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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

College of *Arts and Sciences*

e-News Issue 38: June 2016

Upcoming CAS events



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Update your information



William L. Monroe
endows economics
scholarship

ARTS AND SCIENCES News

- ▶ Fort St. Joseph archaeological site offers summer programs for all ages
- ▶ 34th Annual Kalamazoo Community Medical and Health Sciences Research Day

FACULTY Features

- ▶ Dr. Michael Pritchard, philosophy, honored for 30 years at Ethics Center
- ▶ Dr. Gellert Mezei's research featured in chemistry journals
- ▶ Dr. Peter Krawutschke appointed to the editorial board of Babel
- ▶ Dr. Hedy Habra, Spanish, a finalist in International Book Awards

ALUMNI Profiles

- ▶ Dr. Marian Tripplett, '02 liberal studies, becomes WMU social work professor
- ▶ Heather Good, '06 English and environmental studies, heads Michigan Audubon
- ▶ Jay Deuby, '94 communication, is producer and editor behind HBO's "Togetherness"

STUDENT Stories

- ▶ Andrew Sorrow, '16 political science, receives Vernon Ehlers Intern Award
- ▶ Sociology students visit Otsego High School to recruit future students



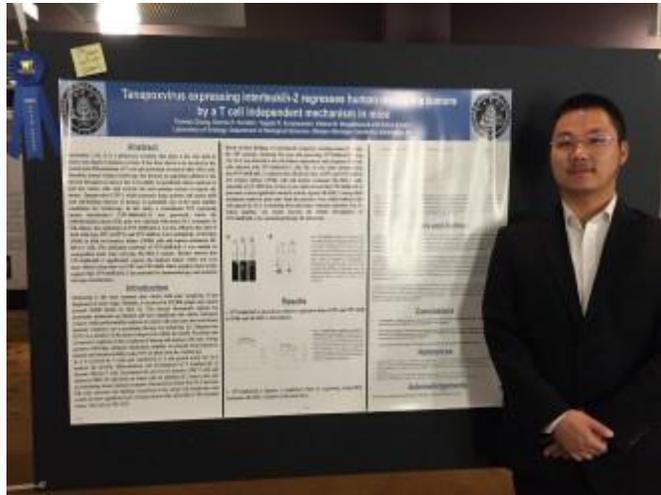
Kalamazoo Community Medical and Health Sciences Research Day

Students and faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences attended the [34th Annual Kalamazoo Community Medical and Health Sciences Research Day](#) on May 4, 2016.

The event was sponsored by WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine and held at the Radisson Plaza hotel in downtown Kalamazoo.

Seven graduate students made presentations and two received awards out of the 174 poster presentations and 46 oral presentations. A panel of 30 judges reviewed over 230 abstract submissions and determined the awards.

Tiantian Zhang, a Ph.D. candidate who works with Dr. Karim Essani, received two awards. One of his abstracts received the Best Clinical Presentation award for "Experimental Virotherapy of Human Melanoma Tumors in Nude Mice with 15L-knock-out Tanapoxvirus" by Tiantian Zhang, Karim Essani, Yogesh Suryawanshi, Dennis Kordish, Helene Woyczeszyk, and David Jeng.



Zhang also gave a poster presentation, which received a First Place Poster award on "Tanapoxvirus Expressing Interleukin-2 Regresses Human Melanoma Tumors by a T-cell Independent Mechanism in Mice" by Tiantian Zhang, Karim Essani, Dennis Kordish, and Yogesh Suryawanshi.

Joanna Dickens, a Ph.D. candidate in biological sciences who works with Dr. Christine Byrd-Jacobs, received the Second Place Poster award for her abstract "Plasticity of Mitral Cell Dendritic Morphology in the Adult Zebrafish Olfactory Bulb Following Deafferentation" by Joanna Dickens and Christine Byrd-Jacobs.

Dr. Michael Pritchard, philosophy, honored for 30 years at Ethics Center

Olga Bonfiglio
College of Arts and Sciences staff writer

In August 1985, nineteen faculty from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, General Studies and Health and Human Services met to discuss their common interests in studying and teaching ethics. At the time, this was an unusual endeavor since faculty from different disciplines had only occasionally talked with each other about their interests in ethics. Nevertheless, after three days of sharing ideas in a more organized and formal way, the group agreed to form the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society.

Dr. Michael Pritchard, philosophy, helped kick off this “brave new world” and after 30 years at the helm of the Center and 48 years at WMU, he is retiring this June—but not without the recognition he deserves for his years of service, leadership, innovation and imagination. He spoke on “The Course of a Career” at the Center’s bioethics conference held at the Fetzer Center on March 17-18.



“Mike has won friends for ethics all over the world by being a gifted philosopher who happens to think that ethics is not just for philosophers,” said Dr. Sandra Borden, professor of communication and Center co-director.

The seeds of the Center were planted casually and often by chance. It started in the 1970s when Pritchard and Dr. Jim Jaksa, communication, began talking between shots on the tennis courts about Sissela Bok's book, *Lying: Deception in Public and Private Life* (Vintage Books, 1978). The two men decided to teach a course together on lying and deception for their communication and philosophy students. Eventually, they wrote a book together titled *Ethics in Communication: Methods of Analysis* (Wadsworth, 1st ed. 1988, 2nd ed. 1994).

In the early 1980s, Dr. Shirley Bach, general studies-science, invited Pritchard to get involved in research ethics by serving on WMU's Institutional Review Board, which she had spearheaded.

Then Pritchard and Bach joined WMU's Science for Citizens Center, initiated by Dr. Robert Kaufman, political science, with the support of the National Science Foundation. These efforts led to an Honors College course on ethics and risk that Bach and Pritchard organized along with Dr. Frank Wolf, industrial engineering, Dr. Larry Oppliger, physics, and Dr. Michael Stoline, mathematics/statistics.

As the group looked for other interdisciplinary teaching opportunities, they were discovering that they had many common research interests in ethics. Pritchard and Jaksa, for example, had included the [Ford Pinto scandal](#) in their course only to learn that Dr. Ronald Kramer, sociology/criminal justice, who focuses his research on corporate crime, had a whole file cabinet full of documents and notes on the case. These and other coincidental discoveries of professors' interests in ethics finally led Pritchard, Jaksa and Bach to talk about starting the Center.

During summer 1985, the professors began planning for the Center. Dr. Diether Haenicke, WMU's new president, happened to find out about this effort and eagerly participated in the group's discussions. However, the new center had no money and no home. One day afterward, Associate Vice President Mike Moskovic offered the group \$3,000 for expenses and the caution that interdisciplinary projects never lasted at WMU. But this warning only challenged the group to prove him wrong. On another day Dr. Laurel Grotzinger, dean of the Graduate College, offered her college as a "home" along with a modest but stable budget and the endorsement of Provost Phillip Denefeld. A year later, President Haenicke offered the Center \$5,000 of "one-time money" to establish its ethics series, although he later extended such funds as a permanent feature of the Center's annual budget. To further eke out funds that weren't there, the Center's members invited their friends and colleagues from other colleges and universities to speak at WMU whenever they were on their way to someplace else.

"When we started our Center back in '85, we were inspired by the work of the Hastings Center, a prominent New York ethics 'think tank,' which had been working on what teaching ethics should be," said Pritchard.

In its publication, *Ethics Teaching in Higher Education* (Plenum Press, 1980), the Hastings Center named five aims and goals:

- Stimulate students' moral imagination;
- Help students recognize moral issues;
- Help students analyze key moral concepts and principles;
- Stimulate students' sense of responsibility;
- Help students deal effectively with moral ambiguity and disagreement.

"An especially noteworthy feature of these aims and goals is that students are not treated as if they are just beginning to engage with moral issues," said Pritchard. "They are regarded as already having some ability to engage their moral imagination. The aim is to stimulate it further. They, like the rest of us, sometimes need help recognizing moral issues, as the situations calling for moral reflection and decision-making cannot be expected to come to us with a warning light that says, 'Here I am, a moral issue.'"

Since the 1990s, the Center has been housed in the College of Arts and Sciences. Pritchard has been co-director with Borden. Dr. Shirley Bach, professor emerita of philosophy, is associate director and Dr. Jill Larson, associate professor of English, is publications editor. (Dr. Joseph Ellin, philosophy, served as publications editor from 1986-2011.) The advisory committee has members from across the curriculum in business, chemistry, communication, education, engineering, English, philosophy, physics, race and ethnic relations, nursing, social work, and sociology, and law.

Over the years, the Center has worked closely with the medical community sponsoring programs in biomedical ethics. It has also sponsored study groups on topics of general interest. Other focus areas include research ethics, communication ethics and engineering ethics.

The Center was the home for [Teaching Ethics](#), the official journal for the [Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum](#) for six years until last year. Pritchard and Dr. Elaine Englehardt, Utah Valley University, are still co-editors and Borden is associate editor.

Each academic year, the Center sponsors 15 to 20 public presentations addressing a wide range of ethical issues. It also publishes a few of these presentations in its [in-house publication series](#).

Although the Center has no academic courses of its own, it serves as a resource for faculty and students. From time to time, the Center offers workshops on teaching ethics for faculty who are encouraged to invite their students to attend the Center's public presentations.

“I continue to use the Hastings Center aims and goals of teaching ethics in my classes,” said Pritchard. “Beyond this, I would like to think that the Ethics Center programs and projects over its first 30 years have also contributed to furthering these ends, not just for students, but for everyone who has been involved in them. All of us are lifelong learners

Chemistry prof’s research featured on European journal cover

By Elena Hines
College of Arts and Sciences staff writer

Western Michigan University chemistry professor Dr. Gellert Mezei has had his research not only published in “Chemistry: A European Journal” but also highlighted on its front cover in the April 11, 2016 issue.

In 2000, he was part of the discovery of “nanojars,” compounds two nanometers wide that have a cavity inside and look like a jar.

“Within the cavity, they can encapsulate ions, including some toxic ions,” Mezei said. “We can use the compounds to sequester toxic ions from water—maybe we could use them to purify water.”

Mezei’s team has shown that nanojars can reduce levels of arsenic and chromate from water to those acceptable to the Environmental Protection Agency.

At this point, everything is on a fundamental chemistry level; no procedure is in place to do this on a large scale.

“It could be applied, but that requires years of work,” he said.

The molecules were originally discovered serendipitously, he said. Once they were discovered, Mezei studied their structural properties and then rationally designed experiments that led to a wealth of new results.

The project lay dormant for almost 10 years, but Mezei revived it a few years ago and in 2014 received a grant in the amount of \$284,833 from the National Science Foundation entitled “Selective, high efficiency anion encapsulation by neutral nanojars.” Graduate and undergraduate students, even high schoolers who worked over summers paid by the American Chemical Society’s Project SEED (for economically disadvantaged high school students), contributed to the research.

After more study on the new class of molecules, he has a patent filed on the project.

In addition to publication of his work in “Chemistry: A European Journal,” more results have been published in two papers in the prestigious journal “Chemical Communications,” and another cover story in “Dalton Transactions,” a peer-reviewed journal published weekly by the Royal Society of Chemistry, has gone to press.

And just recently, he received an email from a former undergraduate student who works in a metal plating factory whose wastewater includes chromate. The student is going to collect samples, with the hopes of furthering the research efforts.

“Eventually we’ll try to commercialize the process,” Mezei said.

[WMU Department of Chemistry](#)

Dr. Peter Krawutschke Appointed to the Editorial Board of Babel

Past [American Translators Association](#) President Peter W. Krawutschke has been appointed to the editorial board of Babel, the scholarly journal for the International Federation of Translators, designed primarily for translators, interpreters, and terminologists.

Krawutschke taught German and translation at Western Michigan University for 46 years. During that time, he pushed successfully to get translation and interpreting recognized by higher education and the federal government.

Krawutschke served as president of the ATA from 1995-97. In 2008, he received the Alexander Gode Medal, ATA's most prestigious award, in recognition for his outstanding work on behalf of translators around the globe.

Krawutschke also served on the Executive Committee of the Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council on Language and International Studies. He also served on the board of directors of the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation, which he helped establish in 1997.



The International Federation of Translators is an international grouping of associations of translators, interpreters, and terminologists. More than 100 professional associations are affiliated, representing over 80 000 translators in 55 countries. The goal of the Federation is to promote professionalism in the disciplines it represents. It seeks constantly to improve conditions for the profession in all countries and to uphold translators' rights and freedom of expression.

Founded in 1959, the American Translators Association's primary goals include fostering and supporting the professional development of translators and interpreters and promoting the translation and interpreting professions. ATA, based in Alexandria, Virginia, has nearly 11,000 members in over 95 countries.

Dr. Hedy Habra, Spanish, a finalist in the International Book Awards

Dr. Hedy Habra placed as a finalist in the [International Book Awards](#) for her collection of poems, **Under Brushstrokes**, published by [Press 53](#).

The International Book Awards were created in 2009. Currently in their 8th year, the IBA's are announced online during the Book Expo America in New York City in June of each year.

In 2014 Habra won a USA Best Book Award in the General Poetry category for **Tea in Heliopolis**, while her book, **Flying Carpets**, was named one of five finalists in the Short Story Fiction category.

Tea in Heliopolis was also named one of five finalists for the 2014 International Poetry Book Award, while **Flying Carpets** won an honorable mention for the 2013 Arab American National Book Award and was a finalist for the 2014 Eric Hoffer Book Award.



[USABookNews.com](#) is an online magazine featuring mainstream and independent publishing houses and announced winners and finalists of the 2014 USA Best Book Awards on Nov. 12. More than 400 winners and finalists were announced in over 100 categories.

Habra was born in Egypt and is of Lebanese origin. She has earned a master's degree and a Master of Fine Arts in English and master's and doctoral degrees in Spanish literature, all from WMU. She has received WMU's All-University Research and Creative Scholar Award, Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award, 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award and Alumni Achievement Award.

Habra writes poetry and fiction in French, Spanish and English and has published more than 200 poems and short stories in numerous journals and anthologies. Her multilingual work has appeared in more than 40 journals and 15 anthologies. She also is the author of a scholarly book, "Mundos alternos y artísticos en Vargas Llosa" published in 2012.

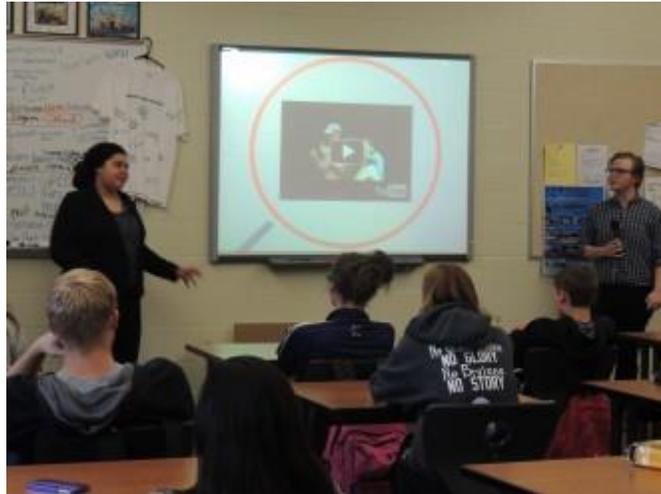
For more information on Habra and her work, visit hedyhabra.com.

Sociology students visit Otsego High School to recruit future students

Olga Bonfiglio
College of Arts and Sciences staff
writer

Members of the Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society reached out to Otsego High School students and introduced them to the discipline of sociology last month.

AKD Co-presidents Amber Emmons and Cody Akers spoke to two classes of social studies students.



“We’d like to thank one of our doctoral students, Christine Strayer, who helped us make the connection with the school,” said Dr. Chien-Juh Gu, sociology. “She’s an English language arts teacher there.”

Alpha Kappa Delta is an [international sociology honor society](#) that recognizes the academic excellence of undergraduate and graduate sociology students.

AKD is also trying to promote sociology as a major to WMU first year students since a fair number of them take SOC 2000 as a general education class. Many of them don't fully understand what sociology is and what types of jobs are available to graduates.