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5-26-2011

## Faculty Retirement Recognition Dinner 2011

Western Michigan University

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

*Faculty  
Retirement  
Recognition  
Dinner*

*May 26, 2011*



# WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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May 26, 2011

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is with deep appreciation that I write to thank you for the years of dedication that you have given to Western Michigan University. Each of you has been an integral part of the fulfillment of the mission of this university by building intellectual inquiry, investigation, and discovery into all undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. You have helped to give your students a footing to be productive in their communities and in society as a whole.

Each of you leaves a legacy of devotion to learning and leadership in your discipline by enhancing the body of knowledge we proudly offer to our students and each other. It is through your passion for teaching and scholarship, and your genuine caring for our students that we can measure the real capacity and strength of this university. Because of the foundation you have provided, our university will continue to move forward to achieve even greater success.

As you turn to new endeavors and opportunities, please know that you will remain an important part of who we are. Once again, I thank you for your countless kindnesses and sacrifices, and for the significant difference you each have made in the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John M. Dunn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "D".

John M. Dunn  
President





## PROGRAM

Trumpet Fanfare . . . . . Scott Thornburg  
Emcee . . . . . D. Terry Williams

## DINNER

Greetings from the Faculty Senate . . . . . Peter W. Krawutschke

Recognition of the Honorees:

Presentation of Certificates . . . . . John M. Dunn

Presentation of Legislative Tributes . . . . . Sean McCann

Welcome to the Ranks of Emeriti . . . . . Donna Oas

Honorees' Response . . . . . G. Gwen Raaberg

Entertainment

Max Wardlaw  
Singer

Nick Graffagna  
Pianist

WMU Alma Mater . . . . . Sung by All

## MENU



*Chilled Garden Salad  
with choice of dressing*

*Chicken Supreme in Cream Sauce  
served with Parmesan Red Skin Potatoes*

*Monaco Blend Vegetables*

*Vegetarian:  
Mushroom Melange Ravioli  
with Sauce Provencal*

*Rolls and Butter*

*Lemon Cream Cake,  
Strawberry Cream Cake  
or  
Chocolate Cake*

*Beverages*

## HONORED GUESTS

This evening we honor 18 of our faculty colleagues who are joining the ranks of Western Michigan University's retirees. This group, like so many before them, have contributed greatly to the growth and development of the university during their tenure here. They have witnessed countless changes which have guided the university through many interesting and challenging times.

We express our sincerest appreciation to these retiring faculty for their years of dedication to Western Michigan University and wish them a full and happy retirement. By honoring the accomplishments of our retired faculty, we also honor the accomplishments of Western, for the two are inextricably interwoven.

John W. Benson

Nora H. Faires

William H. Fenn

Richard B. Hathaway

Harold L. Hladky

Richard J. Keaveny

Cheryl H. Lyon-Jenness

Paul L. Maier

Peter G. Northouse

Peter E. Parker

G. Gwen Raaberg

Steven C. Rhodes

Robert J. Ricci

Pamela Schuck Rooney

Iskender Sahin

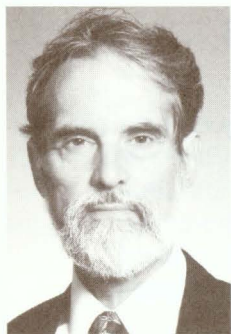
Frank L. Severance

Michael R. Stoline

Robert F. Wait

## John W. Benson

Professor of Spanish



John Benson was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota, where he attended public schools, graduating from Corvallis High School. It was at Corvallis High School where he began his lifelong love affair with the Spanish language and where he also developed a serious interest in the trombone. The highlight of his musical career was almost certainly a memorable performance of Dvorak's *New World Symphony* with the Corvallis High School Orchestra. Upon graduating from high school John lost no time in immersing himself in the Spanish language and culture through a variety of study abroad experiences, thus laying the groundwork for his prodigious fluency in Spanish. He studied in Guanajuato

and Guadalajara, Mexico; Mexico City; and Bogotá, Colombia, all in a mere three years. He earned his B.A. degree from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and then went on to the University of Wisconsin in Madison, earning an M.A. degree and a Ph.D. in Spanish with a minor in Portuguese. He wrote his dissertation on structural elements in the short stories of Gabriel García Márquez, a Colombian author whose work John has followed assiduously to this very day.

John held a number of positions prior to coming to Western Michigan University. He has had teaching assistantships and lectureships at Willamette University and the University of Madison. At the Colegio Americano in Bogotá he had the honor of being named head of the English Department. John joined the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at WMU in 1974 and was unanimously elected head of the Spanish section in 1978. It was clear to all the members of every language section in the department that John's leadership in the Spanish section was nothing short of exemplary. He was elected in 1992 by an overwhelming majority to be the new chairman of the department, now called the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, a position he held until 2003 when he became the chairman of the newly created Department of Spanish. During his tenure at WMU John has taught a wide range of courses for the Spanish section and department.

John has a truly enviable record of service to WMU as is evidenced by his reception of the WMU Distinguished Service Award in 2007. In addition to the types of service noted above, John has served on and chaired virtually every committee in the department and a large number of university committees. One of his ideas was the "nota cultural" talks that members of the department gave on WMUK's radio program "Alma Latina," a series that he inaugurated with an incisive commentary on the Mexican constitution. Service to students has always been one of John's primary commitments, and it led him to inaugurate an annual Spanish poetry recitation contest for our undergraduate students with area high school teachers serving as judges. A huge success!

John's plans for retirement are obvious from even the most casual glance at his curriculum vitae: travel, travel, and more travel. Visiting children and grandchildren will be a priority, as will cultivating a variety of garden spaces in the new home he and his wife Seidy recently purchased west of Kalamazoo.



## Nora H. Faires

Professor of History



Born in the small western Pennsylvania town of Sharon on August 3, 1949, Nora H. Faires was the youngest child of Edon and Gwen Faires, both immigrants from Canada. She received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in history from the University of Pittsburgh. Due to illness, she retired as Professor of History and of Gender and Women's Studies from Western Michigan University in December 2010. Previously she taught at the University of Michigan-Flint, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of Puget Sound.

Nora was an accomplished historian of migration studies, most recently Canadian migration. Among her many honors, she was a two-time Fulbright Distinguished

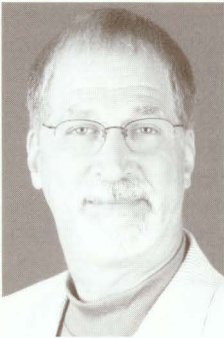
Chair (York University and the University of Calgary) and the winner of the Albert B. Corey Prize (American Historical Association and Canadian History Association joint prize) for the best book on Canadian-American relations, *Permeable Border* (with John Bukowczyk, et. al.); the William Gilbert Award (American Historical Association) for the best article on teaching history, "The American Family and the Little Red Schoolhouse" (with John Bukowczyk); State History Award, Historical Society of Michigan, for *Jewish Life in the Industrial Promised Land* (with Nancy Hanflik); State of Michigan Excellence in Teaching Award, the University of Michigan-Flint; Regents' Medal, University of Michigan; and Corporate Woman of Achievement, the Greater Flint YWCA. She was also the co-author, with Janet Coryell, of a textbook, *Women and America: An Integrated History* (2011) and a forthcoming collection of essays, *Migrants and Migration in Modern North America* (with Dirk Hoerder).

During her tenure at Western, Nora was an actively engaged academic citizen, serving on numerous department, college, and University-wide committees, as well as in national organizations. She also made a significant contribution to the graduate program, advising a number of M.A. and Ph.D. students, three of whom recently landed full-time faculty positions at various universities. David Zwart, assistant professor of history at Dordt College, says that he finds it "...hard to imagine a better mentor. She gave me the confidence that I could be a historian. As I research, teach, and mentor today, I regularly catch myself repeating wisdom Nora shared with me." Bob Duke, assistant professor of history at Eastern Michigan University echoes these sentiments. Recalling time spent with Nora, both in and out of the classroom, Bob describes Nora as a dedicated teacher, an esteemed mentor, and "the best coach I ever had."

Nora passed away on Sunday, February 6, 2011, of metastatic breast cancer at her Ann Arbor, Michigan, residence. She was 61 years old. She is survived by her brother, Dr. J. Douglas (Barbara) Faires of Pulaski, Pennsylvania; niece Erika (Matt) Faires of Boston, Massachusetts; and many cherished close personal and professional friends.

## William H. Fenn

Professor of Physician Assistant



William H. Fenn was born in Midland, Michigan. He started his education at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, New Jersey, where he obtained an associate degree in liberal arts. He continued on to receive an associate degree in applied sciences of emergency medical terminology from the Community College of the Air Force; a bachelor of science as physician associate from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; a bachelor of science in business from the University of the State of New York; a master's degree in management with health care emphasis from Aquinas College; a diploma in Air Command and Staff College from Air War College; a certificate in emergency medicine for

physician assistants from the Academy of Health Sciences; and a doctorate of philosophy in allied health sciences, health policy from Pacific Western University. Bill strived to achieve the highest levels of his education.

Grand Valley Health Plan awarded Bill with the position of Senior Physician Assistant from 1985-86. He also coordinated and provided care for patients spanning over 29 Michigan counties while proposing a new clinical facility as well as its approval, design, construction, and operational phases when working with the Department of Veteran Affairs in Gaylord. In addition, he provided the delivery of all clinical services to the 100+ bed inpatient and intensive outpatient Glenbeigh Regional Center in Grand Rapids, as Director of Clinical Services. In 1986, Bill added Western Michigan University to his commendable repertoire when he became adjunct assistant/associate professor. In September of 1994, he obtained the position as chairperson of the Physician Assistant Department until 1996, associate professor with tenure, and professor with tenure as of 2001. Bill sat on various WMU committees and/or became the chair, including Tenure Committees and the Faculty Senate's Professional Concerns Committee. From 1989-92, he was an adjunct assistant professor at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry. Otsego County was lucky to have him as its Deputy Medical Examiner/Investigator from 1991-95. In the midst of continuing his education and holding various positions as director and professor, Bill served in the United States Air Force from 1975-95 as Lieutenant Colonel in active duty, reserve, and Desert Storm. He also held positions as Senior Physician Assistant, Chief Biomedical Scientist, Master Instructor, and Chief of Emergency and Disaster Preparedness.

Bill and wife, Glyni, enjoy traveling to their cabin on Torch Lake, Europe, and the Caribbean. He has performed radio recordings with a theatre in downtown Kalamazoo that can be accessed at [Allearstheatre.com](http://Allearstheatre.com). He is an avid scuba diver, snorkeler, and water skier. He enjoys photography and loves to ride horses, to name a few of his hobbies. Bill's commitment to Western Michigan University and the vast amount of other affiliations, organizations, committees, and the U.S. Air Force, is greatly appreciated and will be forever cherished.



## Richard B. Hathaway

Professor of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering



Richard B. Hathaway was born in Acushnet, Massachusetts. He earned his B.S. in automotive engineering technology and his M.S. in mechanical engineering, both from Western Michigan University. His Ph.D. in systems engineering was obtained at Oakland University. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of Michigan.

Richard was appointed as an instructor in the Department of Transportation Technology at Western Michigan University in 1977. He worked his way up the academic ranks to assistant professor, associate professor, and then became a full professor in 1992. He teaches courses in Mechanical Engineering. His areas of interest and specialization are: vehicle structures and dynamics; engineering applications of optical methods; and hologram and speckle shearing interferometry.

For his department, Richard served as primary academic advisor, was instrumental in initiating curriculum review and advancement, and was faculty advisor for M.S. and Ph.D. degree student projects and theses. He designed the department's Student Innovation Center and was co-principal investigator for several external grants. He serves as director of Applied Optics Laboratory and co-director of the WMU Automotive Laboratories. Richard was instrumental in the formation of and is an active member of the Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation (CAViDS) faculty. He serves as director of the Coherent Optics Laboratory, which performs non-contact full-field measurement of the mechanical behavior of solid bodies.

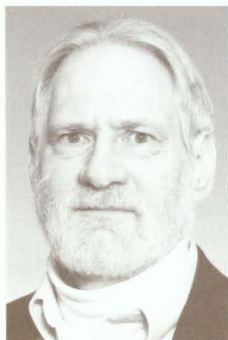
Richard's industry consulting has been in the areas of vehicle design, race car design, machine design, engine design and heavy truck design for roll stability. He has collaborated with colleagues from various industries to enhance knowledge of heavy truck stability. He co-authored a textbook, *Fatigue Testing and Analysis: Theory and Practice*. He has patents pending on Rotary Engine design.

During his retirement, Richard plans to continue doing research in his areas of interest.



## Harold L. Hladky

Master Faculty Specialist of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging



Harold Hladky was born at Fort Riley Army Hospital in Kansas, and grew up in Topeka, Kansas. He received his B.S. in chemical engineering from Kansas University, and has done additional course work in math (computer science) and psychology at Washburn University in Topeka.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, he joined Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio, working first in the Chemical Pilot Plant and finally in the research division. While at the pilot plant, he worked in areas of polymer manufacturing. Moving to the research division he continued with work in ABS plastic development. While at the research division he was in charge of the planning, installation, startup, and later running of a pilot plant for production of polyurethane prepolymers. Among projects Harold was involved in were uses of ground tires for playgrounds, a "moon" tire, urethane coatings for railway coal cars, urethane coated styrofoam (which eventually led to the single component "water based" urethane varnishes and paint), and a project to make an injection molded urethane car tire which had extremely long wear but no wet traction. From research, Harold transferred to a Goodyear plant in Luckey, Ohio, where he continued to make innovations in a product called the polycast wheel, which consisted of molding urethane foam to a car wheel to simulate an aluminum casting. From Luckey, Harold went to the Goodyear plant in Topeka, Kan., where he worked in developing new tire compounds used mostly for heavy earthmoving equipment. From Goodyear, Harold went to work for Ebonite Bowling Products in Hopkinsville, Ky. There he worked at developing a process for the manufacture of polyurethane bowling balls in a continuous process. Following Ebonite, he went to Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company in Des Moines, Iowa, starting in tire compounding and ending up in plant engineering. While at Armstrong he was responsible for the design and installation automation and data acquisition systems for rubber mixing, component extrusions, and calendaring. From Armstrong he went to Marshall, Mich., where he joined a team taking over a plant from Bostic, manufacturing acoustical products for vehicles. Two years later they sold the business to Perstorp and Harold continued on as technical manager. He replaced most of the product's material with lower cost and better performing materials. For the last ten years, Harold has been at Western Michigan University helping the Chemical Engineering program to grow to its current level by running the labs and building many of the experiments.

After retirement, Harold and his wife, Gail, plan on doing a lot of traveling in their motor home. During summer 2011 they plan on going from Oregon to New York, with many stops in between. Other trips planned for the near future include going to Alaska, getting at least to the Arctic Circle if not all the way to Prudhoe Bay, a trip to the Baja and to the Canadian Maritime Provinces. When not traveling, Harold and Gail plan to continue volunteer work and remodeling their home. This year Gail received the volunteer of the year award from Kingman Museum. Harold also plans to finish the projects to get his antique John Deere, classic car, and motorcycle running.

## Richard J. Keaveny

Professor of Art



Richard J. Keaveny was born in Lynn, Massachusetts. Dick received a B.S. in art education from the Massachusetts College of Art and an M.F.A. in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design. He is married to Joyce Keaveny, and has one son, Sean.

Dick came to Western Michigan University in 1968 to teach in the Art Education program. In 1970, he became the Area Coordinator of the Foundation Program for the Art Department. He remained in this position for the next decade teaching both lecture and studio courses within this area. By the 1980s he had begun teaching large art appreciation classes as well as advanced art history classes. In 1990 Dick was awarded

the WMU Alumni Teaching Excellence Award.

As a painter, Dick received five WMU Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund awards and two grants from the Michigan Council for the Arts. He has exhibited at the Kresge Art Center at Michigan State University, the J.P. Slusser Gallery at the University of Michigan, the E. H. Little Gallery at Memphis State University, the Spedman Art Gallery at Rutgers University, the Arts Center Gallery at Wayne State University, the Washington Square Gallery at New York University, the Fort Wayne Museum, the Ann Arbor Art Center, the South Bend Museum of Art, and the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Dick plans to continue painting in retirement, and looks forward to setting up a studio in downtown Kalamazoo. His interests include gardening and a newly created fish pond on his property. Along with his wife Joyce, Dick plans to travel extensively throughout the states visiting former students.



## Cheryl H. Lyon-Jenness

Master Faculty Specialist of History



Cheryl Lyon-Jenness is one of those unusual academics who will retire in the city of her birth. Growing up and attending school in Kalamazoo, she established a love for the community and region. She earned a B.A. in English literature at Kalamazoo College, as the first step in her multidisciplinary academic and educational journeys. She earned a master of science degree in biological science at the University of Michigan, and continued training in summer sessions through the University of Michigan and the University of Minnesota Biological Stations.

She then spent many years as an educator and interpreter of the natural world, first at the Kalamazoo Nature Center and later at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Kalamazoo Valley Museum. At the Nature Center she held the title Environmental Educator/ Interpretive Naturalist. At the community college she taught courses in biology, ornithology, and folk art. At the museum she was Curator of Interpretation.

Cheryl thus brought a world of expertise with her when she entered the doctoral program in history at Western Michigan University. She drew together historical methodology and biological knowledge in her dissertation on the transformation of nineteenth-century Midwestern landscapes through the introduction of ornamental plants. She later revised and published this innovative study as the book, *For Shade and for Comfort: Democratizing Horticulture in the Nineteenth-Century Midwest* (Purdue University Press, 2004).

After earning her Ph.D., she taught history for a brief period at Grand Valley State University, before returning to Western as an assistant professor. In 2003, the department appointed her director of undergraduate studies and advising. She completely transformed the advising system of the History Department, which at one time served as many as 1,000 students—600 majors and 400 minors—making it a model for the entire university. Cheryl also presided over a complete revision of the undergraduate curriculum, an effort which gained national attention through an article published in the *Journal of American History* in 2004.

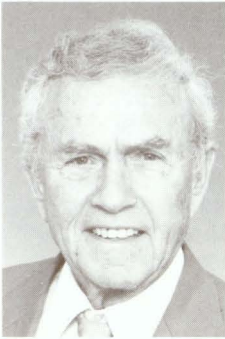
As busy as she was as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Cheryl continued her research and publication agendas. She has presented papers at academic conferences and published scholarly articles in journals such as *The Michigan History Magazine*, *Agricultural History*, *Business History Review*, *Michigan Historical Review*, and *The Illinois History Teacher*.

Cheryl is devoted to her community and is a leader in such organizations as the League of Women Voters, the Parchment Garden Club, and the Southwest Michigan Association of Phi Beta Kappa. For her multiple efforts on behalf of the university, the community and the profession, the College of Arts and Sciences awarded her a much deserved Faculty Achievement Award in Professional and Community Service in 2005.

In retirement Cheryl plans to pursue her avid interests in the world of nature and her research agenda in environmental, gender, horticultural, and social history.

## Paul L. Maier

Professor of History



Paul L. Maier is the first faculty member to have taught 50 years at Western Michigan University. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the second son of famed radio speaker, Dr. Walter A. Maier, founder of *The Lutheran Hour*. In 1954, he received an M.A. degree in ancient history from Harvard University, and three years later, a Ph.D. *summa cum laude* in church history from the University of Basel, the first American ever to win highest honors at the Swiss university.

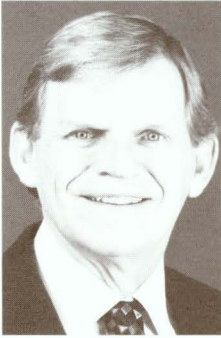
Arriving in Kalamazoo in 1958, he served as Lutheran campus chaplain, and two years later, joined the faculty in the Department of History at Western Michigan University, where he has been teaching ever since. In 1974, he received the WMU Alumni Teaching Excellence Award, and, several years later, the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. In 1984, he was honored with a citation as one of America's 25 finest professors by the Washington-based Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. He has received numerous other awards from academic and religious agencies, and written nearly 300 articles and reviews for professional journals.

The author of 18 books of fact or fiction for adult readers and six children's books, Paul now has over five million books in print in seventeen languages. His *A Skeleton in God's Closet* became #1 national best-seller in religious fiction, and his final volume in that trilogy will appear this June as *The Constantine Codex*.

In retirement, Paul will continue giving seminars across the country, but hopes to spend more time with his wife, Joan, and four daughters, as well as indulge his favorite hobbies in leading tours, photography, and even running heavy equipment on his acreage west of Kalamazoo.

## Peter G. Northouse

Professor of Communication



Peter G. Northouse was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He received a B.A. and an M.A. in communication education from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. in speech communication from the University of Denver.

Peter began his career in 1969 teaching speech and debate. He joined the Communication Arts and Sciences Department at Western Michigan University in 1974. During his tenure he taught speech as well as interpersonal and organizational communication. He was instrumental in developing the first course in health communication, the interpersonal communication mass lecture model, and the leadership mass lecture course.

Peter was energized by his students and tried, particularly with his stories, to make learning enjoyable and worthwhile. Most of all, he tried to create community and esprit de corps with students. His avocation while at Western was running, which included completing four Boston Marathons and finishing 17 other marathons.

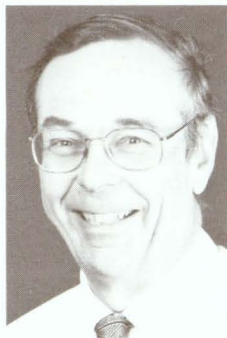
In addition to publications in professional journals, Peter is the author of *Leadership: Theory and Practice* (now in its fifth edition), *Introduction to Leadership: Concepts and Practice* (now in its second edition), and coauthor of *Health Communication: Strategies for Health Professionals* (now in its third edition). His books have been adopted at more than 800 colleges and universities worldwide and have been translated into many languages including Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Japanese, Georgian, Korean, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, and Serbian. His scholarly and curricular interests include models of leadership, leadership assessment, ethical leadership, and leadership and group dynamics. He has worked as a consultant in the areas of leadership development, leadership education, conflict management, and health communication.

Future plans include reading, writing, consulting, and exercising. Peter especially looks forward to having more free time to spend with his wife Laurel, his son Scott, his daughter Lisa, and his granddaughter Madison.



## Peter E. Parker

Professor of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging



Peter E. Parker was born in Flint, Michigan, and grew up in Ohio, Kentucky, and New Jersey. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Rochester. Pete obtained an M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh before earning his M.S.E. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan.

Pete has had a varied career. After completing his graduate work, he joined Raytheon's Submarine Signal Division in Newport, R.I., doing environmental modeling work. He then joined the Institute of Paper Chemistry in Appleton, Wis., where he taught a variety of graduate classes as well as developed a modeling and simulation research program. After several years at IPC, he joined Scott Paper Company in Philadelphia, being part of a team whose goal was to optimize paper machine operation. After a couple of years, he returned to IPC and continued his modeling and simulation work, principally developing, marketing, and supporting the MAPPS simulation program. Pete elected not to move to Georgia Tech with IPC; instead he stayed in the Appleton area with James River's technical center. At James River, he was part of a team optimizing mill operations as well as being involved in product development. While at James River, Pete also spent two years at the Marathon, Ontario, pulp mill as technical director.

Pete joined what is now the Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging department at Western Michigan University in 1997, with a primary goal of implementing the newly approved chemical engineering program. He has served as advisor to all of the chemical engineering students as well as having developed several of the chemical engineering classes. Pete also led successful chemical engineering ABET accreditation efforts in 2002 and 2008.

During his academic career (both at IPC and WMU), Pete has authored or coauthored multiple publications, one book (with Ho Sung Lee), and a chapter in a forest products encyclopedia. Pete was named the 2008 College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Educator of the Year and awarded the WMU Distinguished Teaching Award in 2009. He has been an active member of the Faculty Senate for a number of years and recently chaired the Senate's Academic and Information Technology Council. He also serves on the board of directors for WMU's Center for the Study of Ethics in Society.

Pete is widowed and has one son David, who works in Madison, Wisconsin. Pete has no major post-retirement plans except to do a bit of traveling in the late summer and early fall when the visitors to the National Parks have dropped. He wants to revisit Grand Teton, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Parks as well as parks in the Canadian west, such as Banff, Jasper, Yoho, and Kootenay. One long term goal is to take the Canadian Pacific Railway and visit the "Grand Hotels" along the way—or at least from Toronto westward. Visits to Alaska and the Norwegian Fjords are also on the "to do" list.

## G. Gwen Raaberg

Professor of English



G. Gwen Raaberg was born in Atlanta, Georgia. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of William and Mary, a master's degree in English from California State University, Fullerton, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Irvine, completing her dissertation research at Yale University.

Gwen began her career with a University of California graduate award to teach and conduct research at UCLA. The following year, she was granted a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Case Western Reserve University. She then accepted a position as assistant professor at the University of Texas, Dallas, and remained there for ten years, teaching both literary studies and art history in an interdisciplinary humanities program. Gwen came to Western Michigan University in 1989 and served as director of Women's Studies for fifteen years. During her term as director, Women's Studies rapidly expanded, developing a coordinate major and serving an increasing number of students.

Gwen was a tenured professor in the English Department, where she taught graduate and undergraduate courses in modern literature, the avant-garde, women in literature, and literature and art. She also taught feminist theory for Women's Studies. She frequently taught courses for the Lee Honors College and mentored honors theses, as well as chairing master and doctoral committees in English.

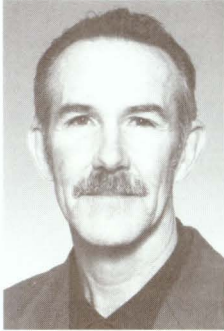
Gwen is the author of numerous publications on the interrelations of modern literature and art, postmodern and feminist theory, and the avant-garde, including *Surrealism and Women*, published by MIT Press. This book has been translated into several languages and is considered a basic work in the field. To pursue her research, she was granted a fellowship at the University of Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and two fellowships at the University of California Humanities Institute. Gwen was also awarded a Fulbright Senior Professorship to Hungary, where she taught American studies and traveled to various universities lecturing on the diversity of American literature.

Keeping an active schedule in retirement, Gwen will teach an online course for WMU and participate in the new Academy for Lifelong Learning. She is also a docent at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and has been elected to the steering committee of the Western Association of Retired Faculty. An inveterate traveler, Gwen lived in Germany for two years, in Hungary for a year, and has traveled throughout Europe, South America, and China. Most recently, she visited Russia with a group focusing on art and literature and is currently planning a trip to southeast Asia. Travel will include frequent visits with her three children and granddaughter.



## Steven C. Rhodes

Professor of Communication



Steven C. Rhodes was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He earned undergraduate degrees in speech education, English and mathematics from the University of Northern Colorado (Colorado State College) in Greeley. His M.A. and Ph.D. degrees are from the Pennsylvania State University. His M.A. areas of specialization were communication education and interpersonal communication; his Ph.D. areas of specialization were communication theory and research; small group communication; and statistics and computer science.

He joined Western Michigan University as an assistant professor of Communication in 1975. He taught undergraduate and graduate courses in leadership,

listening, communication theory and research, small group decision-making, and organizational communication. As the author of numerous articles, book chapters, and conference papers on topics related to listening, small group decision-making, leadership, effective interpersonal communication, and sexual harassment, he made significant contributions to the field of communication. His research appeared in *Speech Monographs*, *Central States Speech Journal*, *Communication Education*, *Journal of the International Listening Association*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, and *Journal of Applied Communication Research*. He served as consultant to organizations that included small community nonprofits and Fortune 500 companies. He served as director of the School of Communication from 1999 to 2009.

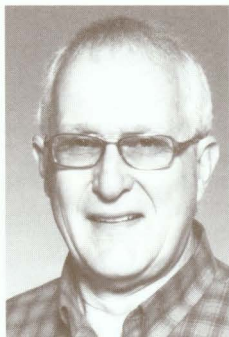
His awards include National Communication Association's Top Dissertation, WMU's Alumni Teaching Excellence Award, a dozen Top Paper awards, two College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Appreciation Awards, a College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Service Award, and a Golden Word Award presented by InterCom (Professional Communicators Association) for "Significant Contributions to the Field of Professional Communication."

Steve's future plans include spending much more time with his beautiful wife Ann. In retirement, they look forward to continued engagement in the community they have come to call home. Living in Marshall for over 25 years provided them many opportunities to become involved with their community. They co-chaired the Hospitality Classic, an annual series of running events supported by Oaklawn Hospital; were among the founders of the Marshall Friends of the Arts; were instrumental in successful efforts to preserve and restore Marshall's Civic Center; served on the Marshall School Board and the Historical Society Board; are members of the local garden club and historical society; served as co-chairs for the annual Candlelight Walk for the Historical Society; revived the Stuart Lake Association and served as board members and officers for this association; through their efforts and those of other concerned citizens, the Brooks Nature Preserve was created. "People can really make a difference in a small community, and we'd like to think we've had a positive impact on Marshall. We're looking forward to full retirement, when we should have more time to get involved with other projects," say the Rhodes. Their garden was featured on Marshall's 2006 "Welcome to my Garden" tour and will be featured again in 2012. When time allows they look forward to traveling.



## Robert J. Ricci

Professor of Music



Robert J. Ricci was professor of Music at Western Michigan University, where he taught music composition and theory in both jazz and classical areas until his retirement in December 2010. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Antioch College, the master of music degree from Yale University, and the doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Cincinnati. During his graduate study, Robert received many significant awards and scholarships including an NDEA fellowship at the University of Cincinnati where he also held a teaching assistantship in theory.

Prior to his 1968 appointment to WMU's School of Music, Robert taught at Antioch College, the University of Cincinnati, Villa Maria College, and the Institute of Music, Buffalo, New York. He has been published by the *Music Educators Journal* and is a frequent contributor to the *Keyboard Classics and Piano Stylist* magazine with articles pertaining to jazz harmony and composition. He has prepared papers for various conferences and has represented WMU as lecturer to groups in the community and to organizations throughout the state. His analytic articles on rock and jazz music, an area of special interest, have appeared in publications such as *Plug*, *Selmer Bandwagon*, and *In Theory Only*.

*The Language of Twentieth Century Music, a Dictionary of Terms*, a book co-authored by Robert Fink, has been published by the MacMillan Company. This work contains the most up-to-date information available in the fields of serial music, electronic music, multi-media music, jazz, rock, and musique concrete. Robert also co-authored *Jazz Improvisation* with Professor Trent Kynaston, published by Prentice-Hall, Inc. He recently authored the text, *Music of Chick Corea*, for the 2008 Gilmore Piano Festival.

As a composer, Robert has written for a wide variety of media including symphony orchestra, string quartet, clarinet, solo voice, chorus, jazz ensemble, wind ensemble, and various chamber combinations, as well as several works for solo piano. His compositions have received awards and among his commissions is one by the Rockefeller Foundation (*Summer Music for Woodwind Quintet*-1967). As a performing artist, Robert regularly plays as a solo pianist and with groups such as the Ken Morgan Jazz Unit, the Frank Silva Quartet, the Kalamazoo Big Band, and the Neal Collection. Two recent CD releases on which he is featured are *Gently with My Heart* with Ken Morgan and *Midnight in Cortona*.

At WMU, Robert designed and taught two graduate courses, one in aesthetics and criticism, and a second in jazz theory and American popular song for non-jazz majors. He has served as coordinator of the composition area for Seminar, WMU's summer music program for high school students. In addition to his teaching contributions to the School of Music, he served as chief negotiator for the WMU-AAUP Agreement in 1999 and 2002.

Robert leads "Pieces of Dreams," a jazz and commercial music group with over 46 performances in Michigan and the surrounding states. Since 1988 he has been a faculty member of the Bud Shank Centrum Jazz Workshop, where he has taught and performed with world-class jazz musicians in a setting that incorporates students from high school to the professional level.

## Pamela Schuck Rooney

Professor of Business Information Systems



Pamela Schuck Rooney, born in Little Rock, Arkansas, received her B.S.E. and M.A. in English literature from the University of Arkansas. Pam received her Ph.D. in English from Bowling Green State University; the focus of her doctorate was Renaissance literature and drama as a genre.

To complete her M.A. and her Ph.D., Pam held teaching assistantships at both U of A and BGSU where she taught both composition and literature courses. After completing her doctorate, she was employed as an instructor at Lima Technical College and Ohio State-Lima where she taught children's literature, business communication, composition, and technical writing. In August 1980, Pam joined the faculty at Western Michigan University. As a member of the faculty in Business Information Systems, she taught developmental writing courses as well freshman level composition (informational writing) and courses in business communication. From 1985-92, Pam held administrative appointments in the college, first as assistant dean responsible for coordinating the college's reaccreditation initiatives. In 1990, she became chair of Business Information Systems, serving in that capacity until returning to the faculty in 1992. Throughout her administrative experience and upon returning to the faculty, Pam continued to teach the writing courses offered in the college of business and was actively involved with the Lee Honors College, teaching as part of several clusters and chairing or serving on 19 honors theses committees. She also served on numerous university committees and as grievance officer for the WMU-AAUP.

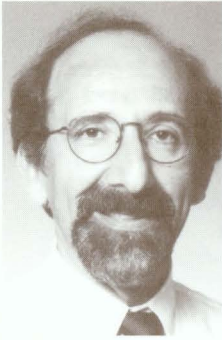
Pam's research interests focused on pedagogical approaches to strengthening students' critical reading, writing, and persuasive abilities; and communication processes within organization and business ethics. She authored or co-authored 15 articles and conference proceedings, a textbook in basic composition, and gave 19 presentations at various conventions of the Association for Business Communication. From 1988-91, Pam served as the second editor-in-chief of the *Mid-American Journal of Business* (now the *American Journal of Business*) and continued to serve as a member of the editorial review board until her retirement in December 2010. Pam's love of books and learning prompted her six years' service to the Portage Public Library, serving as board chair and contract administrator during the library's expansion and renovation project.

Pam's plans for retirement include devoting more time to her gardens and seeking certification in permaculture design, reading, and generally enjoying her family and friends.



## Iskender Sahin

Professor of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering



Iskender Sahin was born in Istanbul, Turkey. He earned his B.S. degree from Technical University of Istanbul in mechanical engineering. He obtained his M.S. degree from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in naval architecture and marine engineering. At Virginia Tech he earned a Ph.D. in aerospace and ocean engineering. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Michigan.

Prior to accepting a teaching position at Western Michigan University, Iskender taught Engineering Science and Mechanics at Virginia Tech. He joined the faculty in the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering at WMU in 1984. His work

outside the academia includes several Summer Faculty Fellowships at NASA and Navy Research Laboratories and National Research Council Fellowship at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Panama City, Florida. He was also employed at Beykos Shipyard in Istanbul and was a consultant for CDI Marine in Jacksonville, Florida.

Iskender was recognized in Who's Who in Engineering. He received funding for Summer Fellowships at NASA Lewis, Naval Surface Warfare Center, McDermott Industries, NRC Fellowship, and several U.S. Navy grants on computational marine hydrodynamics. He served as a consultant to Johnson Corporation, Stryker, and Whirlpool. He received two WMU Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund awards. He was author or co-author of 41 papers presented at national and international professional conferences and meetings. He co-authored six journal articles appearing in *Ocean Engineering*, and other journals, including *Journal of Ship Research*, *Applied Mathematical Modelling*, *Journal of Fluids Engineering*, and *Mechanical Engineering*. Iskender served as a reviewer for National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Dissertation Scholarships, as well as *Journal of Fluids Engineering*, *Journal of Ship Research*, *AIAA Journal*, *Journal of Aircraft*, and *Journal of Offshore Mechanics*. He organized sessions and symposiums for meetings of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Iskender served on several university committees, including departmental Executive Committee, Curriculum Committee, Tenure and Promotion Committee, and Sabbatical Leave Committee. He was also a member of the Faculty Senate's Research Policies Council and Graduate Curriculum Committee as well as the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund Review Committee.

After his retirement from WMU in December of 2010, Iskender moved to New York and accepted a position as professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Polytechnic Institute of New York University. In his leisure time, he plans to continue enjoying tennis, wine and socializing with colleagues and friends.

## Frank L. Severance

Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering



Frank Severance hails from Lansing, Michigan. He attended Michigan State University, where he graduated with undergraduate and graduate degrees in mathematics, physics, and electrical engineering. His Ph.D. in systems science is also from Michigan State University.

After receiving his first master's degree (in mathematics), Frank taught high school mathematics in New South Wales, Australia, for a number of years. He also taught physics at Macquarie University in Australia before returning to the United States. Back in Michigan, Frank returned to education and served as the department chairman of Computer Information Systems at Lansing Community College, while he completed work on his Ph.D. He was then recruited by Western Michigan University and taught in the Electrical and Computer Engineering department for the past 25 years.

Frank arrived at WMU just after the Electrical Engineering Department obtained ABET (then ECPD) accreditation in 1985. The next major milestones in the department were the establishment of a research agenda and of master degree programs. Frank was instrumental in the establishment of these milestones and later in the establishment of the department's Ph.D. program. Over the years Frank developed and taught many of the courses offered in the department.

Frank's major academic interest is in control systems where he specialized in nonlinear stochastic optimal control. He was a co-founder (with Professor Fred Sitkins) of the American Institute for Motion Engineering (AIME) where he taught a number of controls courses to industrial clients. He has published one textbook – *System Modeling and Simulation* (John Wiley and Sons) and is the author of numerous professional papers, primarily in nonlinear engineering mathematics. Most recently, Frank is the co-director (with Dr. Damon Miller) of the Neurobiology Engineering Laboratory housed in the engineering building on WMU's Parkview campus. He is also one of the initial directors of the Michigan Space Grant Consortium (MSGC), of which Western Michigan University is an affiliate member.

Upon retirement, Frank has decided to follow his more academic interests in mathematics. That is to say, he is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in mathematics here at WMU. He maintains his research lab responsibilities and continues his work with the MSGC as a founding board member. He is also active with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, where he holds a research affiliation. He expects to continue living in the Kalamazoo area with his wife Sandie.



## Michael R. Stoline

Professor of Statistics



Michael R. Stoline was born in Jefferson, Iowa. He earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in mathematics, and a doctorate degree in statistics, all from the University of Iowa. After graduating in 1967, Michael joined the Mathematics Department at Western Michigan University and served at Western until retirement on April 30, 2011. During this period, he has contributed to the growth and visibility of statistics at WMU, first when the Department of Mathematics became the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and again in 2001, when the new Department of Statistics was created. His personal prime mission at WMU has been to prepare our young women and men

to be "professional statisticians." Michael has loved his classroom experiences above all other university experiences, and it is the "classroom stage" that he will miss most in retirement.

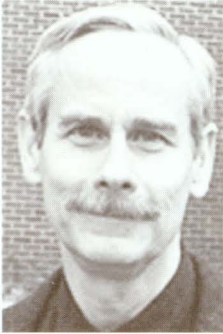
Michael's fields of specialization include preliminary testing and multiple comparisons in design of experiments, survival data analysis, and environmental statistics. The survival data analysis course was developed as part of the new master program in biostatistics introduced at Western after his sabbatical at the Upjohn Company in 1975-76. He served as director of the new biostatistics master program from 1976-89. He served as the doctoral dissertation advisor for six students.

Michael introduced a course in environmental statistics after his extensive experience at Love Canal in Niagara Falls, N.Y. This experience started with his appointment to a national panel in April 1984, which was charged with development of scientific habitability criteria to be used for determining whether people could live in the Love Canal area after contamination was found at the site. The work was completed in 1989 after many public meetings in Niagara Falls. Michael has also had much experience with local environmental issues including statistical investigations of levels of chemical substances in groundwater at the Cork Street landfill site in Kalamazoo and at the KL Avenue Landfill Superfund site in Oshtemo Township.

Michael's future plans include residing in Kalamazoo with his wife, Marie, at their Texas Township home with horses, llamas, gardening, traveling, entertaining grandchildren and hosting foreign visitors. Future plans also include continued involvement with the Kalamazoo Russian Cultural Association and the Russian Festival (which started at their home over 15 years ago). Michael's dream is to continue work on a text incorporating preliminary tests into design experiments analysis protocols.

## Robert F. Wait

Associate Professor of Sociology



Robert F. Wait was born in Calcutta, India. He earned both his B.S. and his Ph.D. at Indiana University in sociology, with his doctorate specializing in social psychology. He focused his dissertation on performance factors and social-emotional leadership.

Bob spent time in the Sociology Department at Indiana University as a research associate and a teaching associate, and worked in the Indianapolis area as a sampling consultant. In 1971, he came to Western Michigan University in the Sociology Department as an assistant professor. In 1979, he became the director of graduate studies in the department, and in 1984, served as the director of the undergraduate major and minor concentration in Social Psychology. In 1985, he also was a visiting associate professor at Kalamazoo College in the Department of Psychology.

Bob has received several teaching commendations from the Lee Honors College at WMU. He also received a certificate of recognition from the Center for Educational Studies at WMU from the Grand Rapids Public School System. In 1979, he received a faculty research fellowship to pursue a project: "Personality, Leader Behavior, and Group Effectiveness." During Bob's last thirty-five years he has written an overwhelming number of book reviews and presented numerous papers at professional conferences. His most recent activities focused on gender norms, gender identity, and the conflicts between right wing policy makers and university faculty and curriculum.

His future plans include being able to spend time on the multiple hobbies and interests he has developed an interest in but never had much time to pursue. In particular, Bob is a gifted musician and collects and has an avid interest in older/antique musical instruments. He has established quite a collection of antique vases and figurines, and even vintage and antique clothing. He has started and plans to continue researching his father's genealogy, paying particular attention to the various educational and professional interests his ancestors were involved in. His most recent interest has been spending time following and attending various roller derby matches. As Bob pursues one interest, he often stumbles upon another one. He is looking forward to having the free time to be able to do so to a greater extent.

## **2009-10 FACULTY RETIREMENTS**



The following faculty members are included here,  
as no program was produced last year.

Joseph J. Belonax, Jr.

Richard G. Cooper

Elen Maria Camara Cutrim (posthumously)

Richard L. Hodges

Emily P. Hoffman

David K. Peterson

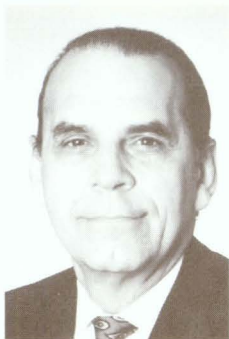
Susan V. Ponchillia (posthumously)

Annette C. Skellenger

Christine Michelle Smith

## Joseph J. Belonax, Jr.

Professor of Marketing



Joseph J. Belonax, Jr. was born in Chicago, Illinois. He earned his B.S. and M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University and his Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Nebraska.

Prior to his academic career, Joe worked as a sales manager for Burroughs Corporation and as office personnel at IBM. He was in the United States Marine Corps and received an honorable discharge in 1963. He taught at Bowling Green State University, and in 1978, Joe joined the Department of Marketing at Western Michigan University as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1983 and to full professor in 1990.

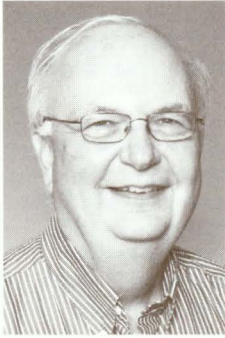
In addition to teaching general marketing courses, Joe taught specialized courses in retailing, sales administration, food marketing, and consumer behavior. He contributed significantly to the initiation and development of the Sales and Business major in the department. He wrote one of the first introductory textbooks on food marketing. Several of his published works have appeared in key journals in his discipline including in the *Journal of Professional Services Marketing*, the *Journal of Customer Service Marketing and Management*, the *Journal of Marketing Management*, and the *Journal of Personal Selling and Sales Management*. He is an elected member of Beta Gamma Sigma and received a number of best paper awards including an Outstanding Paper Award from the Midwest Marketing Association.

Joe retired from WMU in December 2009. He has made Arizona his retirement home and his future plans include trips to Poland, Italy, Croatia, and Ireland, and playing golf.



## Richard G. Cooper

Professor of Occupational Therapy



Richard G. Cooper was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was a member of the class of 1963 from Grand Rapids Central High School where he was a mediocre student at best. His career in higher education included an A.S. in biology from Grand Rapids Junior College and then four degrees from Western Michigan University. The degrees from Western were a B.S. in biology and education, an M.S. in biology, a Master of occupational therapy, and an Ed.D. in educational leadership. His doctorate degree was earned while Richard was a full time professor at Western in the Department of Occupational Therapy and while he served as department chair.

Before coming to Western, Richard worked as a biology instructor at Benton Harbor High School from 1970 to 1973, where he earned tenure. He then worked as an occupational therapist at the Hull-Paulson Program for emotionally impaired adolescents from 1975 to 1977. The program was an extension of the Child Guidance Clinic and was located on the grounds of the Lakeside Residential Program. Richard joined the occupational therapy program in 1977 on a one-year temporary appointment. He then moved to a two-year term and then a tenure track position. Over the past 32 years, Richard has taught many courses and at one time had taught every course in the curriculum at least once. He is best known as the department "science guy" and has specialized in teaching anatomy and clinical neurology.

Richard moved up to full professor and was awarded the Western Michigan Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award in 1992. He has been a PI or a Co-PI on a number of grants related to the development of children, school based occupational therapy, and rural health. His grants provided him with an opportunity to meet and work with many wonderful people in the small towns of Southwestern Michigan, including a return to work in Benton Harbor. As a student, Richard was awarded the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association's Outstanding Occupational Therapy Student Award. As a therapist and professor, Richard was awarded the MOTA: Outstanding Occupational Therapist Award and was inducted into the American Occupational Therapy Association's Roster of Fellows. Richard has served on both sides of the aisle having served as interim and full chair of the Occupational Therapy Department and as an executive officer of the WMU-AAUP.

Richard's future plans include outliving Dennis Simpson and raising puppies. Actually, his plans include slowing down, spending travel time with his wife Roslyn, and taking the grandkids fishing on the pontoon at Gull Lake. The rest of his time will be spent on his art work.

## Elen Maria Camara Cutrim

Professor of Geography

(Posthumous)



Elen Maria Camara Cutrim was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She earned her B.S. in civil engineering from Pontifical Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro, her M.S. in civil engineering from the University of Utah, and her Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences from the University of Michigan.

Elen began her academic career as a civil engineer instructor at the University of Para, in Belem, Brazil, in 1975. In 1979 she became an assistant professor in the Department of Geology, Meteorology, and Geophysics, at the Federal University of Para, in Belem, Brazil.

From 1985-1987 she was the head of the Department of Meteorology in the same university, as well as the

director of the Regional Meteorological Training Center of World Meteorological Organization in Belem. From 1987 to 1990 Elen was a visiting scientist at the Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Elen joined the Geography Department at Western Michigan University in 1990 as an adjunct professor and was appointed assistant professor in 1993. In 2000 she was tenured and promoted to the rank of associate professor, and in 2006 she became full professor. Elen taught courses in meteorology and climate and geography of South America. She also chaired seven graduate student thesis committees. She was a committee member on research topics including time series analysis of precipitation in Michigan, the impact of El Nino on Texas tornadoes, lightning climatology in Southern Michigan, and hourly rainfall in central and eastern Amazonia.

Elen excelled as a meteorologist and climatologist with special research interests in the interaction of atmosphere and land cover in Brazilian Amazonia, and precipitation climatology of Michigan and Brazil, focusing more on observational meteorology, at the surface and from satellite. She participated in a number of field experiments with colleagues from the Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin, the National Institute for Amazonia Research, and the National Institute of Space Research in Brazil. These research projects received a total of \$1.1 million in external grants from such agencies as the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In addition, she published a wide variety of articles and gave 42 professional presentations.

Elen traveled frequently between the U.S. and Brazil. She enjoyed social events and liked inviting crowds of people to her house and cooking for them. She also liked playing the piano and spending time outdoors. Her husband, William Sauck, is a professor of geophysics in Western's Geosciences Department. Elen was awarded emerita status posthumously by the WMU Board of Trustees on February 18, 2010.

## **Richard L. Hodges**

Associate Professor of Accountancy



Richard Hodges is a native of Nebraska. He received his B.S. (business), M.B.A., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

He served in the United States Army and received an honorable discharge in 1967. After receiving his bachelor's degree, Dick began his career as a staff accountant with Arthur Andersen. He later worked for the state of Nebraska in the Office of Planning and Programming. He is a certified public accountant.

Dick initially came to Western Michigan University in 1979 as an assistant professor. He left in 1982 for a three-year period to teach at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, before returning in 1985 as an associate professor. He taught courses in cost and managerial accounting in addition to governmental accounting. Dick served as chair of the Department of Accountancy from 1990-96. From 1996-2002 he was the associate dean of the Haworth College of Business and director of the MBA Program. He served on numerous college and university committees, in addition to serving on committees of various professional organizations. He engaged in research activity, gave presentations, and published in his discipline. He also was a member of the board of trustees of First United Methodist Church and president of the Arcadia Condominium Association.

Dick is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Nebraska Society of CPAs. He is a strong supporter of the Nebraska Cornhuskers.



## Emily P. Hoffman

Professor of Economics



Emily Hoffman was born in Boston and received her B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts and an M.A. from Boston College, all in economics.

Before joining Western Michigan University, Emily held teaching positions at Boston College; Northeastern University; Lowell Technical Institute; University of Missouri, Rolla; University of North Carolina; and Rutgers University. She also held non-academic positions as a consultant to the Institute of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers and John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company. She joined the WMU Economics Department in the fall of 1981 with responsibility for teaching courses in labor economics and women and

the economy.

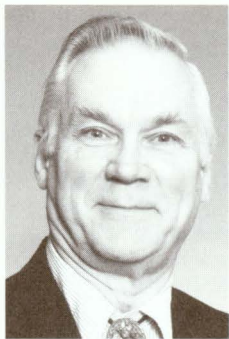
In addition to her teaching, Emily was actively involved in a number of university committees including the Women's Commission Affirmative Action Committee and the Faculty Senate's Undergraduate Studies Council, Budget and Finance Council, and Professional Concerns Committee. She also was a frequent participant in a number of AAUP committees including the Committee on the Status of Women and Minority Faculty. She was also a member of the American Economic Association Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession and a member of the International Association for Feminist Economics.

Emily's research focused on the areas of labor economics and the economics of the family. Much of her early research in labor economics examined the causes of faculty salary differentials including the effects of seniority and racial and sexual discrimination while much of her later work was focused on income distribution and the aforementioned economics of the family including the feminization of poverty. The economics of women and their role in the economy has been a consistent theme in her work over the course of her career and Emily's contributions to this field warrant labeling her a pioneer in the development of what today is referred to as Feminist Economics.

After retiring on December 31, 2009, Emily went to Israel for eight weeks with her significant other, David Rosenberg, to do volunteer work tutoring students in English through a Hadassah program. Upon her return she began work on research examining the benefits and costs associated with post partum depression screening and treatment in Kalamazoo in conjunction with the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies. She also has plans to resume painting and drawing, and spend her winters in warmer climates.

## David K. Peterson

Associate Professor of Paper Engineering,  
Chemical Engineering, and Imaging



David K. Peterson was raised on a farm outside of Scottville, Michigan, and graduated from Mason County Central High School. He attended Michigan State University on a 4-H scholarship earning a bachelor's degree (with honors) in chemical engineering, attended the University of Denver on a National Aeronautics and Space Administration Fellowship, and earned a Master of Science and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering.

After gaining teaching experience as a graduate assistant and laboratory instructor at the University of Denver from 1963 to 1966, David accepted a graduate level academic position as an assistant professor and research associate at the Institute of Paper Chemistry from 1966 to 1969 in Appleton, Wis. After completing his Ph.D., he moved to an associate professor position in chemical engineering at the Indiana Institute of Technology in Fort Wayne, Ind., with a focus on teaching undergraduate courses and initiating student research. While at IIT, he was promoted to professor and served as the head of the Department of Chemical Engineering before moving to Western Michigan University in 1977. He joined the Department of Paper Science and Engineering, advised students, guided student research, and taught the environmental and process engineering courses offered within the department. During his tenure, the recycling effort within the department was combined with the Printing Program followed by an initiative to establish a Chemical Engineering program and re-define the printing sciences. David continued to teach environmental and process based engineering courses and funded research in the Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging department. His academic career spanned more than 45 years.

David attained his Professional Engineering License while in Indiana, participated in National Science Foundation Summer Research activities at the Beloit Corporation, Beloit, Wisconsin, and at the Westinghouse Electric facility, Lafayette, Indiana, and several consulting assignments. Listed in *Who's Who in America*, active in the American Society for Engineering Education and the American Institute for Chemical Engineering, he served on NSF proposal evaluation teams and publication peer reviews. His university service includes Faculty Senate and Senate committees: Committee to Oversee General Education and Professional Concerns Committee as well as university sabbatical leave committees and numerous additional college and department committees. David established an endowed Environmental Scholarship Fund through the Paper Technology Foundation. His community service includes eight years on the Plainwell Schools Board of Education.

David describes his greatest success as his marriage to Sue and raising three successfully independent daughters: Karen with a bachelor degree from Michigan Technological University and a master's degree from the University of Michigan in biology, Kristin with a bachelor degree from Western Michigan University in paper engineering, and Kari with a bachelor degree from Michigan State University in hotel restaurant management. He also has four grandchildren: Ethan, Erica, Loran, and Logan. David and Sue are looking forward to traveling, volunteering, exploring hobbies, and spoiling the grandkids!



## Susan V. Ponchillia

Professor of Blindness and Low Vision Studies  
(Posthumous)



Susan Vlahas Ponchillia was born and raised in Greenville, Michigan. She received a Bachelor of Arts in special education and a Master of Arts in rehabilitation teaching through the Department of Blind Rehabilitation, both from Western Michigan University. Sue worked for a number of years as a rehabilitation teacher in Ohio and Indiana before returning to WMU to work as an instructor in the department and pursue a doctorate in special education with a concentration in visual impairment.

She began her career at Western Michigan University as an instructor in 1984 and attained full professorship in 1997. Sue was an exceptional teacher, researcher, and volunteer. In the 1990s, she

was awarded the Department of Blind Rehabilitation's Teaching Excellence Award, and in 2002, Sue received the College of Health and Human Service's Teaching Excellence Award. As a student and scholar, Sue contributed an exceptional number of juried articles and presentations in the field of blindness and low vision. She and her husband, Paul, authored the seminal textbook of their profession: *Foundations of Rehabilitation with Persons Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired*. The capstone of her career, however, was the production of a documentary titled, "Sing Me a Fish: Tlicho People Living with Vision Loss." During a vacation trip to the Canadian Northwest, she noticed a high prevalence of diabetes and diabetic retinopathy among people living in a particular Tlicho community. Her curiosity as an expert in the area of blindness and diabetes led to an additional 20 years of working with geneticists and vision specialists in Canada to examine the markers that lead to this familial condition. This documentary has been highlighted and praised both in Canada and the U.S. Sue secured over one million dollars from the U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration in Personnel Preparation funds to prepare rehabilitation teachers to seek jobs all over the country. This was only the tip of the iceberg since she received other types of grants and contracts for her expertise.

She was a member of many department, college, and university committees. She was also a member of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Kalamazoo Council for the Blind, and Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County. Sue was the recipient of the David and Joanne Search Lifetime Achievement Award in Rehabilitation Teaching, and the Bruce McKenzie Award for Outstanding Service and Contributions to Rehabilitation Teaching from the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Sue was awarded emerita status posthumously by the WMU Board of Trustees in November 2009.

## Annette C. Skellenger

Associate Professor of Blindness and Low Vision Studies



Annette C. Skellenger began her career at Western Michigan University as the coordinator of the Teaching Children with Visual Impairments/Orientation and Mobility for Children program having come with a wealth of experience in both university and public school settings. She has a B.A. from Michigan State University, an M.A. in orientation and mobility from WMU, a post M.A. in special education administration from Ohio State University, and an Ed.D. in early child special education and visual impairment from Vanderbilt University.

She served as a faculty member at the University of South Carolina, the University of Arizona, and the University of Northern Colorado. Regarding her work experiences in public schools, she has worked as an orientation and mobility specialist in the Clarksville-Montgomery Schools in Tennessee, a vision consultant for the Williamson County Board of Education in Franklin, Tennessee, and an orientation and mobility specialist in the Columbus City Schools, Columbus, Ohio. She also taught first grade at the American School of Guatemala.

Between personnel preparation training grants from the Michigan Braille Transcribers Fund and the Office of Special Education, in the U.S. Department of Education, Annette received over \$3 million in funding. She has published extensively in the area of vision and early childhood development and has presented on topics about children and orientation and mobility throughout the U.S. and abroad. Annette also distinguished herself by serving as a reviewer for a number of journals including *Teacher Education in Special Education* and the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*. In terms of service to the profession, she was chair of the University Review Committee for the professional accrediting body, regional director of the Orientation and Mobility Division of the Association of Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER), and chair of the National AER, Division 9, Research and Publications Committee.

Upon retiring from WMU in April 2009, Annette immediately went back to her love of classroom teaching and is a supervisor at the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind.



## Christine Michelle Smith

Professor of Music



Christine Michelle Smith's music career has taken her all over the world for studies, performances, and research. She holds degrees from the University of Oklahoma and Michigan State University. She pursued doctoral work at the University of North Texas. Her university positions include Shenandoah College and Conservatory, the University of Oklahoma, North Park College, and Western Michigan University. She was also a faculty member at the Interlochen Arts Camp.

After graduating from high school, she traveled with her parents to Bogota, Colombia, and was invited to perform a season with the National Symphony of Bogota. This experience led to a career performing

principal flute in other orchestras including the Oklahoma City Symphony, the Oklahoma City Chamber Orchestra, the Nebraska Sinfonia, the Greater Lansing (Michigan) Symphony, the Detroit Symphony, and the Kalamazoo Symphony. As a frequent recitalist and chamber musician, she has performed in New York City's Carnegie Hall three times, once with her brother, Orcenith Smith, a tubist. Her solo alto flute performances include the premiere of David Ott's Alto Flute Concerto with members of the New Orleans Symphony at the National Flute Association convention in 1989, part of which was featured on Karl Haas's PBS radio program *Adventures in Good Music*. In 1996, she recorded this concerto with the London Symphony in the Abbey Road Studios. In 1997, she performed the Ott Concerto with members of the Chicago Symphony and the Lyric Opera Orchestra as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the National Flute Association. In 1998, she was featured in a live interview and concert on National Public Radio's *Performance Today* with Martin Goldsmith.

Christine had her own adventures in good music when she was invited as a National Flute Association delegate for cultural exchanges and concerts with music conservatories in China, Russia, and Eastern Europe. As a member of the NFA she has performed at twenty national conventions and has served as its secretary and on the board of directors.

While at Western Michigan University she performed with the Western Wind Orchestra in New Zealand and Australia, and with the Western Faculty Wind Quintet throughout the United States and Belgium. Her articles have been published in the *Flutist Quarterly* and *Flute Talk* magazine.

Since retirement in May 2009, Christine has been invited to perform and adjudicate at the Florida Flute Association convention in Orlando, and traveled to New York City for the National Flute Convention to perform with the Florida Flute Orchestra, a group of twenty professional flutists from all over Florida. Christine and her husband, Randy, now live in The Villages, Florida, where they are enjoying their new social life, golfing, and line dancing.







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