Items of Academic Interest

**College of Health and Human Services**

The faculty and current students in the Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Studies program celebrated with the first graduates, family members and friends at a reception in December. Eric H. Vangsnes, Lorraine Pearl-Kraus, Lena Gloria Caesar, Diane J. Jones, Barbara Cliff, and Laura C. Ford were congratulated by the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, Earlie Washington, who also presented each with an Inukshuk as a symbol of human accomplishment and the importance of guidance along otherwise unmarked paths. The evening concluded with Remarks by Dean Emerita Janet Pisaneschi who was instrumental in the development of the program.

**College of Engineering and Applied Sciences**

Dr. Edmund Tsang, CEAS associate dean for Undergraduate Programs and Assessment, is revamping the freshman engineering experience with a five-year, $1.97 million National Science Foundation Grant. “Student and Faculty Learning Communities to Increase Graduation Rates in STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math] Disciplines” runs from 2004 to 2009 and is funded by the NSF STEM Talent Expansion Program, or STEP. Data collected in the first two years suggested that retention is clearly improving. To improve retention, Tsang has established learning communities of up to 20 students, developed co-curricular activities, and revamped STEM curriculum. CEAS faculty and administrative mentors encourage students to participate in co-curricular activities and to explore careers, the college, the university, and themselves. Tutors in content areas are available at night and on the weekends, and enrollment in STEP has been increasing each fall semester. Tsang credited faculty for improving students’ retention. Faculty mentors meet monthly to share strategies and problems, coordinate activities, and discuss assigned readings. Changes that have led to improved student performance include the collaboration of math and chemistry faculty to develop algebra problems based on chemistry, the expansion of career exploration in the first-year technical communication course, midterm grade reports, software that enables students to grant their parents access to their registration and grade records, and a pilot residence program for engineering students. Future plans include building relations with CEAS departments to create more customized learning communities, raising the awareness of faculty roles in student success, and addressing critical engineering science classes to improve third-year retention. WMU co-investigators for the project are Dr. William Cobern, Mallinson Institute for Science Education director, and Dr. Leonard Ginsberg, vice president of research. More information on STEP is available at [http://www.wmich.edu/step](http://www.wmich.edu/step).

Deepak Ravindra, a mechanical engineering master’s candidate, and project adviser Dr. John Patten, the manufacturing engineering department chair, are researching the ductile machining of silicon carbide (SiC). Using a $60,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) fund and working with Mound Laser & Photonics Center in Dayton, Ravindra is completing the first stage of a project that has shown that it is possible to use single-point diamond turning to micro-machine SiC ceramics. With a new $24,000 grant - “The Effects of Crystal Orientation in Single Point Diamond Turning (SPDT) Operation of CVD [chemical vapor deposition] of Silicon Carbide (SiC)” from Taiho Kogyo Tribology Research Foundation in Japan, they will now study the structure of the SiC at the atomic level. The researchers had previously examined single...
crystals and are now, using their technique on poly crystals. The SIC research is being done in conjunction with several other projects including one with Third Wave Systems using a $163,000 grant from the Department of Defense. In addition, the researchers recently received $50,000 in additional funding from MUCI for a laser-enhanced machining system to assist them. Ravindra submitted his first proposal to the Tribology Foundation last summer and recently presented a paper co-authored with Patten and Makoto Tano, a Japanese Ph.D. student involved in the initial research, at the Advances in Abrasive Technologies Grinding Conference of the International Symposium on Advances in Abrasive Technology (ISAAT) of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME). Ravindra’s attendance and participation at this conference was partially funded with a grant from the WMU Graduate School; the paper was published in the conference proceedings. Results of the research could save time and cost and improve accuracy in the manufacturing processes related to laser mirror applications. More information on this is available at http://www.wmich.edu/engineer/mrc/ or via email at deepak.ravindra@wmich.edu

In the December 2007 issue of “Connections,” the electronic newsletter published monthly by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) for engineering educators across the nation, WMU was listed in the top 50 colleges and universities for the number of B.S. degrees in mechanical engineering awarded in 2006. There are about 350 mechanical engineering B.S. programs in the U.S., and 276 of them reported their graduation rates to ASEE for the 2006 ranking. WMU tied with West Virginia University in 47th place for awarding 94 B.S. mechanical engineering degrees through the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE). “We are in the top 20 percent in the U.S.,” CEAS Dean Tim Greene said in a congratulatory email to MAE chair, Dr. Parviz Merati. “This is great for MAE and great for CEAS,” Greene said.

WMU’s Center for Disability Services and the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation are teaming up to offer Healthy Lifestyles classes to individuals with cognitive impairments in Kalamazoo. The classes provide service learning opportunities for students enrolled in special population classes under the direction of Dr. Carol Weideman, faculty specialist II, and Dr. Jody Brylinsky, professor. Dawn Robarge from the Center for Disability Services coordinates the training of WMU students and the recruitment of class participants. This partnership has been a win-win situation for all resulting in positive physical and social changes for individuals with disabilities as well as WMU students increasing their knowledge of different populations.

The Dorothy McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic provides literacy tutoring on Thursday nights for children ages 5-14. These children are being supported by the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative SCOPE: Securing Children’s Opportunities, Possibilities, and Empowerment. SCOPE is receiving funding support from the Justice, Equality, Human Dignity and Tolerance Foundation as well as the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The literacy tutoring services are funded for two years with a possible extension. The SCOPE literacy program at WMU is coordinated and supervised by Dr. Susan V. Piazza, assistant professor of literacy studies in the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies. This semester, Dr. Piazza and Dr. Lonnie Duncan, associate professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, are collaborating to bring together literacy studies and counseling psychology students to serve as tutors. Drs. Piazza and Duncan plan to study the interdisciplinary nature of this community program and its effectiveness on the lives of participants and families.

Minds in Motion is the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation’s newest promotional tool for undergraduate programs. The 8 ½ minute video includes testimonials from current HPER students describing their course of study and the benefits of a WMU education. The fast moving visual portion of the DVD features students conducting fitness testing in the exercise science lab, injury treatment by athletic training students, health and physical education student teachers working at sites throughout the region, community health students working in South Africa and students enjoying

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in the Irene Ryan Acting Competition. Three Department of Theatre students were selected among the 16 to compete in the final round: Patrick Newton, Sara Garcia, and Adrian Aguilar. Patrick Newton was identified as an alternate to the two finalists. Two of our designers, Monica Carr and Daniel Warneke made it to the final round of the design competition and each received an honorable mention for their work. The achievements of our students in design and acting are particularly noteworthy since the competition includes graduate students from other universities.

The Department of Theatre’s production of DRACULA was selected to compete at the regional level for the American College Theatre Festival. Students performed for a sold out audience (1425 seats) at the Milwaukee Pabst Theatre on Friday, January 11. The experience was thrilling and followed by multiple standing ovations. The Department of Theatre will know at the end of February whether they are invited to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. This region includes colleges and universities in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Sixteen actors were identified as finalists out of 260 competitors. Whether they advance to the Irene Ryan Acting Competition, the Department of Theatre is very grateful for the dedication and expertise offered by Steve,” remarked Dr. Lee J. deLisle, chair. The department plans on using the video on its Web site, producing copies for student recruitment activities across the state, and possibly posting it on YouTube.

The Graduate Center for Research and Retention will sponsor a Grant Writing Cafe on the third Friday of each month during the Spring semester, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge, second floor of East Walwood Hall. The cafe initiative is an extension of the discipline/college-specific grant writing seminars launched by the Graduate Center during the fall semester with Dr. Mary Anne Sydlik, research program officer with the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). Last fall, Dr. Sydlik designed and conducted seminars for graduate students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as well as in the social and behavioral sciences, and in the health and human services fields. The cafe experience will reinforce seminar concepts. Dr. Sydlik’s next seminar is scheduled on Friday, January 25, from 2 - 4 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge, and is designed for graduate students in the College of Education. On February 22, Dr. Sydlik will conduct another session for students in the humanities, and on March 28, she will conduct a special seminar in “How to Use Electronic Resources to Identify Funding Opportunities” from 2 - 4 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge. Dr. Marianne Di Pierro, director of the Graduate Center for Research and Retention, and Dr. Sydlik will both be available during the Grant Writing Cafe series to assist graduate students with proposal development. The grant writing seminars for students dovetail into the Grant Development Workshops for faculty currently sponsored by OVPR and are designed to assist in students’ professional development as future faculty.

A Spanish translation of the Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professorate (AGEP) website is now available on the Graduate College’s website (www.wmich.edu/grad). AGEP is a program designed to enrich the academic experience by creating an effective network of faculty, students, and administrators. The goal is to promote success in doctoral programs. The Michigan AGEP program combines the resources of four major Michigan doctoral universities to collaborate in recruiting, supporting and mentoring underrepresented minority students who earn doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The Spanish translation was coordinated by the Graduate Center for Research and Retention. The Graduate College acknowledges the expert contributions of Dr. Pablo Pastrana-Pérez, assistant professor and graduate advisor, Department of Spanish, and Ms. Marlene Roldán-Romero and Mr. Rodrigo De Grau Amaya, graduate students with the Department of Spanish, who all lent their expertise, dedication, and talent in translating the AGEP website.
Dr. Nickola Nelson, professor of speech pathology and audiology, was honored with the 2007 Frank R. Kleffner Lifetime Clinical Career Award at the annual Professional Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Boston (November 14-17). This award honors an individual’s exemplary contributions to clinical science and practice. Dr. Nelson was recognized for her “visionary leadership, clinical excellence, and passionate advocacy for students with language learning disabilities” (ASHA, 2007). She is known nationally and internationally for her work in oral and written language processing in classroom contexts. She has created innovative approaches, such as the writing laboratory, to assess and treat children with language disorders across listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. This work has resulted in collaborations among speech-language pathologists, classroom teachers, and special educators to meet the needs of struggling school-aged students and has significantly altered service delivery for these students with language disorders.

• Dr. Cindee Quake-Rapp, professor and chair, department of Occupational Therapy, published a chapter on “Vocational Assessments Used in Mental Health” in B.J. Hemphill’s (Ed.) “Assessments in Occupational Therapy Mental Health: An Integrative Approach” (2nd ed.), Slack Incorporated publisher.

• Dr. Bill Fenn, professor in the physician assistant department was nationally recognized as one of the first Distinguished Fellow’s of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Dr. Fenn earned the recognition due to his outstanding contributions to patient care and the profession during his years as a physician assistant.

• Dr. Maureen Mickus, associate professor of occupational therapy, co-authored an article published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society (JAGS) on “Attitudes, Experiences, and Interest in Geriatrics of First-Year Allopathic and Osteopathic Medical Students.”

• Whang, M. & Ring D. (2007). “A Student-Focused Usability Study of the Western Michigan University Libraries Home Page.” Journal of Web Librarianship. 1 (3): 67-88. A usability analysis was conducted with graduate and undergraduate students to provide easier and better access to library resources that would allow them to search for and find content on their own and improved online help.

• Occupational Therapy Master Clinical Faculty Specialist, Berit Miller, was recently elected to the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association (MiOTA) Executive Committee as Membership Director. There are currently 4,678 board certified occupational therapists practicing in the state of Michigan.

• College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

At the CEAS Service Awards Luncheon held in January, CEAS Dean Tim Greene honored 17 professors and administrators for providing 305 years of service to WMU. According Greene, who expressed appreciation at the luncheon, approximately 280 of those years directly served CEAS. “These outstanding faculty and staff are the reason that WMU graduates so many outstanding students and performs innovative research,” he said. “I am so impressed that these individuals have dedicated their lives to our college and students.” Those honored for service included the following:

• 30 years – Ms. Pearl DeVries, office assistant in the CEAS Advising Office; Dr. Richard Hathaway, a professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE); Dr. Mark Kerstetter, associate professor in the Department of Computer Science

• College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Recipients of CEAS Service Awards who were honored at a recent luncheon included (left to right) Dr. David Lyth, Dr. Damon Miller, Dr. Roman Rabiej, Dr. Mark Kerstetter, Dr. Sam Ramnuttan, Dr. Steve Butt, Ms. Johanna Wells, Dr. David Peterson, and Dr. Gejji Raghwenda.

• University Libraries

Dr. Maureen Mickus, associate professor of occupational therapy, co-authored an article published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society (JAGS) on “Attitudes, Experiences, and Interest in Geriatrics of First-Year Allopathic and Osteopathic Medical Students.”

• College of Health and Human Services

• Faculty Accolades

- Assistant Professor and Engineering Librarian Edward Eckel published an article, “Fostering Self-Regulated Learning at the Reference Desk” in the Fall 2007 issue of Reference & User Services Quarterly, volume 47, no.1, pages 16-20. His article discusses the literature of self-regulated learning and tutoring to show how reference librarians can have a significant educational impact on students at the reference desk, particularly with regards to developing information literacy skills.

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- 10 years – Dr. Damon Sutton, a MAE professor
- 20 years – Dr. Gejji Raghvendra, an ECE associate professor
- 25 years – Dr. David Lyth, a mechanical engineering professor
- 30 years – Dr. Margaret Liou, an associate professor in the Department of Industrial Design
- 35 years – Dr. Steve Butt, an ECE associate professor
- 40 years – Dr. James Kamman, a MAE associate professor and Dr. Sam Ramrattan, an IME professor
- 45 years – Dr. Peter Parker, a PCI professor
- 50 years – Ms. Janet Liebendorfer, an office co-ordinator
- 55 years – Dr. Peter Parker, a PCI professor
- 60 years – Ms. Johanna Wells, an office associate in the CEAS Dean’s Office.

Learning about aerodynamics and drag was the goal for 21 area middle-schoolers who studied, designed, and shaped their own cars in a CEAS fall workshop. Dr. Richard Hathaway, a mechanical engineering professor, led a team of CEAS faculty, administrators, and students in an aerodynamic workshop for Kalamazoo area middle-schoolers. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance students’ understanding of aerodynamics and drag in a way that was fun. Organized in groups of three, students were provided with tapered wooden blocks, axles, and tires. After aerodynamically modifying their blocks, the students located the vehicle’s center of gravity, drilled to locate the axles in a location providing balance. Automotive Instructor, Tom Sutton, explained that the modified vehicles were then tested before and after modifying them so the students could actually evaluate the drag of their vehicles. After designing and building their cars, the teams raced the cars – propelled by CO2 cartridges – down the hall at the Parkview campus. CEAS students who assisted the teams included Qais Alsafaseh, Fadi Abumara, and Abdel Ilah Alshbatat – Ph.D. students in electrical and computer engineering programs; Jacob Nink and Charles Davis – students in the mechanical engineering (ME) master’s program; Anil Koirala, an electrical engineering master’s student; and Brian Silovich and Joey Asmus, ME seniors. Middle-schoolers received achievement certificates, and special certificates were given for the best aerodynamic design and fastest car. This was the final workshop of the Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) @ WMU Engineering program directed by Dr. Ikhas Abdel-Qader and funded by a $245,000 WMU-Kalamazoo Promise Partnership: Promoting Engineering Careers to Female, Minority and Economically Disadvantaged Middle School Students grant provided by WMU President’s 2005 Innovation Fund. Dr. Edmund Tsang, CEAS associate dean who participated in the workshop, and Dr. Sherif Yehia, CCE associate professor, were grant co-contributors.

Dr. Regena Nelson, professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies, was appointed to a three-year board term for Child Care Resources of Southwestern Michigan starting January 2008. CCR is a private, non-profit organization supporting parents, providers and businesses with child care information and referral services.

Dr. Alan Hovestadt, professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, and a long time family therapy educator, researcher, and author was selected to serve on the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Minority Fellowship Program Advisory Committee. On Aug. 30, 2007 the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration awarded the AAMFT $500,000 in federal funding through its Minority Fellowship Program. The AAMFT will use the SAMHSA grant funds to support marriage and family therapy doctoral students in pursuit of training to provide culturally competent mental health and substance abuse treatment to minority/underserved populations. This principal aim is directly related to reducing health disparities among ethnic minorities in the U.S. by filling a crucial need for mental health service providers. Hovestadt, the immediate past president of the AAMFT supported efforts to secure this funding during his term of office (2003-07). The Advisory Committee is charged with assisting in virtually every aspect of the solicitation of candidates, review and analysis of submitted applications, selection of fellows, ancillary training, general stipend use and other related issues requiring the expertise of the group.

Two faculty members in the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies, Dr. Lauren Freedman, chair, and Dr. Karen Thomas, professor and director of the Dorothy

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J. McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic, wrote the book: “Building Confidence in Adolescents: Key Elements That Enhance Proficiency” (2008). Corwin Press: A Sage Company. In her work with Battle Creek schools, Freedman identified four recurring elements while working with inquiry-based instruction accounting for effective readers’ engagement with texts: confidence, independence, metacognition, and stamina. Interviewing and surveying over 120 teachers and 300 students in Michigan, Kentucky, and Texas, the authors found these self-efficacy elements fundamental to success for effective teaching and learning in literacy. In the book the authors discuss classroom conditions and practices that can create more proficient readers in grades 6-12. Jeffrey D. Wilhelm, Professor of English Education at Boise State University says of the book: “A tremendous book. Research shows - and teachers know - that student motivation is a central challenge. This text provides fresh insight into self-efficacy, and essential component of motivation, by exploring what it is how to cultivate it, and how to nurture it in the context of innovative teaching that develops literacy competency in a range of areas.”

Several music faculty members, including a former instructor, were honored at the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) national conference in Louisville, Ky. Brian Wilson (professor) and Mary Scovel (former faculty member) received the AMTA Lifetime Achievement Awards. These awards, the most prestigious presented by AMTA, “recognize a lifetime of commitment and dedication to the profession of music therapy and are bestowed by the AMTA Board of Directors on individuals to signify their having a primary role in the establishment and continued growth of the profession.” Wilson’s 39 years of contributions as a music therapy clinician and educator were noted during the presentation, as well as his service as director of WMU’s Music Therapy Program, a position he has held since 1975. David S. Smith (professor) was presented with the Award of Merit, which honors AMTA members who have “contributed to the development of the profession in a unique and remarkable way.” Smith’s leadership as the first president of the newly-formed AMTA was noted during the presentation remarks, recognizing his efforts at guiding the organization through a challenging time.

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Prize winning theoretical physicist and father of quantum physics, entitled “Max Planck edits the Annalen der Physik, 1906-1918,” has been published as part of “Wiley InterScience,” the international online archive for academic and scientific research in the fields of Science Technology, Medicine, and Scholarship published through Wiley-Blackwell, Inc.

Student Accolades

College of Aviation

Braden McCormack went into the Navy and just graduated from Pilot Training in Meridian, MS. He is now in Lamore, CA training in the F/A 18 E Super Hornet. Joe VanDusen is in Columbus, MS currently in the T-1, will graduate April 4th of next year and hopefully go on to the KC-10 or C-5 aircraft. Both airmen are 2005 graduates of the WMU College of Aviation.

Recent WMU College of Aviation graduate Joel Webley has finished all of his Air Force training and has settled in Kokomo, Indiana. He started flying trips in the tanker very recently and plans to deploy to Insurlik, Turkey in the spring. Joel shared with us that his Air Force training was strenuous, but was glad he accomplished it. His note to the College of Aviation expressed appreciation for everyone’s support along the way.

In addition to securing over a million dollars in grant funding, Theresa lead the efforts to pass a smoking regulation in Berrien County assuring smoke free air in indoor public places and is currently working on starting a dental clinic for those in Berrien without dental coverage.

College of Health and Human Services

Janice Long, Ph. D. candidate in the Interdisciplinary Health Studies program has been nominated for the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award for her work with Latinos in Georgia who have diabetes. This award recognizes individuals who “overcome daunting odds to expand access to health care and social services to underserved and isolated populations in communities across the United States.”

- Stephanie Combs, a doctoral student in the Interdisciplinary Health Studies program was recently nominated as the Kranert School of Physical Therapy, Teacher of the Year at the University of Indianapolis.

Theresa Green, AA-C, MBA and Ph.D. student for the Interdisciplinary Health Studies program is the Director of Community Health Planning for the Berrien County Health Department. As such, Theresa is responsible for resource development for her organization. In 2007, a total of $1,007,436.00 was secured through grant funding and another $995,000 is pending decisions from grant funding agencies. That’s up from her total in 2006 of $887,205.00.

Miguel Centellas, a recent Ph.D. graduate in Political Science, is part of an NSF grant just awarded on “Electoral Systems and Party Personnel: The Consequences of Reform and Non-Reform.” A specialist on Bolivian electoral politics, Centellas will be responsible for the Bolivian case study in the three-year project involving multiple scholars. Centellas is a faculty member at Dickinson College.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Four CEAS students designed, organized, and instructed a three-hour, Saturday-morning science workshop last fall for fifth and sixth graders at Wayland Union Schools as part of their Engineering (ENGR) 3030 Service Learning Design II class. Chemical engineering seniors Dustin Moseley, from Wayland; Jason Thomas, from Holt; and Nathan Tate, from Oscoda; and Paul Pagano, a junior in civil and construction engineering from the Kalamazoo area, led 16 upper-elementary students whose teacher is Lori Howell. According to Dr. Andrew Kline, associate professor in the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI) and the ENGR 3030 instructor, the activities included four experiments designed to “enhance understanding without raising anxiety,” he said. “Our students wanted to

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make it exciting but not scary.” One experiment compared crash results produced when vehicles of different sizes collide with each other, and another involved launching the old war instruments used to hurl rocks. “They launched marshmallows,” Kline said. Other experiments involved electrical circuits and static electricity. Kline credited Mosely and Tate for planning the activities and Thomas and Pagano for helping to execute them. Each activity included about 10 minutes of instruction and 20-30 minutes of hands-on activity. The engineering students provide pre and post tests to the workshop participants, write reports and make oral presentations on their experience, and prepare a final written report on the project. “Doing this gives our engineering students the opportunity to take their skills and understandings off campus and do something with local kids and to learn something too,” said Kline, who also directs the Engineering Design Center for Service Learning (EDCSL), which funded the project. EDCSL was established in Fall 2003 with grants from the National Science Foundation and the Corporation for National and Community Service / Learn and Serve America program.

For the second time, Trent Kenworthy, a senior majoring in industrial engineering (IE), has been voted by his peers to be “Best Teaching Assistant in IME 1420 Engineering Graphics” for Fall 2007. Since Fall 2004, the TAs have selected one person as the top TA at the end of every semester. Last fall, 14 WMU students participated as IME 1420 TAs. He was also “Best TA” in Fall 2006. Kenworthy is presently in his fifth and final semester as a TA for IME 1420. April 2008. To help the new TAs, Kenworthy tries to install confidence. “I share with them how to determine and communicate the criteria for good work,” he said. “I’ve learned that some examples are more helpful than others, and I share what I’ve learned.” In addition to being a TA, he interned at Stryker Instruments for six years, and he spent last summer at Honda in Ohio working on CAD systems and programs. “It’s amazing what you can do in CAD,” he said. “What excites you the most about is that you go from nothing to a complete something,” he said. Originally from Rose City, Kenworthy took CAD classes at Ogemaw Heights High School. He is presently a member of Alpha Pi Mu, the IE honor society, and the Institute of Industrial Engineers. After he graduates this spring, he would like a job “somewhere within driving distance of the university” so that he can continue his education. His next step is an MBA and then an MS in industrial engineering. Slobodan Urdarevik, the lead faculty for IME 1420, initiated the “Best TA Award” when he came to WMU in 2004. With approximately 360 students enrollees each semester, IME 1420 involves 12 to 15 lab sections that are directed primarily by former IME 1420 students.

William Ruhl, a senior in manufacturing engineering technology with options in automotive and cast metals, won a $2,000 College Industry Conference for the Foundry Educational Foundation (FEF) at the national convention held last semester in Chicago. To qualify for the scholarship, he wrote a letter about his work in the casting industry, and he received a letter of recommendation from his supervisor at Michigan Automotive Compressor Inc., in Jackson, where he works in the production engineering die cast division. Ruhl attended the conference with Dr. Sam Ramrattan, WMU professor who serves as technical advisor to the Western Michigan University Student Chapter AFS, and who is a Key Professor for the FEF, and four other seniors: Kyle Beyer, Lauren Lambert, Dave Nufer, and Eli Schmidt. “In addition to having some good speakers, the conference was like a career day where you could present your resume to prospective employers,” he said. “It’s a place where you hope to get good leads.” On the first night, he was taken to dinner by General Motors representatives. Ruhl, who is vice president of WMU’s student chapter of the American Foundry Society (AFS), enjoys making “cool stuff out of metal.” In his spare time, he enjoys playing one of his five guitars. After graduating in April, he would like to acquire a position in either the automotive or the aerospace industry working in casting, maintenance, production engineering, or casting design. “I would like to invent and patent some of my ideas,”
FEF Scholarship.

Casting Lab at CEAS won a CIC William Ruhl in the CEAS Metal competition. First-place winner – Engineering Graphics students at East Jackson High School where he

attended. Coming to WMU from Frankenmuth as a freshman, Ruhl refers to himself as “100% Western.”

An engineering student who is now studying for the ministry and two mechanical engineering students won the 2007 Spring AutoCAD Awards. They were honored in a ceremony before an audience of IME 1420 – Engineering Graphics students who were all eligible for the 2007 fall competition. First-place winner Neil Hubers was a freshman majoring in civil and construction engineering last spring when he enrolled in IME 1420. The Kalamazoo native was surprised at winning because he had not taken drawing courses as a student at Parchment High School. His work last summer with inner city youth in Chicago motivated him to go into the ministry. Second place went to Greg Huizenga, a junior in mechanical engineering from Middleville who interns during the summer at Bradford White, a large water-heating manufacturing operation in Middleville. Huizenga, who completed three drafting courses while attending Thornapple-Kellogg High School, is presently enrolled in the Lee Honors College. In addition to drafting, he enjoys skateboarding and working on cars. Freshman Steven Watters won third place. He took one drafting course at East Jackson High School where he

participated in a special technical program his senior year. Slobodan Urdarevik is the lead faculty for IME 1420, a course that involves 12 to 15 sections and averages about 360 students each semester. This fall he was supported by 14 teaching assistants. For the competition, students create both a two-dimensional AutoCAD drawing and a 3D-solid model of a complicated part. They must show all dimensions and symbols needed for manufacturing. All winners received engraved plaques donated by Dr. Hooks, Inc., a Kalamazoo-based business that specializes in awards, and a gift certificate from Best Buy. Hubers also received a copy of AutoCAD 2007, which was provided by Edutronics LLC based in Troy.

Andrew Sigler, who graduated in Dec. 2007 with a BA in Paper Engineering, finished his college experience with an innovative senior design project that raised money for the Kalamazoo Humane Society. He designed Christmas cards, manufactured the cardstock paper used for the cards from recycled pulp, printed them, and marketed them in the Kalamazoo area. He said that completing the project not only raised money for charity but it also showcased the resources and capabilities of the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI). “We can complete every step in the manufacturing and marketing of greeting cards,” he said. According to Sigler the senior design project resulted from an earlier project he had done with Ts’ai Lun (Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industry – TAPPI), a WMU organization for students majoring in paper engineering, paper science and chemical engineering. Sponsors for the project were Fox 17 News and the Kalamazoo Humane Society. His advisor for the project was Dr. John Cameron. Originally from Livonia, Sigler is now a process engineer at MeadWestvaco in Evadale, TX.

Andrew Sigler, WMU alumnus, used his senior design project to showcase WMU print facilities and to support Kalamazoo Humane Society.

College of Education

- Congratulations to Milos Galic, graduate student in exercise physiology in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, who was awarded a Graduate College Student Research Grant for his thesis project “Effects of Different Intensity Bouts of Resistance Exercise But Equal Work on Excess Post-Exercise Oxygen Consumption.”

On Nov. 11, Aimee Pienta, the WMU Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program clinical coordinator, and Jennifer O’Donoghue, program director, organized a trip for 36 WMU Undergraduate Athletic Training Majors to the Fourth Annual Athletic Training Student Seminar and Bowl held at Central Michigan University. The seminar and bowl were attended by 136 students from 11 CAATE-accredited programs. At the end of the day, 23 teams from 11 schools competed in the Fourth Annual MATS Bowl, a knowledge-based competition. After two rounds

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of grueling competition and suspenseful sudden death overtime, the WMU team came in third place. This is the second year the WMU-ATPP has attended this event and the first time it has competed in the MATS Bowl. The WMU-ATPP is very proud of Michael Wieczorkowski, Erin Thorne, and Molly Mattea for representing the program well.

College of Fine Arts

Two School of Music alumni have been retained by pop stars Sheryl Crow and Enrique Iglesias for concert tours. Nayanna Holley (BM 2007), who recently toured with Queen Latifah, has signed on to be a backup singer with Sheryl Crow for the year, and bass player Joe Ayoub (BA 2002) has joined the band for Enrique Iglesias’ world tour.

Graduate College

Graduate Assistant to the Coordinator of Theses and Dissertations and MFA candidate in the Department of English, Cindy St. John, has several recent and upcoming publications. Four prose poems, “Self-Portrait, Today,” “Self-Portrait, 18th Century,” “Self-Portrait, 1950s,” and “Self-Portrait, Two Months Ago,” were recently included as part of the anthology “Upstart Crows” by Wide Array publishing. Her review of Linda Hull: Collected poems, appeared in the Fall 2007 issue of “Third Coast,” WMU’s own graduate run literary journal. Her poem “From My Second Floor Apartment” is forthcoming this month in “The Santa Clara Review,” and two more poems, “Self Portrait as Cindy Sherman” and “Self Portrait as Tuesday” have been accepted for publication by “The Florida Review.”

Upcoming Events

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

The 2008 Engineers Week Dinner is set for Tues., Feb. 19, 2008, in the Fetzer Center. Keynote speaker for the event is Robert (Bob) Williamson, a consultant, award-winning author, and educator from Strategic Work Systems, Inc. According to the company Web site, Strategic’s motto is “The People Side of Lean Equipment Management.” Williamson has studied NASCAR racing as a model for improving the way people work together and focus on improving equipment performance. His topic will include what he has learned from NASCAR race teams and how he has applied those lessons at companies that range from manufacturing to mining to utilities. The event is sponsored by the Southwestern Michigan engineering societies to celebrate National Engineers Week. CEAS faculty and administrators who are involved with the event include Dr. Jorge Rodriguez, an associate professor in Dept. of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME); Dr. Peter Parker, Department of Paper Engineering office, Chemical Engineer-

ing, and Imaging (PCI); Sharon Van Dyken, CEAS advising office; Johanna Wells, CEAS office associate; and Scot Conant, CEAS recruitment. Full-time students who are enrolled in a four-year degree program in the WMU College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, who are U.S. citizens, who have completed at least 26 total semester hours and who agree to attend the Engineer’s Week Dinner to receive the scholarship, are invited to apply for Engineers Week Scholarships. Applications are available in the Advising Office, Room E-102 CEAS, and are due back to the Advising Office on February 8, 2008.

On Monday, March 19, 2008 CEAS Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI) is offering Flexo Day for the imaging students to learn about the printing process called Flexography. The annual event connects imaging students with companies involved in imaging. According to Larry Ahleman, PCI Master Faculty Specialist who coordinates the annual event, it generally includes featured speakers and/or a panel discussion, and table-top exhibits. “Last year we had 14 table tops,” he said. The event provides an opportunity for students to network and to learn about job opportunities and internships. All

At a prior Flexo Day, students network with and learn from representatives from companies involved in imaging.

Continued on next page
students (from all colleges – including business and communications and graphic design) are invited and flexo students are required to attend. The event includes a luncheon for flexo students, seniors, and Print Advisory Committee (PAC) members, a group that represents leaders from the print industry who advise the program and keep the program up-to-date as far as supplying current technologies, funding for equipment, and course guidance. “With 21 students, this is the largest flexo class we have had,” Ahleman said. “Our program is growing.”

Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Delta Kappa have invited Billy Staples, an inspirational, motivating and entertaining speaker to present on Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 7 pm in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Staples left a national corporate sales position to pursue a career in teaching resulting in a unique style of teaching that won him several awards including Who’s Who Teacher of the Year and nominations for Disney’s National Teacher of the Year. As a teacher, Billy Staples enjoyed tremendous success. His philosophy of LEARNING + FUN = KNOWLEDGE RETENTION, produced measurable results that surprised parents, teaching peers, and administrators. Students putting in real effort in his class were rewarded with a trip to visit with a well-known athlete or entertainer and to learn who these accomplished people were before they were famous. The trips became some of the most unforgettable days in the lives of Billy’s students with positive results. Since it was impossible to take millions of kids on these same visits, the idea of a book series evolved. He sold the idea to anyone who would listen, in or out of baseball, never taking “No” for an answer and never losing sight of his book’s potential to reach the young and the young-at-heart. The first book in the series has been published. “Beyond the Glory” is a fabulous, inspirational read about the surprisingly challenging childhood experiences of twenty household names in baseball. In 2004 he co-founded CAPERS as a way to help pay for the college education of any Bethlehem, PA, high school students needing financial assistance. To date, the organization has sent over 57 financially challenged students to college without a single dropout. Billy’s presentation is a must for all educators. His speech will be followed by a book signing ($15). No reservations are necessary, but early arrival is recommended.

The Western Michigan University Symphony Orchestra will be featured on the opening concert of the Michigan Music Conference on January 24th in Grand Rapids. To be selected for this distinction, the orchestra was required to submit an application and recording of a recent performance. Conductor Bruce Uchimura has programmed works by Kabalevsky, Rachmaninoff, and Shostakovich, including the final movement of Rachmaninoff’s Second Piano Concerto featuring faculty soloist Lori Sims. The concert is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in DeVos Place Performance Hall.

Winter Concert of Dance featuring Doug Varone’s Strict Love and Anthony Tudor’s Dark Elegies will be presented in Chenery Auditorium at 714 S. Westnedge Avenue February 8 at 8:00 pm and February 9 at 2:00 and 8:00 pm. Tickets are available through the Miller Auditorium Box office at 269-387-2300 and cost $16.00 for adults, $12.00 for seniors, WMU faculty and Partners in Dance and $8.00 for students. For more information call 269-387-5830.


**College of Education**

The “Knowledge, Power and Social Justice: Educating Children Placed At Risk” graduate seminar will take place in the spring of 2008. At least six internationally recognized scholars from North America will be leading the seminars on Wednesday evenings during the spring semester. The purpose of this course is to examine a variety of issues such as social justice, diverse ways of producing knowledge, and unequal power relations that are related to educating children who have been placed-at risk. The schedule is available at: http://www.wmich.edu/gearup/.

Dr. Allison Downey, assistant professor in The Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies, and Dr. John Austin, professor in The Department of Psychology, will release their new CD at a concert on Jan. 26, 9 pm, at the Little Theatre. More information is available at: http://www.wmich.edu/littletheatre/.

John Austin and Allison Downey will release a CD at the Little Theatre on Jan. 26.
topics to family care giving also will be discussed. The presentation will end with suggestions for future directions in disability and public health and a question and answer period. The University community is cordially invited to Dr. Crews’ presentation and the reception that follows. The hour-long presentation will begin at 11:45 am in Room 1010 of the College of Health and Human Services Building on Oakland Drive. In October, 2007, Dr. Crews received the Alumni Achievement Award from WMU’s College of Arts and Sciences. He has nearly eighty publications, including recent papers in the “American Journal of Public Health” and the “Annual Review of Public Health “as well as entries in the “Encyclopedia of Public Health” and the “Encyclopedia of Disability.” His first book, “Vision Loss in an Aging Society,” was published in 2000 and translated and published in Japan in 2003. His second book, “The Multiple Dimensions of Caregiving and Disability,” is forthcoming.

CHHS will host a Planning Session for WMU’s Foster Youth & Higher Education Initiative Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008 at 9:00 am. The event will be held in the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS), room 4010. WMU’s administrative leaders and staff, as well as interested faculty working in areas of student and academic support are invited to attend to this planning day. We hope to have at least one representative from each student and academic support department/program on WMU’s campus. The planning day has a threefold purpose: (1) to present WMU’s new Foster Youth & Higher Education Initiative; (2) to learn about the issues and struggles that students coming from foster care experience; and, (3) to get input and guidance on initiative planning from WMU’s campus community. After President Dunn gives a welcome at 9 am, participants will hear about the unique needs of WMU students that arrive to our campus after exiting the foster care system, and learn about the initial stages of planning for the initiative. During the second half of the meeting participants will be invited to join a facilitated discussion to give input, guidance, ideas and clarify role contribution for university partners. The discussion will be facilitated by the social marketing firm of W.J. Schroer from Battle Creek. The results of the discussion will be used in continued planning efforts. Participants will be invited to actively join in the planning process by sharing their ideas, comments, insights, & feedback! If anyone has questions prior to the event please contact any of the following members of the planning team: Penny Bundy (Admissions) 387.2010, Penny.Bundy@wmich.edu; Mark Delorey (Financial Aid) 387.6037, Mark.Delorey@wmich.edu; Yvonne Unrau (Social Work) 387.3185 Yvonne.Unrau@wmich.edu.

Extended University Programs invites department chairs and faculty members to experience WMU outside of Kalamazoo. Craig Kaml, associate dean of EUP, and branch campus directors are hosting a series of lunches to introduce you to the branch campuses. Tour the facility, talk with staff, and hear from faculty members who teach at branch campuses. Transportation will be provided to the Southwest Campus Feb. 1, the Grand Rapids Campus on Feb. 8, and the Battle Creek campus Feb. 15. Departure from Ellsworth Hall each day is at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:45 p.m. Return to Kalamazoo by 3:30 p.m. Please RSVP your attendance by January 30 by calling Linda Walker at 7-4208 or by visiting www.eup.wmich.edu/lunch. Contact Craig Kaml, associate dean of EUP, at craig.kaml@wmich.edu or 7-4198 with any questions.
The College of Health and Human Services is offering its students, faculty and staff the opportunity to participate in a college-wide reading event this spring. Members of the WMU community who are not affiliated with the college are also encouraged to participate. The book selected for the reading event is entitled “The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down,” by Anne Fadiman. The book and the related “read” events provide an opportunity for the college and university community to discuss critical issues in health care, ethics and cultures. The “read” begins with a kickoff event at 4:00 on February 27, 2008 in room 1010 of the CHHS building. The event speaker is Dr. Ia Kue, a first generation Hmong woman who is a family practice physician in the Lansing area who has been involved in the national discussion of this book.