University Libraries

Items of Academic Interest

Patrons of Waldo Library should be aware of a major shift in the location of books. Space always comes at a premium for libraries. The more University Libraries acquires to meet the teaching, learning, and research needs of students and faculty, the more available space to present the materials becomes an issue. The last major renovation at Waldo Library occurred twenty years ago. Library planners have a standard for the utilization of available shelf space in projecting 20 years out. We have filled that space! Frequent library users will thus note that customary items will have shifted the next time they visit Waldo. Some books have been moved to off-site storage (and these can be requested at Access Services and delivered to Waldo within 24 hours) and others have been regrouped on stacks from a few feet to a floor away from a familiar block of shelving. Dean Reish requests patience from library users as they relocate the materials in their major disciplinary field of interest.

Faculty Accolades

Professor Michele Behr, off-campus librarian, has been invited to present the keynote address at the New England Library Network meeting on resource sharing at Quinebaug Valley Community College, Danielson, Conn., June 19. The title of her presentation is “Supporting Off-Campus Users.”

Dr. Barbara Cockrell, associate dean for Collections and Technical Services, and Ms. Julie Hayward, director of Resource Sharing, hosted the statewide meeting of the Council of State University Library Directors/Deans (COLD) for the Cooperative Collection Development Discussion Group and the Cooperative Interlibrary Loan Discussion Group. The daylong event occurred at Waldo Library, Friday, May 15. Representatives of state public universities attended from Central, Michigan State, Wayne State, and Ferris State Universities as well as Oakland and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Activities included presentations, discussions and round robin reporting (see photo next page).
On May 12, Dean Joseph G. Reish testified in Lansing before a Senate appropriations panel dealing with the 2009-10 budget of the Department of Education. At issue was the budget of the “Library of Michigan” (the state agency for the dispersal of state and federal funds to libraries), which had already been reduced by the Governor’s Executive for this current fiscal year and a proposed Senate reduction for next year. A member of the Executive Board of the Michigan Library Association, he joined public library colleagues to voice what negative impact further cuts to the budget would have on materials, services, and users of all libraries from public/district, to K-12 as well as to academi. Equity of information access through databases and borrowing of books was underscored. State supported libraries serve all echelons of Michigan’s citizenry from rural to urban communities. Access to electronic databases provided by the Library of Michigan through the Michigan Electronic Library and the state-wide borrowing of books through the Michigan Electronic Catalog represent the great equalizer for rich or poor and for Upper or Troll. Regarding collections at WMU, Reish noted that all or portions of the 45 databases could disappear. University Libraries would need to find new monies in the amount of $420K to buy these electronic resources. More realistically, the price of those databases that WMU Libraries define as essential for its users would equate to $250K. Reish told senators, “We still have users from the community at large from youths to seniors. These populations are more served through city, district, and school libraries. But we all depend upon the state-wide borrowing system through MelCat.” Reish invited senators to visit with University Library professionals on the Capitol grounds on May 27 for “WMU Day at the Capitol.” He and his team will demonstrate how well students, faculty, and community members are served with the financial resources currently allocated by the state.

The Friends of University Libraries honored Ms. Kathy Gerow, office coordinator, University Libraries, with a lifetime membership in the organization. Ms. Gerow has coordinated marketing, mailings, and program arrangements for the Friends for over a decade. She received praise and a plaque from Ms. Kathy Rike, Friends president, at the spring membership meeting, May 13, in the Edwin and Mary Meader room of Waldo Library.

Extended University Programs

Items of Academic Interest

Assistant Professor Yechiel Shalom Goldberg, Ph.D. of California State University, Long Beach came to Kalamazoo on May 6, 2009, to attend the International Congress on Medieval Studies. As a result of his travel, Goldberg, from the Department of Religious Studies, needed to make alternative arrangements to fulfill his teaching obligations for that day. The best option for his course entitled “Hell and Heaven in Judaism,” which explores the history of Jewish views on judgment and the afterlife, was to teach the class via teleconference. With the help of staff from WMU’s Academic Technology and Instructional Services (ATIS) and Cal State’s Advanced Media Production (AMP) unit, Goldberg was able to arrange the teleconference so that his students could meet with him at the usual class time. According to Goldberg, “the ability to hold class across two-thirds of the continent meant that my students and I were able to stay on schedule with the syllabus and engage in the kind of interactive learning that is essential to this course. My students and I are grateful to the entire staff of ATIS and AMP for enabling this to happen.”
Student Accolades

Extended University Programs congratulates student Chad Rogers for being selected to receive the Capital Area Higher Education Network (CAHEN) Outstanding Adult Learner Award. Chad’s enthusiasm and passion for the natural world and environmental protections brought him to MSU where he pursued his B.S. in Environmental Science and Policy Studies with a specialization in environmental economics. Currently, he is initiating a neighborhood watch program, volunteering at the Air and Waste Management Association Annual Conference this June, coordinating an annual Earth Day outing in downtown Lansing in support of sustainable urban development and volunteering at this local church. Chad will graduate from WMU with his Masters in Public Administration with a concentration in Public Management. He says, “I hope to use skills gained with my MPA to influence policy decisions within the environmental regulatory field in a way that promotes social and environmental equity, the protection of public health, and the conservation of our environmental and natural resources now and for future generations.” The Outstanding Adult Learner Award was developed by CAHEN in an effort to honor the outstanding accomplishments and contributions, both inside and outside the classroom, of a non-traditional student meriting special recognition. CAHEN is consortium of area educational intuitions whose mission is to create awareness of educational programs for non-traditional students in the Lansing area. Member schools have a physical facility locally and offer degree programs designed for working adults.

Graduate College

Items of Academic Interest

On Thurs., May 14, University of Michigan hosted the Michigan Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) writing conference for AGEP scholars. The one day workshop covered topics including enhancing professional skills; grant preparation; writing your dissertation; submitting work for publication; library resources; applying for fellowships and more. Attendees from Western Michigan University were Greg Love; Ashley McKinney; Tova Samuels; Cheyla Milo; Sean Goudy; Stephanie Means; and Wanda Rodriguez. The Michigan AGEP Alliance is comprised of Wayne State University, University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Western Michigan University. It recruits, supports and mentors underrepresented minority students who earn doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The AGEP program is intended to increase significantly the number of domestic students receiving doctoral degrees in the STEM fields, with special emphasis on population groups underrepresented in those fields (i.e., African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders). In addition, AGEP is particularly interested in increasing the number of minorities who will enter the professoriate in these disciplines. The specific objectives of the AGEP program are to develop and implement innovative models for recruiting, mentoring and retaining minority students in STEM doctoral programs and to develop effective strategies for identifying and supporting underrepresented minorities who want to pursue academic careers.

Dean Lewis Pyenson of the Graduate College attended Michigan Graduate Education Day at the capitol on Thurs., April 23 in Lansing. The event was presented by the Michigan Council of Graduate Deans. More than 60 graduate students from 15 Michigan colleges and universities displayed their graduate research and discussed with legislators such issues as innovation, economic development and environmental protection. Michigan Rep. Pam Byrnes, D-Lyndon Township, and Sen. Randy Richardville, R-Monroe, spoke in support of Michigan Graduate Education Week, which ran from Mon., April 20 to Fri., April 24. The event was designed to highlight the importance of graduate education in Michigan and the impact it will have on employment opportunities and the quality of life throughout the state in the years to come. “To attract and grow quality jobs, we must have the best trained, best educated work force,” Gov. Jennifer Granholm said during her Feb. 3 State of the State address. On display from Western Michigan University were posters by five WMU graduate students. Zhanay Sagintayev, a Geosciences doctoral student whose advisor is Dr. Mohammed Sultan, exhibited “GIS Applications for the Renewable Groundwater Resources in Afghanistan and Pakistan.” The poster by Iliana Dumitriu, a Physics doctoral student advised by Dr. Nora Berrah, dealt with “Inner-shell Photodetachment of Negative Ions.” Elsy Kizhakethalackal, an Applied Economics doctoral student whose advisor is Dr. Mark Wheeler, displayed her poster on “The Empirics of health-aid and Infant Mortality: A Semiparametric Study.” Another Applied Economics doctoral student advised by Dr. Mark Wheeler showed a poster that answered the question “Does Foreign Aid Reduce Poverty?” Finally, Aruna Weerasinghe, a Chemistry doctoral student whose advisor is Dr. Ekkehard Sinn, displayed his poster “New Sensors for the Detection of Chromium and Mercury.”
Student Accolades

Natalie Giarratano, Ph.D. candidate in Creative Writing and assistant to Ms. Jennifer W. Holm, coordinator of dissertations at the Graduate College, has had her poem “Almost Washout” accepted for the Summer 2009 issue of Front Porch. “Almost Washout” is a poem that confronts the way memory can mutate relentlessly and without warning. Front Porch is an online journal that publishes four issues a year consisting of work by emerging and established writers of fiction, poetry, non-fiction, reviews, interviews, and audio/video of interviews. The journal is published by the students in the M.F.A. program at Texas State University and was established in 2006.

Richard Seim, a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology, has been awarded a $500 prize for his essay written for The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations (ISSCSC) conference at Western Michigan University’s Fetzer Center on June 3-7. The ISSCSC’s current president is Dr. Andrew Targowski, Business Information Systems. The conference title is Civilization/Cultures in a Time of Change and Crisis, and Mr. Seim has authored a paper “The New Enlightenment: The Age of Consilience in the Sciences” that addresses the coming together of various disciplines to solve problems facing all. The conference addresses issues such as poverty, population demographics, economic turmoil, global economic growth/chaos, societal breakdown, epidemics, public health, climate change, ecological degradation, depletion of natural resources, political destabilization as reflected in terrorism and warfare, war and peace, and exploring historic precedents in responding to crisis and change.

The Graduate College is pleased to announce that two doctoral students have been named recipients of the Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowships for Spring 2009. The fellowships, which will be given at least annually, are made possible by a generous endowment from the estate of the late poet, artist, and naturalist Gwen Frostic, Western Michigan University Class of 1929. These competitive fellowships assist doctoral students in all fields with dissertation expenses, including tuition and fees, materials, and travel. There were two Spring 2009 Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowship recipients. Jamie McCandless, History, was awarded $4,000 for his dissertation “The Dominicans and Their Laity: Religious Culture in Late Medieval Germany.” Using his language skills in medieval Latin and medieval German, Mr. McCandless proposes to travel to archives in Germany to study documents which will reveal the multifaceted connections between the laity and Dominican convents in late medieval Germany. His dissertation advisor is Dr. Robert Berkhof III, professor of History. Julie Ryan, Biological Sciences, was awarded $4,000 for her dissertation “Individual, Population, and Community-Level Effects of Disease in a Predatory Fish.” In her dissertation, Ms. Ryan will concentrate on Michigan trout streams and continue her research on the nature of interactions between microsporidian parasites and their invertebrate and fish hosts. This research represents one of the first attempts to quantify parasite effects on fish at the individual, population, and community levels. Her dissertation advisor is Dr. Steven Kohler, director, Environmental Studies program.

Upcoming Events

Graduate Students of Color (GSOC) held their 2009 Spring Reception on April 4th at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. The organizers were honored to have the Reverend Dr. Walter Brame, president and chief executive officer of the Grand Rapids Urban League, as the guest speaker. With more than 30 years in non-profit management, Dr. Brame spoke inspiringly on issues of interest to a diverse audience of more than 50 people. His talk was preceded by an invocation by Tony Dennis, director, graduate student recruitment and retention and a song selection by Meagan McNeal, a senior at WMU who is majoring in Business Marketing. While guests enjoyed a buffet style dinner, GSOC chair and master’s student in Counseling Psychology Cheyla Milo presented the Griselda Daniel Award to Dr. Lonnie Duncan of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology. Yazmine Watts, PhD candidate in Political Science, presented the student awards. They went to Essence Roberts for Outstanding GSOC and Campus Involvement, Tamer Elkafrawy for Outstanding Academic Achievement and Scholarship and Lloysa Colon for Outstanding Community Service and Volunteer Work. The spring reception planning committee consisted of Alicia Austin, Lloysa Colon, Tova Samuels, and Yazmine Watts. Cashmier Broten was the grant writer.

College of Education

Items of Academic Interest

In response to the need for completing a degree or approval in special (adapted) physical education, the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation will offer a hybrid online program for a master’s degree and state approval in special (adapted) physical education, starting in fall 2009. A master’s degree requires a total of 36 credit hours of coursework, including up to 27 online hours and at least nine traditional face-to-face hours. A state approval requires a total of 22 credit hours of coursework, including up to 13 online hours and at least nine traditional face-to-face hours. This program is designed to prepare physical education teachers to provide quality special (adapted) physical education for school children with disabilities in the least restrictive, most appropriate, and most inclusive environments. Program graduates will have knowledge, skills, and experience in teaching students with disabilities fundamental motor skills and patterns, physical and motor fitness, as well as skills in aquatic, dance, individual and group games and sports, and leisure and recreational skills. Graduates will be endorsed to

Continued on next page
teach physical education for children with disabilities with a valid teaching certificate in physical education or special education depending on certification process in state of residence. Dr. Jiabei Zhang, professor, serves as program coordinator and advisor.

Faculty Accolades

Dr. Jerry McLaughlin, assistant professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, has an article titled “Discourse or Cognition: An Introduction to Discursive Psychology” in press in the summer 2009 issue of the Journal of Systemic Therapies. The paper offers a critique of cognitive psychology, offers discursive psychology as an alternate theory, and focuses on the implications for therapists drawing on a discursive psychology versus a cognitive psychology approach.

Dr. Marlene Breu, professor emerita in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, gave a presentation titled Expressions of Faith and Identity: Sacred Artifacts in the Armenian Orthodox Churches of Istanbul in New York City on Sat., May 16. The presentation, based on research conducted in collaboration with colleague Dr. Ron Marchese of the University of Minnesota at Duluth, was given at a day-long symposium, “The Armenian Community of Istanbul: Perspectives on Past and Present” sponsored by the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) in New York City.

Student Accolades

The State Farm Foundation provided financial assistance to twenty students who pursued their intern teaching during the 2009 spring semester. Awards, valued at $1,000 each, were made based upon the following criteria:

- commitment to pursue a career in public education
- experience in urban settings and/or schools struggling to meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress)
- financial need
- preparation to teach in core academic subject areas
- special circumstances impacting the applicant
- scholarship

A reception was held on Wed., April 22 in Lansing to honor recipients of the State Farm Foundation Intern Teaching scholarship and State Farm for its gift to the College of Education. Legislators from the hometowns of recipients attended this event, hosted by WMU’s Development Office. In addition, Dr. John Dunn, staff and faculty members of the College of Education, student’s family members, mentor teachers, and university coordinators were also present at this ceremony.

Lateshia Agnew, master’s student in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, is the recipient of the 2009 STAR Award in the category of College Volunteer. The STAR (Sharing Time and Resources) Awards, honoring community volunteers, are given annually by the Kalamazoo Gazette and the Volunteer Center of Greater Kalamazoo. John Davis, community-resource coordinator for the Michigan Department of Human Services, nominated her for her hours spent in the children’s corner in the DHS office. There she read stories, played games and made art projects with children who accompanied their parents to appointments. Agnew also worked with the Kids’ Connection mentoring program, organizing group activities for children in the program and serving as an energetic volunteer recruiter at events such as Western Michigan University’s Bronco Bash and the Black Arts Festival. She also has volunteered with ISAAC, an interfaith social-justice group, and served on the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force.
Eta Sigma Gamma–Gamma Mu is one of 84 active and self-regulating collegiate chapters of the health education honorary across the United States. Following a series of focus groups conducted among students, this chapter received a grant from Prevention Networks of Lansing, Michigan for the Western Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention (WASAP) Project. During the first year, the project established an advisory board that brought together major community/university stakeholders to form a coalition against underage and binge drinking at WMU. WASAP provided alcohol use and abuse prevention education designed to change social norms for the use of alcohol on campus. A shift in attitude towards having fun was designed around the provision of alcohol-free Battle of the Bands (called WASAP-BOB) in the fall. Alcohol use education sessions (targeting student groups) and a letter writing campaign were designed and implemented. Compliance checks with Michigan laws on alcohol retailing are planned in cooperation with community groups in Kalamazoo. In a special recognition ceremony in Lansing on April 30, WASAP was given a model project award for conducting the Model Substance Abuse Prevention Project. For further information, contact Dr. Amos Aduroja, professor.

The fashion industry came alive for 12 students of the Family and Consumer Sciences Textiles and Apparel Program when they visited New York City for five days from April 28-May 2. Students first researched businesses and made presentations to the class before the tour. While in New York they visited a variety of fashion businesses and retailers, including headquarters of French Connection, Doneger Group (fashion forecasters), Brooks Brothers, Bergdorf Goodman, Dolce and Gabbana, Bloomingdale’s and Macy’s. Professionals at each location gave presentations about the business, their specific jobs, and information about the industry in general. Visits to retailers included store tours to discuss concepts of visual merchandising, allocated space for designers, and more. Students also visited the Fashion Institute of Technology where they talked with students, visited the current museum exhibition, and had a talk by a former FIT student from Coach. Students were required to complete two assignments while in New York. They selected museums, retailers and other venues to study and collect information. The tour was under the direction of Dr. Marlene Breu, professor emerita.

Allison Buller, doctoral student in counselor education in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology and Dr. Norman Kiracofe, professor emeritus, published an article on “Mandated Disciplinary Counseling: Working Effectively with Challenging Clients” in the spring 2009 issue of the Journal of College Counseling. The paper explores student dynamics and other issues influencing the efficacy of mandated counseling in college counseling settings and recommends counseling readiness interventions to mitigate reactance issues that can be barriers to effective counseling outcomes.

Upcoming Events

The on-campus Reading Tutoring Program will be held July 7-July 30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. This is an exceptional opportunity for school-aged children who need supplemental instruction in reading, writing and/or study skills. More information is available at: http://www.wmich.edu/coe/spls/clinic/.
The WMU Formula Racing Team of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), with the help of the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, recently wrapped up its most productive year at the 2009 Formula SAE® Michigan competition. The WMU team successfully completed all events at the competition, which requires teams to design and build a formula-style racecar. Judging is based not only on the car’s dynamic performance, but also on the team’s ability to present the car’s design, cost, and marketability to an expert panel of judges. Jeff Terry, the 2008-09 Formula Racing project manager, led the design team leaders Brian Doorlag, Geoff Van Gemert, Dirk Hayford, Michael Nienhuis, and Jeremiah McClintock. “By completing every event at competition, we accomplished something that has never been done before,” Van Gemert said. WMU earned an overall 42nd place out of about 100 teams that came from around the world to compete in the weeklong event held annually at the International Speedway in Brooklyn, MI. An axle problem two laps from the finish disqualified last year’s car during the endurance event, so passing the endurance event was a major success this year. “It was exhilarating to see the car complete the 22-mile endurance race,” said Dr. Claudia Fajardo, SAE adviser. SAE treasurer Chris Hartman said that completing all the events coupled with the judges’ feedback would “go a long way to establishing WMU’s legacy program and enabling the team to do better next year and in the years to come.” The car had been officially unveiled at a Parkview Campus ceremony held a few days before the team left for competition. Prior to the unveiling, the team competed for the first time at Formula SAE Virginia at the Virginia International Raceway in Alton, VA, where it placed 15th overall.

The Formula SAE team with its 2009 car at its recent unveiling: From left Brian Silovich, Nate Urban, Eric Brinley, Brian Doorlag, Jennifer Thompson, Geoff Van Gemert, Claudia Fajardo (advisor), Mike Nienhuis, Jeff Terry, Dirk Hayford, Sarah Gerbig, Ernesto Matos, Charley Spitzley, and Chris Hartman.

Last year, the Center for Advancement of Printed Electronics (CAPE) was established to advance the field of printed electronics by facilitating the research and development of materials and printing process. “We do this by providing the research facilities, the researchers, and the knowledge to develop materials, formulate inks, and optimize printing processes,” said Dr. Erika Hrehorova, an assistant professor in the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI) who came to WMU in 2003 and obtained a master’s degree and a PhD. She now works with Dr. Margaret Joyce, the CAPE director and a PCI professor, and a multidisciplinary team of 10 CEAS faculty members from four departments. The goals of the CAPE project include its becoming a world-recognized research center for the advancement and development of printed flexible electronic devices and a world recognized training and education center for printed flexible electronic technologies, and its engaging industrial partners for research and development of state-of-the art printed flexible electronic technologies. CAPE’s work is carried out in several labs. “It’s basically located all over the CEAS,” Hrehorova said. Other members of the CAPE team include Dr. Massood Atashbar, a Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) associate professor; Dr. Bradley Bazuin, an ECE associate professor; Dr. Valery Bliznyuk, an associate professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering; Dr. Paul D. “Dan” Fleming, a PCI professor; Dr. Parviz Merati, chair of Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering; Dr. John Patten, founding director of the Manufacturing Research Center (MRC) and chair of Department of Manufacturing Engineering; Dr. Alexandra (Sasha) Pekarovicova, a PCI associate professor; and Dr. Marian Rebros, a PCI assistant professor. More information about CAPE and its members is available at http://www.wmich.edu/engineer/cape/ or by contacting Joyce at margaret.joyce@wmich.edu.

Coordinating the CAPE project are Dr. Margaret Joyce (left), the CAPE director, and Dr. Erika Hrehorova.
Dr. Mitchel Keil, a professor in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME), is leading a project to understand the causes of heavy-truck rollovers. The project is sponsored jointly by the National Transportation Research Center, Inc. (NTRC), in Knoxville, Tenn., and WMU's Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulations (CAViDS). Several CEAS faculty and students borrowed one of the largest engineering “toys” ever used for a research project – a 48-foot tanker trailer. With Keil as their adviser, Sean Duncan, Taylor Krugh, Madeline McAuley, and Todd Simcina, all seniors enrolled in IME technology programs, used reverse engineering on the tanker truck to recreate all the geometry of a heavy tractor and tanker trailer in order to develop a full-scale simulation model with Pro/ENGINEER. TRITOP photogrammetry, which is a process of deriving geometric properties from photographic imagery, and ATOS 3-D digitizer systems were used to complete the project. The team explained the process used and the results of their six-month study in a senior design project titled “Modeling a Heavy Truck for Rollover Stability,” which was presented in April. “We built a full-scale 3-D model of a heavy truck for rollover simulation and testing,” said Duncan. Their model allows for testing of tractor and trailer together or as separate components. In addition, the model allows researchers to examine specific parts of each component. The primary benefit of the research will be to save lives because 52 percent of all truck driver fatalities are the result of rollovers. The model will also save time and cost. Others who assisted in the project include Dr. Richard Hathaway, Dr. Betsy Aller, Dr. Kapseong Ro, Dr. Upul Attanayake, and Dr. Paul Engelmann. The model was developed for CAViDS for further simulation analysis of rollovers.

Showcasing an article that lauded their presentation at the 113th Metalcasting Congress are (left to right): Dr. Tycho Fredericks, Dr. Sam Ramrattan, Supretta Amin-Kumar and Dr. Steven Butt.

Faculty Accolades

Three professors and a doctoral candidate from the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME) were featured in the May 2009 issue of Modern Casting for the presentation of their paper at the 113th Metalcasting Congress held in Las Vegas in April. Dr. Steven Butt, Dr. Tycho Fredericks, Dr. Sam Ramrattan, and Supretta Amin-Kumar attended the conference for the presentation of their paper “Safety and Ergonomics Revisited: How Has the Industry Changed in 10 years?” The paper reviews the results of a comparison of information on safety programs that the researchers collected in a recent survey of metalcasters with information on safety programs from 1997. In the Modern Casting article titled “The Best of the Best,” Senior Editor Shea Gibbs describes the IME colleagues’ selection as one of the top three selected by conference attendees. The article provides a summarized description of the contents of the presentation.

Drs. Ala Al-Fuqaha and Dionysios Kountanis, Department of Computer Science (CS) professors who direct the CS Telecommunications Research Lab (TRL), are exploring various facets of smart technology to improve automotive safety and business computing. They were recently awarded a two-year grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to pursue a research and development effort that aims to increase the safety and efficiency of transportation networks. The project includes working closely with MDOT, the University of Michigan, the University of Arizona, HNTB Inc., and Motorola to develop test facilities that evolve state-of-the-art vehicle infrastructure integration (VII) technologies and concepts and also work to grow the overall national and international VII programs. Five WMU student vehicles will be outfitted with MOTO-MESH, a Motorola network from that enables communication between cars. Vehicles will be equipped with sensors so data can be collected from the vehicles through their CANbus systems. “The end result of this is that we will be avoiding accidents and saving lives,” Al-Fuqaha said. Also, Al-Fuqaha and

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Kountanis have been awarded a one-year grant extension from Cisco Systems to design a prototype that aims “to predict information technology (IT) infrastructure failures and performance degradations and control network elements accordingly.” A year ago, with the first Cisco grant, the professors and their team developed an intelligent system to predict infrastructure failures in business systems.

Al-Fuqaha explained that predicting computer failure is important because today’s businesses are highly dependent on information infrastructure, networks, and computers. “We have an intelligent system that can reconfigure this equipment automatically to avoid failure and that will increase the business productivity in general,” Al-Fuqaha said. They have also earned the Technology Development Award (TDA) from the office of the vice president for research (OVPR) to pursue patent and commercialization efforts. For more information, e-mail ala.al-fuquha@wmich.edu or dionysios.kountanis@wmich.edu.

**Student Accolades**

WMU’s Formula Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) team won the 2009 SAE World Congress Student Exhibit Competition held in late April in Detroit. This is the second year in a row that WMU’s CEAS team has won the event. Sarah Gerbig, Zach Tuyls, Paul Rotarius, and Ryan Pringle, all CEAS undergraduates majoring in mechanical engineering in the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE), showcased the technical merit and the business and teamwork aspects of this year’s Formula SAE vehicle design. An additional requirement for this year’s competition was the incorporation of the conference theme “Racing to Green Mobility.” The WMU project was titled “Sustaining the Spirit of Racing: Renewing the Approach.”

Dr. Claudia Fajardo, a MAE assistant professor who serves as SAE adviser, praised the team members for their “outstanding” accomplishment in an activity she described as commercial vehicles. “SAE has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my college career thus far,” Gerbig said. “The opportunity has allowed me to better identify my strengths and give me a better understanding of my future career goals following graduation from WMU.”

At an April ceremony the WMU Graduate College, the Graduate Studies Council, and the Graduate Student Advisory Committee honored 67 outstanding graduate teachers and scholars. Stephanie Coffman-Wolph, a Department of Computer Science (CS) doctoral student, was named one of only ten recipients of the 2008–09 Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Awards. Coffman-Wolph is the instructor of record for CS1060 Introductory Visual BASIC and CS 1120 Computer Science II, a core course of CS majors. In nominating her, Dr. Don Nelson, the CS chair who nominated her, described her as “the most experienced instructor of CS 1120” and her teaching capability as “truly outstanding.” He cited the high scores of her students on the programming master test as evidence of “her commitment to the success of her students and the overall success of the course.” Coffman-Wolph described her course goals as preparing students to become independent programmers. “They should be able to take a set of instructions and create a fully functioning program,” she said. Seven other CEAS graduate students earned 2008-09 Department Graduate...
Teaching Effectiveness Awards:

- **Dania A. Alsaid**, Dept. of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI)
- **Lotfi Ben Othmane**, CS
- **Amanda Glick**, Dept. of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME)
- **Jamie Lynn Groos**, CS
- **Dattaraj Kamalapurkar**, IME
- **Kyle Myers**, Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE)
- **Michael A. Romkema**, Department of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE)

Eight CEAS graduate students won 2008–09 Department Scholar Awards:

- **Lotfi Ben Othmane** – CS
- **Hemant Bohra** – PCI
- **Reem Ahmad El Asaleh** – PCI
- **Mohammed Elbes** – CS
- **Meng-Huang Lu** – MAE
- **Sathya Narasimhan** – IME
- **Phani Chander Sree** – MAE
- **Imad Zyout** – Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE)

From left, Brittany Albin, Mallory Good, and Maggie Gerhart with the first-place trophy they won at the International Cultural and Academic Meeting of Engineering Students (ICAMES) in Istanbul, Turkey.

ICAMES Web page, one aim of the project competition is to bring students and academics from different cultures and countries to Istanbul to showcase their cultures and to enhance cultural understanding among the participants from different cultures, religions and ethnic backgrounds. This year’s competitors came from Turkey (3 teams), USA (2 teams), Sri Lanka, Italy, Latvia, Greece, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Russia, Spain, Slovenia, and Croatia. Purdue University was the other USA team. In addition to winning a trophy, each CEAS presenter received her own printer. “It was a very good experience,” Albin said. Ari-Gur’s nanotechnology research in Brazil is part of an NSF-funded project to provide students with the opportunity to obtain research experience and global understanding. She is PI for the program, which continues this year. During Summer II 2009, from June 25 through Sept. 1, CEAS students will do further nanotechnology research - approximately four weeks at WMU and five and a half weeks in Brazil.

As part of Litho Day, held in early April, CEAS students majoring in imaging programs heard industry representatives discuss the present state of the imaging industry. Several students also earned Graphic Arts Memorial Foundation (GAMF) scholarships. According to **Lois Lemon**, a master faculty specialist in the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI) and the Litho Day coordinator, Litho Day is an annual event held at the CEAS Parkview Campus to bring employers and students together. **Michael Doyle**, a junior in the imaging and production manager for WMU’s Graphic Arts Society, was also credited for his part in organizing. Several book bindery and publishing companies were represented, including Thomson Shore, Malloy, Edward’s Brothers, McNaughton Gunn, and Sheridan Books, which provided lunch from Wally’s Subs. Industry reps Jim Roth, Jack Briegel, Lorrie Minnick, Bill Wearne, Mike Shubel, and Suzanne Clausnitzer addressed print industry issues.

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“Industry professionals spoke about how to prepare students for the workplace in this tough economy,” she said. Lemon said that some of the students received continuing scholarships and some received new scholarships. New scholarship winners include Jessica Sowers, Jessica Taylor, Timothy Pietrack, and Ashley Herrington. Those whose scholarships were continued are Monica Smith, Anne Dixon, Robert Grotans, Jennifer Long, Margaret Rothney, Sarah Grunst, Megan Ward, Christy Root, and Christa Ickowski. The word litho is jargon for lithography, which also known as offset printing, a process based on separation of oil and water. For more information on Litho Day, email lois.lemon@wmich.edu.

Steven Srivastava, an engineering management senior with a supply-chain management minor, and Benjamin Roush, a civil engineering major, have won first and second place respectively in the undergraduate CEAS category of the 2009 WMU Student Competition for the Best Award/Art on Civilization, a competition organized by WMU professor Dr. Andrew Targowski and sponsored by the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations (ISCSC). Srivastava, from East Lansing, earned $350 for his winning entry “Carbon Credits and the Global Trading Market.” It identifies the role of government polices in the success of sustainable transformation and analyzes reasons the US does not have a cap-and-trade system. A member of multiple professional and honor societies, Srivastava advocates for sustainability, which has been the focus of many course projects and papers. He is presently involved in a summer internship for the Michigan State University Anaerobic Digestion Research and Education Center. His future plans include graduate school and a career that helps businesses make environmentally responsible, socially acceptable, and economically profitable decisions. Roush, from Dearborn, earned $250 for “Viable Solutions for Sustainable Urban Water Systems,” which deals with his concerns for the continued availability of clean, fresh water as the global population grows and water supplies shrink. He’s interested in the movement of water in rivers, fascinated by coastlines, and concerned about the continued sustainability of civilization. The Medallion scholar’s future plans include grad school either for sustainable civil engineering materials or for water resource engineering. His career goal is to work for either a civil engineering firm that constructs environmentally friendly buildings or one that maintains waterways. Srivastava and Roush will receive their awards after they present their papers on June 7 in the Fetzer Center’s Putney Lecture Hall, Srivastava at 10 a.m. and Roush at 10:30 a.m.

**Upcoming Events**

According to Abe Poot, engineering lab coordinator for both the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME) and the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE) and an advisor to WMU’s solar car project, the 2005 version of WMU’s Sunseeker solar car will be on the road this summer. On Sat., June 20, the vehicle will be on display at the Kellogg Fitness and Safety Day, held at the Kellogg Center in Battle Creek. “We’ll be an attraction for kids,” he said. Plans are also in the works for the car to be a feature at the Red Barn Spectacular, held at the Gilmore Car Museum in Augusta during the first weekend in August. Later that month, plans call for Sunseeker to tour the state. The planned trip will take the car on roads that outline the state. It will travel north to the Mackinac Bridge via US 31 on the west side of the state and then head south via US 23 along the east side of the state. In early May Sunseeker was a major attraction at the Allegan Area Math & Science Center’s 2009 Eco Races, held at the US-131 Motor Sports Park in Martin. The event focused on the efforts of area middle and high school students to develop small solar powered cars that were then entered into competitive events. Sunseeker student team leaders are Nicholas Killoran, a mechanical engineering senior, and Alex Hoeksema, an electrical engineering senior. For more information on Sunseeker and its future endeavors, check out www.wmich.edu/sunseeker.
WMU dorms, enjoy campus life, and explore the area. They learn about WMU entrance requirements and expectations, take field trips to area foundries, meet professionals in the foundry industry, see real-world technology at work, and explore career opportunities in metal casting. There is no cost to the students who are sponsored by various chapters of the American Foundry Society (AFS) and the North American Die Casting Association (NADCA). Ramrattan has been offering metal-casting workshops every summer for the past 10 years. WMU has had casting programs for more than 100 years. Ramrattan initiated its most recent accreditation when he came to WMU in 1992. Metal casting is currently a program option, but plans are in the works to create a metal casting minor. For more information, contact Ramrattan at sam.ramrattan@wmich.edu.

The Michigan Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (MI-LSAMP) at WMU will welcome 25 students to campus for the Summer Pre-First Year (SPFY) Program, a 4-week experience held during July. As manager of the MI-LSAMP at WMU program, Dr. Andrew Kline, an associate professor in the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, is coordinating an effort that involves faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate assistants from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) and from the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). The participating students plan to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) curricula in either the CEAS or the CAS. The summer students in MI-LSAMP at WMU receive instruction in mathematics, chemistry, biology, physics, technical communication, and academic preparation skills in order to get them off to a fast start as they enter college. Other planned activities include industry tours and networking opportunities with practicing professionals.

According to Kline, most of the participating students will be enrolling as WMU freshmen for the Fall 2009 semester. Three or four of the students have chosen to participate in the WMU summer experience but will be enrolling at one of the other MI-LSAMP alliance institutions: Wayne State University, Michigan State University, and the University of Michigan. Participation (MI-LSAMP) at WMU is coordinated by Dr. Andrew Kline, the MI-LSAMP program manager.

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or University of Michigan. In a similar fashion, seven students enrolling at WMU this fall have selected to attend MI-LSAMP programs at other alliance universities. This is the fourth year WMU has hosted the SPFY. An added feature this year is that WMU will host the All MI-LSAMP Day on July 18, which will bring more than 150 MI-LSAMP students from across the alliance to the WMU campus for a day of activities and camaraderie. For more information, contact Kline at andrew.kline@wmich.edu.

Aaron Williams, an aeronautical engineering major, founded the Rocket Society of Western Michigan University about a year ago. This fall the group’s first rocket plans will be showcased at the 2009 Bronco Bash. Williams has been the driving force behind the establishment of a rocket-oriented organization. During the summer of 2006, Williams, who came to WMU in 2005 from Mattawan after graduating from Paw Paw High School, interned at a Masten Space Systems in Mojave, Calif., which he described as “the center of the new space industry.” His internship was spent building, testing, and tearing apart liquid engines. “It was a great experience,” he said. When he returned to WMU, he founded the Western Rocket Society (WRS) as a “way to get more students involved in rocketry.” During the first year after the WRS was established, a small member base decided on its direction. One of the group’s initial projects involved building an igniter, which is a small rocket that is set off by a spark plug and used to light a larger rocket. “It was a good place to start,” he said. The group continues to work on a small liquid rocket engine that will burn gaseous oxygen and kerosene. “The engine will be a test-stand engine only and is not designed to fly,” he said. It will serve as a technology demonstrator, giving interested students exposure to field of liquid rocketry. “So far the engine design has been completed. Construction will start in the fall when funding is available, he said. Williams explained that he is a strong advocate of private funding of hardware and infrastructure for space travel. He plans to work for a private company after graduation. For more information on the rocket society, contact Williams at aaron.t.williams@wmich.edu.

**Assessment of Student Learning**

The new CEAS Student Innovation Design Center (SIDC), dedicated in February, is the focus of a national promotion to be featured on the Steelcase Web site. At April’s 44th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects (SEDPs), Susan Clark-Warmels, from Steelcase Global Marketing Communications, and Mike Firlik, a Grand Rapids freelance writer, conducted interviews about the SIDC. “We do a lot of research in educational facilities,” Clark-Warmels said. “This [SIDC] is a perfect example of the new way of learning and teaching at universities.” The SIDC contains computers, storage areas, worktables, white boards, and a copy camera so students can make digital photographs of large drawings. It is open 24/7 to seniors enrolled in Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE). **Dr. Richard Hathaway**, the MAE professor who proposed the initial idea for the SIDC as a work area for MAE students to work on SEDPs and who has followed its success since, was one of those interviewed. “I was surprised at how much students and faculty are using this area,” Hathaway said. MAE engineering seniors agreed. Senior **Neal Sheldon** cited the wide variety of tools available as a major asset to project planning, design, and completion. Students also value the open access to the room. Seniors **Brian Doorlag** and **Nate Urban** attributed the success of their project to having the SIDC over Spring Break. “We spent the night here more nights than I care to admit,” Doorlag said. “The computer labs were closed, so we would not have finished the project as well as we did without this room.” Students said that having more computers during peak times would improve the SIDC. “Sometimes even late at night we had to wait for a computer,” Urban said. **John MacKenzie**, a WMU producer/director in faculty support services, taped the interviews.

![Aaron Williams](image1.jpg)

Aaron Williams, an aeronautical engineering major, who is launching the Western Rocket Society, is shown here with the 4-engine rocket-powered vehicle he spent my time worked on in the background.

![SEDP interviews](image2.jpg)

SEDP interviews (from left) John MacKenzie, Susan Clark-Warmels, and Mike Firlik (back to camera), interview MAE seniors Nate Urban and Brian Doorlag.
The senior design project was officially described as a “three-wheeled electric vehicle,” but a more descriptive term for the vehicle designed and built by the team of four senior engineering technology students was a “Frankenstein car,” said team member Jim Callan. The car was built from parts scavenged from a 2003 Formula SAE frame, leftover Sunseeker solar car components, and a 1989 Chrysler LaBaron disassembled as part of a classroom project. “We just filled in the blanks and made it work,” Callan said. The car was designed and manufactured in one semester, which meant many hours – up to six-hour weekdays and 10-hour days on the weekend. “We accomplished our goal in a short period of time by simply putting in a lot of man-hours,” said team member Okwui Atueyi. Both Atueyi and Callan agreed that it was an excellent experience. “Senior design is supposed to be the coming together of everything you’ve learned in school, but we actually learned a whole lot more just doing this project,” Callan said. Last December, Callan, Atueyi, and team mates Jonathan Engels and Joseph Schneider signed up for the senior project proposed by Dr. Pavel Ikonomov, who served as project adviser. Vehicle construction began in December 2008 at the start of Christmas break. “We had to learn some completely new mechanical engineering principles,” Callan said. They all assumed responsibility for key components of the project, and they worked together. “All of our hard work definitely paid off,” Atueyi said. Besides the team, many others were acknowledged for contributing to the project, including Dr. Betsy Aller; Dr. Jorge Rodriguez; the FSAE student team; CEAS technical advisors Glenn Hall, Tom Sutton, and Abe Poot; Matt Johnson from Eaton Corp.; and Sweet Manufacturing.

Joungmin Cho, a senior majoring in chemical engineering at Hanyang University, in South Korea, is spending eight weeks interning in the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI) as part of a program coordinated by the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience [IAESTE]. IAESTE is an organization that facilitates internships that provide students with international work experience. He is working for Dr. Margaret Joyce, a PCI professor, on a project for the Center for Advancement of Printed Electronics (CAPE), a project that Joyce directs. Cho is being trained by Dr. Erika Hrehorova, a new PCI research faculty member. “The objective of his work is to formulate an ink based on polymeric dielectric, which can be used for printed capacitors and field-effect transistors,” Hrehorova said. Cho’s work involves the study of dielectric ink properties and their effect on printability and electrical performance of printed capacitors. Hrehorova said that Cho prints the formulated inks so that the properties of the layers can be studied. “He’ll learn to print simple electrical components and measure their properties; this information will be helpful to us and to him,” she said. “Printed electronics is a very new area so there is a lot to do.” Cho has roommates who are WMU students and said he is enjoying WMU and Kalamazoo. When he returns to South Korea, he said he needs to complete two semesters to earn his BS in Chemical Engineering.

College of Fine Arts

Student Accolades

The graduating seniors from the Department of Theatre recently spent four days in New York City, meeting with industry professionals and alumni and preparing for their entry into the industry. They met casting directors and agents, producers and stage managers, toured theatres and scene shops. Two students secured employment during the brief visit. Kathryn Trantham was hired as a wardrobe mistress on The Guiding Light and Mikey Winslow was hired by the Mark Morris Dance Troupe for their fall production at City Center.
The art of Susan Badger is now on display in the second floor art gallery of the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) on WMU’s Oakland Drive Campus. Badger’s watercolor paintings reflect her lifelong affection for nature and for our quickly vanishing wilderness. In her work, she pays homage to the natural elements that give her a sense of joy and spirituality. The CHHS exhibit includes a sampling of the artist’s work, with subjects from individual flowers to landscapes. Her primary medium is traditionally brush painted watercolors, but she has experimented with ways to combine her love of watercolor with her interest in printmaking. Several works in the exhibit represent this experimentation, combining stenciling with watercolors as an offshoot of the printmaking technique Pochoir. Badger states that the goal of her work is to create “a simple visual dialog with myself, my subject, and the viewer. One of my goals for the viewer is that he or she may experience a small sense of renewed vision and appreciation for the subjects of which I paint.” The WMU campus community and the general public are invited to experience and view the exhibit from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday until July 15, 2009. For more information, contact Gay Walker at (269) 387-3839 or gay.walker@wmich.edu.

Professor Nikola W. Nelson Ph.D. recently completed the book Language and Literacy Disorders: Infancy through Adolescence, a textbook that helps graduate and undergraduate students gain essential knowledge that can inform, and transform, their work with children who need special assistance to acquire language and literacy abilities to meet multiple communication and learning needs. The book will be released in 2010 by publishers Allyn & Bacon, Boston, Mass.

WMU has been awarded a Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad grant for a trans-disciplinary project co-directed by two associate professors, W. F. Santiago-Valles, Ph.D., African studies, College of Arts and Sciences, and Yvette D. Hyter, Ph.D., speech pathology and audiology, College of Health and Human Services. Through “Cultural Connections: A Transnational Curriculum Development Project,” school employees (classroom teachers, principals, counselors, special education personnel such as speech language pathologists) university faculty and graduate students—in the humanities, social sciences, health and human services, area studies, and foreign languages—will travel to Mali and Senegal in West Africa for field work. The goal of the project is to develop a transnational curriculum that engages health care providers, policy analysts and students in thinking critically about global citizenship. It includes:

1. Acquiring knowledge about the causes and consequences of the global market’s impact on education, migration, health, economy, environment, and cultural practices in West Africa;
2. Examining the common causes and shared consequences of globalization in West Africa and the U.S. Midwest; and
3. Incorporating this knowledge into the curriculum at all educational levels, as well as into the provision of health care and the development of public policy alternatives.

For more information, including important dates, participation requirements and a blog, visit www.cultureconnections.org or contact Dr. W. F. Santiago-Valles at (269) 388-3809 or Dr. Yvette D. Hyter at yvette.hyter@wmich.edu.
Faculty Accolades

Dr. Carla Chase was selected to receive the 2008-09 CHHS Excellence in Teaching Award. Her nominators cited her teaching excellence in all three areas of award criteria: Classroom teaching, Creative/innovative work as regards teaching, fieldwork, or supervision, and Teaching that involves interdisciplinary or collaborative activity. They wrote, “Dr. Chase is an exceptional teacher whose knowledge, nurturing nature and sense of humor create an outstanding learning environment for students. She is able to use her vast clinical experience to enhance the students understanding of the implications of the information they are learning.” Nominators also cited Dr. Chase’s interdisciplinary teaching success as co-founder of the interdisciplinary course International Perspectives on the Care of Older People. Dr. Chase will receive a monetary award and other recognition.

Congratulations to Marianne Stark who has been named the Hill-Rom, Celeste Phillips Family-Centered Maternity Care Award recipient. This $10,000 award honors Celeste R. Phillips, RN EdD, an internationally recognized leader and expert in the concept of Family-Centered Maternity Care. This annual grant has been awarded to Stark by the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) for her sabbatical research “The effectiveness of therapeutic showering during labor”. She will be honored at the AWHONN national conference June 30, 2009 in San Diego, Cal.


Eric Vangsnes, Ph.D., PA-C, Chair and Program Director of the Physician Assistant Program, has been recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. As a Fellow, Eric joins a select number of PAs who have distinguished themselves among their colleagues and in their communities for their service to the profession, commitment to advancing health care, and exemplary personal and professional development.

CHHS assistant professor Robert Wall Emerson, Ph.D. and College of Engineering and Applied Sciences professor Koorosh Naghshineh Ph.D. won second place in best overall oral presentation and best clinical oral presentation at KCMS Research Day, April 15, 2009, for the presentation of their hybrid vehicle and blind pedestrian research.

Student Accolades

Three audiology doctoral students (Au.D.)—Tracy Barsheff, Stephanie Helton and Rachel Van Klompenberg—were awarded graduate research grants from the WMU Graduate College in March 2009.

Congratulations Brandi Newkirk, 2004 speech-language pathology alumna and doctoral candidate in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. She recently received the Charles Harrington Graduate Student Award as the top African American graduate student at LSU. She is working in the Language Development and Disorders Laboratory under the direction of Dr. Janna Oetting, completing her dissertation on language development and disorders in the context of linguistic diversity. For project information, visit www.lsu.edu/cdlab/.

Eric Vangsnes
Marianne Stark
Debra Lindstrom-Hazel
Brandi Newkirk
Physician Assistant students, class of 2010, provided a vital service to children of Kalamazoo County on April 13 and 14. Along with nursing students from the Bronson School of Nursing and KVCC, and under faculty supervision, they provided health screenings and physical exams to children enrolled in Head Start. The Head Start Round-up is an annual event in Kalamazoo County. Families bring their preschool aged children to enroll them in the Head Start program for the upcoming school year. Families of children already enrolled came for physical exams, immunizations, lead testing, hearing and vision appointments and dental exams. It’s a fun event, and a wonderful opportunity for the students to interact with preschool children and their families while providing a service to the community.

Members of WMU’s Chapter of the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA) have been sending notes of appreciation and encouragement to military personnel at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. Over 60 cards were sent and arrived for Valentine’s Day and Memorial Day. The cards were accompanied by photographs of WMU first year PA students in various medical training settings. The purpose of the project was to thank our military men and women and brighten their day with a hand written note from home. Major Eric Kennedy, PA class of 1996, is currently stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan. He helped organize the project and provided names and addresses of those serving in his unit. Thank you to Major Kennedy and all of our military personnel serving overseas.

The Department of Occupational Therapy held the first Recognition and Hooding Ceremony on April 25 to recognize the accomplishments of 35 students who received their master’s degree in Occupational Therapy. In addition, OT student Amanda Simpson was presented with the Marion R. Spears award. Nearly 200 family and friends attended the ceremony and associated reception.

**Upcoming Events**

WMU College of Health and Human Services' (CHHS) School of Social Work will host the workshop “Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth” on June 12, 2009, in room 1010, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The event will be presented by Diane Elze, PhD, State University of New York at Buffalo. Fees are required. For more information, call (269) 387-3158.

On July 27, 2009 the CHHS School of Social Work will sponsor “Surviving a Suicidal Crisis: Things You Should Know and Things You Should Do.” The event will be held at WMU’s Traverse City regional site 220 Dendrinos Dr., Traverse City, Michigan, in rooms 215 and 217, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The facilitators will be Randy Wolbert and Gwen Abney-Cunningham of InterAct of Michigan. Fees are required. For more information, call (269) 387-3158 or e-mail questions to melinda.m.mccormick@wmich.edu.
On June 11, 2009, CHHS assistant professor Robert Wall Emerson, Ph.D. and College of Engineering and Applied Sciences professor Koorosh Naghshineh, Ph.D. will meet with a team of prominent members of the automotive industry to discuss their hybrid vehicle and blind pedestrian research. Organized by the Alliance of Automotive Manufacturers, the group includes representatives from most of the major car manufacturers, as well as internationally known experts on sound measurement and automotive standards writing. Other involved WMU representatives are Dr. Richard Long, Dr. David Guth, Dae Kim, and Professor Emeritus Dr. Paul Ponchillia all from CHHS Blindness and Low Vision department.

Haworth College of Business

Items of Academic Interest

Matthew Andreychuk, of Vassar, Mich., a student majoring in telecommunications and information management, won the Best Undergraduate Student Research Paper Award at the 2009 International Telecommunications Education and Research Association Conference in April in Atlanta. Student paper submissions are competitively selected for presentation at the conference. ITERA awards only two top papers: one at the graduate level and one at the undergraduate level. Andreychuk’s paper was titled: “Sony Inc., A Case Study Analysis in Strategic Innovation.” Also competing was fellow WMU TIM major Sean Bradford, of Fraser, Mich. Last year, WMU won ITERA’s student team case project finalist award. WMU’s TIM program is an interdisciplinary major offered through the Computer Information Systems program in the Haworth College of Business and the School of Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences. The program is designed to train students in a variety of telecommunications and data communication sub-disciplines. Its mission is to give students a well-balanced education in a variety of business and technical management issues. The WMU TIM program is a member of the ITERA consortium of schools, representing some of the nation’s best programs in the field of telecommunications and information sciences. The program is co-directed by Dr. Mike Tarn, professor of business information systems, and Dr. Richard Gershon, professor of communication.

Two Western Michigan University business students are among 10 students nationwide to win $10,000 scholarships from the world’s leading business software company, extending WMU’s winning streak to three consecutive years. Alison Brubaker of Rochester Hills, Mich., and Kevin Little of Kalamazoo, Mich., both recent graduates in integrated supply management, are winners of the SAP Americas Scholarship, which recognizes outstanding undergraduates in business, computer science, mathematics or engineering. This is the third consecutive academic year WMU integrated supply management students received the scholarships. The SAP Americas Scholarship Program awards each of 10 students from SAP Academic Alliance Universities across the United States and Canada a $10,000 scholarship to cover educational expenses. A major component in the evaluation process is a research paper with a topic relevant to ERP—Enterprise Resource Planning—systems or other state-of-the-art technology. The paper must thoroughly examine both the issue and its consequences, as well as propose practical recommendations to solve it. Brubaker’s paper was titled “Use of a Failure Mode and Effects Analysis Module Integrated into SAP to Address Supply Chain Risk.” Little’s research paper was titled “Internal Threat: The Broken Link in ERP Security.” Both students graduated in April and used their scholarships to pay expenses for their final year at WMU.
A Western Michigan University student is one of eight students nationwide selected to receive a prestigious business scholarship. **Jamie Loeks** of Kalamazoo, Mich., is one of eight recipients of the 2009 Richter Scholarship awarded by the R. Gene and Nancy D. Richter Foundation and the Institute for Supply Management's Richter Scholarship Fund. Now in its sixth year, the Richter Scholarship Program is the largest nationally recognized scholarship program in the field of supply chain management. Winners were recognized May 3 at an awards dinner during the Institute for Supply Management’s 94th annual International Supply Management Conference and Educational Exhibit in Charlotte, N.C. Loeks is entering his senior year at WMU, where he is majoring in integrated supply management. He has completed internship and co-op experiences at FEMA Corp., Pfizer Inc. and Dana Corp. and is preparing for upcoming internships at Whirlpool Corp. and Marathon Petroleum. Loeks looks forward to entering the workforce with confidence and knowledge gained from successfully navigating a variety of ethical and project-oriented challenges. Other 2009 Richter Scholars represent the likes of University of Maryland, Michigan State University, Duquesne University and Arizona State University. Since the scholarship was created in 2004, WMU has had three Richter Scholars, with **Andrea Brown** winning first in 2005 and **Elizabeth Aven** in 2006.

**Faculty Accolades**

Management professors Dr. **David Flanagan**, Dr. **K.C. O’Shaughnessy** and Dr. **Timothy Palmer** had their paper “Financial Performance and the Fortune Reputation Data” accepted for presentation for the 2009 Academy of Management Meetings, August 7-11, in Chicago, Ill. The Academy of Management is the oldest and largest scholarly management association in the world.

**Dr. Bret Wagner**, associate professor of management and director of the Integrated Supply Management (ISM) Program, and Dr. Hemant V. Kher (University of Delaware), have had their paper “Influence of Workload Imbalances on the Need for Worker Flexibility,” accepted for publication in Computers and Industrial Engineering.

**Linda Ickes**, career center director in the Haworth College of Business, has been selected to participate in the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Leadership Advancement Program. NACE is a national professional organization serving college recruiting and career services professionals and those with an interest in the employment of the college educated.

**Stacey Markin** has joined the college as an alumni relations officer. Markin will oversee outreach to Haworth College of Business alumni through special events in this newly created position. Markin comes to WMU from Albion College, where she was an associate director of alumni/parent relations.

The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center is proud to announce that **John Schmitt**, a business consultant with the MI-SBTDC at Western Michigan University, is the winner of the 2008 MI-SBTDC Statewide Leadership Award for Business Consulting. This award is a testament to Schmitt’s work with the small business community of Southwest Michigan. Prior to his role in the MI-SBTDC, John was a serial entrepreneur with a number of small businesses throughout Michigan over the last twenty-five years. John has been working for the SBTDC at Western Michigan University since 2007 during which time he has served nearly 200 distinct clients. His consulting efforts have resulted in more than a dozen new companies, the creation and retention of 146 jobs, and nearly $1.2 million in capital formation. Schmitt received his award at the Annual MI-SBTDC Networking Meeting in Ann Arbor in early May. The MI-SBTDC Region 11 is housed at Western Michigan University’s Haworth College of Business.
**Student Accolades**

**Kristen Kimble**, a recent grad majoring in advertising and promotion, was invited to write a short story of how she lives consumer behavior. Her “As I live it” story will be featured in Professor Michael R. Solomon’s upcoming new edition of the Consumer Behavior textbook titled “Consumer Behavior: Buying, Having, and Being.”

Advertising and promotion seniors **Eric Leonard** and **John Peters** were among three students statewide to win 2009-10 scholarships from the Adcraft Club of Detroit’s Adcraft Foundation – the nation’s largest advertising club. The Foundation annually awards cash grants to advertising and marketing students from Michigan universities. Both students were awarded $2,500. The grants are awarded based on a competitive application process, which includes answering questions related to career goals, current problems/opportunities in the advertising industry, and an evaluation of a current campaign. The students attended an awards luncheon in May with guest speaker Mitch Albom at the Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Township. Both students were recommended by **Dr. JoAnn Atkin**.

Congratulations to graduate students **Carrie McDonald Swift** and **Michael Kreutzjans** who are winners in the 2009 Competition for the Best Student Paper on Civilization in a Time of Crisis. McDonald whose paper was titled “Barack Obama: A Prospect for a New Enlightenment of Just Another Superstar CEO,” won $500. Kreutzjans, whose paper was titled “Credit Crisis Demystified,” won $250. The winners will present their papers on in early June during the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations 39th World Conference held at the Fetzer Center.

Eleven business students at Western Michigan University have received major scholarships in recognition of their academic excellence, extracurricular activities and leadership qualities. The scholarships were awarded for the 2009-10 academic year and range from $500 to $2,500. A committee in WMU’s Haworth College of Business selected the recipients. The awards were announced April 3 during the business college’s All-College Meeting. A total of more than $9,000 in scholarships was awarded. Recipients were:

- **TeKeilla Carr**, Kalamazoo - Business Management ($500 – Friends of David Luce Memorial Scholarship)
- **Timothy Cross**, Walled Lake, MI - Finance ($700 - Haworth College of Business Achievement Award)
- **Abigail Dame**, Kalamazoo - Finance ($700 - Haworth College of Business Achievement Award)
- **Geena Holman**, Plymouth, MI - Human Resource Management ($500 - Fifth/Third Bank Scholarship)
- **Shannon M. Lapsley**, Saline, MI - Sales and Business Marketing ($500 - William T. and Terri L. Sturtevant Business Scholarship)
- **Sarah Lutz**, Portage, MI – Accountancy ($500 - Norman Clark Perkins Memorial Business Scholarship)
- **Benjamin McCann**, Kalamazoo – Accountancy ($900 - Alfred Pugno Business Scholarship)
- **Kallista Minor**, of Ypsilanti, MI – Accountancy ($1,000 - Dr. Bernadine P. Branshaw Scholarship)
- **David Perez**, Troy, MI – Sales and Business Marketing ($2,500 - Kalamazoo Gazette Scholarship)
- **Manuel Romero**, Detroit – Sales and Business Marketing ($500 - Fifth/Third Bank Scholarship)
- **Kevin Stuart**, Portage, MI – Accountancy ($900 - Alfred Pugno Business Scholarship)