College of Aviation

Items of Academic Interest

The WMU College of Aviation and Kellogg Community College signed a Program-to-Program agreement Oct. 23, 2009, which was established under the Kellogg Community College and Western Michigan University Joint Program plan. The intent is to facilitate the transfer of KCC students to the WMU Bachelor of Science in Aviation Flight Science, Aviation Maintenance Technology and Aviation Science and Administration. To participate in this joint program, students must meet the admission requirements of WMU as well as KCC, and must maintain the academic standards required of all students enrolled in WMU and KCC. The Joint Program provides students with advising and a transfer guide sheet for the KCC-WMU Joint Program Agreement, which enables them to initiate their college studies at KCC and complete their Bachelor of Science degree from WMU. The WMU CoA Director of Academic Advising will be available at the WMU Battle Creek branch campus or at KCC on a regular basis. KCC students who are admitted to WMU and intending to major in an aviation program will meet with an advisor to develop a personal program plan (PPP) and to receive other information about this Joint Program.

On Nov. 12, WMU’s College of Aviation hosted their fall open house for interested parents and students. Students from all over the midwest journeyed to the Battle Creek campus to learn more about the college and its three types of programs: Aviation Flight Science, Aviation Science and Administration, and Aviation Maintenance Technology. After a welcoming speech by Captain Dave Powell, Dean of the College of Aviation, representatives from the Office of Admissions, Financial Aid, and Residence Living presented information about WMU to the visiting high school juniors and seniors. The enquiring students also had the opportunity to meet and converse with current aviation students and members of the Aviation Student Council, the Multicultural Association of Aviation Professionals (MAAP), the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association (PAMA), Women in Aviation, and Alpha Eta Rho. The highlight of the evening came after the presentations when the prospective students got to

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explore the airport campus. Traveling around the grounds, the students and their parents got up close and personal with one of the 25 Cirrus aircraft in the fleet, toured through the maintenance labs, and experienced the most advanced flight simulators in all of collegiate aviation. Or, as one prospective student said, “The coolest video game I have ever seen.” Highly regarded as one of the nations top three aviation programs, Western Michigan University’s College of Aviation continues to shine. With a curriculum based on a solid academic footing, state of the art equipment, and a keen understanding of the industry, current students and new recruits come to realize, “The sky is the limit!”

Staff Accolades

College of Aviation Faculty Specialist Lori Brown receives WMU SFSA research grant award to collaborate with The University of Flight in Sichuan Province, China. The research project will evaluate The Efficacy of Flight Attendant/Pilot Communication and Training Requirements in China. Due to the pilot shortage in China, airlines employ many expat pilots from the US and UK, which can lead to gaps that impede communication between pilots and flight attendants. Previous research results found that 69% of crewmembers globally ranked their airlines level of communication to be below average. Additionally, 75% of respondents from China indicated that there have been times when they were hesitant to report a problem to the flight deck due to lack of understanding, or fear of being reprimanded by pilots. This project would be the first study of its kind, which would clearly make a significant and original contribution to Global Aviation Research. The majority of aviation jobs and growth for the next 20 years is predicted to take place in China, therefore, it is prudent for US academic institutions to collaborate with Chinese Universities, in order to share best practices in training and understand cultural differences that can affect safety of US-Chinese and Chinese-Chinese crewmembers. Furthermore, the majority of pilots in China come from the military ranks, therefore we find a first officer or flight attendant may be hesitant to speak up to the Captain if a problem arises, which may affect the safety of the flight. The results garnered from this project can provide recommended improvements and curriculum enhancements in this area of study, providing a crucial beginning of a mutually beneficial collaboration with the United States and Chinese aviation institutions, to meet the global aviation research needs.

The College of Aviation would like you to join us in welcoming our new associate dean, Dr. Raymond Thompson. Dr. Thompson has been affiliated with aviation and aerospace education since 1981, specifically aircraft technical education, advanced composite materials, and airline maintenance management. Most recently, Dr. Thompson was Program Manager of Aerospace at Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research (KUSTAR), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. His duties included the establishment and accreditation of aerospace and mechanical engineering programs for the fall 2009 inaugural class. During the 2007-08 academic year, he was Founding Dean of the College of Aero & Astro Sciences at Dubai Aerospace Enterprise University (DAEU) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. At DAEU, Dr. Thompson oversaw the development of new programs in aviation, aerospace, and engineering science as well as building the underlying structure at this new university. During his long career at Purdue University (West Lafayette), he developed numerous courses and associated instructional materials. As founder of the AOT Advanced Composite Laboratory, he oversaw the most comprehensive applied aviation composite program in the United States. Named the “ATEC National Outstanding Aviation Maintenance Educator of the Year” in 1993, and Outstanding Tenured Professor in 1999, 2001, and 2006 due to his development of applied composite education and airline maintenance management, he has also designed and fabricated numerous projects such as an experimental holder for a NASA shuttle Get-away Special project, Purdue Solar Racer, and SAE Formula Car. Interdisciplinary and Industrial outreach activities include joint coursework and projects with Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering, SAE, SME, ASM, and numerous air carriers. Dr. Thompson led the Aeronautical Technology (aerospace maintenance & manufacturing) area from 1997-2003 and has served as both Assistant (1996-2005) and Associate Department Head (2005-2007) of Aviation Technology at Purdue University West Lafayette, and Director at the Indianapolis Statewide location (2003-05). Dr. Thompson’s research areas include aviation maintenance faculty development, using technology and multimedia in the classroom, applied advanced composite technology, and airline maintenance management. He has numerous publications and has received over $4.5 million in grants and gifts. Currently Dr. Thompson is chair of a Aviation Rule

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Advisory Committee subgroup tasked with creating new regulations for aviation maintenance programs for the Federal Aviation Administration.

The College of Aviation is pleased to announce the addition of our new manager of recruitment and outreach, **Mr. Tom Thinnes**. He holds a Master of Arts from Michigan State University and a Bachelor of Arts from Western Michigan University. His experience as a recruiter began in 1998 in Kalamazoo and took him to educational institutions in Port St. John and Cocoa, Florida, before returning to Michigan to join WMU. Tom has been very successful in developing recruiting programs and strategies designed to increase awareness and boost student enrollment. He has guided the educational and social development of students representing a wide range of abilities and socio-economic status. Other talents include coordinating marketing plans, integrating technology in the classroom, and curriculum design. We are confident that Tom will be successful at introducing students to the University and the three programs offered at the college of aviation. Tom can be reached at tom.thinnes@wmich.edu should you have questions concerning current recruiting efforts.

### Student Accolades

The Professional Aviation Maintenance Association (PAMA) held an aviation maintenance camp on Nov. 7 for students in grades 9 through 12. This hands-on day long camp provided young teens with the chance to explore the world of professional aviation maintenance. Designed to help young students better understand this in-demand and growing career, participants learned and practiced non-destructive testing procedures, air-frame design and manufacturing, the use of composites in modern aircraft and much more. PAMA is a Student Registered Organization made up of students within WMU’s College of Aviations Maintenance Technology program. As one of its directives, PAMA strives to help provide maintenance students with a better idea of the broad range of careers available upon graduation. When asked why PAMA started the day camp, Vice-President **Aaron Atkins** stated, “This is our way to give back and help the next wave of incoming students get a head-start in their studies.” With this being the first year of the camp, students in PAMA are very optimistic about its future success. Plans are being put in place to hold the day camp annually at the end of spring semester, while also growing the camp by offering a beginning and advanced sections. For more information, please contact avs-info@wmich.edu.

During the week of Oct. 13-17, 2009 the WMU College of Aviation’s Skybroncos Precision Flight Team competed against four other aviation schools (Ohio State University, Kent State University, University of Cincinnati, and Ohio University) at the W.K. Kellogg airport in Battle Creek, Mi. The team’s members accrue points according to their individual rankings with their specific competition event. Some examples include: Aircraft Navigation, Precision Landings, Aircraft Recognition, Aircraft Preflight, and several ground-based events. The Higher the individual contestants score, the more overall team points are earned. Typically the top two or three schools in each region will receive an invite to the national competition in May of next year. The Overall Rankings for the schools were as follows:

- 1st Place - Western Michigan University -217 pts
- 2nd Place - Kent State University -176 pts
- 3rd Place - The Ohio State University -143 pts
- 4th Place - Ohio State University -115 pts
- 5th Place - University of Cincinnati -10 pts

The win marks the 17th of 19 Regional Titles for the Skybroncos! The 2010 national competition takes place May 17-22 and will be hosted by Indiana State University at Terre Haute International-Hulman Field.
Items of Academic Interest

For five years the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology in the College of Education and Human Development has maintained a collaborative initiative with the Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) to deliver critical mental health services for students at Washington Writers Academy elementary school. Dr. Joseph R. Morris, professor, Licensed Psychologist and Licensed Professional Counselor, developed this project with support from KPS, CECP and the COEHD and serves as project director. Initial plans for this collaboration were reviewed and approved by the Superintendents office of KPS as well as other central office administrators and the school principal. Services are provided by advanced masters and doctoral students in CECP. An experienced doctoral level student serves as the on-site supervisor and is under the direct supervision of the faculty member who developed the project and is responsible for the overall program. The masters and doctoral students who are completing various aspects of their program of study at WWA constitute the Counseling Center staff at the school. The Counseling Center staff works with students, teachers, the principal and other school personnel on issues related to personal, social, educational and career concerns of students and their families. These concerns are addressed by providing need-based services primarily through individual and group work with students and/or family members. Mr. John Klein, Principal of Washington Writers Academy, notes: The staff at WWA is devoted to serving our students. In doing so, we believe we have a responsibility to work collaboratively with outside organizations in getting our children what they need in order to reach higher levels of academic, social, and personal success. We readily recognize that as educators we cannot do it alone. Our partnership with the WMU Counseling Center project at the school is exactly the kind of collaboration our students need.

Educational Leadership faculty will soon pilot a new principal assessment instrument in 100 Michigan Schools in conjunction with Discovery Education, which is connected to the Discovery Channel.

Staff Accolades

Dr. Alan Hovestadt, professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, has co-authored, with professional colleagues Brian S. Canfield, Southern Arkansas University, and Lori Low, University of San Diego, an article Cultural Immersion as a Learning Method for Expanding Intercultural Competencies” published in the October 2009 issue of The Family Journal: Counseling and Therapy for Couples and Families. The paper presents an overview of the development and utilization of a cultural immersion experience assignment in courses aimed at expanding the knowledge and skill set of counseling professionals working with culturally diverse client populations. Use of the method in three instructional formats: traditional on-campus courses, study abroad courses and 100 percent online courses are discussed.

Dr. Amos Aduroja, associate professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, has received the national Outstanding Faculty Sponsor of the Year for 2009 from Eta Sigma Gamma, the National Health Education Honor Society. Student members from the Gamma Mu Chapter nominated him because, throughout the years, Dr. Aduroja has not only taught and shared his love of health education, but he has also ensured that all Gamma Mu members develop the skills and professionalism necessary to succeed in the field of health education. Dr. Aduroja receives the award at the national ESG meeting on Oct. 30 in Denver.

Debra Berkey, professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, has been named MAHPERDs (Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) University Educator of the Year. The finalists all had impressive credentials; however Berkey’s accomplishments, community leadership, and dedication to the Physical Education profession led the committee to select her. Berkey was honored at the annual state convention in November in Traverse City.

Dr. Jiabei Zhang has received a federal grant of $290,934 funded by U.S. Department of Education. This is a three-year service project to develop and maintain an Integrated Sport Activity Program for Young Adults with Disabilities in the HPER Department at Western Michigan University.
**Student Accolades**

Counselor education doctoral students Allison Buller and LaShonda Fuller presented on “A Constructivist Approach to Multicultural Infusion in Counselor Education” during the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) Conference in October in San Diego.

The interior design student work open house and exhibition was held on Nov. 19 in Kohrman Hall. The Interior Design Student Organization hosted this event to allow the community to view the freshman-senior level work.

**Extended University Programs**

**Items of Academic Interest**

During its Nov. 2 meeting, the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees approved a lease for a Woodward Avenue location in Royal Oak, Mich., that will become the University’s base for recruiting and future program offerings. Trustees signed off on a three-year lease, effective Jan. 1, 2010, for more than 1,800 square feet in a building located at 32820 Woodward Ave. The move gives WMU a physical presence at the heart of the region that is home to 37.4 percent of WMU’s student body. The office will serve as a base for recruiting efforts. Work is also under way and aimed at bringing some new academic programming to the Detroit area through WMU’s Extended University Programs unit, which manages regional sites for WMU around the state. Dr. Dawn Gaymer, associate provost for Extended University Programs, shares that the unit is currently engaged in the process of determining needs for Royal Oak and the surrounding communities. “This new initiative will include partnerships with the communities, businesses and the community colleges that serve the area. We are looking forward to including Southeastern Michigan as an area that is served by WMU’s Extended University Programs,” Gaymer said.

**Staff Accolades**

On Oct. 24, Betty Dennis, associate dean and director of General University Studies Advising for Extended University Programs, graduated from the HERS Denver Institute. HERS (Higher Education Resource Services) is a national, non-profit leadership development program that provides leadership and management training for women in higher education administration. Since 1972, HERS has served more than 3,000 women in the field of higher education. Today, HERS Alumnae across the United States, as well as in South Africa, Canada and other nations, are in positions of leadership at all levels, including mostly senior positions. “Dr. Johnson, EUP’s former dean was actually the one to introduce me to the HERS academy,” says Dennis. “I wanted to incorporate my educational background and past experiences to this leadership role as well as to higher education in general.” The HERS Curriculum prepares participants for institutional leadership roles with knowledge, skills and perspectives for achieving institutional priorities and maximizing institutional resources. The HERS Institute offers a month-long summer program as well as multiple weekend series during the academic year. The HERS Institute provides participants with opportunities to learn in a hands-on environment from other senior women leaders and higher education scholars. In addition, HERS Institute participants work with HERS Faculty and HERS Alumnae to develop the professional skills and networks needed for advancing as leaders in higher education administration. “I knew I wanted to be a part of a great collaborative learning opportunity,” says Dennis. “The experience was all I expected it to be and more and I look forward to continuing to make a positive contribution to my department as well as to [Western Michigan] University as a whole.”

**Upcoming Events**

The WMU Battle Creek Kendall Center invites the public to attend a Brown Bag Lunch series on Healthy Practices presented by Paul Makoski, MPA, RS, Environmental Health Manager for the Calhoun County Health Department. Speakers will provide up-to-date information on safe food handling, information on super nutrients and nutrition presented by a registered dietician, and scientifically proven practices that help individuals and families establish wellness guidelines that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. The lunch hour presentations are free and open to the public. There are two remaining sessions will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the WMU-Battle Creek Kendall Center and broadcast via videoconferencing to the Putney Lecture Hall at the Fetzer Center on the main campus in Kalamazoo. Session topics include “How to Keep Your Family Safe and Healthy” to be held Thursday, January 7 and “Nutrition and Super Nutrients: Truth or Fiction” to be held Thursday, February 11. (For those attending in Battle Creek, you are encouraged to bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the presentations. Beverages will be provided by WMU Kendall Center Conferencing. The Kendall Center is located at 50 West Jackson Street in downtown Battle Creek.) To RSVP, or for more information, please send an email to bc-kendall-conference@wmich.edu, or call (269) 964-3001.
Center for Academic Success Programs

Items of Academic Interest

The Center for Academic Success Programs (CASP) is happy to be a part of Prism. CASP has a long and important history within WMU and Academic Affairs. CASP's mission is to enhance teaching and promote student learning through collaborative, effective, research-based programs. The Center for Academic Success Programs includes the following offices: University Curriculum Advising, Intellectual Skills Development Program, TRiO Student Success Program, Advocacy Office for Transfer and Military Affairs, Academic Skills Center, and Writing Center. CASP employs over 80 students as student mentors, supplemental instructors, writing consultants, academic mentors, and office receptionists. Our services are available to every WMU student free of charge. Some recent points of pride within CASP include WMU's designation as a Military Friendly Campus, the partnership between the Writing Center and all ENGL 1000 courses, and the mandatory advising initiative for students who have not yet declared a major. If you know of a way that we can partner with your faculty, staff, or students please do not hesitate to contact us. Listed below are the names and titles of our professional staff: Randy Ott, CASP director, Buff Armstrong, CASP office associate, Marilyn Duke, Academic Skills Center director, Kim Ballard, Writing Center director, Dr. Charlotte Giscombe, TRiO/SSP director, Alaina Simpson, TRiO/SSP program coordinator, Stephanie Westine, TRiO/SSP academic coordinator, Julia Copper, TRiO/SSP administrative assistant, Rich McMullen, University Curriculum advising director, Cara LaLumia-Barnes, University Curriculum advisor, Robyn Bowers, University Curriculum alpha advisor, Steve Miller, Transfer Student advocate, and Eric McConnell, Advocacy Office administrative assistant.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Items of Academic Interest

CEAS students networked for five hours with 56 employers at the 2009 Engineering and Applied Sciences [EAS] Career Day 2009 held in late October. Nicole Maggio, career advisor for CEAS and assistant director for Career and Student Employment Services (CSES), coordinated the event and several related events to link internship, co-op and full-time job seekers with local, regional, national and international employers. Post Foods, LLC, sponsored this year's fair. According to the career fair tabloid, Post is one of the world's largest cereal companies and it has been serving up cereal for more than 113 years. New to this year's EAS Career Fair were formal presentations with question and answer sessions provided by 16 employers. These were held concurrently in two auditoriums every 30 minutes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to Post, other employers offering presentations were Amway, Chicago Bridge & Iron, DENSO Manufacturing Michigan, Duncan Aviation, International Paper, Kohler, Meadwestvaco, MDOT, Parker Hannifin, NAVSEA, Pfizer, SIRCON, Stryker, UDM Law School, and WMU ROTC. Maggio said that the presentations encouraged first and second year students to learn about area employers and engage earlier in the career development process. This year an on-line student survey provided program-development information. This data showed us that only 5% of attendees were freshman while seniors represented 50% of attending students, Maggio said. We hope to introduce students to opportunities and encourage them to begin networking with the representatives earlier on, she said. Follow-up campus interviews were held on the day after the career fair by 14 companies featured at the career fair. Maggio credited the CSES staff and CEAS student assistants for their all hands on deck support. The student assistants include Alyssa Schafer, CEAS peer educator, Danielle Boyd, engineering employer student coordinator, and Jasen Ratajczak, CEAS industry research educator.
WMU’s Society of Women Engineers (SWE) presented its annual Engineer for a Day workshop that lasted five hours. At the Parkview Campus, 28 middle and high school Girl Scouts from the Heart of Michigan Council completed hands-on, problem-solving and learning activities to simulate what engineers do. For the first activity, The Leaning Tower of Pasta, the scouts designed and built structures from spaghetti and marshmallows with the goal to have the structures hold as much weight as possible. The scouts ventured outdoors to test how adding Mentos to a liter of soda pop can create some spectacular soda spraying. For the Egg Drop Event, the scouts designed, created, and tested packaging that would protect a raw egg from breaking when it was dropped from the second floor to the first. The scouts also toured the Parkview Campus where they were shown why a concrete canoe floats, and they learned the steps to creating a Formula SAE racecar. They wrapped up the day with dessert as each scout made her own ice cream treat using milk, cream, sugar, flavorings, ice, rock salt, and two plastic bags. Fernanda Pereira, a first-year chemical engineering major from Canton, Mich., coordinated the event. Girl Scout leaders who attended the event with their troops were impressed with how the event stimulated the scouts’ problem solving abilities and introduced them to the idea of a potential engineering career. At the end of the workshop when SWE President Allison Porrett asked how many of the scouts were interested in becoming an engineer, about a third of them raised their hands. Other SWE members who contributed to and participated in the event include Laura Alger, Lauren Fromm, Courtney Heath, Melinda Katanbafnezhad, Persefoni Lauhon, Katie Risnes, Lynnette Neil, and Kelly McCarthy.

Comperchio said that Trane needs sales engineers, which he described as a hybrid role that blends engineering and business. Engelmann said that a number of CEAS students find that they are well suited to meeting the challenge of applying their engineering education and skills to the jobs of the future. The Trane visit was arranged by Nicole Maggio, career advisor for CEAS and assistant director for Career and Student Employment Services (CSES). Trane is a business of Ingersoll Rand; according to its press release, Trane solutions optimize indoor environments with a broad portfolio of energy efficient heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, building and contracting services, parts support and advanced controls for homes and commercial buildings. For more information, visit www.trane.com.
**Staff Accolades**

CEAS Dean Anthony Vizzini presented five 2009 CEAS Awards at the fall 2009 CEAS meeting. Dr. Andrew Kline, a PCI associate professor, is the 2009 Outstanding Educator. He teaches all levels of the chemical engineering program, serves as a STEP mentor, and serves as a graduate advisor. The co-founder the CEAS Engineering Design Center for Service Learning manages WMU’s Michigan LSAMP program, and co-coordinated the Engineering in Germany study abroad program. His education includes a BS and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Michigan Technological University. **Dr. Sasha Pekarovicova**, a PCI associate professor, is the 2009 CEAS Outstanding Researcher. She publishes in international journals, presents at national and international conferences, and annually secures funding for graduate students from decorative industries. She is a member of TAGA Board of Directors, advises WMU’s student chapter of TAGA, and peer reviews for TAGA Journal. Her M.S. and Ph.D. are from Slovak Technical University. The 2009 Outstanding New Researcher is **Dr. Murali Ghantasala**, a MAE assistant professor. His research interests include the design and fabrication of microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) and nano sensors and actuators. His research grants are worth over $600,000, and he has published over 25 peer-reviewed papers in journals and conference proceedings. He presently has two patents. Before joining WMU, he had 10 years of experience at RMIT University and Swinburne University of Technology in Australia. He obtained his Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. **Matt Stoops**, a PCI lab technician earned the 2009 Outstanding Staff award. He assists wherever he is needed. “Interacting with students in a lab is unique and enjoyable work,” he said. **Judy Northey**, manager of the Parkview Cafeteria for six years, was awarded Outstanding Service Parkview Cafeteria. “I enjoy the students, and I like to make the parents feel comfortable at orientation,” she said.

Last month, the 25th annual Gravure Day titled Functional and Product Gravure was celebrated at the CEAS Parkview Campus. Dr. Alexandra Sasha Pekarovicova, an associate professor in the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI), organized the event to honor gravure industry leaders and promote gravure printing. In gravure printing an image is engraved on the surface of a copper plated cylinder. Then the cylinder is rotated in an ink pan, and engraved cells are filled with ink, which is then transferred to either paper or other substrate. **Dr. Said AbuBakr**, PCI chair, opened the seminar. Undergraduate students **Michael Paeplow**, a senior, and **Christa Ickowski**, a junior, both imaging majors, assisted with and prepared a written report on the event. Three speakers addressed an audience that included students and faculty. The speakers included Tom Drazen, sales manager at Schatdecor US, who presented Gravure Printing for the Decorative Products Industry in America; **Eric Serenius**, from Max Daetwyler Corp., whose presentation was titled MicroGravure Advancements for Printed Electronics; and **Mauro Consalvi**, regional sales manager for Eltromat, who offered Registration Systems for Gravure Printing. A discussion titled Future of Gravure followed. According to report prepared by Paeplow and Ickowski, the event allows students the chance to compare and contrast the business models of industry leaders. We learn what successful companies focus on and how they reach their customers. Further, we are able to witness company representatives doing their jobs. The students report concluded, the speakers gave the students an inside look into the future of the gravure printing industry. Each speaker reiterated the fact that the customer’s needs are foremost and that the technology should evolve to fit those needs. From decorative to functional gravure, the industry is constantly striving to create a better, more customer driven product.
Alumni Excellence Award winner Joe Nowak (center) with (from left) Beth Ann Nowak (daughter), Mary Lou Nowak (wife), Joe Nowak, IME Chair Paul Engelmann, and Dr. Bob White.

Taking part in the WMU Green Manufacturing Initiative are (from left) CEAS Manufacturing Department Chair John Patten, WMU President John Dunn, US Representative Fred Upton, and CEAS Associate Dean Osama Abudayyeh.

Joe Nowak, one of seven CEAS alumni selected as 2009 Alumni Excellence Award recipients, made two Alumni Excellence Academy presentations to classes in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering last month. Nowak shared his more than 25 years experience in the automotive and manufacturing industries with students and faculty in hour-long presentations titled “Managing Global Operations and Transforming a Major Manufacturing Facility.” He challenged his audiences to consider their roles in how they are valued and perform in an organization. He encouraged the students to reassess their future and current roles, both in terms of the expectations of their bosses and their impact on co-workers. Nowak earned a BS in Industrial Engineering 72 and an MBA 76. According to the announcement of his presentations, Nowak served as group president for the chassis group at Metaldyne from 2001 to 2007. As president, he was responsible for much of the company’s overseas expansion particularly in Spain, France, Germany, and Italy and its acquisition of the New Castle, Indiana, Chrysler plant. From 1991 to 2001, Nowak was VP and general manager of the Metaldyne Tubular Products plant. Metaldyne a global designer and supplier of metal-formed components, assemblies and modules for transportation-related powertrain and chassis applications Prior to his work at Metaldyne, Nowak was involved with automotive and industrial markets at MascoTech, Kelsey-Hayes/Varity, and Ford Motor Company. Nominees for the CEAS Alumni Excellence Academy must have earned at least one degree from a CEAS program, have achieved a high level in their chosen fields, and have been recognized by their peers. Recipients were honored at ceremonies held on Oct. 23.

Last month in a ceremony at the Parkview Campus, U.S. Rep. Fred Upton announced that WMU is in line to receive $1 million from the federal government to support the WMU Green Manufacturing Initiative in its efforts to help area companies create environmentally benign, energy efficient and sustainable processes and products. Dr. John Patten, chair of manufacturing engineering and director of the WMU Center for Manufacturing Research, and Dr. John Dunn, WMU president, joined Upton at the official announcement. Patten, an advocate for renewable energy and a recognized leader in the efforts to move Michigan businesses toward green manufacturing, said that about 20 to 30 Southwest Michigan companies have expressed interest in participating in the project. According to Patten, faculty from several WMU colleges (CEAS, A&S, Business) will work together with area companies on projects of mutual interest. Concurrently a Green Manufacturing Industrial Consortium is being formed with these companies to fully integrate them into the program. Dr. David Meade, a professor in the Manufacturing Engineering Department, will work with Patten to develop this industrial consortium. A meeting of the industrial consortium is being planned for early next year (2010) to kick off the program. Patten and Meade are continuing to meet with area companies to line up support and solicit their involvement in the program and projects. Early indicators demonstrate strong interest from industry for assistance in this area of their operations, substantiating the timeliness of this initiative.
Student Accolades

In late October, Adeel Khan, a CEAS junior majoring in chemical engineering, held a seminar in Bigelow Hall. He presented a paper titled Neural Cell Investigations in Relation to Spinal Cord Injuries. The paper, based on his Summer Undergraduate Research Academy (SURA) experience at Michigan State University was co-authored with researchers from Michigan State University and UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway, NJ. The SURA experience at MSU was an 8-week residential program starting in mid-June 2009, and is part of the ongoing Michigan Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (MI-LSAMP) Program of which WMU is a member. The research explored the extracellular matrix (ECM), which forms part of the blood brain barrier (BBB) and provides the appropriate microenvironment to improve neural system functions. “I took the research opportunity because I wanted to gain some experience in an area other than engineering,” Khan said. “Research in nanobiotechnology seemed just the right thing, since I have a minor in biology.” Khan, a native of Pakistan, moved with his family to the United States in 2005, and graduated from Portage Central High School in 2007. Khan’s presentation discussed his role in the ongoing study, which involved the first quantifications of the growth factor FGF-2 and its effects on central nervous systems cells and the next phase of the work underway at MSU and UMDNJ, which will determine the molecular structure of the nanofibers. Dr. Andrew Kline, associate professor and MI-LSAMP at WMU Program Manager, discussed research opportunities for undergraduates. Khan’s presentation was a STEP First-Year Program Seminar Event sponsored by MI-LSAMP at WMU. Khan will also present at the state-wide MI-LSAMP Research Symposium in January 2010. Khan plans to enter the chemical engineering industry and focus on research and development.

WMU’s student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) recently received two awards from the National ASCE for its 2008 work: The Most Improved Student Chapter Award and a Certificate of Commendation. WMU’s chapter was the only student chapter in Michigan to receive an award for 2008. “Last year, our chapter saw its best year yet,” said Britney Richmond, student chapter president. “We saw a tremendous increase in student participation, chapter activities, the start of our first Steel Bridge Team, and our fifth concrete canoe for which we took third overall in the regional competition.” The ASCE Student Chapter at WMU received the awards based on its 2008 Annual Report. Each student chapter from around the nation submits an annual report and the ASCE Committee on Student Activities reviews all reports before awards are given. “We are a relatively new chapter but through last year’s success, we have shown that we do have what it takes to be amongst the top teams,” said Michael Romkema, student chapter vice president. “Our success is due to the determination and dedication of our members, and we feel this year will be even better than last year.” Romkema said that the WMU ASCE Student Chapter has already begun designing and planning for the 2010 Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge competitions. During spring 2010, WMU will serve as the host for the 2010 North-Central Regional Conference from March 26-28, 2010, at which the concrete canoe and steel bridge competitions will be held. Advisor for the WMU ASCE is Dr. Osama Abudayyeh.
Prism: Western Michigan University's Newsletter for Academic Affairs

Ben Smith, a CEAS alumnus who is now a supply chain analyst in inventory management at Whirlpool Corp., headquartered in Benton Harbor, spoke to about 50 CEAS students about his education at CEAS and about his internship and present career experiences. He was invited to make the presentation by the student chapters of the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) and the American Society of Engineering Management (ASEM). Smith, who earned a BS in Engineering Industrial in April 2008 and who was the 2008 Presidential Scholar from the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, shared ideas about succeeding in college and beyond. He encouraged students to live in the dorms, to use campus resources like libraries and advising, to join organizational projects like Sunseeker and professional organizations, and to stay balanced. CEAS students were told that their futures as engineers involved problem solving. He encouraged them to enjoy the hard work. Expect it, and accept it, he said. Among his other recommendations were for them to become lifelong learners, be open minded, and drive change. He also described the value of his intern experiences. His first was at DENSO, where he learned about the manufacturing environment, continuous improvement, cross-functional teams, and quality circles. As an undergraduate, he also interned at Albion Industries and served as a WMU research associate and teaching assistant with the Human Performance Institute. Smith told the students to know themselves, to know their audience, never to stop asking why, and to get involved.

The results of a capstone project presented in Spring 2009 have proven to be better than anticipated by the students who completed the project. Last April, at the 44th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects (SEDPs), David Bonamy, Griffin Enyart, and Kyle Ghastin all civil engineering seniors presented Optimized Winter Operations, a presentation based on a project that focused on snow and ice removal from state roadways. In the project, sponsored by Mia Silver, P.E., from MDOT, the students used ArcGIS, geographical information system software that allowed them to analyze the snow and ice removal with prioritized plow routes, current and alternative de-icing techniques, and strategic garage locations. Their study led them to predict that MDOT could reduce the number of snow routes by eight. In an e-mail from a representative of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Mr. John Polasek, P.E., a civil engineering instructor, said that MDOT implemented the project results and reduced the number of snow routes from 88 to 79, one more than the students had calculated. In a letter to the students, Silver expressed MDOTs appreciation for the students efforts, which led to a cost savings of approximately $250,000. “I would also like you to know that these efforts are having a very positive impact on our operations,” she said. MDOT also contacted the CEAS Department of Civil and Construction Engineering with news of the additional savings. This is very positive for the college, the program, and the students, said Dr. Haluk Aktan, chair of the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering, in an e-mail to CEAS Dean Tony Vizzini. Bonamy is presently working for Haliburton in Louisiana, and Enyart is enrolled in graduate school.

The Sunseeker Solar Race Car Team participated in the 2009 Kalamazoo Holiday Parade on Sat., Nov. 14. The team has been participating in the parade for many years, and according to Nicholas Killoran, a mechanical engineering major who serves as Sunseeker Project Manager, participation is both an honor and one of the members favorite events. “This year the team decorated the 2005 Sunseeker with lights and garland to be in the holiday spirit,” Killoran said. For the parade, 13 Sunseeker team members shared information about the car, drove it in the parade and passed out candy to those who came to see it. This is one of many community events that the Sunseeker team attends, Killoran said. He explained that the team’s goals include teaching people about the technologies used on the solar car and inspiring middle and high school students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math-based fields. In addition to Killoran, those who took part in the parade included Sunseeker Advisor Abraham Abraham.

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Poot, Alex Hoeksema, Nicholas Killoran, Colleen Poot, Alex Hoopingarner, Alex Urech, Byron Izenbaard, Megan Derwich, Mitchel Panek, Joshua Allen, Justin Storbeck, Keith Rodwell, and Mike McCabe. Killoran also encouraged the use of the team’s new weekly “Western” Wednesday blog posts, updated after the team meetings, on the progress of the 2010 solar car. The purpose is to display and demonstrate the process to faculty, sponsors, family members, community, and the university, he said. Everyone is encouraged to visit the blog at http://sunseeker2010.blogspot.com/.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Edmund Tsang, CEAS associate dean, is coordinating Engineering Study Abroad: Hong Kong 2010. The trip, scheduled for June 26 through July 13, 2010, involves an immersive experience in the engineering and technological practices in Hong Kong. It includes field trips to a micro wind turbine demonstration, the world’s seventh longest suspension bridge, a shipyard building turbojet ships, an airport hangar, infrastructure development, an operations center for an under- and above-ground railway system, renewable energy projects, and more. Two days are also allowed for sightseeing, shopping, and cultural immersion. Accommodations are at the University of Hong Kong, where WMU students can interact with HKU engineering students and faculty. The trip costs $2,495, which includes room and board, tuition, most meals, excursions, and visa. Airfare, passport, immunizations, and other costs are not included. To be eligible to study abroad, CEAS students must have good academic standing and can earn course credit in ENGR 3400, which counts as a General Education Area 4. Participants are also eligible for the Deans Scholarship for Summer Study Abroad. The application deadline is Feb. 15, 2010. For more information, contact Tsang at Edmund.tsang@wmich.edu or call (269) 276-3248.
Assessment of Student Learning

Three aeronautical engineering seniors are completing the first stage of a Spring 2010 Senior Engineering Design Project that melds their engineering education and experience with their passion to create a highly competitive entry in the 2010 for the Design, Build, and Fly (DBF) competition sponsored annually by the AIAA. Matt Aven, Nick McDermott, and Alex Satonik, all aeronautical engineering majors, are designing a remote-controlled aircraft with an approximately 6-foot wing span. The plane must also meet the 2010 DBF rules. “They change the rules every year,” Satonik said. The first rule is to show your plane can fly. The 2010 rules also require the plane to be able to carry randomly between six and 10 softballs inside the plane and to be able to carry up to five baseball bats, which are actually hollow tubes up to 30-inches long. All tasks must be completed while the planes stability is maintained. In addition, the plane must be able to be folded up to fit into a 2-foot by 2-foot by 4-foot box. Satonik said that another goal is to build a plane that can be quickly repaired. At the competition planes crash and teams will stay up all night to fix them. The team is presently building a half-scale prototype for testing. The goal is to have a plane ready by the end of December. McDermott said that many schools that compete in the DBF event design and build their planes as part of their academic coursework, but that WMU’s past entries have been built as extracurricular activities. “We’re hoping that the work we’re doing will enhance our success,” he said. Faculty advisors for the projects are Dr. Kapseong Ro, associate professor, and Dr. Peter Gustafson, assistant professor, both from the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering.

In November, about 60 computer gamers spent some portion of 13 hours at PLAN (Parkview LAN) Party, a bi-annual LAN party held at the CEAS Parkview Campus and sponsored by the WMU Computer Club (CC). Greg Ferrell, the CC president, coordinated the event. A LAN party is a gathering of people with computers; they establish a local area network (LAN) for playing multiplayer computer games. Some of the participants favorite games included Team Fortress 2, a shooting game; Heroes of New Earth 52; and Modern Warfare 2, which many indicated had just come out. The WMU CC meets weekly in 2244 Kohrman Hall, where the club operates a drop-in center that is open daily. The CC also operates Geekout, a time set aside for members to get together and work on projects – either their own or one for the clubs. The organization is open to any student interested in computers and does not require any particular level of expertise on computer. Founded in 1976, the club encourages a better understanding of computers for members of the WMU community. Membership includes getting an email account because the CC runs its own server. Dr. Robert Trenary, an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science, serves as the group’s adviser. More information is available at www.yakko.cs.wmich.edu.

A presentation by Gregory Huizenga and Michael Morris at the 45th Conference of Senior Engineering Design Projects (SEDPs) features a project on smart materials that is part of collaboration between WMU and the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, Russia. Last summer, Huizenga and Morris, both mechanical engineering majors, traveled to Russia with Dr. Pnina Ari-Gur, a Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering professor and the faculty advisor for their SEDP. The students’ trip to Moscow was paid for by Ari-Gurs National Science Foundation grant. For both, the trip was their first outside the US. In Moscow, the students visited the labs of their Russian collaborators, participated in technical discussions, and attended a master’s thesis defense at the Bauman Moscow State Technical University. Since

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the visit, Huizenga and Morris have kept in touch with their Russian peers. On Tues., Dec. 8, at 11 a.m. in D-109 Parkview, the duo will present Magnetic Shape Memory (MSM) Alloys for Alternative Energy and Green Refrigeration, which will review their research. MSM alloys have many potential applications including alternative energy and green refrigeration. The project showed many promising properties that Morris will continue to study when he begins work on his masters degree after graduating in December. Huizenga and Morris will present their research at the SEDP conference on Tues., Dec. 8; it begins at 11 a.m. in Parkview Campus, Room D-109.

Office of Faculty Development

Items of Academic Interest

Everyone Counts: Faculty/Professional Learning Communities on Diversity & Inclusion.

- How do you engage with students of diverse backgrounds without offending them?
- How can you recruit and retain additional staff and faculty of color?
- How do we help all students become culturally competent in order to succeed in life after university?

Affirming diversity takes work, knowledge and skills. Western Michigan University is committed to doing what it takes to become a truly diverse and inclusive university where all students, faculty and staff of all backgrounds, nationalities, and identities feel welcomed, included and have equal access to the resources they need. The Office of Faculty Development and the Office of Diversity & Inclusion are joining forces to offer Everyone Counts: Faculty/Professional Learning Communities on Diversity and Inclusion. Kicking off in February 2010, these learning communities will equip faculty, graduate instructors, and staff with the skills needed to implement course objectives and campus programming centered on diversity. This year-long program will involve regular meetings within a diverse group of eight to 12 people who will discuss literature on diversity, share best practices, listen to guest speakers, attend workshops/conferences, and dialogue around challenges and opportunities. A key component of the communities will be the learning outcomes in the form of a focus course or campus program/project. All individuals interested are encouraged to apply by sending a letter of interest (including name, position title, department or unit, mailing address, telephone number and email address), resume/curriculum vitae, and a letter of support from a chair/supervisor. We are also asking that you send along your demographic information (gender, race, ethnicity) so we can ensure that each learning community is as diverse and balanced as possible. The deadline for application has been extended to Dec. 11. For additional information feel free to contact the program directors: Andrea Beach (269) 387-1725 | andrea.beach@wmich.edu or Zarinah El-Amin Naeem (269) 387-6324 | zarinah.el-amin@wmich.edu.

Haworth College of Business

Items of Academic Interest

Over 40 faculty, staff and members of the community attended a panel discussion on financial institutions and regulatory reform in mid-October at the University’s Fetzer Center. The event was co-sponsored by the Chartered Financial Analyst West Michigan Society and the WMU Haworth College of Business. Panelists included Dr. Ajay Samant, interim dean of the Haworth College of Business; Arthur Johnson, the 2009-10 American Bankers Association chair, chair and chief executive officer of United Bank of Michigan and chair, president and CEO of United Community Financial Corp. of Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Harvey Koning, a partner with Varnum LLC, Attorneys-at-Law, where he is corporate counsel to publicly traded and privately held businesses. Ted Fuger, former president of the CFA West Michigan Society, served as moderator.

The fall 2009 Haworth College of Business Professor of the Day Program featured six community business leaders who came back to the classroom to share their experiences and expertise with students. The guest professors are listed by department. Accountancy

- Richard Reahm, CPA, BBA ‘73
- Principal, Jansen Valk
- Thompson & Reahm PC

Business Information Systems

- Robert Buchanan
- Sr. VP, Information Systems & Technology
- Auto-Owners Insurance

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More than 4000 undergraduate students in the Haworth College of Business are benefitting from a Target grant supporting leadership development. “The $5000 grant is being used to support two programs Business Bash and the Career Leadership Seminar,” says Linda Ickes, director of the College’s Career Center. Business Bash promotes membership and leadership within professional student organizations. The event is held once each semester. Students learn about different student organizations within the College while networking with student organization leaders, faculty in the different academic departments, representatives from the Career Center and event sponsors. “The event is organized by the Student Leadership Advisory Board, a group which consists of representatives from 15 different registered student organizations,” says Ickes. They learn about planning, execution and teamwork through the planning process. The Career Leadership Seminar is a series of sessions offered in late fall. Student leaders, joined by faculty and Career Center staff, meet to work on career development topics including self-assessment, career exploration and networking with alumni/professionals in field of interest, preparation for internship search and the event concludes with an etiquette dinner and bookstore award, all sponsored by employers. Geared toward pre-business students, the program accepts students who demonstrate motivation to lead their career development. Through the seminar, students learn to identify strengths, interests and professional values and relate them to career leadership and planning, says Ickes. The program is open to all undergraduates first year through seniors, as they may explore academic majors, careers and/or occupational information. As a part of the program, students have the opportunity to network with alumni and employer representatives and hone in on their professional job search skills. Target is a premier partner with the Career Center. The company recruits talent for team leader internship and executive team leader professional positions.

**Staff Accolades**

**Drs. David Flanagan** and **K.C. O’Shaughnessy**, both professors of management, received an Outstanding Paper Award at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2009 for a paper co-authored with Dr. Lori Muse (California State University, Fullerton). The award is sponsored by Emerald Group Publishing Limited, a leading publisher of business and management research. The paper “An Overview of Accounting Restatement Activity in the United States” was published in *International Journal of Commerce and Management.*

**Dr. James Eckert**, associate professor of marketing, is serving as the associate editor for *American Journal of Business*. Dr. **JoAnn Atkin**, associate professor of marketing, has served in this editorial role for the past three years. The College is a member of the editorial board of the publication.

**Dr. Sime (Shema) Curkovic**, professor of management, presented his talk “Advancements in Supply Chain Management Curriculums and Career Paths” to the Stryker Instruments Procurement Group in September, and to the Supply Management Professional Development Network in November. He presented Supply Chain Management Risk along with Mike Vitek, (vice president of Mercedes Benz Technology NA LLC) for the South Bend, American Production and Inventory Control Society (IN APICS)/Institute of Supply Management (ISM) in November.

**Dr. Christina Stamper**, associate professor of management, received a Best Reviewer award for her service on the editorial board of *Journal of Organizational Behavior.*
**Dr. Nancy Schullery**, director of the BBA Program and professor of business communication, published The Relationship between Personality Type and 360-degree Evaluation of Management Skills, co-authored with P.Knudstrup, (Midwest Group), S. Schullery (Eastern Michigan University) and L.Pfaff (Spring Arbor University) in the November, 2009 issue of The Journal of Psychological Type.

**Student Accolades**

The first Haworth College of Business Homecoming Pancake Breakfast was a success. Despite cool and damp weather on Homecoming Saturday, 159 alumni, friends, faculty, and faculty emeriti made their own warmth with Bronco spirit. World Record Pancake Flippers, Chris Cakes, served the crowd endless pancakes, sausage and coffee and entertained the crowd with their unique pancake flipping show.

The SW Michigan Chapter of the Society of Financial Service Professionals sent 10 students to the National SFSP Forum in Phoenix, Ariz., in November. The students, who were a combination of Finance and Commercial Law and Accountancy majors, described their learning experiences at a recent gathering in Schneider Hall, where they were joined by WMU faculty and members of the local SFSP Chapter. The students shared their enthusiasm for the conference. “In class, we don’t actively have the opportunity to do more than read and discuss different cases,” said Brandy Boerman, accountancy major. At the conference there were sessions where participants played various roles as part of different financial scenarios. This impromptu experience forced us to look at situations from different perspectives in arriving at solutions to cases such as those related to family businesses, divorce and inheritance. The students and their professor (Dr. Jim DeMello, professor of finance) were all top notch, far exceeding our expectations, says Jim Gasaway, VP of Gasaway Investment Advisors, Inc., who is involved with the local SFSP chapter and coordinated the effort. Not only do the students have impressive rsum’s, they are also a very sharp group. They appreciated the chapter’s willingness to put this trip together for them.

Team Blackhawk, a team of Haworth College of Business accountancy students, has been named the winner of the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) xACT accounting competition held at the Haworth College of Business. Twenty students participated in the event held in mid-October. WMU is one of 42 colleges and universities nationwide where PwC sponsors the competition. PwC is one of the worlds largest professional services firms. “This was an opportunity for students to be exposed to accounting related issues, to work in a group setting, to develop solutions to a PwC prepared case and to present their solutions to PwC professionals,” said Dr. Jerry Kreuze, professor of accountancy and advisor to the student teams. “I am proud of the effort displayed by all teams and especially appreciate the support provided by PwC throughout this process.” Team Blackhawk members are Morgan Barrons of Lansing, Mich., Brittany Mead of Decatur, Mich., Lindsey Truitt of Dowagiac, Mich., and Miles Smith of Kalamazoo. On far right is Rina Madias, PwC. Team member Sheila Lenz was unavailable for the photo.

After participating in the national conference, several students took time to enjoy the scenery in Phoenix, Ariz., before returning to Kalamazoo.

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the 2009 xACT Case Competition. Finalist teams will present the case at the PwC office in New York in the final stage of the xACT competition. In addition, the team received $1000 in total (each member received $200) and all participants, including the winning team, received a USB Internet radio. The xACT Challenge is an annual case competition exposing students to real world business, accounting and auditing issues. It is designed to test team-oriented critical thinking, where decisions are based on consequences and chosen courses of action.

Upcoming Events

The Center for Sustainable Business Practices will host a conference at the Fetzer Center on Sat., March 27, 2010. Can an Educated Society Be Sustained Solely by Digitalization? A Conference on the Future of Michigan Newspapers and Society will feature presentations by:

- Cheryl Kaechele, President of the National Newspaper Association - Can Democracy survive in the Google age?
- Dr. Thomas Kostrzewa, WMU-Political Science Department - The future of reason in the digital empire
- Dr. Andrew Targowski, WMU-Center for Sustainable Business Practices - Credibility, Incredibility, and the demise of Objectivity, Civility and Wisdom
- Cal Samra, Editor & Publisher of an award-winning humor newsletter and former newspaper and Associated Press reporter.

The program includes a Best Paper Competition with awards for professionals, faculty and students. Information and the Call for Papers are available at www.wmich.edu/business/sustainability/newspapers.

Western Dance Project performs “Yes, and…”

College of Fine Arts

Items of Academic Interest

The Oct. 30 Dancing with the WMU/Kazoo Stars scholarship fundraising event raised more than $11,000 for dance scholarships. Eight local celebrities competed in ballroom dance for the grand prize. WMU celebrities were Provost Tim Greene and mens basketball coach Steve Hawkins.

The Western Dance Project has been invited to perform in the Dance Chicago Festival’s Grand Finale performance at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston, Ill. on Dec. 12. The performance is comprised of those works and performers that are considered ‘best of festival’. The Western Dance Project will perform “Yes, and…” created by Chicago choreographer Autumn Eckman. They performed this dance in one of the festivals showcase concerts in Chicago in early November. The Western Dance Project is the Department of Dance’s touring ensemble that is under the direction of dance faculty member David Curwen.

Staff Accolades

David S. Smith, Ph.D., music professor, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) at its 2009 national conference in San Diego, Calif. Smith served as the first AMTA president and guided the association through the implementation of the unification process when the National Association for Music Therapy merged with the American Association for Music Therapy in 1998 to become AMTA. His impact on that process was summed up in the conference program book: These were often strenuous times, but Smith handled them with professionalism, enthusiasm and purpose, never losing sight of the goals of the unification agreement and working tirelessly to make them become a reality. His other national recognitions from the association include the Presidential Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions, Outstanding Service Award, Spirit of Unification Award, and Presidential Leadership Award. He has also been awarded with the Southeastern Regions Service Award and Research Award.
Paul Nehring, part-time instructor in the foundations area of the Frostic School of Art will be a featured artist in the February issue of American Artist Magazine.

Site Dance: Choreographers and the Lure of Alternate Spaces, a book co-edited by WMU Associate Professor of Dance Carolyn Pavlik and University of Calgary Associate Professor Melanie Kloetzel, was recently published by the University Press of Florida. The book is the first anthology to examine dance performances specifically designed to take place outside of the concert hall. The authors explore the work choreographers create for nontraditional performance spaces and the thinking behind their creative choices.

Student Accolades

Larry Herron (Theatre Performance, 2005) went on to earn his M.F.A. in Acting from the University of California, San Diego. Herron is a featured guest on three primetime network shows this fall: Medium, Numb3rs, and Cold Case.

Senior dance major Jeremy Neal made his debut performance as an apprentice with Wellspring/Cori Terry and dancers in their November 2009 fall concert. On campus, Jeremy currently serves as one of the Hip Hop Connxion artistic directors and has been cast in several Great Works dances produced by the Department of Dance.

Dance alumna Melanie George co-wrote a book chapter titled “Imbed / In Bed: Two Perspectives on Dance and Collaboration” for the book The Collaborative Turn: Working Together in Qualitative Research, edited by Dr. Walter Gershon. The book was published in October by Sense Publishers and is available in online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble websites.

Upcoming Events


Repeat After Me, A selection of prints from the University Art Collection Print Collection that use repetition as a significant visual element. Nichole Maury, curator. Kerr Gallery, Nov. 19-Feb. 19.

The Western Brass Quintet, a resident faculty ensemble in the School of Music, will present its popular Christmas concert on Sun. Dec. 20, at 3 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The concert is free and open to the public. A Brass Celebration of Christmas features the quintet and an ensemble of outstanding students and faculty from the School of Music, including faculty percussionist Judy Moonert. Members of the brass quintet are Scott Thornburg and Stephen Jones, trumpet; Lin Foulk, horn; Daniel Mattson, trombone; and Deanna Swoboda, tuba. The program includes festive music for brass ensemble with selections from the Renaissance, the Baroque, and other periods. The afternoon promises a great mixture of traditional holiday music, brass classics, and new favorites.

Assessment of Student Learning

In the state National Association of Teachers of Singing, WMU students received 48% of the awards in 13 categories. First place winners include:

- Hannah Robinson, First Year College Women
- Liam Bernhard, First Year College Men
- Elisa Ruiz, Second Year College Women
- Tyler Schoen, Second Year College Men
- Stephanie O’Dell, Third Year College Women
- Patrick Muehleise, Third Year College Men
- Kyle Stevens, Third Year College Men
- Cassandra Caminiti, Fourth Year College Women
- Katrina Van Maanen, Fourth Year College Women
- Jennifer Williams, Advanced Women and Men
- Julie Baird, First and Second Year Music Theatre Performance
- Max Wardlaw, First and Second Year Music Theatre Performance
University Libraries

Items of Academic Interest

Prof. Miranda Howard, head, technical services, and Dr. Barbara Cockrell, associate dean for Library Materials, attended the XXIX Annual Charleston Conference - Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition - an annual gathering of librarians, publishers and vendors of library materials to discuss issues of importance. This year the focus was on dealing with the impact of declining budgets. University Libraries is positioning itself to meet faculty and student needs for new and sought-after lacunae materials as budgets tighten and inflation persists in the publishing field. To promote a countermeasure to the costs of serials, in particular, University Libraries joined forces with the English Department and the College of Education to host the campus visit of Dr. John Willinsky, Activist Scholar. His message has been the promotion of “open-access” publication in the electronic era that circumvents the strangle hold of the publishing monopolies like Wiley-Blackwell and Elsevier. Currently over 4,000 journals are “open” to users without purchasing licensing fees. The number is growing, and encouraged through the expansion of Institutional Repositories for the e-publication of an institution’s research, articles, journals, and data. University Libraries is now exploring the IR as new means to diffuse new knowledge.

University Libraries has released a new and improved version of the online research tutorial, ResearchPath. Designed to introduce students to the concepts of college-level research, this tutorial is geared toward many different styles of learning. Each interactive video-based module helps students master skills, such as defining and refining a research topic, locating books, journal articles, and useful websites, and avoiding plagiarism through proper citation of sources. The redesign of the online library tutorial incorporates three major changes: it is in alignment with current web content design standards, satisfying user needs and expectations; the redesign also addresses multiple learning styles and provides visual, kinesthetic, auditory, and text based content; and finally, it takes into consideration the learning style of the millennial learner. The millennial learner, or the Gen Y student, is generally recognized as referring to those individuals born after the year 1982. Profs. Maira Bundza, Kate Langan, Carrie Leatherman, Dianna Sachs, and Michael Whang were closely involved in redesigning the content and the interface of the tutorial to make the new version more effective for this generation of students. Many WMU instructors require that their students complete the Libraries’ tutorial as an integral part of their course content, but anyone is welcome to use the tutorial. ResearchPath is available through the University Libraries website at https://www.wmich.edu/library/researchpath/.

Staff Accolades

Profs. Kate Langan, Edward Eckels, and Dianna Sachs discussed their experimental use of the social networking site “Facebook” as an academic tool in serving students at Western Michigan University. Their presentation occurred at the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Library Association (MLA) held in Lansing, Nov. 4 - 6. Quantitative and qualitative research on the pilot program to inform student users at WMU about services, materials, and events and to answer student queries through Facebook promoted the participation of a large audience. The organizers of MLA’s Academic Librarians Conference in May 2010 encouraged the team to pursue their research and report out again on their results.

Prior to this year’s Homecoming Game, a motley band of personae of times gone by appeared at the WMU Alumni Association PepFest Tailgate adjacent to the College of Health & Human Services. The Association had asked library faculty and staff to reprise its incarnation of characters representative of older texts held in Special Collections and the University Archives, which first promoted library digital initiatives at WMU Day at the Capitol last June. Two distinct eras represented were medieval monastic manuscripts and American Civil War letters and diaries. Participants included: Joe Reish, Sharon Carlson, Brad Dennis, Sheila Bair, Lou Ann Morgan, and Sue Steuer. Initiatives have been underway to digitize rare and delicate holdings of University Libraries in order to conserve them and to make them more accessible to faculty and students. Alumni smiled and laughed as they learned what new ventures in library service are taking place at University Libraries. Alumni and guests welcomed the colorful photo opportunities provided by the band of characters.
With the permission of individual faculty members University Libraries will post letters of appreciation for services rendered by Library Faculty and Staff to the campus community. Library users will benefit from learning of the possibilities of collaboration with us at University Libraries: “Dear Dean Reish, I am an associate professor in History, and I wanted to let you know that I recently had the opportunity to query the library’s History liaison, Maria Perez-Stable, with a research question regarding 18th century British sources, which are outside my field of African American history. Maria was quick and extremely helpful in her response. She alerted me to materials in WMU’s holdings that I had not been aware of, and also suggested holdings at other Michigan institutions and/or available through the research libraries consortium. This will all be very helpful in my research. I have always been impressed with Maria’s knowledge, professionalism, and enthusiasm, and wanted to be sure you are aware that her work is much appreciated by me and my colleagues in History. Collegially yours, Mitch.” Mitch Kachun, associate professor, director of Graduate Studies, Department of History, Western Michigan University, mitch.kachun@wmich.edu.


Interdisciplinary health sciences doctoral student Tom Moore was a featured presenter on the Afflicted and Affected Internet broadcast Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2009. Moore is the Director of Informatics, Quality Management and Research for Proaction Behavioral Health Alliance, located in Grand Rapids and Detroit. He is currently also adjunct faculty at WMU, teaching in the Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

College of Health and Human Services

Staff Accolades

Occupational Therapy Assistant Prof. Ann Chapleau, DHS, MS, OTR presented a research paper, “Voices from the Street: Structural and Individual Factors Influencing Homelessness,” at the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association Annual Fall Conference on Nov. 15, 2009.

Two Blindness and Low Vision faculty members, Dr. Dae Kim and Dr. Rob Wall Emerson, recently published the following article: Kim, D., Wall Emerson, R. S., Curtis, A. B. (2009). Drop off detection with the long cane: Effects of different cane techniques on performance. Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness, 103, 519-530. Dr. Kim is also a summer 2009 graduate of the interdisciplinary health sciences doctoral program.

Dr. Mary Ann Stark

Dr. Dae Kim

Dr. Rob Wall Emerson

Theresa Green, a student in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences doctoral program, served as advisor to WMU public administration masters student Vita Benson in writing the successful grant proposal. Green is the Director of Community Health Planning for BCHD and Benson is a Grant Development Specialist. Lead poisoning in children is a major public health concern, and Benton Harbor, a city in Berrien County, is one of the primary target communities for intervention in the state of Michigan. The grant will enable the Berrien County Health Department to coordinate lead reduction in 120 homes over the next three years.

Student Accolades

Larry Garrett has taken a new position at HealthInsight, a non-profit organization working to improve health care systems and outcomes for the states of Nevada and Utah. He is the Health Information Technology Coordinator and is tasked with assisting medical providers and other healthcare facilities as they implement electronic healthcare records and systems.

The Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) was recently awarded $2 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to fix houses in Berrien County that contain lead hazards. Theresa Green, a student in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences doctoral program, served as advisor to WMU public administration masters student Vita Benson in writing the successful grant proposal. Green is the Director of Community Health Planning for BCHD and Benson is a Grant Development Specialist. Lead poisoning in children is a major public health concern, and Benton Harbor, a city in Berrien County, is one of the primary target communities for intervention in the state of Michigan. The grant will enable the Berrien County Health Department to coordinate lead reduction in 120 homes over the next three years.
Bachelor of Science, Interdisciplinary Health Services (BS-IHS), ’03 alumnus Israil Ali was recently featured in the WMU Alumni Associations Young Alumni Spotlight. Ali has been working as a Management Analyst for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) since 2007. His federal career began when he was selected as one of 44 participants, amongst 2,500 candidates who applied to the agency’s prestigious executive leadership program, Emerging Leaders. During the Emerging Leaders program, he worked side by side with Senior Executives from various agencies within DHHS, such as the Office of the Secretary (OS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He has worked both collectively and independently on various projects that have improved administrative practices and produced efficient outcomes within the Federal Government. A native of Detroit, Ali received his Associates of Science degree, in Occupational Therapy, from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. He then enrolled at WMU, where he received both his BS-IHS as well as a Masters of Public Administration, 06, as a Thurgood Marshall Award recipient. In addition to his career obligations, Israil is a very avid entrepreneur. In early 2010, he will be launching his own virtual concierge company, www.savvyconceptsllc.com along with other collaborative ventures that he says, will change the paradigm of social networking.

At the annual Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA) fall Continuing Medical Education conference, held at Boyne Mountain, two WMU Physician Assistant students received awards. Stacy Schlumbohm and Alisha Guenther were awarded a Michigan Physician Assistant Foundation Scholarship. Both students are currently in their second year of the PA program. The scholarship is awarded to those PA students who demonstrate leadership, a high level of scholarly achievement, and are active in community service projects. Congratulations to Stacy and Alisha.

**Upcoming Events**

On Thurs., Oct. 15, 2009, in collaboration with the Michigan AARP, students from the occupational therapy (O.T.) 5730 Assistive Technology class presented Phase I of the Home Fit program to about 50 senior citizens. Home Fit is a pilot program that helps people over 65 evaluate whether their home fits them for a lifetime. During the presentation, students helped participants determine what, if any, modifications they may need to make to their current residence to allow them to stay there as they age. Participants were invited to bring back their completed home evaluations on Nov. 19 for Phase II of the Home Fit program. At that time, they will receive free consultations with local professionals to determine how to make the needed changes.

**Center for Evaluation**

**Items of Academic Interest**

IDPE Director Dr. Chris Coryn traveled to New Delhi (India) several times during the fall, with others, including Dr. J. Bradley Cousins from the University of Ottawa, to work with the country’s National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Drs. Coryn and Cousins are currently serving as advisors to NCERT for evaluating the Indian K-12 education system as well as to build evaluation capacity in NCERT and India. The following IDPE students recently defended their Ph.D. dissertations:

- **Anne Cullen** defended her dissertation titled “The Politics and Consequences of Stakeholder Participation in International Development” on Sept. 25, 2009.
A large contingent of faculty members and students affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Evaluation successfully represented their program at the American Evaluation Association Annual Meeting held in Orlando on Nov. 11-14, 2009. The 13 IDPE presentations delivered during the conference covered a large variety of topics including: “Theory-Driven Evaluation,” “Context Sensitivity in a Multi-Site Process Evaluation,” “Estimating the Precision of an Evaluative Conclusion,” “Metaevaluation,” and the “Program Evaluation Standards.”

**Staff Accolades**

The Evaluation Center was well represented at the 23rd annual conference of the American Evaluation Association, held Nov. 11-14 in Orlando, Fla. **Anne Cullen, Daniela Schroeter, and Chris Coryn** were part of a demonstration titled “Context Sensitivity in a Multi-Site Process Evaluation.” Cullen presented on the topic “The Politics and Consequences of Participation in International Development Evaluation” and chaired a session titled “Strengthening Schools Through the Use of Evaluation: Issues and Perspectives.” **Arlen Gullickson**, emeritus researcher, chaired the panel session, “Assessing Evaluation Needs: Multiple Methods and Implications for Practice.” Taking part in the session were **Lori Wingate**, (Metaevaluation as Needs Assessment); **Stephanie Evergreen** (Listening to Needs: How Requests for Evaluation Assistance Can Teach us How to Be Better Evaluators); and **Amy Gullickson** (Comparison of Evaluation Use and Organizational Factors as Needs Assessment). Stephanie Evergreen chaired the multipaper session, “Institutionalizing Evaluation and Grantmaking.” Stephanie Evergreen and Kelly Robertson discussed their paper “How Do Evaluators Communicate Cultural Competence? Indications of Cultural Competence through an Examination of the American Evaluation Associations Career Center” at a multipaper session. **Stephen Magura** and Daniela Schroeter presented “Comorbid Patients Improve on Substance Use and Psychological Symptoms in Psychiatric Day Treatment.” “The Program Evaluation Standards Applied for Metaevaluation Purposes: Investigating Interrater Consistency and Implications for Practice” was presented by Lori Wingate in the panel discussion “Metaevaluation and the Program Evaluation Standards” chaired by Chris Coryn.

Topical Interest Groups (TIG), **Otto Gustafson** (IDPE), Daniela Schroeter (The Evaluation Center), and **Michelle Woodhouse Jackson** (IDPE) were program chairs at the Business and Industry TIG business meeting. **Ron Visscher** (IDPE) chaired the Costs, Effectiveness, Benefits, and Economics TIG meeting. **Nadini Persaud**, IDPE graduate, was program chair.

**Student Accolades**

A graduate from the Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Evaluation was featured on the New York Times and the Oprah Show in Oct. 9, 2009. **Tererai Trent**, a graduate from the Ph.D. Program in Interdisciplinary Evaluation at Western Michigan, featured as a special guest on the Oprah Winfrey show on Oct. 1, 2009. A Zimbabwe native, Tererai received her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Evaluation only three days after her TV appearance. Currently the Deputy Director of Planning & Evaluation at Heifer International (a charitable organization implementing aid projects in many countries across the world), Tererai grew up in a rural village where girls were not allowed to go to school. After teaching herself how to write and count and despite her family marrying her off at the age of 11, Tererai was able to make it to the U.S. to complete her undergraduate and graduate studies. Tererai’s story has been spotlighted in *The New York Times* article written by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn and published on Oct. 24, 2009; as well as in a new book entitled *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. “The journey is not yet finished,” Trent adds. “There are more women and girls who still need the same opportunity that I received. We all have a moral obligation to create opportunities and nurturing environments for those in less advantaged positions. As evaluators, the effect of our work becomes the delicate web of possibilities and innovations needed by programs and policy makers to establish meaningful programs that can have optimal impact thereby enabling those in lesser advantaged circumstances to succeed.”
**Graduate College**

**Staff Accolades**

Dr. Marianne Di Pierro, director of the Graduate Center for Research and Retention has two articles accepted for publication in journals associated with the American Society for Quality (ASQ). ASQ publishes journals, leads seminars and maintains a strong online presence dedicated to promoting quality in the educational, corporate and governmental spheres. Her articles are: Disambiguation: Through the Looking Glass - from Debriefing to Process Improvement, will be published by the *Journal of Quality and Participation* in Jan. 2010. The *Journal of Quality and Participation* offers in-depth, comprehensive articles about employee involvement, teamwork, leadership, and change management, among other topics. Also in Jan. 2010 her article “Preparing for the Oral Defense of the Dissertation” will be published by the *American Society for Quality Higher Education Brief*, Vol. 3, No. 1.

![Virginia Bowlby](image)

**Virginia Bowlby**, coordinator of Graduate Appointments, has been selected for the WMU Make A Difference Award for fall 2009. She joins eight other Western employees in winning this award, which is given twice annually to reward employees for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. The winners are selected from a committee of peers from AFSCME, MSEA, POA and PSSO employees.

The award is based on their demonstrated dedication to outstanding service to the university. Virginia has been at WMU for 28 years, serving in several positions, including registration clerk, graduation auditor, and in graduate admissions. After 16 years she has returned to the Graduate College as Coordinator of Graduate Appointments. In this capacity she oversees all graduate assistant appointments, monitors eligibility and processes all tuition awards. No simple job description, though, can accurately describe how valuable Virginia’s service is. She knows about university policies and procedures and is an invaluable resource for not only her co-workers in the Graduate College but also throughout the university. She is always willing to share her time and expertise and sits on several committees, including PeopleSoft Workflow and Banner Workflow. Virginia’s biggest strength is customer service. She doesn’t like to send people on a wild goose chase through the system so usually makes phone calls herself and follows up with the student, faculty or staff member who needs her help. Virginia has dedicated herself to WMU, and her daughter, Sarah, who is a student/employee of Western as well. Her son Nick is in the Navy, and her husband, Chuck, is with Pfizer. The Fall 2009 WMU Make-A-Difference Reception will be held Mon., Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. in Room 157 Bernhard Center. Recipients will each receive $250 and a commemorative certificate.

**Student Accolades**

The Graduate College is pleased to announce the 2009 Campus Visitation on Nov. 13, 2009. Three graduating seniors and one MSW from around the country visited Western’s campus for a tour and introductions to our graduate programs in their fields. The visiting students and their fields are Milisha Hart, Mathematics, from Jackson State University; Brittney Autry, Psychology, from Howard University; Justin Moore, Clinical Psychology with an MSW from Howard University; and Cassandra Walston, Sociology, from North Carolina Central University. The one-a-year visit is organized by the Graduate College and GSOC (Graduate Students Of Color). While here, the students made departmental visits with faculty members, administrators, and graduate students in order to get to know the programs they are interested in. They also had informational sessions with various WMU graduate school administration and staff to learn about admissions and graduate requirements at Western Michigan University. In addition, there were informal social events with current graduate students, faculty and staff. The students who visited were extremely impressed with Western and its programs.

**Upcoming Events**

On Dec. 7, 2009, Joris Mercelis of the Department of Modern and Contemporary History, University of Ghent and Smithsonian Fellow will speak at 5 p.m. in Room 1720 of the Chemistry Building. His topic is “Leo H. Baekeland and the Translation of Technology,” and his talk is sponsored by the Graduate College in association with the Departments of Chemistry, Economics and the MBA program. Smithsonian Fellows are awarded based on the candidate’s academic standing, scholarly competence, experience and the suitability of the proposed research project of study. During the fellowship fellows have access to the Museums libraries and archives as well as many other resources. In Spring 2010 he will be Herbert D. Doan Fellow in the Chemical Heritage Society. Mercelis will be continuing his research on Leo H. Baekeland, *Continued on next page*
Meet Michiko Yoshimoto, Japanese outreach coordinator. The community outreach efforts of the Soga Japan Center were expanded in fall 2009 with the addition of Michiko Yoshimoto, who will serve as the center’s Japanese outreach coordinator to promote Japanese culture, society and language throughout West Michigan. Yoshimoto came to Western Michigan University via the Japan Outreach Initiative offered jointly by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and the Laurasian Institute. Applicants selected to participate in this competitive two-year program have excellent English skills, a good command of Japanese culture, geography, history and culture, and possess an outgoing personality. Yoshimoto plans to work in the SJC until 2011. While at WMU, Yoshimoto will achieve her main goal of increasing interest in Japan through outreach activities in local K-12 schools, libraries, community centers and on campus. Examples of activities that Yoshimoto will conduct include Japanese calligraphy and origami demonstrations, presentations about traditional Japanese clothing, and reading/telling traditional Japanese stories to children. Originally from the city of Miura in Kanagawa prefecture, Yoshimoto says, “Although the population of Miura is similar in size to that of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo’s downtown is much bigger than Miura’s.” After graduating from Yokohama City University with a degree in sociology, Yoshimoto worked for seven years for the local Miura city government as a member of staff for sister city and volunteer programs within the Board of Education. She later went on to work for the Urban Policy Institute of Yokosuka city, the Policy Management Department of Miura, and the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program before she was accepted by the Japan Outreach Initiative. I have participated in many international work-camps, which are volunteer projects that last for a few weeks, in Cambodia, Thailand, Italy, and Japan, Yoshimoto said. Although I have traveled to about 15 countries, this is my first time living abroad. If you are interested in contacting Yoshimoto about arranging Japanese programs for your program, please contact michiko.yoshimoto@wmich.edu.

College of Arts and Sciences

Items of Academic Interest

Western Michigan University’s Department of Spanish students constructed a Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) altar as part of its early November celebrations of Hispanic Heritage Month. A Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) altar is meant to honor the memory of someone who touched your life. This can be anyone from the family pet to Mother Teresa. Anyone who had a positive impact on your life can be the subject of your Day of the Dead altar. People also make altars to show their support for others. There are people who believe that those building an altar are trying to raise the dead. This can’t be farther from the truth, because the belief is that the dead are never really gone, so raising them would be redundant. There is nothing demonic about building a Day of the Dead altar. Altars should include: a picture of the one being remembered, items the deceased was fond of, something to snack on, candles, flowers, and gifts. Altars could include: pictures of saints or religious icons, toy skeletons, skulls or bones, sugar skulls, books, tequila, or their favorite drink and a glass soap, water & a small towel (because being dead can be messy). A Día de los Muertos altar can be as simple or as elaborate as you want. Some people take up entire corners of their homes with Day of the Dead altars, others use a simple end table dressed up with fabric and other items. The point is, size doesn’t really matter, what matters is the heart you put into it. For more information see: http://diadelosmuertos.us/article/dia-de-los-muertos-altars.
A chemist who was awarded the Nobel Prize spoke Tues., Nov. 3, at Western Michigan University. Dr. Roald Hoffmann, a professor of chemistry and chemical biology at Cornell University, spoke at 5 p.m. in Room 1720 of the Chemistry Building. His presentation was titled “The Many Ways of Diversity in Science.” Hoffmann was born in Zloczow, Poland, in 1937. Having survived the Nazi occupation, he arrived in the United States in 1949, earning degrees at Columbia and Harvard universities. Since 1965, he has been at Cornell, where he is now the Frank H.T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters Emeritus. Hoffmann has received numerous awards during his career, including the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, which he shared with Dr. Kenichi Fukui in 1981. In more than 500 scientific articles and several books, he has taught the chemical community new and useful ways to look at the geometry and reactivity of molecules. In addition to his duties at Cornell, Hoffmann participated in a television course about chemistry, The World of Chemistry is a series of 26 half-hour programs developed at the University of Maryland and produced by Richard Thomas. Hoffmann is the presenter for the series, which aired on PBS beginning in 1990. His poetry has appeared in various literary magazines and he has written a half-dozen collections of poetry. In 1993, the Smithsonian Institution Press published Chemistry Imagined, a unique art, science and literature collaboration between Hoffmann and artist Vivian Torrence. His subsequent books include The Same and Not the Same in 1995 and Old Wine, New Flasks: Reflections on Science and Jewish Tradition, by Hoffmann and Shira Leibowitz Schmidt in 1997. Hoffmann’s visit is sponsored by the WMU Graduate College, Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, and the Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professorate.

Staff Accolades

Western Michigan University’s Dr. Priscilla Lambert, assistant professor of Political Science and faculty of the Soga Japan Center, is co-principal investigator of a collaborative research project awarded $312,000 in funding from the National Science Foundation to examine how gender provisions in national constitutions contribute to women’s political and economic standing. Lambert is leading WMU’s part of the research project, which will combine a cross-national analysis of 100 countries with more detailed country case studies on provisions, laws and enforcement for the project titled “Gender and Constitutions: A Comparative Analysis of the Effect of Gender Provisions.” Dr. Druscilla Scribner, assistant professor of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, is directing efforts there. In addition, they will perform more in-depth analysis on 15 countries in five world regions and a close qualitative analysis of six key countries in southern Africa and South America. The National Science Collaborative Grant, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will provide $312,000 over three years to pay for research assistants, materials and software, research travel (including field work in southern Africa and Latin America), and some compensation for summer research. “Our main goals are to produce a book on gender provisions in national constitutions and their effect on legislation and court decisions and ultimately on gender equality outcomes,” Lambert said. “We also plan to make our constitutional coding and data on gender provisions public on the web.” “The fact that Dr. Lambert and her colleague were awarded such a major award on their first application speaks very highly of Dr. Lambert’s work and of the quality and level of work conducted here at WMU,” Covell said. We at the Soga Japan Center are very excited that one of our core faculty has received such an honor. Lambert earned her Ph.D. in 2004 and a master’s degree prior to that in political science from the University of California-San Diego. She also holds a master’s in economics from Keio University in Japan. At WMU she teaches on many topics, including Japanese politics, comparative politics, international relations, capitalism and democracy, comparative political economy and women and politics. For more information, see: http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/741/337/.


Carla Koretsky (Geosciences) has been invited to serve as an editor-in-chief with Geochemical Transactions. Koretsky will be one of three editors-in-chief, and previously was an associate editor with GT. A book by Mahendra Lawoti (Political Science) titled Federal State-building in Nepal: Challenges in Framing the Nepali Constitution (Kathmandu: Bhikuti Academic Publications) was released in Kathmandu, Nepal and will be the subject of a book launch by the Centre for Constitutional Dialogue.

Student Accolades

Alumni Bonnie Jo Campbell (M.F.A. 98) is among the finalists for the National Book Foundations National Book Award for American Salvage.

Geography graduate students Kelly Sparks and Bruce Pahl received first and second place wins, respectively, in the masters level student paper competition at the East Lakes Meeting. Western Michigan University junior offensive lineman Phillip Swanson, an Academic All-American and current School of Communication journalism major from Grand Haven, Mich., is writing a blog for the New York Times prior to and during the upcoming football season. To read more about Phil and this opportunity go to: http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/07/045.html.

Patrick W. Ziegler won an Emmy Award as executive producer for the children’s show “Come On Over!” in June, as the show also took home honors for Best Children’s Program. The show has won 11 other Emmys over the years and two national Telly Awards. Patrick was a student in the Department of Communication and the Theatre Department from 1987-90.