



# PRISM

The Western Michigan University Newsletter for Academic Affairs

## Items of Academic Interest

### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Dr. Robert E. Vann**, Associate Professor of Spanish, is teaching the Spanish Department's first ATIS course this semester. Dr. Vann's course, SPAN 4100: Studies in Hispanic Culture (Hispanics in US: Language and Culture), is one of the first courses in the college to use e-Learning hybrid delivery. The online course has six traditional class meetings during the semester, which are generally reserved for experiencing Hispanic culture in person through music, dance, food, etc. The course is a product of the e-Teaching Endorsement Program sponsored by WMU ATIS to provide WMU faculty with training and expertise in adapting new technologies to traditional courses. The syllabus for Dr. Vann's e-Learning course is available on his WMU homepages account at [http://homepages.wmich.edu/~rvann/4100\\_Fall\\_2006\\_syl.html](http://homepages.wmich.edu/~rvann/4100_Fall_2006_syl.html).

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Researchers from the College of Education have been awarded a \$3.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Early Reading First program to promote literacy among Head Start children in Battle Creek. The WMU-led effort involves a partnership between the COE departments of Family and Consumer Sciences and Special Education and Literacy Studies. The program will provide extensive professional development and help Head Start centers develop literacy-rich environments to facilitate development of phonological, print, alphabet, and book awareness. **Dr. Esther Newlin-Haus**, currently the evaluation coordinator of the GEAR UP grant, will serve as project director. In addition, co-principal investigators **Drs. Karen Thomas, Shaila Rao, and Kristal Ehrhardt** from the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies will provide both formal workshops and weekly coaching for teachers. **Lori Farrer**, an instructor in Family and Consumer Sciences, will act as literacy coach. Kellogg Community College and WMU will both offer credit for full participation in the grant's professional development program. The grant also includes a family component and will fund a five-week summer school for approximately 300 children.

Family Life and the Military: During Summer I session, **Dr. Karen Blaisure**, professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, offered a special topics course on family life and the military to upper-level undergraduate and graduate students at the Grand Rapids Campus. This one-credit-hour course focused on the stressors faced by families and their military members and on positive coping strategies. Particular attention was given to the stages related to separations (pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment), reactions to combat, and resources for military members and their families. Guest speakers included National Guard member **Michael R.**

**Lorenz** and **LTC Brett Johnson** from WMU's Department of Military Science. This special topics course will be offered on WMU's main campus Spring Semester 2007.

**Dr. Shaila Rao**, assistant professor in the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies, is collaborating with Spain and Mexico on a cross-cultural project to assess pre-service general education teachers' beliefs and attitudes towards teaching children with different disabilities in general education classrooms. One university from Spain and four universities from Mexico will participate in this joint study.

### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

In June, CEAS hosted a workshop to promote and discuss the potential for collaboration between its new Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation (CAViDS) and about 50 auto-industry representatives – Dana Corp., Eaton Corp., Stryker Corp., Mann+Hummel, Michigan Economic Development Corp., and Southwest Michigan First – who attended by invitation only. CAViDS Director **Dr. William Liou**, who is also a MAE professor, coordinated the conference that included a variety of automotive-



Some of those who attended CAViDS' first conference pose with truck exhibits from Eaton Corp. and Dana Corp. in front of CEAS Parkview Campus.

related talks and several tours and demonstrations of the CEAS facilities and capabilities. "What we hope to do is build a consortium, and we will be able to address the needs of the industry," he said. "A group of CEAS faculty collaborating with DANA saw a need in the industry for engineering analysis using computer simulation tools," Liou added. Both Dana Corp. and Eaton Corp. exhibited advanced trucks in front of the Parkview campus. Several CEAS professors spoke on a variety of topics. Those from MAE included Liou, who explained CAViDS; **Dr. Richard Hathaway**, who described applied optical methods in vehicle systems; MAE Chair **Dr. Parviz Merati**, who spoke on experimental and computational fluid dynamics; and **Dr. Hosung Lee**, who reviewed engine cooling. **Dr. Mitchel Keil**, a professor from the



CAViDS Director William Liou (left) with Charles Valliant of Mann+Hummel.

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## Items of Academic Interest Continued...

industrial and manufacturing engineering (IME) department, explained automated design and virtual reality simulations, and **Dr. Janos Grantner**, a professor from the electrical and computer engineering department, examined vehicle radio frequency communication including RFID and fuzzy logic. Other conference participants were Paul Pollock, a CAViDS executive director, who spoke on reliability engineering, and Helmut (Bill) Knee, from Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL), who provided an overview of ORNL. Thomas Udvardy, from the Tank-Automotive Research, Development & Engineering Center (TARDEC), U. S. Army offered a CD on TARDEC. CAViDS has been a work in progress for about a year. Liou credited MAE Professor **Dr. Richard Hathaway** for "getting things going" until April 2005 when CEAS Dean **Tim Greene**, who opened the conference, made CAViDS a CEAS initiative.

This summer 18, students and professors – mostly from engineering and science – spent 25 days in China absorbing the culture, listening to college lectures, touring cities and



WMU professors and students who traveled to China.

industries, and mingling with Chinese people. **Dr. Dewei Qi**, an associate professor in Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI), organized the trip with PCI Chair **Dr. Said AbuBakr**. Qi was pleased with the results. "All the engineering departments were represented on the trip, as well as physics and dance," Qi said. The tour was designed to provide WMU students with experiences in international learning and to prepare them for careers in a global economy. "The students learned about different engineering and technology practices," Qi said. "They also experienced people with different cultural backgrounds." Sichuan University, where Qi was a professor before coming to WMU in 1995, hosted the event. Students earned five credit hours for making the trip, taking part in a variety of educational activities, and writing a paper reflecting on their experience. They attended lectures, demonstrations on engineering techniques and practices, and both engineering and cultural field trips. This was the first trip to China for four PCI students, who described it as "enlightening and fun." All were impressed with the modern paper facilities, especially Dow Chemical and Gold East Paper Mill, which Qi said has "the largest paper machine in the world." Four PCI students – **Abigail Lee**, **Michael Flynn**, **Miro Suchy**, and **Naidra Walls** – who visited China for the first time on the trip, were also impressed by the large numbers of people, the stark contrasts between modern facilities and impoverished areas, and the warmth of the Chinese people. The students were very satisfied with the experience. "This was an interesting and fun way to learn about a different culture," Lee said. Qi credited CEAS Dean Dr. Tim Greene for raising globalization as one of the four cornerstones of engineering, the CEAS and International Affairs Office for organizing the trip, and the Paper Technology Foundation for contributing trip funds for eight students.

This summer, in a weeklong day camp held at the Parkview Campus of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS), about 40 Kalamazoo Public School area middle schoolers learned about engineering. The camp was part of

Expanding Your Horizons @ WMU Engineering, a program offering activities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to help students take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise. **Dr. Ikhlas Abdel-Qader**, an associate professor in the electrical and computer engineering department (ECE), directs the program and the camp. The 12- to 14-year-old students, who attend Kalamazoo Public Schools and Parchment Charter School, worked with college students who are majoring in electrical and computer engineering (ECE) to build robots and with those majoring in civil and construction engineering (CCE) to design straw and wood stick bridges. "The goal of the project is to motivate and prepare middle school students to pursue college studies in engineering, technology, sciences, and mathematics fields," Abdel-Qader said. "The project is composed of both summer and academic-year programs to expand the horizons of these students." The summer camp was followed by a weekly math boot camp that will be continued during the Fall semester.

Abdel-Qader received a \$245,000 grant from the WMU President's 2005 Innovation Fund for the project, "WMU-Kalamazoo Promise Partnership: Promoting Engineering Careers to Female, Minority and Economically Disadvantaged Middle School Students." **Dr. Sherif Yehia**, a CCE assistant professor, and **Dr. Edmund Tsang**, associate dean of CEAS, are co-contributors to the project. Upcoming activities include monthly programs related to engineering, visits to nearby industry, and hands-on time management and study skills workshops. Assisting with the activities were WMU engineering students from several societies: Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), Society of Women Engineers (SWE), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Tau Beta Pi honor society, and National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).



Dr. Ikhlas Abdel-Qader (left) reviews the robot built by Milwood Middle School students at the Expanding Your Horizons weeklong day camp.



The middle-school students worked in dyads to build their robots.

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

University Libraries is now offering a Geographic Information System (GIS) service to students, faculty and staff. A Geographic Information System allows for the analysis, management and display of data that have a geographic component. This service allows for the creation of custom maps for inclusion in journal articles, theses and dissertations, and other academic research. To find out more about this service, contact **Jason Glatz** in the Map Room of Waldo Library ([Jason.glatz@wmich.edu](mailto:Jason.glatz@wmich.edu), or call 269-387-5047).

## COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

As part of their degree requirements, graduate students in the music therapy program establish a model of clinical practice at an area school, medical facility, or other rehabilitation/health related setting serving individuals who have special needs. During last Fall semester, music therapy graduate student **Mayumi Hata** initiated a program of services at two alternative educational settings: New City Success Center and Spring Valley Center for Exploration, within the KPS district.

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## Items of Academic Interest Continued...

Both schools offer programs specially designed for “at risk” students who frequently have difficulty adjusting to and benefiting from traditional educational approaches. Following the success of the Fall semester experience, graduate student **Nicole Gustafson** continued providing services for students at New City High School during the 2006 Spring semester.

Responses from the students, teaching staff, and administrators at the two sites indicate that the music therapy interventions helped several students with their ability to attend and contribute appropriately in the classroom. According to Jennifer Clark, Project Director of Kalamazoo Communities in the Schools, the children assigned to receive music therapy were some of the more challenging students with significant obstacles to overcome in their lives. “Music, unlike anything else, seemed to reach them. One day, upon entering New City, a school staff member pulled me aside and said that it was only because of the ‘music program’ that one of the school’s more troubled students was even attending school.” Clark further states that the music therapy program at WMU’s School of Music will be mentioned in their report of community partners as “helping to meet the critical needs of their students.” Both sites have requested music therapy practicum students for the 2006–07 school year.

### COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies was recently noted for its generosity in the Lowell Ledger, the newspaper of Lowell, Michigan, a town just east of Grand Rapids. The department loaned global positioning devices to a nearby summer camp for the blind and campers used the devices to navigate their way around Lowell. Costing between \$1,900 and \$6,000, the GPS devices use a computer database of more than 12 million geographic coordinates in the U.S. and Canada. Using the coordinates, which correspond with business addresses and other points of interest, and the braille display or voice output, the devices can give exact locations to people who are blind.

Blindness and Low Vision Studies chair **James Leja** was interviewed by FOX news channel 17 on September 12 about his department.

On September 13, visiting scholar, social worker, and lawyer John Akuri spoke about diverse cultures in Cameroon and Cameroonian Women’s Rights at the College of Health and Human Services.

The College of Health and Human Services has retained its number nine ranking by the National Institutes of Health for allied health schools and colleges receiving its funding. On July 21, WMU’s Interdisciplinary Health Studies Doctoral Program awarded the first ever **Janet I. Pisaneschi** Prize for Best Research Practicum Presentation to **Barbara Cliff** for her research on “Association between Body Mass Index and Waist Circumference in Adolescents.” Honorable mention went to **Janice Long** for her presentation on “Race/Ethnicity and Age as Predictors of Overweight in Children 6 to 11 Years of Age,” and to **John McMahon** for his presentation on “Barriers to Accessing Print Prescription Medication Information by Persons Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired.” The Pisaneschi Prize, named after former dean of the College of Health and

Human Services, and current WMU Provost, Dr. Janet I. Pisaneschi, is bestowed upon the doctoral student who presents and defends the best scientific paper at the conference based on the student’s research practicum. A panel of judges determines the winner, and the recipient receives a personal plaque, as well as recognition on a perpetual award that stays in the college and a place on the Pisaneschi “traveling mobile,” a contraption of interdisciplinary memorabilia affectionately built in honor of Pisaneschi. Also awarded at the conference was the Conference Scientific Poster Award, given to **Eric Vangnes**, a current doctoral candidate and faculty member in WMU’s Physician Assistant Department, for his presentation of “A Comparative Study of Learning Styles and Job Satisfaction to Medical Specialty Chosen among Physician Assistant Graduates: A Study in Progress.” This award is given to the doctoral candidate or new Ph.D. with the best scientific poster presentation of a dissertation in progress or recently completed. The prizes were awarded as part of the program’s Interdisciplinary Doctoral Research Conference, a biennial event in which doctoral students who are completing their academic coursework and beginning comprehensive examinations orally present the results of their research practicum studies. Doctoral students in the dissertations phase of their program also make poster presentations of their dissertation projects. Poster presentations on completed dissertation research are anticipated in future years. Orientation of the newest doctoral cohort, admitted every two years, also begins with the Research Conference, setting the tone for the new students to envision their own presentations two years hence. “The conference is a vital component to the development of doctoral students enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Health Studies Ph.D. Program,” says **Dr. Nickola Nelson**, director of the program. “It allows students, faculty, and the community to see the contribution of research conducted by doctoral students at WMU, and engages researchers throughout the college in judging the work of the students, adding to the importance of this day of passage. The awarding of the Pisaneschi Prize also allows us to continue to acknowledge the visionary leadership of former dean, Provost Janet Pisaneschi, in establishing this innovative approach to interdisciplinary doctoral education.” The next Interdisciplinary Doctoral Research Conference will take place in July 2008.

### EXTENDED UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

The fall semester has begun in full force at WMU-Southwest and has brought with it a group of energetic transfer students from Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor and Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac. Transfer students in the Elementary Education program offered at WMU-Southwest have the opportunity to be a part of a new peer group: the Future Teacher Student Organization. The group has been created for those entering the education field after graduation, and offers future teachers opportunities to familiarize themselves with the job market, develop strategies for teaching, and become involved with their peers outside of the classroom. The group also plans to participate in community service projects and initiatives. The Future Teacher Student Organization, in collaboration with the existing Lake Michigan College Future Teachers Club, held their first meeting in September with a pizza party to welcome students back to school. The addition of this student organization is one example of how the WMU-Southwest Campus strives to expand student services and benefits to those enrolled in WMU programs at branch campuses.



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# Faculty Accolades

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## COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

**Caroline Gore**, Assistant Professor of Art, was invited to give numerous lectures in the spring and summer of 2006 including presentations at Studio Art Centers International, Florence, Italy; The University of Sydney, Sydney College of the Arts; Metropolitan University, London, England; and the Fuji Studios, Florence, Italy. She also recently had work reprinted in *The Art & Craft of Making Jewelry*, published by Lark Books, Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.

Department of Theatre Chair **Joan Herrington's** new book *Playwrights Teach Playwriting*, focusing on the pedagogical methodologies of great playwrights, appears on bookshelves this month. Additionally, Dr. Herrington has an article in the upcoming 50th anniversary issue of *Theatre Survey* and a chapter in Oxford University Press' new collection focusing on the work of August Wilson.

**Jane Baas**, Department of Dance, will make two presentations at the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science's Annual Meeting in October 2006. Included will be: assessment of knee strength, flexibility and structural differences in dancers across four institutions, which presents data collected under the Dancer Wellness web-based assessment program; and strategies for achieving hip health in dancers, which is a hands-on workshop for dancers, physical therapists and physicians.

**Vince Torano**, Associate Professor of Art, has paintings selected for exhibition at the Berkeley Art Center, Denver, Colorado; Art Source Gallery, Boise, Idaho; Columbia College, Columbia, Missouri; the MFA City Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland; and the Peninsula Museum of Art, Belmont, California.

**Jeff Abshear**, Instructor in the School of Art, has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to begin in May 2007 to further his work in the book arts at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Venice, Italy.

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**Dr. Paul Ponchillia**, Professor of Blindness and Low Vision Studies, was featured recently in a *Chronicle of Higher Education* article by Peter Monaghan called, "Seeing Hands Shape Possibilities." It describes activities at the Art Education Camp for Youths With Visual Impairments at Camp Tuhsmehta and can be found at <http://chronicle.com/weekly/v53/i03/03a05601.htm>.

Occupational therapy Associate Professor **Maureen Mickus** was invited by the Michigan Bar Association-Elderlaw and Advocacy Center to present on long-term care in Ireland and on the home- and community-based waiver program at Mackinac Island. This program is an annual event put on by the Michigan Bar Association.

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Dr. Jocelyn Steinke**, an associate professor in the School of Communication, has received a \$498,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for a research project, "Adolescents' Identification with Televised Portrayals of Male and Female Scientists." The three-year grant, which began in September, examines portrayals of scientist characters in television programs popular among middle school-aged children. The research project will document specific attributes of television scientist characters, such as gender-stereotyped and counter-stereotyped attributes and attributes known to promote identification with televised characters, and will assess middle school-aged children's identification with these attributes. Middle school students' identification with characters who exhibit these attributes will be examined as they relate to the students' attitudes toward science, attitudes toward women in science, perceptions of gender roles, confidence in science and future interest in science. Several middle schools in Southwest Michigan will be partners in this research project. "The research findings will provide information to support the development of programs in the popular media (television, films, computer games) in order to promote positive public images of scientists and engineers," Steinke said. This study also will provide new insights on the use of role models in the media to encourage more girls to enter careers in science, engineering and technology." The study will focus on scientist characters featured on 13 popular television programs: *Dexter's Laboratory*, *Kim Possible*, *CSI*, *CSI: Miami*, *CSI: New York*, *Danny Phantom*, *The X-Files*, *Bill Nye the Science Guy*, *MythBusters*, *Jimmy Neutron*, *The Simpsons*, *Friends*, and *DragonflyTV*. "Most existing studies of children's television programs have focused on educational science programs, which are likely to provide the most positive portrayals of women scientists on television, and have analyzed programs designed for younger children," Steinke said. "This study will examine images of scientists on television programs that specifically target or are watched by pre-adolescents and adolescents." Other members of the research team working with Steinke on this project are **Nancy Mansberger**, an associate professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership; **Brooks Applegate**, a professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology; Marilee Long, an associate professor at Colorado State University; and Maria Lapinski, an assistant professor at Michigan State University. The award was made by NSF's Program on Research on Gender in Science and Engineering.

**Dr. Charles Henderson** was recently elected as the second vice president of the Michigan Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers. In addition, the July/August issue of the *Journal of College Science Teaching* contains an article relating to work that Dr. Henderson has done toward improving the introductory calcul-based physics courses. Henderson, C. & Rosenthal, A (2006) "Reading Questions: Encouraging Students to Read the Text Before Coming to Class," *Journal of College Science Teaching*, 35 (7), 46-50. Henderson also recently received a National Science Foundation award for a project titled, "Facilitating Change in

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## Faculty Accolades Continued...

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

**Dr. David Schuster**, Dr. Charles Henderson, and **Dr. Paul Vellom** have recently been awarded a National Science Foundation grant for their project entitled, "Integrated Apprenticeship In The Teaching Of Elementary Science (IATES)." The award is for \$200,000 over three years, in the CCLI program of the NSF. The project will develop a program for elementary educators that integrates the design of the physics content and science teaching methods courses, adopts an apprenticeship instructional model, and develops the science in an explicit inquiry framework.

## COLLEGE OF AVIATION

A new faculty member joined the Department of Aviation Sciences, College of Aviation for the academic year 2006 – 2007. So please everyone welcome **Lori Brown** to CoA as our new Faculty Specialist lecturer. Lori Brown obtained her B.Sc. in Aviation Management at Pacific Western University in Hawaii, and then continued her airline education with Continental Airlines' Management and Inflight Training program. Her employment history includes Continental Airlines Management, as the Operational Supervisor of In-flight for the 747 and DC-10 Aircraft, which were based in Honolulu, Hawaii. She then spent time with Micronesia Air, based in Guam, as Chief Pilot, Certified Flight Instructor, and Japanese Tour Pilot. She then went on with Freedom Air, based in Micronesia, as a Part 135 Shorts 360 Pilot. After that she became Flight Attendant Director, Northwest AirlinK 9J, based in Saipan, but also served as a Part 135 Pilot, Director of Training for Flight Attendants and check airman for pilots. Then she moved on to American Eagle Airlines, based in Chicago, Dallas and Miami, as a Part 121 ATR 42 and 72 Pilot. Finally, before coming to Western Michigan University she was with Flight Safety International, Bethany, Oklahoma Center. Here she served as a Ground and Simulator Instructor for the Commander Jetprop Aircraft company training pilots from the F.A.A., F.B.I., C.I.A., Wal-Mart, and the Government of Mexico. For several years now Lori has worked as a part-time instructor at College of Aviation as a lecturer and 737 Simulator Instructor. Lori has accumulated 5,000+ hours total time, including Part 121 international turbine time and has had past and present affiliations with many professional organizations (to name a few, Alpha Eta Rho, Women in Aviation and Who's Who Among America's Teachers, Civil Air Patrol and Coast Guard Auxiliary). Her teaching assignments have centered around Line Oriented Flight Crew Simulation, Airline Flight Operations, and theory courses for Commercial Pilot and Multi-Engine pilot certification. As you can see Lori brings incredible experience to these courses. Welcome aboard, Lori Brown.

Associate professor **Blair S. Balden** was recently awarded a law degree from Cooley. Balden started pursuing the degree in September of 2002 and worked toward that goal almost entirely on weekends. She was on the Honor Roll every semester and graduated magna cum laude.

Associate Professor **Lisa Whittaker** traveled to Nagoya, Japan in May 2006 to attend the Air Transport Research Society Conference. She presented a paper entitled, "On Globalization of Maintenance Engineering Education" that was co-authored by Dr. Vladimir Risukhin.

## HAWORTH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**Drs. Damodar Golhar** and **Satish Deshpande's** (Management Department) paper "Effects of Outsourcing and Customer Satisfaction on Financial Measures of a Firm: An Empirical Study" was presented at the 9th International Conference of the American Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences held at the London School of Economics, London, UK, August 12-13, 2006. Also, Dr. Deshpande and coauthors Drs. Jessica Mesmer-Magnus (University of North Carolina-Wilmington), C. Viswesvaran (Florida International University), & J. Joseph's (University of Alaska-Fairbanks) paper, "The role of overclaiming, self-esteem, and emotional intelligence" was presented at the Academy of Management Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA, August 11-16, 2006.

**Dr. Andrew Targowski** and **Dr. Michael Tarn** of the

Computer Information Systems Program in the Department of Business Information Systems coauthored *Enterprise Systems Education in the 21st Century* which was just published by Information Science Publishing (Idea Group, Inc.) on August 31, 2006. This book is the first scholarly book in Enterprise Systems Education. It presents methods of reengineering business curricula in order to use ES solutions and acts as a platform for both educators and vendors to present solutions and experiences gained from the challenges of integrating ES into the business classroom. Among its worldwide contributors,



Targowski

HCoB faculty including **Dr. Kuanchin Chen**, **Mr. James Danenberg**, **Dr. Bernard Han**, **Dr. Muhammad Razi**, and **Mr. Thomas Rienzo** of Computer Information Systems, and Dr. Satish Deshpande and **Dr. Bret Wagner** of the Department of Management made significant contributions and coauthored various chapters of the book.



Tarn

Dr. Michael Tarn and Dr. Kuanchin Chen of the Computer Information Systems Program in the Department of Business Information Systems have recently published their research article, "Mobile Technology as a Learning Object and an Exploration Tool in an IS Curriculum: An Innovative Instruction of Wireless Network Security," in IEEE Transactions on Education (Vol.49 No.2), one of the top journals in the related field. This article reports a wireless research project funded by a Congressional Award, administered by the US Department of Education, Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE).



Chen

**Dr. Devrim Yaman**, Finance and Commercial Law Department, recently published "Contracting Costs and the Window of Opportunity for Straight Debt Issues," co-authored with Sudha Krishnaswami (University of New Orleans), in the *Journal of Banking and Finance*.

## Faculty Accolades Continued...

**Dr. Judith Swisher**, Finance and Commercial Law Department, recently published "Risk-Adjusted Performance of Value and Growth Strategies: The Effect of Monetary Policy" in the *Journal of Investing*, co-authored with TeWhan Hahn (Auburn University Montgomery), and Michele O'Neill (University of Idaho). Also, "Do Profit Warnings Convey Information About the Industry?", co-authored with Dave Jackson, University of Texas-Pan American, and Jeff Madura, Florida Atlantic University, has been accepted for publication in *Advances in Quantitative Analysis of Finance and Accounting* (AQFA) vol. 5.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Dr. James Croteau**, professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, has been named a fellow of the American Psychological Association's Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues. Croteau already was a fellow of APA's Society for Counseling Psychology. Croteau, a faculty member since 1990, received the new designation in August at the APA's annual conference for his outstanding contributions to LGB issues in psychology.

**Dr. Eric Sauer**, associate professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, was appointed to the Editorial Board of *The Counseling Psychologist*. *The Counseling Psychologist* is the official journal of The Society of Counseling Psychology, Division 17 of the American Psychological Association (APA).

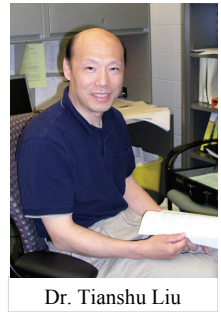
**Dr. Shelia Witherspoon**, assistant professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, recently had a paper published in *The Counseling Interviewer* titled "Counseling Gifted African American Females." Dr. Witherspoon also has a case study in *Case Studies in School Counseling* just published by Merrill Prentice Hall and an article in press on School Counselor Professional Identity for the journal *Guidance and Counseling*.

**Patrick H. Munley**, professor and interim chair of the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, was presented with the 2006 "W. James Cossé Distinguished Service Award for Extraordinary Contributions to the Professional Practice of Counseling Psychology" by the American Academy of Counseling Psychology (AACoP). AACoP membership consists of counseling psychologists board certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology. The award was presented in New Orleans on August 11, 2006 during AACoP's annual meeting.

**Dr. Joseph Kretovics**, project director of GEAR UP, presented a workshop on democratic leadership and school reform at the Polish-American Summer Academy of the Learning Schools in Poland. The July 7-15, 2006, workshop is for principals and teacher leaders from Polish schools who are actively involved in a country-wide school reform project. In addition, Dr. Kretovics has been elected to a three-year term on the Legacy Scholars Board of Directors in Battle Creek, MI, and appointed to the National Advisory Board for Foundations Inc. based in Philadelphia.

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

For the next three years, Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE) Professors **Dr. Tianshu Liu** and **Dr. William Liou** will be researching the natural flying capabilities of birds and insects to determine how these fliers use their wing flexibility to effectively control air flow, particularly on their trailing edges. Liu, an associate professor whose specialty is aerodynamics, recently secured a three-year, \$470,000 grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) for the official study of airfoil/wing flow control using a flexible extended trailing edge. "At the trailing edge of their wings, birds have natural wing flexibility," Liu said. "It causes a drag reduction and we're studying what it is in the flexibility that reduces the drag and enhances the lift. The birds have inspired the research." According to Liu, until recently wing flexibility has been considered too dangerous and too complicated due to its association with unsteady aerodynamics.



Dr. Tianshu Liu



Dr. William Liou

His proposal includes attaching a trailing edge extension made of a special polymer membrane and embedded with sensors and actuators. The membrane has the ability to sense and react to changes in the surroundings.

"This is a new kind of research," he said. Liou, who directs WMU's computational fluid dynamics lab, will deal with the computational fluid dynamics (CFD) challenges posed by the flexible trailing edge. Liu and Liou are coordinating their efforts with **Dr. Qamar Shams** from the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. Also working on the experiments will be **Dr. Javier Montefort**, who recently earned his Ph.D. at WMU, and **Pantula Srinivasa Ravindra (Ravin)**, a MAE graduate assistant. Research work will take place at WMU's Applied Aerodynamics Laboratory, located at the Kalamazoo Airport. "It has a wind tunnel and uses CFD simulation," Liu said.

Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering Professor **Dr. Sam Ramrattan** hosted a weeklong metal-casting workshop this summer for 10 high school students from Kalamazoo,



**Dr. Sam Ramrattan** and **Adil Abdelwahab**, an IME graduate student, demonstrate how to pour molten aluminum into sand castings. After the demo, the high school students, who are seated behind the protective barrier, donned safety apparel and made their own sand castings.

Coldwater, Saginaw, Grand Rapids, Detroit, and Toledo, Ohio. He has been offering similar hands-on workshops for up to 15 area tenth-through-twelfth-grade high school students during each of the last seven summers. During the students' five-day campus visit, Ramrattan, a technical advisor to the American Foundrymen's Society and a Key Professor for the Foundry Educational Foundation, directed activities in the College of

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## Faculty Accolades Continued...

Engineering and Applied Sciences, Parkview Campus Metal Casting Laboratory. Workshop topics included metal casting history, trends, and the relationship of manufacturing (molding, melting, filling, and finishing), engineering, quality, purchasing, marketing, and sales of castings. The students explored the use of computers, math, and science in metal casting. In addition to their lab and course work, the students met with WMU administrators to discuss university entrance requirements and expectations and with professionals from the foundry industry to review career opportunities in metal casting. Field trips to metal casting industries provided students with opportunities to see real-world technology and to meet with professionals. This year's attendees toured A.C. Foundry in Battle Creek, MI, Metal Technologies' Three Rivers Gray Iron Plant, and SPX Contech's die casting facilities in Dowagiac, MI. They also enjoyed activities in the Kalamazoo / Portage metro area. Students who attend the program are sponsored by various chapters of the American Foundry Society (AFS) and the North American Die Casting Association (NADCA). Students are selected on the basis of an aptitude for math and science. There is no cost to the students, who stay in WMU dorms and enjoy campus life. WMU has had a casting metal program in various engineering curricula since the college opened over 100 years ago. Its most recent accreditation began in 1992 when Ramrattan joined the faculty. "Our goal is to produce hands-on engineers as an integral part of what we do in manufacturing engineering programs," he said. Metal casting is currently a program option in the industrial, manufacturing, graphics, and engineering management programs.

## Student Accolades

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

The College of Education Scholarship Reception was held Friday, September 22. Over \$200,000 was awarded through 39 types of awards to 159 students.

### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES



Stoyan Stoychev on the WMU bike with (L-R) Alamgir Choudhury, Pavel Ikononov, James Kamman, Manik Kapoor, and Elsamawal Mohamed.

A WMU engineering team earned an overall second place in the 2nd Chainless Challenge—a hydraulic bicycle design competition sponsored by Parker Hannifin Corporation on July 31 and August 1 in Cleveland, OH. According to **Dr. Alamgir Choudhury**, an assistant professor in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME), the team "performed better than expected." The bike earned first place in design reliability and safety, second place in the two-mile speed race, and third in the 150-meter sprint circuit.

The competition challenged engineering and engineering technology students to create an innovative bicycle that would transfer the rider's manual power to the driving wheel through a hydraulic media without using a traditional chain or other direct drive mechanism. Additionally,

the bicycle needed to conserve energy for use for uphill motion. In addition to Choudhury, the team included MAE Associate Professor **Dr. James Kamman** and IME Assistant Professor **Dr. Pavel Ikononov** and a group of IME and MAE students: **Elsamawal Mohamed**, **Manik Kapoor**, **Mark Sherman**, and **Stoyan Stoychev**. The criteria for design and judgment were established by Parker and included performance in the speed and sprint circuits, design ingenuity and novelty, reliability and safety, manufacturability and workmanship, and design report.

Early this summer, 11 IME professors, graduate assistants, and students joined up to 5,000 plastics enthusiasts from all over the world in Charlotte, NC, for the Annual Technical Conference (ANTEC) sponsored by the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE), described on the SPE Web site as "the leading technical forum for providing cutting-edge technological issues and information pertinent to the needs of the plastics industry." ANTEC annually offers peer-reviewed technical papers providing plastics professionals "unique inside access to proprietary research and findings." IME Chair **Dr.**

**Paul Engelmann** said that more than 600 papers were

presented in 25 concurrent sessions that ran from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for three days and for most of a fourth. "The Society's best international papers for the year are presented at this set of meetings," he said.

Accompanying Engelmann were IE Ph.D. graduate assistants **Kurt Hayden** and **Jason Trahan**; **Jay Shoemaker**, adjunct assistant professor from Moldflow; **Brian Sather**, a master's candidate graduate assistant in the plastics manufacturing

program, and six undergraduate students – **Brian Cervin** (MFT), **Andrew Dowdy** (EGR), **Greg Giudici** (EGR), **John Graver** (MFT), **Eric Korbecki** (EGR), and **Ryan Miller** (MFT). The students served as ushers at technical sessions in lieu of registration fees. Funds to send the students to the conference were provided by a grant from the Alcoa Foundation, through EPC/Alcoa in Mattawan. The grant supports the professional development and global awareness of students in engineering technology programs. The students wrote formal proposals for travel support to the conference as well as trip reports on their ANTEC activities and professional development upon their return. IME Assistant Professor **Dr. Betsy Aller** is principal investigator of the grant and Professor **Dr. Larry Mallak** is co-PI. Aller has applied for another EPC/Alcoa grant for the same purpose; it is currently in the process of being approved at the national level. Trahan presented a paper titled "Why troubleshoot when you can prevent? A Bayesian network approach," which he described as his "biggest event" of the conference. In addition to the papers, the event also included a series of special international panels and vendor displays, panel discussions, especially one titled "The Plastics Industry in India: The Next Frontier," presentations on globalization in the plastics industry, and an interactive session on injection molding as among the most interesting and useful sessions. The students also noted that many sessions helped



Attending ANTEC: (FRONT L-R) Brian Cervin, Andrew Dowdy, Jay Shoemaker, Brian Sather, Kurt Hayden, and Dr. Paul Engelmann. (BACK L-R) Greg Giudici, Eric Korbecki, Jason Trahan, John Graver, and Ryan Miller.

*Continued on page 8*

## Student Accolades Continued...

them see the relevance of and connections between materials they had learned in classes. At "Student Recognition Night," a social activity sponsored by several companies including Moldflow, students played arcade games, networked with professionals and attendees from other universities, and received free SolidWorks software. Several students stated they were inspired to present professional papers at a future ANTEC conference. And all echoed Dowdy's "Thank you for the continued support and development of engineering students!" With support from the new EPC/Alcoa grant, IME plans to send several undergraduate students to ANTEC 2007, with the goal of presenting at least one technical paper.

A dozen WMU engineering professors and graduate students recently attended the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Midwestern Fluid Mechanics Conference, dubbed Mufmech and always held at a retreat in Rochester, IN. According to MAE professor and conference organizer Dr. William Liou, about 110 students and professors



About 110 students and professors attended the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Midwestern Fluid Mechanics Conference (Mufmech) at Lake Wawasee in Rochester, IN.

from nine Midwestern schools traveled to Lake Wawasee to share information in an isolated and informal atmosphere and to hear 32 fifteen-minute presentations. "It's a very unique conference," he

said. "Once you get there you have to stay and listen because there are no other attractions in the area." The retreat conference has an unusual approach to restrict the length of the speeches and to require informality: it gives the violators monetary penalties called "frogs." The person responsible for enforcement is called the KOTGOF, short for "Keeper of Time, Giver of Frogs." Speakers are penalized one Mufmech frog for every minute they go over the allotted time for their speeches or for spending too much time answering a question. "You can also get frogs for coming in late to a presentation, or for calling people *professors, students, doctors, or graduate students*, or for anything formal on the presentation slides," Liou said. "Sometimes people get frogs at the end of the day for not asking any questions." Each Mufmech frog costs the recipient between one and five dollars depending on the severity of the infringement, and the money is used to pay for snacks. "This is a lot of fun and it's one reason the conference has lasted so long," Liou said. WMU presenters included MAE Chair **Dr. Parviz Merati**, and professors Dr. Tianshu Liu (MAE) and **Dr. Dewei Qi** (PPI). Other attendees included **Dr. Christopher Cho** (MAE), six mechanical engineering graduate students – **Yang Yang, Oluyinka O. Bamiro, Chin H. Leong, Srinivasa R. Pantula, Yoshihiro Sakuma, and Michael R. Schulte** – and **Charles Davis**, a ME undergraduate student. The other attending colleges were Akron University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Michigan State University, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign, Purdue, and University of Michigan. "We had about 10 from each school," Liou said. The schools take turns organizing the event, which is always held at the same retreat located 20 minutes south of South Bend. Next year's conference will be organized by the University of Michigan. Members of the Kalamazoo Chapter 116 of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) presented a check for \$20,000

to the SME Foundation for Roscoe Douglas (RD) Scholarships. **Ron Aslon**, representing the SME Foundation, accepted the check and thanked the local organization. "Our foundation is dedicated to help get youth interested in math, science, and engineering. Some day this building will be filled," he said. In the past, Chapter 116 has supported the scholarships, which have been awarded by SME to full-time students who maintained a 3.0 GPA in either a manufacturing engineering or a technology program and who attended one of six approved Michigan institutions. WMU's most recent RD scholarship recipients are **Brian Cervin, Eric Korbecki, and Joshua Weise**. Beginning next year, a Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering task force will determine how the RD scholarship funds are distributed. Also all future RD scholarship recipients must be WMU students. Roscoe Douglas was a WMU professor.



SME members and Roscoe Douglas Scholarship winners pose with a \$20,000 check donated to SME Foundation for scholarships. Left to right are Ron Jones, Dave Steffans, Bruce Burrows, Mitchel Keil, Erik Korbecki, Brian Cervin, Ryan Miller, SME Foundation Representative Bart Aslon, and IME Chair Paul Engelmann.

## COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Department of Dance major **Alex Taylor** recently received an Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Award to study ankle injuries in dancers with project advisor **Jane Baas**.

**Brian Eib**, a senior trumpet performance major in the School of Music, was named one of two instrumental winners in the Adrian Boyer Vocal/Instrumental Competition at the Bay View Music Festival, America's oldest music festival. The eight-week program has a longstanding tradition of chamber music, opera, and musical theatre performances. Winners of the Boyer Competition, which is open to all undergraduate and graduate students attending the festival, receive a cash prize and perform with the Bay View Chamber Orchestra in a featured concert. Among Brian's other awards and honors are membership in the Russell Brown Brass Quintet, a scholarship-based honors ensemble in the WMU School of Music; membership in the 2001 world champion Cavaliers drum and bugle corps; and principal trumpet of the University Symphonic Band when it recently toured the People's Republic of China. Brian is from West Bloomfield, Michigan.

**François Henkins**, a senior violin performance major in the School of Music, distinguished himself at the Kent/Blossom Music Festival when he was selected by the violin faculty for the Joseph Gingold Award, which is presented to "a young violinist who displays not only musical excellence but also the qualities of commitment and humanity that Mr. Gingold felt were so necessary to great music making." This meant an opportunity to perform side-by-side with the concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra and sharing principal solos in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*. The Kent/Blossom Music Festival is an advanced, six-week program for professional music training operated by Kent State University in cooperation with The Cleveland Orchestra and Blossom Music Center. Kent/Blossom

*Continued on page 9*



## Student Accolades Continued...

Music emphasizes the intensive study of chamber music under professional artistic standards and time frames. François is a member of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. He is from Bainsvlei, South Africa.

This year's Department of Theatre British Isles scholar, **Ryan Welsh**, was accepted and studied at the British Academy of Dramatic Arts. A second theatre student, **Paul Culos**, also had the opportunity to study in this program. **Evan Lipkin** was selected to study with the Saratoga International Theatre Institution, run by Japanese theatre director Tadashi Suzuki and American director Ann Bogart.

### COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Occupational Therapy student **Kimberly Weeks** received the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association Scholarship from the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. This is a competitive award offered to occupational therapy students in the state of Michigan.

### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Brandy Skjold** received a grant from the Waksman Foundation for Microbiology to conduct research during the 2006-2008 school years. Her research is entitled "Creating a microbiology unit for pre-service elementary education students." She will be collaborating with **Dr. Renee Schwartz** and **Dr. Bill Cobern** from the Mallinson Institute, as well as **Dr. Silvia Rosbach** from the Department of Biological Sciences on this project.

Several MISE graduate students assisted in the development of a presentation entitled "Being a doctoral student: A visual self-study" that was given at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Ethnographic and Qualitative Research in Education<sup>®</sup> (EQRE) on the campus of Cedarville University, OH on June 9-10, 2006. The presentation had three primary authors, Gunilla Holm, **Fang Huang** and Hong Yan Cui, and several additional co-authors: **Brandy Skjold**, **Hang Hwa Hong**, **Robert Kagumba**, Hohn Hoyer, Fatma Ayyad, Shawan Bultsma, Mazine Gilling, Julien Kouame, Michael Nokes, Hong Zhong, and Curtis Warren. (MISE graduate students are indicated in boldface.)

**Chris Landry**, undergraduate geology major, received the Best Student Talk Award for the Geochemistry Division of the American Chemical Society Meeting, held in Atlanta, GA in March 2006. The ACS is a premier, international meeting of scientists, with over 10,000 participants. It is unusual for an undergraduate student to present a talk at this meeting, let alone win the Best Student Talk award. These are typically won by graduate students.

### HAWORTH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The Western Michigan University chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the financial information honorary, was recognized at the organization's national conference in Washington D.C., August 2-4. The chapter was one of the Superior chapters, the highest category of recognition. This is the 21st time in the last 24 years the chapter has attained this status.

Western's chapter was represented at the conference by accounting graduate student **Eli Lake**, **Beulah Kendall**, and Accounting Professor **David Rozelle**.

## Upcoming Events

### EMERITI COUNCIL

**Howard Wolpe**, former U.S. Congressman from Southwest Michigan, will be the featured guest lecturer for a public Forum entitled "Achieving Peace in an Embattled World." The Western Michigan University Emeriti Council is sponsoring the free forum with financial assistance from the WMU Provost's Office. The forum will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2006 in Brown Auditorium at Schneider Hall, Haworth College of Business on the University Campus. There will be free parking for Campus guests in the Fetzer parking lot directly in front of Schneider Hall. Dr. Wolpe taught Political Science at WMU from 1967 to 1972 and served on the Kalamazoo City Commission and in the Michigan House of Representatives. He is currently the Director of the Africa Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. His expertise is in the management of ethnic and racial conflict as evidenced by the successful reconciling of the warring Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups in Burundi. The Burundi Leadership Training Program is a model that could help to rebuild other war-torn societies. It is presently being adapted to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to Liberia at the request of the UN, the State Department, and the British government. Dr. Wolpe will discuss the creation, implementation, and outcome of the program. He will interact with the forum audience in demonstrating some of the techniques that are used to strengthen skills in negotiations and communications. The culminating session will be a panel discussion entitled, "Can Collaborative Decision Making Work in Iraq?" The panel will include WMU Professor **Howard Dooley**, who has written on modern Middle East history. WMU Physics Professor **Emanuel Kamber**, a native of Iraq, will bring his considerable experience with Iraqi organizations to the session. WMU Emeritus Professor **Peter Kobrak** will be chair, and Howard Wolpe will be the discussant. The public is invited to participate in what promises to be a lively discussion of a hopeful process for Achieving Peace In An Embattled World. For further information, contact **William Appel** at email: [appel@wmich.edu](mailto:appel@wmich.edu); phone 649-1637.

### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES



EOD Coordinator Tracey Moon with a tabloid for this year's Engineering Opportunity Day career fair.

Engineering Opportunity Day (EOD) career fair is bringing representatives from about 50 employers to WMU's CEAS Parkview Campus on Thursday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Although geared for engineering students, the fair is free and open to the public. According to EOD Coordinator **Tracey Moon**, assistant director for Career and Student Employment Services (CSSES) and career advisor for the CEAS and the College of Aviation, the fair allows students to network and learn about needs and opportunities. "The

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## Upcoming Events Continued...



A scene from last year's EOD.

fair provides students with information about where to find internships, co-ops and full-time jobs," she said. No pre-registration is required to attend. For more information, visit or call (269) 387-2745. Kellogg's is sponsoring this year's fair. The Battle Creek company, which is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, was recently identified as WMU's Employer of the Year. "Kellogg's

has gone above and beyond regarding student involvement, student development, recruiting, and partnering with career services and the university," Moon said. "They have been an excellent partner." According to Moon, Kellogg's recruits from a variety of WMU colleges and has been "heavily involved" in participating in previous EODs and other career fairs and in providing other educational experiences for WMU students. "They've been generous not only monetarily but also with their personnel," she said. "They send their people to talk to students." Already registered are many firms who have been regular EOD participants. Several new participants have signed up for this year's fair. These include Tower Pinkster Titus Associates from Kalamazoo; Miller Brothers Manufacturing Company, a Homer business looking for MFT technology students; Albany International Corp., an Albany, NY, firm recruiting mechanical, electrical, chemical, and paper science majors; Chicago Bridge and Iron from Plainfield, IL; and Crowe Chizek & Co. LLP, a national accounting firm from South Bend, IN, recruiting computer engineering and science, computer information systems and ISM majors. "A lot of the time computer engineering students don't think about working for a national accounting firm or for a hospital," Moon said. "Today, all companies have computer networks to be on the cutting edge." Some recruiters will schedule follow-up interviews the next day. Employers have until the day before the event to sign up. To view registered employers and for employers to register, go to Web site: [http://www.experience.com/emp/cf\\_details?fhnd=1978](http://www.experience.com/emp/cf_details?fhnd=1978).

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

University Libraries is looking for WMU off-campus faculty, staff, and students who are interested in helping us evaluate the ease-of-use and usefulness of the University Libraries Web sites. For more information, please contact **Michael Whang**, Head of Web & Internet Services and Principal Investigator, at 269-387-5184 or send an e-mail to [michael.whang@wmich.edu](mailto:michael.whang@wmich.edu).

University Libraries invites you to tell us about your technology gadgets—why you bought them and how you use them for conducting research, coursework, communicating, working, and playing—and to enter to win a \$25 University Bernhard Center Bookstore Gift Card! Learn more at [www.wmich.edu/library/news/2006/gadgets.php](http://www.wmich.edu/library/news/2006/gadgets.php).

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The American Occupational Therapy Association's National Backpack Awareness Day is September 20, and WMU Occupational Therapy students will be on campus to educate their peers about healthy behavior for toting books, laptops, and other items. "Pack it light and carry it light" will be the motto of the day. Students carrying overloaded backpacks and improperly worn packs, according to U.S. and international studies, are likely to experience neck, shoulder, and back pain; adverse effects on posture; and compromised breathing and fatigue. The U.S. Consumer Product and Safety Commission estimates that more than 7,000 emergency room visits in 2001 resulted from injuries related to backpacks and book bags. The growing awareness of potential long-term problems to students has resulted in increased medical research and proposed legislation in at least two states to address the issue of backpack weight in relation to student health. Some recommendations for loading and wearing backpacks:

- Backpacks should weigh no more than 15% of your body weight;
- Load heaviest items closest to your back;
- Wear both shoulder straps for an evenly balanced load;
- Adjust shoulder and waist straps to distribute the burden more evenly along your back;

Occupational Therapy student teams will be at stations in Sangren Hall and the Bernhard Student Center from 1 to 4 p.m. on September 20, where they will distribute handouts and consult with WMU students about the proper weight and distribution of their backpacks and carrying devices.

The College of Health and Human Services Student Leadership Council will host the very first CHHS Mini Bash in the college atrium on Wednesday, September 20 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Based loosely on the Bronco Bash concept, the Mini Bash will showcase student services available at the CHHS. Student organizations from many of the CHHS departments will be represented, with booths providing information about their student organizations and exciting upcoming events. Also present will be booths with information about the various services available around the building, such as the Learning Resource Center, the Bella Vita Café, the Open Computer Lab, and the Career and Student Employment Services Office. In addition, the Student Leadership Council, along with Margie Springer of the college's Learning Resource Center, will be collecting school supplies and extra change for the Michigan Cottage of the Tamassee School of the Appalachian Mountains. In this extremely isolated and underprivileged area, K-12 schools would not be possible without outside donations.

Dr. Lovell A. Jones, Ph.D., an expert in healthcare disparities, will speak at the College of Health and Human Services on October 5 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Bronson Lecture Hall. The topic title will be "Envision yourself meeting the health care crisis." Dr. Jones is the Director of Reproductive Biology at the University of Texas; the Director of the Center for Research on Minority Health; and the founder of the Health Disparities Education, Awareness, Research and Training Consortium.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

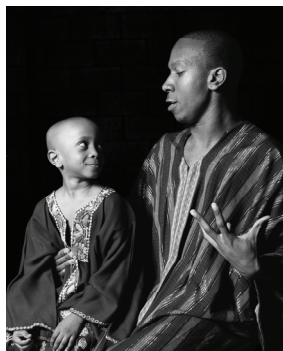
The State of the College address will be held Friday, October 6 at 10:30 am in Room 2302, Sangren Hall.

## Upcoming Events Continued...

### COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

The School of Art Faculty Exhibition will be in the Dalton Center Multimedia Room, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday, beginning Monday, September 25 through Thursday, October 12.

The Department of Theatre opens its season with *Remnants From Senegal: stories from Africa to Kalamazoo*, in the York Arena Theatre, September 28-30 at 8 p.m.; October 5-7 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, October 8, at 2 p.m. Storytelling is important in any family, revealing both treasures and secrets. Incorporating tales from Africa and its diaspora in the Americas, *Remnants from Senegal* unveils the truths of one family. Tickets are available by calling the Theatre Box Office, 387-6222.



The second department of theatre production is *The Lion in Winter*, a royal comedy of wit and succession by James Goldman. It's Christmastide in 1186—late in the year, and King Henry's life has become a chess game. Avoiding the traps of three eager sons and a clever wife, he must choose a successor. This classic, scheming comedy was the inspiration for the Academy Award-winning film. *The Lion in Winter* runs October 5-7 and 12-14 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, October 15, at 2 p.m. in Shaw Theatre. Tickets are available by calling the Theatre Box Office, 387-6222.



The University Symphony Orchestra will present an all-Tchaikovsky program for its first concert of the 2006-07 season on Sunday, October 15, at 3 p.m. in Miller Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public. The program will include some of the composer's best loved and well known orchestral pieces: the Overture-Fantasy to "Romeo and Juliet," "Marche Slave," Opus 31, and "Symphony No. 5 in e minor," Opus 64. Inspired by Shakespeare's romantic tragedy, Tchaikovsky composed the Overture-Fantasy to depict the wide range of moods and emotions present in the play. "Marche Slave" incorporates some of Tchaikovsky's most memorable melodies with Russian Folk music, and the monumental Fifth Symphony is full of themes of fate and will bring this exciting and challenging program to a dramatic close.

## What We're Reading

### COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Dean **Margaret Merrion**, College of Fine Arts, is reading *Leadership Without Easy Answers*, by Ronald Heifetz.

### LEE HONORS COLLEGE

### GRADUATE COLLEGE

No items submitted for this issue.

## Prism Newsletter

**Editor-in-Chief:** Janet Pisaneschi

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Jonathan Pugh

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**Design Consultant:** Frederick Burbach

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