Western Michigan University
College of Arts and Sciences Newsletter

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Western Around the World

From Egypt to Asia, WMU’s College of Arts and Sciences students and faculty make the world a smaller place
During my academic career, I have been given the privilege of serving as department chair, graduate dean, and now as dean of the very complex and large College of Arts and Sciences. In each of these administrative positions, I have learned and perhaps relearned one of the primary values inherent in a liberal education—the kind of education we strive to provide all our students.

In my workaday life, I have experienced, first hand, the value of what Charles Sanders Peirce called “fallibilism.” Loosely interpreted, fallibilism means that we might be wrong about our beliefs—a proposition often difficult to swallow. Of course, this value resides at the center of scientific research. Scientists understand that their beliefs must meet certain tests—for example, their beliefs must cohere with previous beliefs and must be verifiable—and they understand, as well, that new research may overturn previously accepted beliefs. Stated differently, scientists understand that they must be willing to modify their beliefs when a better explanation is available. So, we might say that scientists, by the very nature of the task they undertake, display and even endorse the value that Peirce termed fallibilism.

If we accept (for the sake of argument) the position advanced by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, a liberal education is “a way of studying [rather] than a specific course or field of study.” Then, within this “way of studying,” I believe that we are well served to follow the example of our scientist friends and eschew unexamined doctrine and dogmatism—the position that one’s beliefs are authoritative and finally unchallengeable.

If a “way of studying” is a way at all and not simply a dogma of one kind or another, then we must tolerate other beliefs and remain skeptical regarding our own. So, I say that fallibilism is one of the primary values in a liberal education because all the other values we associate with a liberal education either fall from it or are directly related to it.

In order to practice accepted liberal values such as tolerance, sympathy, and good faith, and in order to engage in rational discourse with others—another imperative, albeit often neglected, liberal value—we, as liberal educators, would do well to recognize the lesson of fallibilism and remain continually open minded to the possibility that we may be wrong about our beliefs and open hearted to the possibility that others may be right about theirs.

As I indicated previously, I have learned again and again during my six years as dean the meaning of fallibilism and, by extension, the importance of a liberal education, a “way of studying,” and I would say, a way of learning as well. As you may know, our university has encountered treacherous economic waters over the past few years, and in order to navigate these waters, all of us in the college have been required to recognize the importance of questioning and sometimes relinquishing our conventional beliefs about higher education and to search for new charts to help us pilot our ship. In this endeavor, I have truly been fortunate to work with colleagues who recognize and understand that we cannot move forward unless we accept the often difficult notion that old beliefs must give way to new ones.

I have inflicted upon you these observations because I will step down on June 30 as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and return to the faculty of the Department of English. Although the previous six years have been challenging, I want to emphasize that our college, nonetheless, has made remarkable progress and has experienced significant enhancements in its service to our students. Given the nationwide economic downturn that has battered Michigan perhaps more than any other state, our college has maintained its identity as a national leader in research; we have added new classroom facilities for our students; we have hired outstanding new faculty; and we have strengthened our commitment to student success. No doubt exists that our achievements derive in large part from the generosity of our friends and donors who understand that our college represents not only the Keystone College within our university; it represents as well the keystone on which Michigan’s and the nation’s future welfare and wellbeing will be constructed. And for the support of our donors and friends, I am perpetually grateful.

As I complete my term as dean, I am confident that our progress will continue. Your Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Tim Greene, has nearly completed a new strategic plan that promises improvements in every college at WMU and especially in our college.

With this new strategic plan as our guide, I know that the College of Arts and Sciences—your college—will see continued success in its core, two-fold mission: to provide a superb education for our students; and to generate new knowledge that will contribute both to our understanding of the world and to our appreciation of the people who share that world.

I have been fortunate to work with our distinguished faculty, wonderful students, and generous friends, the people who constitute the heart and soul of our college, and I thank all of you for your support and good wishes.

Search for New CAS Dean Under Way

Thomas Kent
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Social Media Spreads College Achievements to Alumni, Others

When Lauren Campbell, intern for the Department of Psychology and the College of Arts and Sciences started a Facebook page for Psychology Alumni, Wayne Fuqua, chair of the department thought it was a good idea.

Two weeks later, he thought it was a great idea. The site, which was launched the week of Feb. 8, currently boasts 217 members and its name has morphed from “Department of Psychology Alumni,” to “WMU Dept. of Psychology Alumni, Students, Faculty and Friends.” Fuqua has been actively inviting alumni, friends, faculty and staff to join his site, and the result is rapid growth. There are photos, events, discussions other news on the site and members regularly comment on the “wall.” As a result other departments are following suit, including History and Communication.

The College is not new to the social networking arena. It currently operates five active social networking sites including a Facebook group for alumni; one for graduates looking for jobs, and several temporary sites called Events, where departments list upcoming lectures, visitors, and networking activities. The College also has two sites on LinkedIn (the grown-up Facebook). “We started social networking, in earnest, about 10 months ago,” says Cheri Bales, coordinator of communications and events for the college. “Our first venture was to connect with alumni in the area, or those who already were friends of the College. Since then, we’ve heard from more than 200 alumni looking to get back in touch with us using this fun and easy method.”

Both sites feature regularly updated news and events about the College, but LinkedIn has become a valuable networking tool for Dorilee Schieble and Trisha Leighton, directors of development for the College as well. “Both social networking sites are excellent for meeting alumni and friends of the College, but more importantly, these tools allow us to locate alumni by geographic area and to look them up if we are planning a visit to their area,” notes Schieble.

Both LinkedIn and Facebook allow members to search for known and unknown contacts, join and establish groups, post jobs, post status updates (like Twitter) and list events.

Miller Auditorium was one of the first WMU entities to venture into the social networking arena, resulting in an appreciable increase in student contact and ticket sales. “We just chose to follow what was already successful for someone else,” Bales said.

Find a link to the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Groups on www.wmich.edu/cas or search “WMU College of Arts and Sciences Alumni” on either site. Visitors will need to join Facebook or LinkedIn to see the pages. Requests to join either group also may be emailed to Bales at cheri.bales@wmich.edu.

Online? Look us up!

Search Groups: WMU College of Arts and Sciences Alumni

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Western Around the World

Western Michigan University’s Haenicke Institute for Global Education has established a discovery grant for WMU faculty interested in developing a short-term, study abroad (and faculty-led) program. Working with the Haenicke Institute, 15 faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences have been awarded grants for their proposed programs abroad. Faculty-led study abroad programs to Belize, Central America and Europe are three of 15 that received approval for development. Additionally, other WMU faculty will travel to existing summer programs, courtesy of discovery grants, to learn the ins and outs of running an overseas, short-term program.

Asia—Japan: Japan Religion and Culture, Steve Covell
   This program offers students the opportunity to experience the rich religious and cultural life of Japan. Students will visit temples, shrines, lay Buddhist movements and museums.

Latin America—Belize: Tropical Biology in Belize, Maarten Vonhoff
   The course will emphasize the diversity and functioning of ecological interactions in a tropical environment. Students spend two weeks in the field in Belize, Central America exploring a diversity of terrestrial habitats including wet, montane, coniferous, and mangrove forests, tropical savanna, streams and rivers.

Latin America—Uruguay: Latin American Economies, Susan Pozo
   Students explore the economic challenges that confront Latin American nations, including informal economic production, poverty and inequality, migration, the tug-of-war between modern and traditional economies, environmental challenges, the organization of healthcare, inflation, exchange rate systems, peasant and industrialized agriculture, property rights and how Latin American nations are influenced by the world economy.

Europe—Multiple: Grand Tour of Europe, Larry Tenharmsel
   This tour provides an extensive introduction to Europe as participants explore historic treasures and contemporary European life in such cities as Amsterdam, Paris, Lausanne, Basel, Florence, Venice, and Rome. The class will focus on three periods of European art: the Italian Renaissance, the Dutch Golden Age, and the French Impressionist period.

Europe—Spain: Camino De Santiago, Pablo Pastrana-Perez
   This program, along the famous pilgrimage route of the Camino de Santiago, offers students the opportunity to study Spanish language and culture at the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela especially designed for them, and to engage in the study of advanced Spanish culture and literature along the Camino.

Middle East—Egypt: Arabic Language and Culture in Egypt, Mustafa Mughazy
   The majority of the program will take place in Alexandria, an ancient cosmopolitan city on the Mediterranean Sea with a unique mixture of Middle Eastern and European cultures. Arabic language and culture will be taught at the TEFL International, and field trips are planned to many cultural and historic locations in and around Alexandria, such as the Qait Bey Fort, the Catacombs, Alamein WWII Memorial and Museum, the Greco-Roman Museum, St. Mark Church, Library of Alexandria, Royal Gardens of Muntaza, Pompey Pillar and the Roman amphitheater.

Middle East—Egypt: Civilization and Geology of Egypt, Robb Gillespie
   The course is an introduction to the geology of Egypt and the role of geology in the civilization and culture of ancient and modern Egyptians and will demonstrate to students how geology, and science in general, is integral with day-to-day events, and plays a central role in shaping society and civilization.

Asia—China: Chinese Language and Culture, Dr. Xiaojun Wang
   Participants of this study tour at the prestigious Beijing Language and Culture University—WMU’s partner institute for the Confucius Institute—and visiting Beijing and the surrounding area. Some of the cultural tours include travel to Confucius’ hometown, Taizhou, Mount Tai, Jinan, Nanjing, Suzhou and Shanghai. The program offers students the unique opportunity to gain insight about Chinese culture and strengthen their language skills.
Europe—Czech Republic: Prague Summer Program, Richard Katrovas

The Prague Summer Program is an annual, intensive creative writing study abroad experience that gives approximately 100 writers the opportunity to be closely mentored by some of the biggest literary names from the United States and Central and Eastern Europe. Participants travel to Prague for two- and four-week periods, during which they work with established writers. Luminaries such as Grace Paley, Stuart Dybek, Amy Tan and Gerald Stern have been guest writers for the program.

Europe—England: Sustainable Tourism in the United Kingdom, Lucius F. Hallett, IV

Using food as the primary vehicle, the tour will visit food production sites such as Birmingham’s Bull Market and Cadbury Chocolate Factory (site of Willy Wonka), London’s Borough Market and Bilingsgate Fish Market, Ludlow’s outdoor markets and production sites, and several farms in Cumbria who produce food for London’s various farmers markets. Students will visit the various castles and major tourist sites of these cities such as Warwick Castle, Shakespeare’s home in Stratford-Upon-Avon, and the National Gallery in London.

Europe—Spain: Universidad De Cantabria, Mariola Perez De La Cruz

This program, at the Universidad de Cantabria, offers students the opportunity to study Spanish language and culture in university environment, and will include an extended weekend trip and various day trips to regions in Spain that will be representative of numerous aspects of Spanish culture studied in class.

Latin America—Mexico: Culture and Geography of Mexico, Steve Cameron

This program provides students with the opportunity to study the physical, historical and human geography of the region with two weeks of intensive coursework at the Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro. Field trips will include visits to neighboring towns such as Guanajuato, a colonial mining town that is also home to the Diego Rivera Museum; the Pena de Bernal (the world’s second largest monolith); the colonial Mision de Jalpan in the Sierra Gorda Montains; and Tequisquiapan, a regional, domestic tourism hotspot featuring geothermal spas.

Latin America—Mexico: Querétaro Graduate Program, Holly Nibert and Irma Lopez

The WMU program at the Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (UAQ) offers graduate students an opportunity to improve their fluency and knowledge of the Spanish language, as well as to deepen their understanding of Hispanic culture. During the four-week program, students can take either one or two intensive graduate courses, one taught by faculty from the UAQ and the other by faculty from the Department of Spanish of WMU.

Europe—Spain: Santander Graduate Program, Pablo Pastrana-Perez

The WMU study abroad program at the Universidad de Cantabria offers WMU graduate students an opportunity to improve their fluency and knowledge of the Spanish language, as well as to deepen their understanding of Spanish culture. This program should be of particular interest to secondary Spanish teachers who are working toward a graduate degree or who need to satisfy certification requirements.

North America—Canada: Laval Summer Program, Vincent Desroches

In this program, students participate in a five-day introductory course on Quebecois History and Culture, followed by a four- or five-week French course. The course on Quebecois History and Culture is taught by WMU Professor Dr. Vincent Desroches, and the French course is taught by professors in the école des langues.
New Faculty, Fall 2009

Dr. Blain Auer
Assistant Professor in Comparative Religion
Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Harvard
Research Interests: Religious, cultural and historical dimensions of Islamicate societies; in particular the representations of Islamic authority exhibited through the use of the Qur’an, hadith, exegesis, and history writing produced during the Delhi Sultanate. Secondly, his focus is on modern ritual, pilgrimage, and relics connected with the burial places of the special dead in Islam.

Dr. Manuel A. Bautista
Assistant Professor in Physics
Ph.D. in Astronomy
The Ohio State University
Research Interests: Astrophysical spectroscopy; to understand the nature and development of a variety of exotic radiation sources in our universe.

Dr. Amy L. Damashek
Assistant Professor in Psychology
Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology
University of Missouri - Columbia
Research Interests: Evidence-based treatment models for child abuse and neglect; Relation of maternal alcohol use to unintentional childhood injury.

Dr. Denise Keele
Assistant Professor Jointly in Political Science and Environmental Studies
Ph.D., SUNY College of Environmental Studies and Forestry
Research Interests: Examination of the impact of litigation on the land management policies of the United States Forest Service.

Dr. Steven Mackey
Assistant Professor in Mathematics
Ph.D. in Mathematics
University of Manchester, England
Research Interests: Numerical matrix analysis, linear algebra.

Dr. Heather M. McGee
Assistant Professor in Psychology
Ph.D. in Industrial Organizational Psychology and Behavior Systems Analysis
Western Michigan University
Research Interests: Monetary incentives and systems analysis.

Dr. Natalio Ohanna
Instructor, Department of Spanish
Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies, specializing in Spanish Golden Age and Colonial Spanish-American Literatures.
McGill University
Research Interests: The intellectual history of the Early Modern period, with a focus on the cultural triangle of Europe, Africa, and the Americas in struggle and exchange.

Dr. Christopher A. Pearl
Assistant Professor in Biological Sciences
Ph.D. in Physiology with a designated emphasis in Reproductive Biology.
University of California at Davis
Research Interests: Mechanisms controlling the differential sorting and secretion of LH and FSH; Epididymal function and steroid regulation in boars and stallions.

Dr. Stephanie M. Peterson
Associate Professor in Psychology
Ph.D. in Special Education
University of Iowa
Research Interests: Behavior analysis; k-12+ special education with mild/moderate disabilities.

Dr. Patric R. Spence
Assistant Professor in the School of Communication
Ph.D. in Organizational Communication
Wayne State University
Research Interests: Organizational communication, crisis communication, methods, political administration.

Dr. Jeff Terpstra
Associate Professor in Statistics
Ph.D. in Statistics
Western Michigan University
Research Interests: Nonparametric and robust statistics in the areas of time series analysis, ordered restricted inference, and ranked set sampling.

Dr. Maxim Zinchenko
Assistant Professor in Mathematics
Ph.D. in Mathematics
University of Missouri
Research Interests: Operator theory, differential equations and mathematical physics.
Publications & Research

COMMUNICATION


Congratuations to Sue Ellen Christian, associate professor of journalism. Sue Ellen was selected to participate in the weeklong Diversity Across the Curriculum seminar at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in St. Petersburg, Fla. in May. The seminar competitively selects educators from across the country for training in how to integrate diversity awareness and education into the journalism curriculum.

ENGLISH
- Tom Ludwig’s film, “A Long Strange Trip” won a 2009 Voice Awards Honorable Mention. Tom teaches courses about film for WMU and for the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Steve Feffer’s new play, "My Brother, the School Shooter," a short play inspired by the Pearl Jam song “Jeremy” is currently running as part of Ruckus Theatre’s Tell It & Speak It & Think It & Breathe It project. Feffer’s play tells the story of a young woman who confronts her North Shore Chicago parents about leaving home following her brother’s attempt at shooting-up the high school they had previously attended together.

- Janet Heller’s five poems related to teaching and learning “Spunk,” “Getting My Mouth Washed Out,” “Driving down Route 23 After Work in a Blizzard,” “Exam Week Sketch,” and “Moving In” are forthcoming in The Michigan Reading Journal in the section entitled “Teachers as Writers.”

Richard Utz presented an invited conference paper, “Ritus et Artes: Temporality and the Heritage of Medieval Rituals” at the Fifth Conference on the Cultural Heritage of Medieval Rituals, at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He also participated in the annual advisory board meeting of the Brepols Publishers book series, Ritus et Artes. The trip was funded by the Danish National Research Foundation.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES
- Jeffrey Angles’ forthcoming book “Forest of Eyes: Poetry of Tada Chimako,” won the Japan-US Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature. The book will be published in fall 2010 by University of California Press.) The prize is offered annually by the Donald Keene Center for Japanese Studies at Columbia University. Each year, there is one prize for a translation of modern literature and a prize for a translation of classical literature.

- Peter Blickle has been awarded the Geertje Potash Prose Prize of the Society for Contemporary American Literature in German (SCALG). SCALG is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Indiana whose purpose is the support of contemporary literature by German writers in North America through various means.

GEOSCIENCES
- Carla Koretsky (Geosciences) has been invited to serve as an editor-in-chief with Geochemical Transactions. Koretsky will be one of three editors-in-chief, and previously was an associate editor with GT.

- Bill Harrison is the recipient of the AAPG Public Service award which will be given to him at the national meeting next year in New Orleans. The Public Service Award is given to recognize contributions by members of the Association to public affairs and to encourage geologists to take a more active part in such affairs. The recipient must make contributions to the “education of the public, politicians, thought leaders, etc., on the application of geology to the general welfare.”

HISTORY
- The Department of History at Sun Yat-sen University in China held a conference in honor of WMU Historian, Victor Cunruji Xiong (History), a specialist on the Urban History of Medieval China. The conference on “The Society and Religion of Sui Tang...” continued on page 8
Publications & Research

and Five Dynasties China,” was held in Guangzhou, China, where Xiong presented the keynote address entitled “Housing in Tang Chang’an.” The meeting was planned by Professor Emeritus Jiang Boqin a specialist in Tang history and art.


- Catherine Julien is a significant contributor to the new “Guide to Documentary Sources for Andean Studies, 1530-1900,” edited by Joan Pillsbury (University of Oklahoma Press, 2008).


- Paul L. Maier’s novel, “More than a Skeleton” (2003) is gaining worldwide attention in multiple languages.

**Mallinson Institute**

Faculty and students presented research in geoscience education at the national meeting of the Geological Society of America.


- Matthew Ludwig with Petcovic, H.L., Exploring connections between assessment, motivation, and metacognition.


- Kate Block with Petcovic, H.L., and Koretsky, C.M., Investigating student conceptions of environmental systems in a field-based undergraduate course.

- Dave Rudge was one of three invited international speakers at the Darwin 2009 GEITONAS School Conference-Teaching Evolution: Theoretical and Pedagogical Issues, held in Athens, Greece, November 7-8, 2009. Two of his previously published papers were translated into Greek for the conference volume.

- Reneé Schwartz has received notification that her grant proposal to the National Science Foundation for $199,856 will be funded. The grant, titled “Engaging STEM Students from the Beginning: An Interdependent Approach to Introductory Chemistry and Cellular Biology,” will involve Schwartz, principal investigator; Leonard Ginsberg, co-principal investigator, Donald Schreiber, co-principal investigator; and John Geiser, co-principal investigator. See www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward for details.

**Psychology**


Publications & Research


• Wayne Fuqua, David J. Hartmann, Thomas L. Van Valey. NSF Grant: “The Nature of Ethical Decision-Making in Research” ($357,000).


• John Panos (Lisa Baker, faculty advisor) received a Society for Neuroscience Chapters Graduate Student Travel Award to attend the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago, where he will present a research poster, entitled “Conditioned appetitive properties of concurrent MDMA and cocaine administration in rats.”

Political Science

• Mark Hurwitz has received a grant from the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society to research the history of the selection system for justices to the Michigan Supreme Court. Michigan’s system of selecting its justices is unlike any other in the United States, whereby candidates are nominated at political party conventions, who then run in a nonpartisan general elections. Hurwitz plans to analyze the constitutional and statutory history of this unique system in Michigan as well as electoral outcomes resulting from this selection system.

• Jim Butterfield received a Fulbright Grant for the 2009-2010 academic year, which will support field research on small business associations in southern Russia. He will be based at Saratov State University (a WMU partner university) and will teach a course in comparative politics while there. Butterfield seeks to examine the various means by which such associations engage in collective action, the arenas and points of access within which interaction with agencies of the state takes place, and the ways in which their collective action is structured and shaped by institutional arrangements and processes of the state.

Spanish

• Robert E. Vann (Spanish Linguistics Director of WMU Center for Multilingualism in Michigan and Faculty Director of WMU Student Exchange Program in Lleida, Spain, produced a scholarly monograph published by The Edwin Mellen Press. The book reflects on the Spanish of Catalonia and furnishes documentary resources for studying colloquial Spanish spoken in naturally occurring social groups in Barcelona.

A book by Mahendra Lawoti titled “Federal State-building in Nepal: Challenges in Framing the Nepali Constitution” (Kathmandu: Bhrikuti Academic Publications) was released in Kathmandu, Nepal and will be the subject of a book launch by the Centre for Constitutional Dialogue.

Suzanne Moorian, administrative assistant (Foreign Languages) was selected to receive the 2010 Lee Honors College’s Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to members of the WMU community who extend their expertise and passion for student success to the students of the Lee Honors College. Moorian has worked at WMU since 1990 in the Computer Science Department, and with the Department of Foreign Languages since 2003.
Our main goals are to produce a book on gender provisions in national constitutions and their effect on legislation and court decisions and ultimately on gender equality outcomes.

—Priscilla Lambert

Western Michigan University’s Dr. Priscilla Lambert, assistant professor of political science and faculty of the Soga Japan Center, is co-principal investigator of a collaborative research project awarded $312,000 in funding from the National Science Foundation to examine how gender provisions in national constitutions contribute to women’s political and economic standing.

Lambert is leading WMU’s part of the research project, which will combine a cross-national analysis of 100 countries with more detailed country case studies on provisions, laws and enforcement for the project titled “Gender and Constitutions: A Comparative Analysis of the Effect of Gender Provisions.” Dr. Druscilla Scribner, assistant professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, is directing efforts there.

In addition, they will perform more in-depth analysis on 15 countries in five world regions and a close qualitative analysis of six key countries in southern Africa and South America.

The National Science Collaborative Grant, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will provide $312,000 over three years to pay for research assistants, materials and software, research travel (including field work in southern Africa and Latin America), and some compensation for summer research.

“Our main goals are to produce a book on gender provisions in national constitutions and their effect on legislation and court decisions and ultimately on gender equality outcomes,” Lambert said. “We also plan to make our constitutional coding and data on gender provisions public on the Web.”

“The fact that Dr. Lambert and her colleague were awarded such a major award on their first application speaks very highly of Dr. Lambert’s work and of the quality and level of work conducted here at WMU,” Covell said. “We at the Soga Japan Center are very excited that one of our core faculty has received such an honor.”

Lambert earned her Ph.D. in 2004 and a master’s degree prior to that in political science from the University of California-San Diego. She also holds a master’s economics from Keio University in Japan. At WMU she teaches on many topics, including Japanese politics, comparative politics, international relations, capitalism and democracy, comparative political economy and women and politics.

The National Science Foundation was created by Congress in 1950 to promote research in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering disciplines at American universities. Since the agency’s establishment, its funded researchers have won more than 170 Nobel Prizes and have contributed to the world such important discoveries as Carbon-14 date testing for ancient artifacts, the genetic decoding of viruses and the creation of an entirely new state of matter.
Students Tackle U.S. Retirement System

Four Western Michigan University students took their ideas about a national retirement system to Congress Feb. 4 after winning the national iOMe Challenge competition.

WMU team members beat out proposals submitted by 40 other schools in 17 states to win a chance to speak to U.S. policymakers, along with a $20,000 cash prize and a trip to Washington, D.C. This year’s challenge revolved around the U.S. retirement system and finding solutions to make it solvent for future generations. Entries included a 30-second video intended to capture the attention of young adults, as well as an extended paper that explains the problems and proposes solutions.

The four students and their faculty advisor travelled to Washington D.C. where they were honored at a reception in the Hart Senate Office Building hosted by Wisconsin Senator Herb Kohl. During that event, they presented their paper to members of Congress and congressional staff members.

WMU’s winning iOMe team includes Sam Demorest, Lauren Hearit, Ashley Horvat, and Brad Kent. Demorest, Hearit and Kent are from the Kalamazoo area, and Horvat is from Brunswick, Ohio. All four teammates are members of WMU’s Lee Honors College. Hearit also is a Medallion Scholar. The team’s faculty mentor is Dr. Susan Hoffmann, WMU associate professor of political science.

Hundreds of students from some of the nation’s top colleges and universities participated in the first-ever event, offering solutions that ranged from providing additional visas to gain more payroll taxes, to privatizing Social Security.

Entries were judged for originality, content, style, economic soundness, educational value and accessibility to young Americans. The essays and videos were intended to focus on what life will be like in retirement 40 years from now, if current experience and practices remain the same, as well as focus on whether any changes to policy and how society prepares for retirement should be considered.

The iOMe Challenge was founded by PAi—Plan Administrators Inc.—and was created as an exciting and financially rewarding way to engage young people in the development of public policy. The students were asked to suggest changes that would help secure their financial future, start a retirement dialogue across generations and serve as a call to action on Main Street and Capitol Hill.

Additional details about the competition and copies of WMU’s winning essay and video are available online on the iOMe site at iomechallenge.org. For more information about WMU’s team and winning entry, contact Dr. Susan Hoffmann at susan.hoffmann@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5692.

Charles Henderson (Mallinson Institute) and Michael Ryan (Economics) have been awarded Fulbright Awards.

Henderson’s award will allow him to conduct research and work with graduate students at the University of Jyväskylä in Jyväskylä, Finland in 2010. His primary work will be with the University of Jyväskylä Institute for Educational Research, where he plans to expand his current research on instructional reform in higher education.

Ryan has been selected for a Fulbright Specialists project in Germany at Otto-Friedrich-Universitat Bamberg. Ryan will lecture in the field of international economics with an emphasis on international trade and foreign direct investment. The Fulbright Program is America’s flagship international educational exchange activity.
Western Michigan University is the recipient of the 2008-09 American Humanics Program Excellence Award, a prestigious national honor awarded to institutions dedicated to preparing the next generation of nonprofit sector leaders. The WMU program was honored for “demonstrating best practices in all nonprofit leadership program areas, with strengths in the areas of institutional support, fundraising, nonprofit management curriculum, and community service,” by American Humanics.

“The students did a great job with their presentation and responding to questions from the committee. And, I note that Janice Maatman as WMU campus director for the American Humanics program has done an excellent job in preparing the students for their participation at the Institute,” said Dr. Barbara Liggett, WMU interim director of the School of Public Affairs and Administration.

Founded in 1948, American Humanics is a national alliance of nearly 70 colleges and universities nationwide and more than 60 national nonprofit organizations. The American Humanics program at WMU is part of the undergraduate minor in nonprofit leadership, which is housed in and supported by the School of Public Affairs and Administration. The University also offers a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Administration and a concentration in nonprofit leadership within the Master of Public Administration program.

During the 2008-09 academic year, Campus Compact and the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund granted WMU American Humanics students $15,000 to re-grant to local nonprofits and $3,000 for administrative costs. Students studied community needs, set priorities, issued requests for proposals, analyzed 23 proposals, completed site visits and held a Students4Giving Grant Celebration. The WMU group has received another $15,000 to distribute to local nonprofits in spring 2010.

The student association also completed an additional four fundraising projects, including an Annual Letter Appeal and Santa’s Village, raising a total of $26,695. WMU students also served a total of 1,190 community-service hours planning and implementing seven community service projects, including Bowling for Kids’ Sake and a Head Start Christmas Party.

For more information, contact Janice Maatman, director of nonprofit education programs in the School of Public Affairs and Administration, at janice.maatman@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8945.
WMU Gains New Learning Community for Science Scholars

Students majoring in core science areas like biology, bio-med sciences, chemistry and physics can opt to live on a floor together as part of the Science Scholars. Located in Garneau Hall. The community is a great opportunity for those pursuing a science-related field to interact and study together.

The community has a strong partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of Residence Life.

House highlights:
• Residents are a mixture of science majors
• Activities include field trips, speakers and exploring careers in science
• Optional first-year experience course
• Tutoring services located in Valley II aimed at the needs of first-year students
• Student staff member majoring in the sciences
• Dining services
• A center for academic success with tutoring and advising services

College of Arts and Sciences majors now have extended educational and interactional opportunities not available until now. Current or future WMU students interested in living in Science Scholars may contact the Office of Residence Life to sign up. For more information, see the site at: http://www.wmich.edu/housing/special/science.html.

Grant Promotes Science and Technology Education

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has announced that Western Michigan University will have its share of the $16.7 million Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship, which will pay to educate science, technology, engineering and math teachers at six Michigan universities and place them in select public schools, primarily in West Michigan beginning in 2011.

Western Michigan University is one of six universities included. Each will match a $500,000 enrichment grant from the Kellogg Foundation that can be used to hire new faculty, contract with consultants, purchase equipment or make other changes that are necessary for this transformation to take place. In addition, the schools will receive $6,000 per fellow to provide the new teachers with mentoring during their first three years in the classroom.

The fellows, who will be announced in the spring of 2011, will receive a $30,000 stipend while they complete the program. Beginning in fall 2012, the first team of fellows will be placed in one of the five school districts selected and receive intensive support and mentoring to encourage them to continue teaching as a long-term career.

—Source: mlive.com

Grad Student Captures Poetry Prize

Western Michigan University graduate student Gary L. McDowell has won the 2009 Orphic Prize for Poetry from Dream Horse Press and will have his manuscript, “American Amen,” published in late 2010.

The book is his first full-length poetry collection. In it, he explores such themes as father/son relationships, impending fatherhood and coming of age. He also explores the way narrative is constructed through an interweaving of recurring images, such as fishing, lakes, ghosts and birds.


A native of Chicago, McDowell earned his bachelor’s degree from Northern Illinois University in 2003 and his master’s degree in poetry from Bowling Green State University in 2007. He is a third-year doctoral student at WMU studying poetry and American literature.
Lost in a world of pink bows and walks for a cause, one woman continues her battle with a deteriorating body and an agile mind. Susan Summers suffers from a rare disease that ravages her body and cynically spares her mind. The battle Susan fights is not with the disease, it is to create awareness and promote needed research.

Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) is lethal and incurable—and a rare degenerative neurological disorder that causes problems with movement, balance, and automatic functions of the body, such as blood pressure. MSA is really three diseases in one: Parkinson’s disease, cerebellar ataxia, and autonomic failure. Few drugs exist to provide symptomatic relief for patients as they eventually lose motor control over basic bodily functions.

In February of 2005, Sue spoke her last words. She lost control of her vocal muscles and began communicating with her eyes. Bob Summers, Sue’s husband and caregiver, said that after 42 years of marriage it is not hard to understand each other.

Currently, the Environmental Institute at Western Michigan University is looking for clues with two projects that study MSA gene activity. The first project studies how gene activity is coordinated in good health versus in the disease state. Dr. Charles F. Ide, director of the Institute and the Great Lakes Environmental and Molecular Sciences Center, currently is collaborating with Dr. Anna Langerveld of Genemakers, LLC, and the Columbia University Medical Center Brain Bank, as well as Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

The MSA research project is one of the first to use new genomic and protein-based methods to determine the molecular basis of the disease. Ide and his colleagues use post-mortem brain tissue to characterize gene expression in MSA patients and healthy individuals. When a gene expresses itself in a cell, it produces specific proteins to help the cell function. In contrast, when a gene is silent, it is inactive and does not produce proteins. By studying this phenomenon, Ide is able to characterize how gene expression is out of balance. In MSA, some genes make proteins that are harmful in the disease state, while other genes remain silent when they should be helping the cell.

“Our data is like a magic mirror, we can see inside the patients’ cells to determine what’s wrong, and then, hopefully, find natural compounds and/or drugs that can restore healthy gene and protein expression,” said Ide.

In 2007, Ide, Langerveld, and their colleagues published the findings in their first paper, “Gene Expression Changes in Post-Mortem Tissue from the Rostral Pons Multiple System Atrophy Patients,” in Movement Disorders, the flagship journal for neurodegenerative motor diseases. The paper reports that genes involved in energy production and those involved in removing toxic waste, within MSA patients, were not working properly, and resulted in brain cell death.

“We also are determining the role immune-system cells play in neurodegeneration, with an
Susan Summers suffers from a rare disease that ravages her body but spares her mind. The battle Susan fights is not with the disease, it is to create awareness and promote needed research for Multiple System Atrophy (MSA). Here, Summers enjoys a visit from her granddaughter.

eye toward shutting down their misdirected activities to save brain cells that may be victims of collateral damage,” said Ide.

These significant findings intrigued another MSA researcher, Dr. David Robertson of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Robertson proposed a collaborative research project to characterize gene expression in blood cells from living patients.

To help fund the study, Bob Summers organized “Miracles for MSA,” a charity event involving 2009 Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback Fernando Bryant. Bryant hosted the event in March 2009 at the request from Summers, his high school football coach. Sue joined the research efforts by allowing her blood to be used in the study.

This study compares how gene expression patterns differ among three disease types: Parkinson’s disease, MSA, and Pure Autonomic Failure. These diseases are similar and present some overlapping symptoms. The goal is to develop a simple lab test that clinicians can use in the early stages of these diseases to tell them apart. Recognizing the different gene expression patterns in the three diseases will help to understand what causes the diseases and assist in direct drug development specific for each disease.

The initial data from the study produced intriguing results. For the first time in MSA research, the data implicates over-expression of genes that also pose a problem in other neurological disorders. MSA and Parkinson’s disease share some of the same expression patterns, while Pure Autonomic Failure presents different problems.

Research also discovered another potential target for drug development: a protein that appears to aid in the decision of cell death. New drugs could prevent this protein from working in MSA patients, thereby slowing or halting the neurodegeneration process. Ide hopes to publish these findings soon.

Sue’s optimistic attitude and continual effort “to do something,” inspires the people in her life. With little awareness in the medical community about MSA, patient support groups and information is scarce. WMU provides hope for the 100,000 people affected by MSA and their families. For Sue the cure cannot come soon enough, but for those who follow, perhaps her courage and dedication will be an inspiration.

**Support Research and Awareness of MSA**

“I’m Bob Summers 24/7 caregiver for my wife/sweetheart Susan. Some of you may have an interest in the Awareness bracelets you see Susan and I wearing in this photo.

We are using these to honor Susan who was diagnosed with MSA in 2002, and to raise money and awareness for current research at Western Michigan University by Dr. Charles Ide and Dr. David Robertson at Vanderbilt University, and the National SDS/MSA Support Group.

Bracelets (like the ones in the photo) are $3 each and may be ordered in bulk from Team Jedi Marketing Inc. or call 1-800-423-0449 or 1-800-828-3139. Or, you can send a check, payable to Western Michigan University MSA fund to Bob Summers @ 594 McKaig Rd. Murfreesboro, TN 37127.

Make sure we have a return address to send your order to. Thanks for your support!”

Visit us on Facebook. Search ‘Miracles for MSA.’
Meet Michiko Yoshimoto—
Soga Japan Center Outreach Coordinator

The community outreach efforts of the Soga Japan Center were expanded in fall 2009 with the addition of Michiko Yoshimoto, who will serve as the center’s Japanese outreach coordinator to promote Japanese culture, society and language throughout West Michigan.

Yoshimoto came to Western Michigan University via the Japan Outreach Initiative offered jointly by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and the Laurasian Institute. “I was sent by the JOI to promote awareness and understanding of Japan through grassroots exchanges,” said Yoshimoto. “Currently, my days include visits to K-12 schools, libraries, and anywhere else to talk about Japanese culture and society.”

While at WMU, Yoshimoto will achieve her main goal of increasing interest in Japan through outreach activities including Japanese calligraphy and origami demonstrations, presentations about traditional Japanese clothing, and reading/telling traditional Japanese stories to children. Another of Yoshimoto’s duties is to coordinate or arrange programs on campus and throughout the community which relate to Japan.

Japanese individuals, placed mainly in the southern and midwestern areas of the US, volunteer for two years as outreach coordinators. Applicants selected to participate in this competitive two-year program have excellent English skills, a good command of Japanese culture, geography, history and culture, and possess an outgoing personality. Yoshimoto plans to work in the SJC until 2011.

Originally from the city of Miura in Kanagawa prefecture, Yoshimoto says, “Although the population of Miura is similar in size to that of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo’s downtown is much bigger than Miura’s.” Situated on a peninsula about an hour south of Tokyo, Miura is famous for its Misaki Tuna, Miura Daikon (a type of white radish), and its native watermelon.

After graduating from Yokohama City University with a degree in sociology, Yoshimoto worked for seven years for the local Miura city government as a member of staff for sister city and volunteer programs within the Board of Education. She later went on to work for the Urban Policy Institute of Yokosuka City, the Policy Management Department of Miura, and the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program before she was accepted by the Japan Outreach Initiative.

Additionally, Yoshimoto is a member of the board of directors of the Never Ending International Work-camps Exchange, a non-governmental and nonprofit organization which sponsors work-camp events in local communities in Japan and East Asia focusing on environmental protection, community revival and promoting global friendship. “I have participated in many international work-camps, which are volunteer projects that last for a few weeks, in Cambodia, Thailand, Italy, and Japan,” Yoshimoto said. “Although I have travelled to about 15 countries, this is my first time living abroad.”

If you are interested in contacting Yoshimoto about arranging Japan outreach for your program, please contact michiko.yoshimoto@wmich.edu.

For more information on the Soga Japan Center or the Translation prize, visit: http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/1831/2/

WMU Japanese literature scholar wins prestigious translation award

Dr. Jeffrey Angles, WMU associate professor of Japanese Literature and Translation Studies, recently was awarded the prestigious Japan-United States Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature for his translation of Chimako Tada’s “From a Woman of a Distant Land” in his upcoming book “Forest of Eyes: Poetry of Tada Chimako” (University of California Press, fall 2010).

The Japan-U.S. Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature is offered through the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture at Columbia University. Written work is judged based on the literary merit of the translation and how accurately it reflects the spirit of the original Japanese text.

The Japan-U.S. Commission was established in 1975 as an independent agency by the US Congress. The Commission administers a U.S. government trust fund that originated in connection with the return to the Japanese government of certain U.S. facilities in Okinawa and for postwar American assistance to Japan.
WMU Grad Returns as Visiting Artist

Wood Hall Environmental Studies Suite gets Mural Makeover

Conrad Kaufman didn’t start out to be a full-time muralist, but his love for painting recently brought him back to his alma mater in a grand way. Kaufman graduated from Western Michigan University with a B.S. in Anthropology in 1986, but became a full-time muralist in 1995. Although Kaufman never received an art degree, his current career involves painting murals, landscapes, and creating sculptures. His murals are well known around the Kalamazoo community, including murals at Food Dance Café, the Kalamazoo Public Library, WMU’s Bernhard Center Dining Hall, and more.

Kaufman is in the process of painting a mural in the third-floor Wood Hall suite occupied by the Environmental Studies Program. As a visiting artist in residence, Kaufman is carrying out a major mural project featuring a continuum of landscapes in the Kalamazoo area, from urban to agricultural to wilderness.

“Kaufman’s landscapes depict a sense of place that honors the natural world,” says Lynne Heasley, interim director of the Environmental Studies Program at WMU. “His landscape murals have a strong ecological consciousness, and highlight the critical role of art in regional conservation and sustainability.”

“We hope the mural will encourage students, faculty, and visitors to gather in the Environmental Studies suite,” says Heasley. “Students, especially, have been extremely enthusiastic as the mural has unfolded.”

Kaufman’s work is widely admired in the Kalamazoo area and beyond. He also has a personal connection to Western and the Environmental Studies program. His father, Maynard Kaufman, was co-founder and director of the Environmental Studies Program in 1972 as well as chair of the committee that developed the curriculum for the program. The senior Kaufman taught comparative religion and environmental studies at WMU from 1963 to 1987. He and his wife live “off the grid” in a home in Bangor that does not rely on electrical or gas lines, but instead uses solar and wind energy. Although living further off the beaten path can create some inconveniences, he says it’s about the personal choice of living with a lighter impact on our environment.

The Environmental Studies Program teaches concern for the long-term health and well being of the planet through research in environmentally sound practices. Students are encouraged to develop a personally fulfilling, environmentally responsible way of living. The program requires a double major, an Environmental Studies (ENVS) major, and another major of the student’s choice.

This broad background leads ENVS majors to work in many different fields including commercial, private, government, education, and industrial sectors. Depending on their second major, students may also qualify for other fields such as a conservation/restoration biologist or an environmental lobbyist.

Kaufman’s residence is jointly funded by the Environmental Studies Gwen Frostic Endowment and the College of Arts and Sciences.
MichBio, the biosciences industry trade association and the official Michigan affiliate of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, along with its partner, Western Michigan University, held its 5th Annual Career Day in November, on the university’s campus. More than 100 high school students and their science teachers participated in tours and hands-on demonstrations during the event that aims to raise awareness of educational and career opportunities in the biosciences.

Tours in the College of Arts and Sciences included:

- The Biological Imaging Center, where Dr. Rob Eversole demonstrated light, laser and electron optics and students learned about their capabilities and applications in medical research.

- The Van de Graaff Accelerator Lab (top right) with its operating particle accelerator, along with beam lines, target areas, and detectors used to do research with sub-atomic particles. Students learned from Dr. Paul Pancella and Dr. Asghar Kayani how electrostatic forces are used to accelerate charged particles, how electromagnets are used to focus and direct beams of those particles, and why scientists need to use fast particle beams to study the inner workings of the atom.

- The Molecular Modeling Lab, (bottom right) where students with the help of Dr. John Miller and Dr. Brian Tripp explored nanoscale structures and processes in 3D, and learned about a glowing jellyfish protein, nano-encapsulation by dendrimers, and the collisions of nano-scale water droplets with a surface.
Geography Faculty Receives Fulbright Specialists Award

Chansheng He, Professor of Geography was selected for a Fulbright Specialists Award and visited Shanghai Jiaotong University, one of the top ten universities in China during Dec. 2-23, 2009. While in China, he gave lectures and workshops on nonpoint source pollution, hydrologic modeling, and U.S. water resources policy, and consulted on the environmental science/water resources curricula at Shanghai Jiaotong University, Lanzhou University, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He also received an Outstanding Achievement Award in collaborative research by The Chinese Academy of Sciences Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (CAREERI).

Dr. He is one of over 400 U.S. faculty and professionals who traveled abroad in 2009 through the Fulbright Specialists Program. The Fulbright Specialists Program, created in 2000 to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, provides short-term academic opportunities to prominent U.S. faculty and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at post secondary, academic institutions around the world. Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement. The Fulbright Program, America’s flagship international educational exchange activity, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Over its 60 years of existence, thousands of U.S. faculty and professionals have taught, studied or conducted research abroad, and thousands of their counterparts from other countries have engaged in similar activities in the United States.

Trish Leighton Joins College as Director of Development

Trisha M. Leighton has joined the College of Arts and Sciences as its second director of development. Leighton joins Dorilee Schieble, who has been director of development since 2008.

Leighton has more than 15 years of experience in development, nonprofit administration, public speaking, grant writing, communications, and relationship building. She has also invested a significant amount of her time leading projects that benefit the less fortunate both locally and internationally. Her most recent travels were to Uganda and Honduras where she taught at orphanages and worked with leaders to develop more effective programs.

As a 1992 graduate of the WMU College of Arts and Sciences and the Lee Honors College with majors in political science and public policy, Leighton understands the significance of higher education. “Higher education gives students several advantages in this highly competitive job market,” she says.

“I am also a firm believer in the value of internships across the board. The internship experience I had in 1991 through the Department of Political Science gave me the confidence, experience, and education I needed to enter into the work force.”

Leighton is excited about the opportunity to work for her alma mater and address the developmental needs of the College of Arts and Sciences. “I especially look forward to partnering the needs of the departments with individuals who recognize the significance of investing both in programs and people. We are painting the picture of our future right here and now.”

Leighton can be reached at 387-4355 or trisha.m.leighton@wmich.edu.

Newly Tenured Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences

- Jeffrey M. Angles, Foreign Languages
- Chad Edwards, Communication
- Steve Feffer, English
- Edwin A. Martini, History
- Lisa C. Minnick, English
- Ilana Nash, English
- Sherine O. Obare, Chemistry
- Cynthia J. Pietras, Psychology
- Renee Schwartz, Biological Sciences
Dear Alumni and Friends,

As a Director of Development for the College of Arts and Sciences, I have had the opportunity to meet many alumni and friends of WMU across the nation. It continues to impress me how many of you feel such pride and high regard for WMU and the education you received.

Lifelong friendships begin on this campus and hearing the memories of your times here gives me great satisfaction. Bringing people together to relive days on Campus—visiting with a professor, or learning more about new programs in a favorite department—builds a bridge between you and your College.

Alumni play an increasingly important role in our efforts to improve the College of Arts and Sciences. Private donations both support and raise the standard of excellence in academics and research. Contributions, bequests, endowments and gifts increase scholarship opportunities for deserving students and help attract and retain talented faculty who exemplify our research status.

Have you considered making a bequest to benefit your favorite program or department at Western Michigan University? When considering a gift, many alumni recall days spent on campus. Waldo Stadium. Classrooms in East Hall. Or, the one class that changed the course of your life forever. Gifts to your alma mater allow students to share a similar work-class experience.

I hope you will consider making a gift to the College of Arts and Sciences today. It’s easy and very rewarding to know your legacy will benefit students at WMU forever.

There is no better time than now to reconnect with WMU students, faculty and alumni. We value your time, effort and financial partnership to help our students see the success you experienced at WMU. Feel free to call or email me at any time to give these ideas consideration.

Cordially,
Dorilee
Two CAS alumni have been selected by the University Alumni Association to receive its most prestigious honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The 2009 award recipients are: Susan Martin Bunda, executive vice president of content development and strategy for CNN Worldwide in Atlanta; and Nancy J. Diehl, recently retired chief of the Felony Trial Division for the Wayne County (Mich.) Prosecutor’s Office. Additionally, Kenneth V. Miller, vice president, chief operating officer and co-owner of Havirco in Kalamazoo, will be honored.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 1963 to recognize graduates of WMU who have achieved a high level of success in their professions. This year’s recipients were recognized during an on-campus reception and dinner at the Bernhard Center.

Susan Bunda has been executive vice president of content development and strategy for CNN Worldwide in Atlanta since 2007. She oversees program creation and development as well as provides leadership and guidance in the network’s continuing integration of television and the Web.

While pursuing a bachelor’s degree in communication at WMU, Bunda produced the nightly 11 p.m. newscast for Kalamazoo’s WWMT-TV. She continued working there after graduating in 1986, then joined CNN a year later as a producer and writer.

During her tenure at CNN, Bunda has helped lead many of the network’s groundbreaking news, administrative and technological advancements. She has been instrumental in its coverage of numerous major events, including the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the 2004 U.S. presidential election.

Nancy Diehl retired in April 2009 as chief of the Felony Trial Division for the Wayne County (Mich.) Prosecutor’s Office. She worked as a Wayne County prosecutor for 28 years and in her most recent position, oversaw general trials; homicide, auto theft and major drug cases; and the Child and Family Abuse Bureau, which she helped found in the prosecutor’s office in 1986.

Diehl earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from WMU in 1975 and a Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School in 1978. She began her professional career in 1978 with a two-year stint as a staff attorney in Michigan’s Misdemeanor Defender’s Office, then served a year as assistant corporation counsel for the city of Detroit.

Diehl is a past president of the Michigan Bar Association and co-wrote four booklets pertaining to children and the legal system. She is a nationally sought-after speaker and trainer on domestic violence and child abuse interviewing, investigation prosecution and related issues.

Her honors include the Federal Bar Association’s Leonard Gilman Award, which is bestowed in recognition of outstanding practice in the area of criminal law, and a Victim Advocacy Award from the U.S. Department of Justice.

For more information, contact Jamie Jeremy in the WMU Alumni Association office by calling (269) 387-8777.
• Marty (Miller) Burris (Sociology/Criminal Justice) B.A. ‘77.
In April of 2009 Burris was hired to start a new program at Rochester Institute of Technology called University Studies. It is a program for students who are undecided about their major. In 1996 Marty completed an MBA from RIT in Marketing.

Christopher Tremblay (Public Relations) B.A. ‘94; (Organizational Communication) M.A. ‘99 is the co-author of a one-act musical entitled, “FONTs! A Type of Musical,” which premiered at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton, Mich. in January. FONTs! is about the adventures of several computer typefaces that find meaning in their lives. “This show takes things from everyday life and personifies them in a fun, creative and entertaining way,” said Tremblay. “You’ll never look at fonts the same way.” Christopher also earned a post master’s certificate in enrollment management and is a doctoral student in educational leadership at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He currently serves as Director of Admissions and Orientation at UM-Dearborn. For more information about the show, visit http://fontsamusical.wordpress.com.

• Sue Gee Cheng (Interpersonal Communication) ‘05
On the first day of the fall ’09 semester, alumna Sue Gee Cheng posted to our LinkedIn Alumni site that she still remembers getting lost around campus, embarrassed by walking into the wrong class, trying to find someone she knew on campus, making new friends, and basically getting very very excited going to school.
She also remembers one time when it took her more than an hour looking for her own apartment. “I was lost.

William M. Rushcamp (History/English/Secondary Education) B.A. ’70; M.A. Counseling, ’73.
Since graduation, Bill has taught history; served as director of counseling for DeWitt Public Schools for 30 years; and was recognized as Educator of the Year for DeWitt Public Schools and as Educator of the Year for five county Capitol Area Substance Abuse Commission. Bill put together and ran successful Student Assistance Program for 15 years, heading up a region of 27 public school systems.

Bill’s advice for current Students? Stay in school…get your degree at all costs. It will prove to make the difference in your life. Push yourself at some point to see what you are made of (work, volunteer, study), letting your social life lapse…take a semester and just go all out…it will help build maturity and confidence.

• Richelle Mead (Comparative Religion) M.A. ‘01. Liberal arts degree from University of Michigan; master’s in teaching degree from the University of Washington. Richelle has authored three books of late: “The Georgina Kincaid Series,” “The Dark Swan Series,” and “The Vampire Academy Series,” for young readers. While her wide-ranging education allowed her many options in terms of a career, Mead said writing was something she had been interested in all her life. Richelle is a graduate of Comstock High School now living in Seattle. The film rights to her first book, 2007’s “Succubus Blues,” have been picked up by Fox TV. New books in each series are scheduled for release in 2010.

• Laura Feffer (English) M.A. ’08 is the recipient of the prestigious Farmer Award from the Editor of English Journal, with a circulation of over 30,000; the largest circulation academic journal in the world. Laura’s essay about her students engaging in ensemble theater, written with Allen Webb as an independent study during her MATE program, was one of two essays selected this year to be given this national award at the secondary section of NCTE.

• Bonnie Jo Campbell (English) M.F.A. ’98; (Mathematics) B.A. ’92; (Mathematics) M.A. ’95 is among the finalists for the National Book Foundation’s “National Book Award” for her book, American Salvage.

• Patrick W. Ziegler (Liberal Arts 1987-90) won an Emmy Award as executive producer for the children’s show “Come On Over!” The show has won 11 other Emmys over the years and two national Telly Awards. Ziegler is a native of Wyoming, Mich. He says his professors at WMU helped him overcome difficulties with dyslexia and understand there are different ways of learning. After leaving WMU, he studied at the National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York City and now lives in Chicago.

I walked to Drake Road and further down when I was just living in Westbrooke! And when I got to Westbrooke, I didn’t remember which block I was in! I ended up walking in to an unknown apartment. Yes, that apartment was not locked and no, I did not bring my address with me. I thought I knew and mainly, I forgot about it. Oh man, I miss school.”
Emily Casteel (International & Comparative Politics and Women’s Studies) B.A. ‘05, magna cum laude

While attending WMU, Emily took advantage of many unique academic opportunities, including the study abroad program held in Prague, Czech Republic. Emily is especially grateful to Dr. Gwen Raaberg of the Women’s Studies Department and Dr. Jim Butterfield of the Political Science Department for their ongoing support and guidance well beyond her years as a WMU undergraduate.

After graduation, Emily moved to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Public Leadership Education Network’s (PLEN) Women and Public Policy Internship Semester. She spent her summer interning at Planned Parenthood Global Partners (PPGP) and attending PLEN seminars that connected her with women leaders in Washington, D.C. Shortly after completing her internship at PPGP, Emily accepted a position as Program Assistant at the Constitution Project, a bipartisan nonprofit that works on controversial constitutional law and legal issues.

In August of 2006, Emily returned to PLEN as a full-time staff member in the Program Coordinator position. As Program Coordinator, Emily furthered PLEN’s mission to prepare the next generation of women leaders by planning and executing PLEN’s six annual leadership programs for women college students, recruiting women speakers and mentors and representing PLEN at events in the Washington, D.C. community. In 2008, Emily was promoted to the position of Program Manager, where she now manages all aspects of PLEN’s programming while providing support for PLEN’s organizational development and administration.

Emily is especially grateful to Dr. Gwen Raaberg of the Women’s Studies Department and Dr. Jim Butterfield of the Political Science Department for their ongoing support and guidance well beyond her years as a WMU undergraduate.

While at Western, Charles participated in an independent study abroad which led him to the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Returning to Edinburgh after graduating Western, he lived for two years, working in real estate as an assistant project manager and playing (American) football for the Edinburgh Wolves. It was while living in Scotland that he became interested in the publishing industry, in his own words: “Scotland was such a beautiful place, inspiring to say the least, it was a fast paced life living in Edinburgh but there was always plenty of time to think. Edinburgh is a cultural Mecca and I had many opportunities to talk with people in the literary world. There is something fascinating about being able to create something beautiful, combining art and the written word.”

Arriving back in Michigan he began work on his first book; titled: "Detroit City of Champions, The Story of the Most Important Season in Detroit Sports History," chronicling the story of 1935-1936 sports season which witnessed the Detroit Tigers, Lions and Red Wings winning their first championships in the same season. The book was an extension of his thesis written during his senior year at WMU. Finishing the book in late October 2008; Charles founded Diomedea Publishing L.L.C. with “Detroit City of Champions” being the first book published.

“When I was looking into the options of starting Diomedea,” he says, “I knew it would be an uphill fight but hopefully going through it will allow me to carve a path for others. I want to create a publishing house that will attract authors and artists of the same spirit as myself.”

Cara Mroczek (Public Policy and Environmental Studies) B.S. ‘02.

Mroczek is a trial attorney in the Environmental Enforcement Section of the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice, one of the largest litigating sections in the Department. Mroczek previously worked for the City of Kalamazoo and the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan before she began law school at Michigan State University. She also worked at the International Development Law Organization in Rome, Italy. Upon graduation from MSU, Mroczek was accepted into the Attorney General Honors Program at the US Department of Justice. She continues to support WMU and regularly attends alumni events in the Washington DC area. Says Mroczek, “The experiences and educational opportunities I had at WMU and the Lee Honors College definitely inspired me to work in this legal position where I am able to use my public policy and environmental studies background, and actually see my progress made in protecting the earth’s resources. I am honored to be representing the United States and enforcing federal environmental laws, and I am proud to be a Bronco!”

Anthony Majewski, B.A. (Psychology) ’00 has published a new children’s book called “Dogs Move Too!” The book is written from the point of view of his dog, Max. Part of the proceeds will go to Leader Dogs for the Blind. Watch his video here: http://www.veoh.com/browse/videos/category/family/watch/v19230466YszqH2YF

Erica Finley, (right) B.A. (Journalism, minor in English) ’06 with President John M. Dunn and friend at the WMU/Michigan State football game Alumni event in East Lansing.
Brad Wells (Public Relations, Journalism, Nonprofit Leadership minor) B.A. ’05, and Grand Rapids, Mich. native, relocated to Kiev, Ukraine five years ago. Since then, Wells has been employed as an editor and political analyst for Concorde Capital, a leading investment company in Kiev, Ukraine, that provides a full range of brokerage, investment banking and asset management services. It was founded in 2004.

Brad and his wife Iryna, a lifetime Ukrainian citizen, visited Grand Rapids in January 2009 to share their first-hand perspectives of living in the Ukraine and how it compared to life in the United States with students at Dutton Christian Elementary School in Wyoming, Mich.

Ben Lando (Political Science, Public Policy) B.S. ’05 is an Iraq-based journalist and media entrepreneur who first became a reporter in Kalamazoo. After numerous reporting trips abroad beginning in 2006, he relocated to Baghdad in July 2009. As founder and bureau chief of Iraq Oil Report, an online Iraq news site which covers the Iraq story with an eye on the country’s important oil sector, Ben is now the world’s leading reporter on Iraq energy issues. He is also a freelance reporter in Iraq for the Wall Street Journal, TIME, Platts and The Washington Times.

Ben spent the previous three years as reporter and then energy editor at United Press International, based in Washington DC, and has been published in The Jerusalem Post and World Politics Review. His reporting has been included in testimony to Congress, and cited in letters of members of congress to the U.S. Secretary of State.

He was active as a senator in the Western Student Association and the Progressive Student Alliance. He spent two years as a columnist at the Western Herald, and held numerous positions at WMU’s student-run radio station 89.1 WIDR, including reporter, anchor, news magazine host, news director and general manager.

Abigail Potter (Broadcast /Cable Production & English/ Creative Writing) B.A. ’99 is a digital archivist at the Office of Strategic Initiatives of the Library of Congress working on a national digital preservation program and the Section 108 Study Group. Previously, she was a digital projects librarian at the University of Michigan Library where she contributed to the pilot phase of the Google Library digitization project. In publishing, she has led projects in workflow, content reuse, and permissions at National Public Radio Digital Media, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, and University of Michigan Press. Potter also holds an M.S.I. from the University of Michigan School of Information.

Dr. Carolyn Rouse (Anthropology) M.A.’08

During her graduate work at WMU, Zarinah was assigned to work with Dr. Kristina Wirtz on a large community project centered on the exhibit, RACE: Are We So Different? After graduating, she was appointed WMU’s coordinator for the RACE Exhibit through the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Her responsibilities include facilitating relationships with community groups working to increase and celebrate the diversity of the region, in conjunction with the RACE: Are We so Different exhibit coming to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum in October 2010. Currently, there are more than 65 organizations planning events, workshops, performances, art pieces, etc... all centered on the theme of improving race relations in Kalamazoo.

In addition to her work with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Zarinah uses public anthropology to reveal and address contemporary issues facing Muslims in America. Her debut book, “Jihad of the Soul: Singlehood and the Search for Love in Muslim America,” has received rave reviews both in the academic sector and general community.

Zarinah also serves as the chief spiritual officer of NIYAH, a creative social company founded to advance cross-cultural understanding and build strong, spirit filled communities through a varied and vibrant program of art, cultural and travel activities. She leads workshops and programs on topics as varied as African Headwrapping, to fulfilling our life vision. Built on the ideals of social activism, NIYAH recently worked with donors to raise monies for water wells in Sierra Leone.

Of her degree, Zarinah says “My use of a master’s degree is somewhat non-traditional but I wouldn’t have it any other way. Academically, the research I conducted as a student is proving to be extremely useful to my target audience, the Muslim community, and has cemented my role as a researcher. Professionally, moving within a project from a fellowship to a full-time position at my alma mater has been a pure blessing. I love the work I do and feel privileged to have a role in such a worthy endeavor.”

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Excitement

More than 1,000 students visited 36 information stations during the fourth annual Major Excitement event, sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences on Sept. 17, 2009. A repeat of the event is planned for Friday, Sept. 24, 2010 and YOU’RE INVITED.

The event provides students with a great opportunity to explore as many majors as they find interesting with visiting alumni, faculty, graduate students, advising and more.

Visiting alumni help students make personal connections and get advice on which courses and programs are most valuable to their chosen profession.

Faculty, chairs and graduate students meet with upwards of 3,000 first-year students during the event to advise and share stories.

To RSVP for the Sept. 23 event, or more for more information, call Dorilee Schieble, CLU, ChFC, at (269) 387-4399 or email to: dorilee.schieble@wmich.edu
ANTHROPOLOGY—BRENT METZ
Brent Metz received a B.A. in Anthropology and Spanish from WMU in 1986; an M.A. in Anthropology in 1989 from University of Michigan; and his Ph.D. in 1995 from SUNY-Albany. As an assistant professor of Anthropology at the University of Kansas, Metz’s interests lie in the study of the relationship between Ch’orti’ Maya political economy and ethos in Guatemala. Metz has taught at WMU, Central Connecticut State, Grinnell, and Temple and served as the associate director of Latin American Studies at the University of Kansas.

CHEMISTRY—JAMES DABROWIAK
James Dabrowiak earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from WMU in 1970. As a professor of Chemistry at Syracuse University, Dabrowiak’s focus is on synthesis and characterization of cobalt-amino acid complexes. Dabrowiak completed his post-doctoral research at The Ohio State University and his research interests have focused on the interactions of metal with biologically important molecules. Most notable is his research on the action of platinum-based anticancer drugs. His laboratory also pioneered the development of quantitative footprinting analysis for studying of sequence specificity of drugs interacting with DNA and RNA.

COMMUNICATION—JUDITH S. TRENT
Judith S. Trent graduated with a B.S. from WMU, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Her area of expertise is in political communication and Trent serves as a professor of Communication in the Department of Communication at University of Cincinnati. Trent has authored, co-authored, or edited 23 books or book chapters, 39 academic journal articles and made more than 200 presentations at state, regional, national, and international communication conferences. She is best known for her coauthorship of “Political Campaign Communication: Principles and Practices.”

COMPARATIVE RELIGION—J. REBECCA LYMAN
J. Rebecca Lyman received her B.A. (summa cum laude) in Religion and History from WMU in 1976; an M.A. in Medieval and Byzantine Studies from The Catholic University of America in 1979; and her Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Oxford in 1983. Lyman is the Samuel Garrett Professor of Church History (Emerita) at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, Calif., and her interests are in religion and philosophy. Lyman is the author of numerous articles and books, including “Christology and Cosmology: Models of Divine Activity in Origen, Eusebius, and Athanasius,” “Early Christian Traditions,” and “The New Church’s Teaching Series,” (1999). Lyman is an ordained Episcopal priest.

ECONOMICS—ALKETA HYSENBEGASI
Alketa Hysenbegasi obtained a B.S. in applied mathematics from the University of Tirana, Albania; her diploma in Postgraduate studies in applied economics from Institute for Advance studies in Vienna, Austria; an M.S. in Applied Mathematics for Finance from Baruch College of CUNY; an M.S. degree in Economics and a Ph.D. in Applied Economics from WMU 2001. She currently serves as managing director for quantitative risk management at the Bank of New York Mellon. During her career, she has served as Citigroup Bank senior analyst developing statistical models to support marketing and risk management; and vice president and association project manager for the bank as well.

ENGLISH—KARL R. SANDELIN
Karl R. Sandelin, a native of Helsinki, Finland received his Bachelor’s degree in English with minors in German and Group Science from WMU in 1950. He went on to complete a Master’s in Teaching of Languages in 1953 from WMU. Sandelin retired from Kalsec in 1988 where he was involved with international commerce. In 1958 he became vice president for production at Kalsec, a local company that produces spice, herb, hop, and vegetable extracts for use in food, beverage and pharmaceutical applications. In 1970 he assumed responsibility for International Operations, overseeing a facility in Ethiopia.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND SPANISH—ROBERTO ZUNIGA
Robert Zuniga received his B.A. from WMU in 1989; studied at University of Guadalajara, fall 1989; and graduated tied for top of his class from the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Police Academy. He currently serves as a lieutenant and public safety officer for the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety where he utilizes his skills in Spanish/translation. During his career, Zuniga has served as a public safety officer, undercover narcotics investigator, hostage negotiator, background investigator, and recruiter. He serves as a crisis intervention team officer, liaison with Hispanic American Council of Kalamazoo, and interpreter for KDPS, and has been honored with the Life Saving Award, Chief’s Award of Excellence, and the Award of Merit.

GEOGRAPHY—STEVEN R. DEISLER
Steven R. Deisler earned his B.S. in Geography and Urban Planning from WMU in 1979. He currently serves as vice president of Downtown Kalamazoo Incorporated; including the organization’s real estate holdings, implementation of the Downtown Vision Plan, and economic development projects. He also coordinates business development functions and the downtown parking system. His field of urban planning, urban design, and economic development field project manager earned him the urban planning certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners in 1995. He was employed with the City of Kalamazoo for 19 years in the Economic Development and Planning Department.

GEOSCIENCES—ELIOT ATEKWAHA
Eliot Atekwana obtained his B.S. in Geology from University of Maryland in 1984; an M.S. in 1987 from Howard University; and a Ph.D. from WMU in 1996. Atekwana’s work includes the application of stable isotopes of carbon in understanding carbon flow, groundwater contamination and stream water-groundwater interaction down gradient of a landfill in Kalamazoo, Mich. Since 2006, Atekwana has served as associate professor at the Boone Pickens School of Geology, Oklahoma State University. He taught in the WMU Department of Geosciences from 1997-1998. Atekwana has received five National Science Foundation grants and was awarded the 2008 Sterling Burks Award for Outstanding Environmental Research at OSU.

HISTORY—RICHARD M. HUGHLEY, SR.
Richard M. Hughley, Sr. received a B.A. in History from WMU in 1952, and his J.D. in 1957 from the University of Michigan. He is the retired president and partner of the law firm of Deming, Hughley, Chapman, Richardson, and Bosch, PC. His expertise includes estate planning and probate, corporate, real estate, and continued on page 27
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foundation law. Hughey is an engaged alumnus of Western Michigan University. He is a member of the WMU Foundation Board of Trustees and the WMU Campaign for Excellence organizing committee. He was a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1974 to 1977, and he is a member of the President’s Circle and a life member of the WMU Alumni Association.

MALLINSON INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION…SAM YOVEFF

Sam Yoveff earned his B.A. in Science from WMU in 1965; his Ph.D. in Science Education in 1972, and was a member of the first group of graduate students enrolled in the Science Education program at WMU. Yoveff retired as director of curriculum at the Community Unit School District #100, Belvidere, Ill. He previously served as a physical science instructor at Highland Park Community College, Highland Park, Mich.; head of Science Department at Belvidere High School; K-12 Science Coordinator; and Science/Math Media Services Director.

MATHEMATICS…BRIAN L. GARMAN

Mendon, Mich. native Brian Garman completed his undergraduate studies at Cornell University in 1967. Garman began his graduate work at Western in 1971, which culminated in his Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1976. In 1980, Garman accepted a position at the University of Tampa where he currently serves as associate professor of mathematics. Garman developed an algorithm to manage scheduling for the U.S. Tennis Association’s Boys 18-16 National Championships, held each year in Kalamazoo. That solution evolved into the Garman System, which is a computer system for scheduling matches now used for all USTA matches, as stipulated in their official rules.

PHILOSOPHY…KRISTIN DEKAM

Kristin DeKam earned her B.A. in 1991 from Michigan State in social work and psychology and then spent three years teaching at universities in the People’s Republic of China. After China, she studied English and philosophy at Western, earning her M.A. in Philosophy in 1999. She taught philosophy at Western and left the position to teach at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. DeKam now is a tenured professor at KVCC and teaches philosophy, contemporary art, and world mythology. Presently, she is studying Julia Kristeva’s semiotics in the context of evaluating the ability of individuals to make meaning, individuals who suffered severe trauma before learning how to speak.

PSYCHOLOGY…LESLIE BRASKICK

Leslie Braksick obtained an M.A. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology in 1987 from WMU and a Ph.D. in Behavior Analysis in 1990 from WMU, making her the youngest person in WMU history to earn a doctoral degree. Braksick is an entrepreneur, CEO coach, consultant, author, speaker, and board member on several boards. She is co-founder of The Continuous Learning Group, Inc (1993), a global management consultancy that uses behavioral solutions to address a company’s greatest needs and challenges. In 2002 she was recognized as one of the top 50 women business leaders in Pennsylvania and was named a Carlow College Woman of Spirit, and also was named a Pittsburgh Pacesetter in Business in 2002.

STATISTICS…BARBARA MCKINNEY

Barbara McKinney earned her M.S. in Biostatistics from WMU in 1979. Her studies focused primarily on statistics and mathematics. After graduation, McKinney was offered the position of assistant director of Modular Math at WMU, where she taught courses, supervised graduate students teaching the courses, and assisted with the development of the new course, Math 109. After serving as assistant to the chair of the department, McKinney began working on the implementation of WMU’s online student information system, Banner. McKinney has served as the Registrar at Western Michigan University since fall 2004. She has been involved in MACRAO (Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers), and other professional committees both on and off campus.

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