out

She continues to organize traveling art exhibits for patients, including one of her own work of 35 pieces called "The Art of Healing: A Journey Through Cancer." Sculpture, watercolors, poems and sentimental memorabilia are worked into self-portraits and emotional outlets for Walker.

In her exhibit, a life-size corrugated plastic cutout of a woman, "The Medicine Woman," has bottles and labels of vitamins, supplements and medications secured to it by a green wire mesh (see back cover of this issue). The pharmaceuticals are what Walker used when she was searching for a boost to help her fight the cancer.

"In May 1998, I heard the words, 'You have breast cancer.' I wanted to fully participate in my treatment and take control of my healing process. I decided to increase my already substantial intake of vitamins and supplements," Walker explains. "Soon, there was a whole shelf of bottles in my bathroom and another stash in my kitchen. As I emptied each one, I decided to save them ... the pile grew and grew. I knew they made a statement, and the idea for this piece was born."

"It's not about beauty. It's about emotions pouring out," she says while sipping tea in her WMU office from a mug that reads "Fear No Art."
During her healing process, she also co-wrote and designed the book “Seeds of Awakening, Cultivating and Sustaining the Inner Life,” with three other WMU professors: Molly Vass-Lehman, Paula W. Jamison and Thomas Holmes. The book, published by Holistic Health at WMU, includes self-help instruction and exercises for finding inner peace and relaxation and real-life stories. Topics cover creativity, art therapy, journaling, relationships and working in the community.

Walker has continued as a volunteer, including in the Reach to Recovery program of the American Cancer Society. There, women who have survived breast cancer at least one year work with other women who have been diagnosed to provide support and information about treatment.

“With my experience with breast cancer is the feeling that I have to give back,” Walker says.

Future filled with research and international opportunities

She was picked by the U.S. Department of Defense to sit as one of three breast cancer consumers along with 29 scientists to periodically review hundreds of lengthy research proposals submitted to the division for funding. Recommended to the post through her work with the American Cancer Society in Lansing, Walker has participated in four research panel discussions in Washington, D.C. The panels recommendations are sent to the Department of Defense for the consideration of grants.

Walker specifically has had input in recommendations for cellular biology research, including the prediction of breast cancer through gene mapping. Other panels have considered the course of medications for cancer and the social aspects of the disease.

“When I’ve gone to these meetings, I’ve come back so full of hope about how amazing it is that we’ve come this far,” she says.

In fall 2005, Bayer Pharmaceuticals and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi, India, sponsored Walker in a two-week trip to teach holistic art therapy to 27 students, nurses and doctors at the hospital. Her course encouraged these students and professionals to use art and creative expression with their patients to promote healing and understanding of their illnesses. During that visit, she also spoke at the International Vedic Conference, which was covered by the international media. She is hoping to secure a second trip to teach in southern India at Rajagiri University in Kerala.

Back home, a full personal life is balanced by a plethora of new initiatives. She and John, her husband of 40 years, have two grown children and five grandchildren. Her latest research interest is focusing on studying the immune system of women who have attended breast cancer support retreats. The goal is to show through blood tests that these women's immune systems get a boost from doing holistic therapy. She also hopes to work more with children who have had an adult or parent die and adults who have had children die.

“Having cancer doesn’t have to be a tragedy, and I found that my life is better now for having had it,” she says. “It puts life in perspective, and I appreciate it so much more. I enjoy the little things now ... like walking in the woods, playing with my animals, whereas before I used to look for the big things for satisfaction. Cancer gave me many gifts, and I hope to be able to pass some of these on.”

Story by Deanne Molinari
Images by Gay Walker
Weddings • Retreats • Overnight Accommodations & more

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WMU faculty awarded state's largest number of 2006-07 Fulbrights for work overseas

With six faculty members named Fulbright Scholars for the 2006-07 academic year, WMU has more Fulbright recipients than any other college or university in Michigan.

Six out of Michigan's 26 Fulbrights this year are members of the WMU faculty, and their awards are taking them around the globe—to Europe, Asia and South America. In all, 14 Michigan schools had faculty members awarded Fulbrights, with the University of Michigan and Michigan State University each receiving three awards and the remainder spread out among universities, colleges and community colleges around the state.

WMU Fulbright Scholars for 2006-07 include:

- Jeffrey Bucker Abshear, an instructor of art, who will travel to the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice, Italy, next spring to study historical and contemporary Italian book printing, binding and papermaking;
- Igor Y. Fedotov, associate professor of music, who is in Russia at the Moscow State Musical Institute lecturing and conducting research on 20th-century Russian-Soviet viola music (see story on page 8);
- Dr. Ann M. Miles, associate professor of anthropology, whose research took her to the University of Cuenca in Ecuador to do research on coping with chronic disease;
- Dr. Susan Pozo, professor of economics, who is at the University of Montevideo in Uruguay studying the impact of emigrant remittances on Uruguayan households;
- Dr. Gregory Veeck, professor of geography, who is at the Chinese Academy of Social Science's Rural Development Institute in Beijing examining management practices of livestock-dependent families in inner Mongolia; and
- Dr. Lance E. Weldy, visiting assistant professor of English, who is at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfort, Germany, lecturing on American children's literature.

The Fulbright Scholar Program is the U.S. government's flagship academic exchange effort, on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the program's purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

During its 59 years in existence, thousands of U.S. faculty and professionals have studied, taught or conducted research abroad, and thousands of their counterparts from other countries have engaged in similar activities in the United States. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.

Student intern scores at NPR with tale of the toads

After completing the second high-profile internship of her college career, WMU's Talat Mangla found herself celebrated this fall as the producer of a National Public Radio "All Things Considered" story that became the network's most e-mailed story of the day after it aired in October.

Mangla, a senior accounting and political science major and a member of the Lee Honors College, worked over the past summer as an intern at NPR's main studio in Washington, D.C. During her time there, she partnered with another intern, Laura Mirsh, and the pair produced a lighthearted piece about Mirsh's suburban family and "its secret struggle with an uncommon addiction." The piece, called "An Addict Named Lady," detailed the family's fight to stop the family dog from getting high by sucking toads in a local pond.

Mangla spent an earlier summer working as a policy fellow at the Washington lobbying firm Preston Gates. While at WMU, she also has studied at the London School of Economics and spent a semester working for the Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency. She's planning a career in accounting or law.
Preschool literacy promoted with $3.4 million Department of Education grant

Preschoolers in Battle Creek, Mich., will get a head start on reading readiness, thanks to a $3.4 million federal grant awarded to WMU researchers by the U.S. Department of Education to promote literacy among preschool children in the area.

The University will use the grant to partner with the Battle Creek Head Start program to develop five Early Reading First preschool “centers of excellence” to serve 380 Battle Creek 3- and 4-year-olds per year, ensuring that children learn the literacy skills they need before they enter grade school. Of children in the program, one-fourth have special needs or are English language learners and 91 percent come from low-income backgrounds.

“The goal is to give children of poverty a better start in learning how to read, because reading is everything,” says Dr. Esther Newlin-Haus, director of the reading project. “If you get to third grade and can’t read, you don’t succeed in school. We want our children to experience early success in literacy so that they will succeed academically when they enter school.”

The three-year grant is through the Department of Education’s Early Reading First program. The WMU-led effort involves a partnership between the WMU departments of Family and Consumer Sciences and Special Education and Literacy Studies, both units within the University’s College of Education. The program will help Head Start centers develop a literacy-rich environment that introduces children to phonological, book and print awareness and the importance of reading and writing. Workshops and weekly coaching will be provided to Head Start teachers to integrate an intense literacy focus into their curriculum, and the grant will help centers build classroom libraries.

Families also will benefit from monthly family literacy nights and home visits in which family literacy specialists will work with parents to help teach reading and vocabulary skills to their children. Children will be given a book to take home each week to add to their own home library, and a “lending library” of home literacy kits will be developed. The grant will also provide a five-week summer school for approximately 300 children.

Historian’s research turned into new documentary on women’s sports

A new film by a WMU historian examines the sports legacy of Jewish women ranging from Senda Berenson, who developed the first rules for women’s basketball in the 1890s, to figure skater Sarah Hughes, who captured a gold medal in the 2002 Olympics.

Dr. Linda Borish served as executive producer and historian for the film that had its premiere in early October. Borish, a professor of history who specializes in gender and women’s studies, shared her expertise and research on American women’s sport history in this first-ever film about Jewish women in American sport from the 1880s through the 20th century.

“Jewish Women in American Sport: Settlement Houses to the Olympics” was screened Oct. 3 at the Cherry Hill, N.J., Jewish Community Center and Oct. 5 at the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Commack, N.Y. Borish is on the hall of fame’s advisory committee and a research associate of the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University.

The film has been in the works since spring 2003 when Borish teamed up with well-known Israeli and Chicago-based filmmaker Shuli Eshel, the film’s director and producer, to develop and produce the documentary on the history of American Jewish women in sport based on Borish’s original research.

Borish and Eshel used archival research, news footage, still images and interviews with athletes and historians to trace the early years of prominent American Jewish female athletes and sports administrators, culminating with the induction of the first class of women into the 2003 Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

The film examines such important Jewish sportswomen as Charlotte Epstein, recognized as the mother of women’s competitive swimming, and 1932 Olympic track and field champion Lillian Copeland. Current athletes also are highlighted, including LPGA professional Amy Alcott and ESPN sportscaster Linda Cohen.
Researcher studying ethics of human enhancement using nanotechnology

A WMU professor is part of a collaborative research effort awarded $250,000 in funding from the National Science Foundation to examine ethical issues related to using nanotechnology to improve the capabilities of the human body.

Dr. Fritz Allhoff, assistant professor of philosophy, is leading WMU's part of the research project, which will delve into the ethical issues of using nanotechnology for human enhancement. Dr. James Moor, professor of philosophy and former chair of the philosophy department at Dartmouth College, is directing efforts there.

The project will focus on the ethical, social and related philosophical issues that arise in the application of nanotechnology to boost the abilities of humans. Nanotechnology is not the only technology that can be used for human enhancement, but it is an important one. Nanotechnologically augmented vision, for example, is already under development and could amplify the natural vision of soldiers so that they could see more than they naturally would, perhaps finding tunnels hidden from natural sight.

"Nanotechnology is predicted to be the next, big technological revolution," Allhoff says. "You can do a lot of things with it, and some people think you're going to be able to apply it to human enhancement in a lot of interesting ways."

Both Allhoff and Moor are members of the Nanoethics Group, a nonpartisan coalition of professional ethicists who study the ethical ramifications of nanotechnology.

Endowed business chair and three professorships named in business college

A veteran WMU finance professor has been named to an endowed chair, while three other professors, also in the WMU Department of Finance and Commercial Law, have been appointed to endowed professorships.

The WMU Haworth College of Business has announced the establishment of the National City Corp. Endowed Chair in Finance and Commercial Law. Dr. Ajay Samant, professor of finance and commercial law and chair of his department, fills the new post.

The intent of this award is to recognize exceptional contributions to the discipline of finance. The award carries a stipend, as well as funding of research and expenses related to research. The endowed chair is the result of a $1.5 million multi-year gift from National City to WMU announced in 1991.

In addition to the endowed chair, the college has announced three FCL professorships.

- The William Magel Professorship in Real Estate has been established in honor of the late William Magel, former chief executive officer of the National Association of Realtors. Dr. Timothy Scheu, associate professor of finance and commercial law, will fill that post.

- The college also has created the State Farm Professorship in Financial Services, which is intended to provide incentives to an outstanding faculty member to lead the financial services area. Dr. Judith Swisher, associate professor of finance and commercial law, was named to that position.

- The third endowed professorship created by the college is the Robert J. Bobb Professorship in Finance and Commercial Law, which was made possible by WMU alumnus Robert Bobb, a Chicago industrialist. It is intended to honor an outstanding faculty member in the Department of Finance and Commercial Law and has been awarded to Dr. Devrim Yaman, associate professor of finance.
College of Arts and Sciences
College fall focus is on U.S.-Canadian "shared waters"

A major September symposium at WMU focused on U.S.-Canadian relations and protection of the Great Lakes, the natural resource that serves as the critical tie between the two nations.

WMU's Canadian Studies Committee organized "Shared Waters: A Symposium on the Great Lakes." A companion photographic exhibit, "The Great Lakes Close Up: Spirit and Science," features the work of five leading landscape photographers and runs through April. The focus of both events was the past and future of the Great Lakes.

The symposium was co-sponsored by the governments of Canada and Quebec and by four colleges at WMU, eight academic units in the College of Arts and Sciences, and other University units.

Symposium speakers included the chair of the U.S. section of the International Joint Commission, the director of the Office of the Great Lakes, president of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp., and leading researchers and writers from the U.S. and Canada.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
Hydraulic bike project nabs second in national competition

A hydraulic bike designed by a WMU team captured second place and nabbed a number of other awards in the Second Chainless Challenge, a national competition held recently in Cleveland and sponsored by motion and control giant Parker Hannifin Corp. at the company's national headquarters.

Determined to improve on WMU's fifth place finish in 2005 against engineering schools from around the country, the University's 2006 team built a recumbent, human hydraulic-powered bike that took first place in safety and reliability, third place in the 150-meter sprint test and second in the 12-mile track race—missing first place by just 59 seconds.

Dr. Alamgir Choudhury, professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering, led the student-faculty team in the challenge. The goal was to create an innovative bicycle design that transfers the rider's manual power to a driving wheel through hydraulics and without using a traditional chain or other direct-drive mechanisms.

College of Education
College undergoes fall departmental reorganization

The College of Education completed a total departmental reconfiguration in 2006, following nearly two years of extensive study and work by the faculty.

Effective with the fall 2006 semester, the college is home to these new departments:

- The Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology, which contains programs, courses and faculty associated with educational leadership; evaluation, measurement and research; and educational technology.
- The Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies, which includes the programs, courses and faculty associated with early childhood education, elementary education, middle level education, secondary education and socio-cultural foundations.
- The Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies, which contains programs, courses and faculty associated with special education and reading.

Other units in the college are the departments of Family and Consumer Sciences; Health, Physical Education and Recreation; and Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology.
College of Aviation
Sky Broncos nab regional win

WMU’s precision flight team, the Sky Broncos, captured the National Intercollegiate Flying Association’s Region III title in October to qualify for the national championship next spring.

The 15-member WMU team captured both the ground and flight events in the Oct. 10-14 event held at Ohio State University’s home field in Columbus, Ohio. The regional win marks the 15th time in 16 years the Sky Broncos have won the regional title and qualifies the team for the May 7-12 national championship, which also will be held at OSU. WMU flight teams have placed among the top three in the nation for 15 consecutive years.

Haworth College of Business
Two advertising students lauded by Detroit group

Two students in the University's Advertising and Promotion Program were among 10 students statewide awarded 2006-07 scholarships from the Adcraft Club of Detroit’s Adcraft Foundation.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm presented the winners with their scholarships at a recent reception and luncheon in Troy, Mich. WMU winners were Nicole Brown of Grass Lake, Mich., who received a $3,000 scholarship, and Renee Thoma of Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich., who received a $1,000 scholarship.

The Adcraft Foundation annually awards cash grants to advertising and marketing students from Michigan universities. Students are nominated by faculty members and must submit an application and transcript, along with an essay demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of the advertising business. The WMU Advertising and Promotion Program was founded in the mid-1960s.

College of Fine Arts
Theatre department celebrates 100th season

Nine productions have been selected to mark the Department of Theatre's 100th season of performances, which is being celebrated this academic year.

Two one-act plays marked the first season in 1906, when WMU was Western State Normal School and theatrical performances were the purview of the speech department. Since then, University Theatre has been at home in the old Eames Mill, the Little Theatre on Oakland Drive, and since 1968, in the Laura V. Shaw Theatre.

The 100th season, says Joan Herrington, the department chair, includes the stories of great people and technical innovation beyond the imagination. Guest artists Paul Kelly, a WMU theatre alumnus, and Leon Ingulsrud are helping the department mark the season. Kelly designed the November "A Little Night Music" production. Ingulsrud will head up the season finale, "Doctor Faustus," which will incorporate cutting-edge media technology.

College of Health and Human Services
Washington named new dean of college

Dr. Earlie Washington has been named dean of the College of Health and Human Services. She replaces Dr. Janet Pisaneschi, who was named WMU provost and vice president for academic affairs in May.

Before her appointment, Washington had been a member of the faculty and director of the School of Social Work since 2000. Previously, she was director and associate professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she had been a faculty member since 1992.

Washington also has taught at the University of Chicago, Illinois State University and Tougaloo College. In addition, she has served in a variety of roles, such as director of the Life Skills Pre-Employment Training and Counseling Program in Chicago and director of an elderly support project, also in Chicago.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Tougaloo College, a master's degree from Ohio State University and her doctoral degree from the University of Chicago.
Number of faculty inventions sees dramatic increase in 2005-06 year

Faculty creativity at WMU soared during the most recent fiscal year, with the numbers of inventions tripling and technology transferred to the private sector at a record rate.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, the number of inventions coming out of University labs annually, the number of patent applications filed and the number of inventions licensed to third parties all nearly tripled.

A total of 20 inventions were recorded at WMU, and eight patent applications were filed in the 2005-06 fiscal year, while three technologies developed by University researchers were licensed to outside parties for further development and commercialization.

During the previous year, University labs produced seven inventions and three patent applications. Prior to that, from 1978 to 2004, an average of two inventions and one patent application were recorded at the University annually. The recent data represent a tenfold increase in the number of inventions produced over the number recorded for the 1978-2004 time frame.

Dr. Michael Sharer, who became the founding director of WMU’s intellectual property management and commercialization function in mid-2005, attributes the dramatic increase to a campuswide effort aimed at making researchers aware of technology transfer opportunities and the benefits those opportunities provide to the University, academic departments and the inventors.

“Technology transfer helps generate more research collaboration with corporate partners and it provides a source of revenue that can boost research capacity and attract and fund further research,” Sharer points out. “The past fiscal year was one of intense inventing activity on campus, which is a tribute to the efforts of the faculty, and we now have corporate interest in several of our patented technologies.”

Sharer says universities heavily involved in generating and commercializing intellectual property often use data that relates the volume of inventions generated to overall research expenditures. In 2003, the national average was 3.9 inventions per $10 million of research expenditures. During last year’s spurt in inventions at WMU, the University generated 5.1 inventions for each $10 million of its $39 million in research expenditures.

The Montague House, which once sat on the edge of WMU’s historic East Campus, now finds itself inside the borders of a bustling Oakland Drive campus that caters to future health care professionals.

Located at the corner of Oliver Street and Oakland Drive, the home was built in 1861 by Henry Montague, the first steward of the Kalamazoo Asylum. The Greek Revival residence today is home to the WMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors, which has leased the home from WMU since 1985.

In addition to his role at the Asylum, Montague was renowned as an abolitionist, one of the founders of the Republican Party and a temperance supporter. After he died in 1909, the home remained in his family's hands until 1917 and, after that, was used as a residence for officials of the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital until it was transferred to WMU in 1983.
Nearly 10 years ago, Howard Luckey, BA '66, established his first Charitable Gift Annuity to benefit Western Michigan University. Earlier this fall, he added his eleventh gift annuity, giving him the honor of having the most gift annuities at WMU. The proceeds of his gift annuities will create three named endowments: The Howard Luckey Music Endowment Fund, The Howard Luckey Jazz Scholarship Fund and The Howard Luckey Presidential Fund for the discretionary use of the president. Howard's most recent annuity will provide funding for equipment within the College of Fine Arts.

Howard has also named WMU as a beneficiary of his estate.

During his lifetime, Howard will receive guaranteed income from his gift annuities to supplement his retirement income. Each of his annuities has an interest rate that corresponds to his age at the time he started it. Eventually, Howard's named endowments will be funded and the University will receive a significant gift.

To learn more about Howard and how both gift annuities and deferred gift annuities work, visit our Web site at http://plannedgift.wmich.edu or call our office today.

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Chemical attraction

The University's new chemistry building opened to rave reviews Jan. 8, as students and their faculty mentors began 2007 with a state-of-the-art teaching facility tailored to the needs of students and 21st-century science education.

"Students have walked into this building for class over the past two weeks and they are simply awestruck by what they find," said Dr. Michael Barcelona, chair of WMU's Department of Chemistry, as he stopped to reflect in mid-January on campus response to the University's newest teaching facility.

Located in the heart of the main campus between Waldo Library and the Dalton Center, the $28.5 million building has classroom technology that includes built-in teaching podiums with document cameras, DVD...
Continued from page 24
players and computer projection on
dual screens. The technology will allow
instructors to cater to students who
solve problems visually as well as those
who solve problems numerically. Both,
Barcelona says, will benefit by gaining a
deeper understanding of chemistry.

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

The new instructional facility replaces McCracken
Hall, which was built 58 years ago. The three-story, 83,000-square-foot facility was completed in Decem-
ber and includes a large signature artwork in the
lobby honoring the role of science in generating new
knowledge. “Knowledge Made Matter” is based on
the Periodic Table of the Elements and is attracting
donors who are “buying” elements to support a
student assistance fund.

Story by Cheryl Roland
Photography by John Gilroy
Alumni are listed under their preferred class years. Names preceded by a circle (*) denote membership in the WMU Alumni Association.

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

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---1942 to 1979---

- Eleanor Edmondson, BA '42, was awarded the 2006 Public Service Award by the Chevron Retirees Association at its annual meeting in Pittsburgh. The award recognized her for her volunteer services. A lifelong teacher, she is the surviving spouse of a Chevron employee.

- Betty L. Hedrick, TC '50, BS '64, has retired after 41 years of teaching in Texarkana, AR.

- Janette D. Sherman, BS '52, a physician and author, was recently honored by the National Research Center for Women & Families, a nonprofit research organization that explores research findings and uses information to improve the lives of women, children and families.

- Stanley C. Snyder, BS '60, has been working at his second career as an artist. He paints pet portraits in Battle Creek, MI.

- John Miller, BA '61, MA '67, was inducted into WMU's Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Honor Academy, which recognizes the outstanding professional accomplishments, contributions and service of distinguished graduates.

- Judy Johnson, BS '64, MA '68, a retired teacher, was honored for her preservation of natural resources by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She helped research and write ordinances for Fabius Township near Three Rivers, MI, which limited lake activity and preserved wetlands.

- Charles J. Trantor Jr., BBA '64, led the 2006 Wawasee Flotilla as commodore during its July 4 celebration in Syracuse, IN.

- David Smith, BM '65, is the owner of David E. Publications LLC Catalog, which provides sacred instrumental arrangements to churches, schools and individuals in worship and music instruction. He will be one of 12 area residents who will share their views in the Sanilac County (MI) News, "In My Opinion" column.

- Virginia G. Beer, BA '66, is the principal at St. Helen Catholic School in Saginaw, MI.

- Edgar Hunt, BBA '66, is a member of the Norton Shores, MI, City Council.

- Kenneth P. Nobis, BS '66, was given the Dairy Farmer of the Year award by Michigan State University's Department of Animal Science at the Great Lakes Dairy Conference in Frankenmuth, MI, for his contribution to the state economy and industry leadership.

- Robert J. Thornton, BS '66, is the pastor at United Christian Church in Englewood, OH. The church has created an endowment fund in his name to send children to camp.

- Jeanne Carlson, BBA '68, is president and CEO, and senior vice president of subsidiary operations of Blue Care Network.

- Robert C. Ham, BA '68, is president of Marion Education Association, which is recognized as the legal bargaining agent for all instructional personnel in Marion County in Ocala, FL.

- Kate Barnes, BA '69, MSW '82, is senior director of principal gifts in WMU's Development Office.

- Joseph Jezowski, MA '69, has retired after 37 years in education from the Homer (MI) school system. He taught math, social studies, English, civics and economics at the middle school level.

- Matthew O. Kurz, BS '69, is the vice president for public relations at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington.

- Larry Myland, BS '70, was honored for serving 30 years as an organist at First Presbyterian Church in Richland, MI.

- Jano Bau, BA '71, is a member of the Lansing (MI) City Council.

- Nancy L. (Towers) Reddy, BA '71, a retired Spanish teacher, has been accepted in the Naples (FL) Philharmonic Chorale, the Bach Ensemble and Opera Naples, and is a cantor at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church.

- James W. Francis, BA '72, is the town manager of West Hartford, CT.

- Robert Harrison, BA '72, is executive dean of Lake Michigan College's Bertrand Crossing Campus in Niles, MI. He also leads its career and technical education programs and the community and business services division.

- Sharryl Iversen-Norris, BA '72, MA '74, is an English teacher at Eldon (MO) High School.

- James J. Scherrer, BS '72, executive director of Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan, has been named Advocate of the Year by the Michigan Federation for Children and Families.

- Phil Thomas, BBA '72, is vice president of sales and marketing, North America at Crane Merchandising Systems, a designer and manufacturer of vending and beverage dispensing equipment based in Bridgton, MO.

- Mary Bretscher, BA '73, was inducted into WMU's Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Honor Academy, which recognizes the outstanding professional accomplishments, contributions and service of distinguished graduates.

- David E. Hicks, BS '73, has retired after 26 years as director of soccer leagues and camps from the Springfield (IL) YMCA.

- Phyllis A. Miner, BM '73, MA '86, has been selected as Middle School Teacher of the Year for Kent County. She teaches at Kentwood (MI) Public Schools.

- Keith A. Pretty, BS '73, is the president of Northwood University in Midland, MI.

- W. Wilson Woods, BA '73, MA '83, has been appointed interim dean of WMU's Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

- Thomas C. Bardwell, BBA '74, is a Tuscola (MI) County commissioner.

- Doug Cultra, BS '74, MPA '76, is the interim administrator of Van Buren County, MI.

- Joe B. Gemmill, BS '74, is a certified financial planner at Gemmill & Associates, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services Inc. in Kalamazoo.

- Jose Infante, BA '74, has joined Ionia-based Independent Bank Corp. as senior vice president of its affiliate, Independent Bank of West Michigan.

- Carol J. (Alman) Kent, MA '74, is an author and public speaker. Her most recent book, "When I Lay My Isaac Down," received the 2005 Christian Retailers Award. All of her books are published by NavPress. She will be a featured speaker at 14 of the 2007 Women of Faith arena events being held across the United States.


- Jim Neely, BS '74, a professional storyteller recently presented "Michigan Men In World War I: The Doughboys That I Knew," at the Herbert D. Doan Midland (MI) County History Center.

- Fred M. Risema, BS '74, was awarded a King County (WA) Environmental Hero Award for founding an environmental club in Bow Lake Elementary School, which began the Bow Lake Arboretum on school grounds.


- Stephen F. McNutt, BS '75, is the director of photography for the television series "Battlestar Galactica." He was the subject of a 10-page article in the December issue of American Cinematographer that discusses new techniques in high-definition filmmaking.


- Guy Morgan, BBA '75, is senior director at BBK, an international business advisory firm providing financial, strategic and operational services in Southfield, MI.

- Richard Guirlinger, BBA '76, is a member of the board of directors of North Carolina's Triangle Community Foundation, which connects philanthropic resources with community needs.

- Charles W. Jongeward, BS '76, is chief executive officer of St. Louis-based, Crosslink, a leader in commercial applications utilizing electroactive polymers.

- Timothy R. Jenney, MA '77, is the superintendent of Fort Bend (TX) Independent School District.
accomplishments, contributions and service of which recognizes the outstanding professional accomplishments, contributions and service of distinguished graduates.

Gary Norton, BBA '77, is a mortgage loan officer at Republic Bank in Fremont, MI.

Joseph S. Skocelas, BBA '77, has been appointed judge of the Allegan County (MI) District Court by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Neil S. Smith, BA '77, is the general manager of the New York Islanders hockey team.

Robert A. Nersesian, BBA '78, an attorney in Las Vegas, has written a book titled "Beat the Players: Casinos, Cops and the Game Inside the Game" published by Pi Yee Press.

Susan O'Donnell, BBA '78, MA '92, is the principal at Woodland Elementary School in Portage, MI.

Edie Wirtshafter, BBA '79, is the president of the Niles (MI) Community Schools Board of Education.

Regina E. (Grant) Haywood, MSW '79, a school social worker in Detroit Public Schools, was recognized with the Spirit of Detroit Award, published by Pi Phi Press.

Michael Garvey, BS '80, MA '86, is the athletic director at Osseo (MI) Public Schools.

Dorothy M. (Ditts) Hawthorne, MLS '80, is a medical librarian at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Barbara S. (Ramsey) McConnell, BBA '80, is the owner of Maxi Fun! Tours, a group travel company in Springfield, IL.

Stephen E. Oldford, BBA '80, won his first amateur race as a harness racing driver. He owns a business in Port Huron, MI, that supplies components to the auto industry.

Richard Ray, MA '80, EdD '80, has been inducted into the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame at its annual meeting in Atlanta. He is the coordinator of the athletic training program and professor and chair of the Department of Kinesiology at Hope College in Holland, MI.

Ray '80

Richard Ray

Henderson Smith III, BS '80, is a lieutenant colonel and navigator in the U.S. Air Force stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

Robert Strain Jr., BBA '80, is head of the space department at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Lab. The department tackles some of NASA's and the military's toughest space science and systems engineering challenges.

Timothy Eggleston, BBA '81, MPA '04, is deputy director of utilities and infrastructure for Marshall, MI.

Bette Erickson, BS '81, has written a second book, "Best Boulder Region Hiking Trails" published by Westcliffe Publishers. She is a member of the city council for the city and county of Broomfield, CO.

Frank Hawthorne, MLS '81, is a reference librarian at Rochester (MI) Public Library.

Jay Heilman, MPA '81, has retired after a 38-year career in public and private health and human services administration in northeastern lower Michigan.

Dale Nesbary, MPA '81, is vice president of academic affairs at Adrian (MI) College.

Jeff Peterson, BBA '81, is the president of Abbot Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis.

Violet J. Swazer, BS '81, received the 2006 Ombudsman Award from the Pontiac Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Inc. for her rejuvenation of its youth club. She is a senior histology technician at Pontiac (MI) Osteopathic Hospital Medical Center.

Roy Vultaggio, BS '81, was inducted into WMU's Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Honor Academy, which recognizes the outstanding professional accomplishments, contributions and service of distinguished graduates.

Dana Daniels, BBA '79, is the president of the Niles (MI) Community Schools Board of Education.

Laurie Neumann Nafziger, MSW '82, is a partner in the family financial advising office of Achievers in its New York office.

Laurie Neumann Nafziger

Robert Strain Jr.

Henderson Smith III

Robert D. Nickels, MBA '87, has started his own Marshall, MI, law firm, which specializes in family and criminal law, and general practice.

Heidi Pfannes, BBA '87, is a trustee for the Mattawan (MI) Consolidated Schools Board of Education.

Thomas A. Spoelstra, MBA '86, is the business development officer in the wealth management division of Citizens Bank in Jackson, MI.

James Klapthor, BS '87, is chief executive and trainer at For Media, an interview training and media services company in Chicago.

Robert D. Nickels

Richard Ray

Henderson Smith III

Robert Strain Jr.

James McHale, BS '84, is senior vice president for programming at the Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, MI.

Thomas E. Lockwood, BM '85, MM '88, is a member of various jazz groups that perform in Michigan. He is an adjunct instructor of music at Hillsdale (MI) College.

Jenny Moshak, BS '85, was inducted into WMU's Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Honor Academy, which recognizes the outstanding professional accomplishments, contributions and service of distinguished graduates.

William L. Raymond, MSW '85, is the executive director of Michigan Works Community Action Agency in Ottawa County, MI.

Jim Roberts, BBA '85, is the co-owner of Roberts, Boehler & Fisher, a public accounting firm in Saginaw Township, MI.

Andrew W. Bowne, BS '86, MA '89, is executive director of college advancement at Grand Rapids (MI) Community College.

Ali Erhan, MA '86, is president of the Rotary Club East in Grand Rapids, MI. He is director of corporate relations at Aquinas College.

Kirk Hoffman, BBA '86, is president of the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors. He is vice president of planning services at King Trust Co. in Spring Arbor, MI.

David H. Nall, BS '86, is the director of specialty practice at Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw, MI.

Thomas A. Spoelstra, MBA '86, is the business development officer in the wealth management division of Citizens Bank in Jackson, MI.

Michael D. Sherry, BS '82, is senior editor for Harper Studios in Chicago and EdTide Inc. in Bartlett, IL. He has won three Emmy Awards.

Greg T. Gerfen, BBA '83, is executive vice president and account management director of Doner, an independently owned advertising agency headquartered in Southfield, MI.

Bhaskar PisiPati, BS '83, is the owner of Carpets for Less in Kalamazoo.

W. Gregg Doner, an independently owned advertising agency with plants in Chicago, Chicago, and Detroit.

Christine Finke, BBA '89, MS '93, received her certification in mental health as an occupational therapist from the American Occupational Therapy Association. She is one of five board certified OT's in the nation and is an associate professor at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA.

Jill (Swanson) Emest, BS '90, MA '95, is the principal of the Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center in Woodstock, IL.
James D. Kitchen, BBA ’90, is the co-owner of Novi Golf Tech Custom Club and Repair Center in Novi, MI.

Yair Mendelowitz, BS ’90, MS ’91, was named a semi-finalist in the History Channel’s Modern Marvels Invent Now Challenge for his development of a hearing device.

---1991 to 2004---

Dianne Burdick, BFA ’91, a self-employed photographer, is the author of a new book titled “Listen to the Landscape” published by William B. Eerdmans. She also won three awards at Festival 2006, a local arts festival in Grand Rapids, MI.

Christine Rupkey, BS ’92, was inducted into WMU’s Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Honor Academy, which recognizes the outstanding professional accomplishments, contributions and service of distinguished graduates.

Patricia Walstra, MPA ’92, is the assistant superintendent of Orchard View Schools in Muskegon, MI.

Angela Williams, BS ’92, is the author of a new book titled “With a Cherry on Top: Stories, Poems, Recipes & Fun Facts From Michigan Cherry Country” published by Macaplle Press. She is the office manager at Triple D Orchards in Empire, MI.

Dwandra N. Lampkins, BA ’94, an assistant professor of theatre at Ball State University in Murcie, IN, was awarded a Indiana Arts Commission grant to do research at the Schomburg Center for Black Research in Harlem, NY. She was also awarded a new faculty research grant from Ball State University to study and research racial stereotypes and misconceptions.

• Todd R. Swanson, BS ’94, is head of sales and marketing for AeroTracker Aviation Technologies, a provider of aviation industry-specific computer software systems in Kalamazoo.

Ronald C. Treacy, MA ’94, is the director of public affairs and marketing in the Office of University Relations at Dickinson (ND) State University.

Kevin Vichales, MA ’94, PhD ’03, is the dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, TX.

Patrick M. Walsh, MBA ’94, is senior vice president and commercial sales manager at Midtown Bank in Atlanta.

Beth H. (Bandfield) Arbogast, BA ’95, recently had a story published in Chicken Soup for the Christian Family Soul.

Dennis R. Boyd, BBA ’95, is director of new student orientation at Metropolitan State College of Denver, and was elected to the board of directors for the National Orientation Directors Association.

Evan E. Lipp, MA ’95, is the vice president for enrollment management at Assumption College in Worcester, MA.

Michael Potts, MA ’95, is the superintendent of the Jonesville (MI) School District.

Andrew J. Schorfaar, BS ’95, recently completed residency in orthopaedic surgery and is serving a fellowship in sports medicine at TRIA Orthopaedic Center in Minneaspolis.

• Carol Eddy, BS ’96, MPA ’05, is executive director of WMU’s Sindecuse Health Center.

Margo H. Francisco, MPA ’96, is executive vice president of the Roberts Group Inc., a strategic marketing, communications and issues management firm serving the health care industry in Waekesha, WI.

Tina A. Kerr, MPA ’96, is the superintendent of Bangor Township (MI) Schools.

Jason Paupore, BA ’96, is a visiting assistant professor of communication at Valparaiso (IN) University.

Bryan Charles, BA ’97, has written his first novel, “Grab On To Me Tightly As If I Knew The Way.”

Kevin Simmons, MA ’97, is the principal at Bloomingdale (MI) Middle School.

Sharan Sprague, BS ’97, is the creator of Pep Comics.

Ken Tucker, BS ’97, has joined Yamaha Marine Group as a district marketing manager responsible for Yamaha outboard sales in Michigan, Indiana and northeast Ohio.

Michael A. Dahlinger, MA ’98, is the principal at Paw Paw (MI) High School.

Steve Versaw, BS ’98, is a drummer with the indie-rock band, the M’s, which recently played at Lollapalooza in Chicago.

Nathan Barber, MM ’99, is the artistic administrator for the Pine Mountain Music Festival in Houghton, MI.

Ronald P. Bender, BS ’99, is an associate attorney at the Auburn Hills, MI, intellectual property law firm of Warn, Hoffman, Miller & LaLone PC.

Jeff Henderson, MA ’99, is the principal at Oceana High School in Hart, MI.

Christian Wilson, MA ’99, is assistant principal at Gaylord (MI) High School.

Rashid Al Malik, IPTC ’00, is deputy chief executive officer and chief corporate development officer at Dubai Aerospace Enterprise in United Arab Emirates.

Brian C. Dissette, BA ’00, MPA ’02, is the assistant city manager of public works for the city of South Haven, MI.

• Jeremy Hargis, BS ’00, was honored as an Outstanding Young Engineer of the Year by the Engineering Society of Detroit. He is an applications engineer for Bosch Chassis Systems Full Brakes NAFTA Product Division.

Mark Haag, MA ’00, MA ’04, is the principal at South Elementary School in Hudsonville, MI.

Amy Hebert, BBA ’00, is manager of the audit department at the accounting firm of Yeo & Yeo PC in Saginaw, MI.

Karen Jefis, BA ’00, has spent the last year in Afghanistan working as an administrative assistant to the principal and director of the International School of Kabul. She recently spoke about her experiences at the Timothy C. Hauersent Reynolds Township Library in Howard City (MI).

Nick Westra, MA ’00, is the director of the Allegan County (MI) Technical and Education Center.

Dale Cowper, BS ’01, is the throws coach for the University of Louisville's track and field program.

Jeremy Deja, BBA ’01, second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, recently earned his navigator wings at the Pensacola (FL) Naval Air Station.

Kimberly M. (Beachum) Gaver, BA ’01, was recently awarded a New York City Teaching Fellowship. She is a special education teacher at PS 94 Kings College School in Bronx, NY.

Michael S. Gnewkowski, BS ’01, is a project manager at Rockford Construction Co. in Grand Rapids, MI.

• Darrell Johnson, MA ’01, PhD ’04, has been named dean of WMU’s Extended University Programs.

Caio Miguel, MA ’01, PhD ’04, is an assistant professor of psychology at California State University in Sacramento.

Kelly Neering, BBA ’01, has earned certification from the Human Resource Certification Institute. She is the human resource supervisor at Quebecor World in Midland, MI.

• Scott Rolando, BS ’01, has won the I Can Learn NEA Foundation Award for teaching excellence. He is a teacher at Lakeland High School in White Lake, MI.

Matthew M. Wathen, BBA ’01, has started the law firm of Wathen & Associates PC in Savannah, GA.

Natalie Zolfaf, BFA ’02, has received a grant from the National Art Education Foundation. She is an art teacher at Grosse Pointe (MI) Public Schools.

Antonia M. Kraus, MPA ’02, is the city treasurer and income tax administrator for Lansing, MI.

Brook Pridemore, BA ’02, a folk-punk musician, has recently released his third album, Reflecting Skin, on the independent label, Craft Records.

New Life Members

Anthony E. Clark
BS, ’66, Plainwell, MI
Lesley A. Clark
Plainwell, MI
Carlos E. Diaz
BS, ’91, Mission, TX
James B. Fischer
BBA, ’82, Torrance, CA
Sandia M. Goes
BBA, ’78, Holland, MI
Donald L. Joseph
BBA, ’77, MA, ’93, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Rhonda M. Joseph
Bloomfield Hills, MI
Karen Kohetian
BBA, ’82, Tustin, CA
Scott E. Niles
BBA, ’00, MBA, ’03, Saginaw, MI
Marinaine C. Sfredo
BBA, ’65, Redondo Beach, CA

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WMU alum hits green with new golf novel

John Coyne had spent much of his life on the golf course, but the professional writer and WMU graduate had never taken a swing at a golf novel.

Coyne, who graduated from WMU with a master's in English in 1965, had written about 20 books, ranging from Stephen King-style mysteries to non-fiction works on golf and other topics. But never a golf novel.

All that changed with "The Caddie Who Knew Ben Hogan," published in 2006 by Thomas Dunne Books, a division of St. Martin’s Press. The book has sailed into its third printing and is to be released in paperback, this spring. Its success has led to a contract for Coyne to write a second golf novel, this one about Michigan’s own Walter Hagen.

Coyne was 12 when he became a caddie at Midlothian Country Club in suburban Chicago, the course across the street from the family’s home. He worked his way up to caddie master at age 16, but Hogan never played the course and Coyne never met the famous golfer.

“When I was looking around for a topic to write a book about, it struck me that he was an interesting character,” Coyne says. “He was kind of like the Tiger Woods of his time and certainly dominated the tour.”

Coyne researched the enigmatic Hogan, his life and career and invented a story set in 1946, drawing on his own passion for golf and knowledge of the game to write the novel. What resulted is a suspenseful and nostalgic tale about how the game reflects and can change one’s life.

Coyne certainly knows about golf. He is an accomplished amateur, while his writing credits include three books on golf instruction, “Better Golf,” “New Golf for Women” and “Playing with the Pros.”

Coyne received his undergraduate English degree at St. Louis University. When his master’s was nearly completed, he joined the Peace Corp and finished his WMU degree doing independent study in Ethiopia.

Before becoming a full-time writer, Coyne did a stint as dean of students at a New York college. He grew tired of the strain of writing for a living and decided to write on the side. He currently is manager of communications at the College of New Rochelle.

Coyne lives in Pelham, N.Y. with his wife, Judith, who shares his passion for writing. Formerly employed in the publishing business and at Glamour magazine, she currently is executive editor at Good Housekeeping. They have one son, John Kerwin Coyne, a senior studying English at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Coyne family’s ties to WMU run deep. His brother, Tom, came to WMU on a track and cross country scholarship and worked many years as a WMU administrator, while his brother, Jim, received a WMU golf scholarship. His sister, Dorothy, also graduated from WMU.

Coyne still tries to squeeze in a round of golf when he can.

“I still play,” he says. “Like all of us, if you work for a living, you don’t play much.”
Margaret (Heath) Barr, TC '28, March 17, 2006, in Goldsboro, NC
Susie (Sluka) Slaughter, BA '35, June 15, 2006, in Kalamazoo
Donna C. Reincke, TC '30, BS '36, May 25, 2006, in Orlando, FL
Mildred K. Smith, BA '36, July 4, 2006, in Wilmington, NC
Virginia H. Wilcox, BA '36, May 31, 2006, in Kalamazoo
Martha E. Purchase, TC '28, BA '37, May 13, 2006, in Kalamazoo
Kathryn Taggett, BS '38, June 8, 2006, in Otsego, MI
Jeanne N. (VanderKlippe) Blattenberger, BS '39, Aug. 18, 2006, in St. Louis
David A. Krits, BS '40, Aug. 13, 2006, in Kalamazoo
Barbara L. (Linihan) McBride, BS '40, Aug. 28, 2006, in Kalamazoo
Martha B. Campbell, BA '41, June 17, 2006, in Cheboygan, MI
John Maddocks, BA '41, Oct. 23, 2005, in Grand Rapids, MI
Alice S. (Donjtje) Husted, BS '42, TC '48, Aug. 12, 2006, in Kalamazoo
Robert B. Lieber, BA '42, April 11, 2006, in Bend, OR
Mary V. O'Connor, BM '43, June 9, 2006, in Iona, MI
Loree M. Schielagel, BS '46, May 16, 2006, in Williamsburg, MI
Morley P. Bingham, BS '47, Sept. 14, 2005, in Everett, WA
Mabelle (Bowdish) Isham, TC '28, BS '48, March 13, 2006, in Battle Creek, MI
Peter P. Walus, BA '48, Aug. 21, 2006, in Kalamazoo
Annie H. (Porter) Topham, BA '49, MA '55, May 9, 2006, in Tucson, AZ
Donald E. Groggel, BS '50, May 8, 2006, in The Village, FL
Helen J. (Westlund) Long, SC '50, June 12, 2006, in Kalamazoo
Jack F. Thwaites, BA '50, Aug. 30, 2006, in Grand Rapids, MI
Elaine A. (MacArthur) Hageman, TC '51, June 18, 2006, in Bloomfield Hills, MI
Harold Martelle, BA '51, May 23, 2006, in Marshall, CA
Owen C. Taylor, BA '51, Aug. 3, 2006, in Hutchinson, KS
Yale M. Brandt, BS '52, Aug. 17, 2006, in Chester, VA
Betty J. (Rathbun) McChlachan, BS '52, June 21, 2006, in Grand Rapids, MI
Diane L. Pifer, BS '53, June 14, 2006, in Portage, MI
Catherine A. (Pheips) Weber, TC '49, BS '52, April 2, 2006, in Mt. Pleasant, MI
Donna K. Zimmerman, BS '53, Feb. 20, 2006, in Livonia, MI
Robert P. Dunham, BBA '54, June 28, 2006, in Kalamazoo
Jack D. Riegel, BS '55, MA '59, May 26, 2006, in Muncie, IN
Jerry B. Austin, BA '56, May 28, 2006, in Dimondale, MI
Nancy A. Henderson, BS '56, July 7, 2006, in New Putnam, IL
Benjamin J. H. Johnsen, MA '56, April 3, 2006, in Grand Rapids, MI
Carol B. (Covert) Zelmer, BS '56, April 1, 2006, in Buchanan, MI
Robert J. DeVitt, BBA '57, April 18, 2006, in Grandville, MI
Beulah I. Fleming, BS '57, Aug. 11, 2006, in Three Rivers, MI
Beverly (Kendrick) Kelly, BS '57, April 23, 2006, in Auburn Hills, MI
William D. Lorentz, BS '57, July 12, 2006, in Portage, MI
Arthur D. Niffenegger, BBA '57, Feb. 12, 2004, in South Haven, MI
Marvin E. Signeske, BS '57, Aug. 18, 2006, in Kalamazoo
Luanne A. Smith, BA '57, March 6, 2006, in Kalamazoo
Leonard L. Werner, BBA '57, Aug. 20, 2006, in River Ridge, LA
Frederick L. Beckman, BS '58, July 20, 2006, in Plainwell, MI
Jack L. Graham, BS '58, MA '62, Dec. 22, 2005, in Utica, MI
Pearl L. Samo, BS '58, MA '65, Jan. 27, 2006, in Michigan City, IN
Virlyn Y. Jones, MA '59, May 3, 2006, in Athens, GA
Richard K. Phillips, BBA '59, July 4, 2006, in Coloma, MI

Gerrard Wendell “G.W.,” Haworth, founder of Haworth Inc. and a 1937 WMU alumnus died Oct. 25. He was 95.

An influential entrepreneur, he established Haworth Inc., a manufacturer of office environments that grew from a garage-shop venture in 1948 to a $1.4 billion global corporation. Haworth, a former high school teacher, maintained a lifelong passion for education, encouraging continuing education among his employees and making personal and corporate donations to promote higher education.

In 1989, the Haworth family and company gave $5 million to WMU. In appreciation, the University named its business college the Haworth College of Business.

“This is sad news for our University since we all loved that great gentleman who did so much for Western,” said WMU Interim President Diether H. Haenicke. “We take great pride in the fact that his life was truly a celebration of his love for learning, and he was committed to the notion that education allowed the power of the human spirit and intellect to realize its potential.”
Ramona Bernhard, widow of President John T. Bernhard, dead at age 86

Ramona Bernhard, WMU’s first lady for 11 years and widow of its fourth president, died Oct. 13 in Kalamazoo. She was 86.

Mrs. Bernhard came to WMU in 1974 when John T. Bernhard became WMU’s president. When he retired from the presidency in 1985, the couple opted to stay in Kalamazoo and were active in the community, particularly in area arts organizations. He died in January 2004.

The couple met in her native Utah when both were attending Utah State University. They were married for 62 years, and she is survived by four children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

As a first lady of WMU, Interim President Diether H. Haenicke wrote, Mrs. Bernhard was like few others. “She breathed life and support into everything on campus that was connected with theater, music, and the arts,” he noted. “Faculty members from those days still talk about her beneficial role in that regard. She worked tirelessly to beautify the campus. She rallied community forces to get the Oaklands, a fine old mansion on campus, rehabilitated and beautifully refurbished.”

CORRECTION: Due to erroneous information given to the University, Mildred (Lowry) Ast, BS ’60, MA ’63, was mistakenly listed in the obituaries section of the summer 2006 magazine. Our sincere apologies go to her and her family.
WMU is proud to have 8 branch campus locations that provide educational opportunities to students around the state. Whether you completed your degree from WMU in the past year, ten years, or longer, we are happy that you're still interested in Western Michigan University. One of the following campus locations is the perfect place to continue your academic career:

- Battle Creek
- Holland
- Muskegon
- Southwest
- Grand Rapids
- Lansing
- South Haven
- Traverse City

We offer a variety of graduate programs in Education, Management, Engineering, and Wellness. For program details and campus maps, please visit our website at http://eup.wmich.edu/enrollment/Alumni/. Just like you, we're proud to continue the Bronco spirit in our community!

www.eup.wmich.edu

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Office of Lifelong Learning and Education

The Office of Lifelong Learning and Education (OLLE) offers a wide selection of educational options to individuals pursuing personal and professional goals at the University.

OLLE focuses on providing:

- High-quality certificate programs, credit and non-credit workshops, professional seminars, and Continuing Education Units approved by the State of Michigan and WMU.
- Conference development, planning, and management services.
- Academic advising to a selected group of adult learners returning to the university to complete their baccalaureate degree.

Visit eup.wmich.edu/olle for more information and updates.

Office of Lifelong Learning and Education
1276 Ellsworth Hall
1903 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5230
269.387.4174
“Medicine Woman” by Gay Walker, WMU assistant professor, art therapist and breast cancer survivor. The sculpture is a life-sized corrugated plastic cutout of a woman with bottles and labels of vitamins, supplements and medications she used during her treatment secured to it by a green wire mesh. It is one of 35 pieces in Walker’s art exhibit “The Art of Healing: A Journey Through Cancer.” (See related story on page 13.)