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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

INQUIRY

Investigating Research, Outreach, and Education Activities at Western Michigan University

INQUIRY

is published monthly by the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Graduate College, for faculty and student researchers and graduate advisers.

OUR MISSION

- promote the alliance of research and education throughout the University
- nurture the development of research skills throughout the University
- encourage students, staff, and faculty to conduct research that will advance knowledge, learning, and discovery at Western Michigan University
- support outreach programs that use research to solve real-life problems throughout the world—in our community, the region, the state, the nation, and beyond

OUR WEBSITES

www.wmich.edu/research/
www.wmich.edu/grad/

HERE TO HELP YOU!

Located just inside the front door to the administration building, Linda Comrie's desk is the first stop for many visitors to Western Michigan University. Linda is the receptionist at The Graduate College, but because many visitors inadvertently use the graduate college entrance to the building, she really is an ambassador for the whole university. "Being here at the desk helps me learn what's going on all over campus," Linda says, because she must direct those wandering souls to their desired destinations.

On the telephone, as well as in person, Linda is often the first contact at WMU. She provides general University information—catalogs, applications, and brochures—and refers callers to the appropriate academic department for more specific information. Many students—especially international students—begin their search for aid with a call to Linda. She fields many questions from current graduate students and faculty regarding student aid, assistantships, admission, theses and dissertations, and other topics and directs callers to the right expert in The Graduate College.

Although academic departments offer their own graduate teaching assistantships, The Graduate College processes the appointment forms. Linda assists students and faculty to monitor the progress of forms and tries to sort out any glitches. She helps to set up the graduate assistant training session, assisting with registration, assembling information packets, organizing meals, and providing on-site assistance. She also provides support for other seminars and special programs sponsored by The Graduate College.

Linda's knowledge about The Graduate College and campus events does not betray the fact that she has been at WMU less than one year. Though it was difficult to leave her old job at *Flashes Publishers* after seven years, she says she just knew this was the job for her. "When I walked out the door after my interview, I thought, 'That's my job. I know that's my job.'"

We owe our thanks for bringing Linda here to Sherry Brophy, a friend who works at Miller Auditorium. "She loved it here and had been trying for years to get me to work here," explains Linda. This, and a warm feeling toward her alma mater—she has a B.S. in social work from WMU—persuaded her to make the switch.

"Sherry kept saying, 'You'll love it here,'" Linda says. And she does.



"Linda is very focused on service and very caring about students."

— Paula Boodt,
Director of Recruitment,
The Graduate College

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New Programs

The Office of the Vice President for Research and The Graduate College work together to facilitate research at the University. The new programs described here will help students and faculty develop grantseeking and research skills and gain access to external funding for research.

The GOLD Program

The Graduate Opportunity for Long-term Development (GOLD) Program, established in 2000 by The Graduate College, seeks to increase awareness of external funding opportunities for graduate students, assist graduate students in the process of grantseeking, and increase external support for graduate student research. The program serves to make participants more competitive on a national level as they seek professional employment.

Participants are selected in open competition from applicants whose areas of research and scholarship are likely to garner external support. Each receives a research account containing \$2,000, to be used for expenses related to grantseeking. Participants are required to attend activities, hosted by The Graduate College throughout the year, designed to facilitate the process of securing external funding for student research. Each participant is expected to submit an application for external research support.

Nine students were selected to participate in the 2000-2001 program [see press release at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/0006/9900-333.html]. Applications for the next GOLD Program are due March 15, 2001.

Inquiry Newsletter

Inquiry, published each month in hard copy and on the web, will keep the university community informed of new programs, policies, and procedures that relate to research and graduate education. It will publicize seminars and other events related to research and graduate education, and will announce research awards received by faculty and graduate students. Finally, *Inquiry* will highlight personnel both on and off campus who can assist faculty and students in their research and scholarship. *Inquiry* supersedes *Funding Ventures*, back issues of which are still available at www.wmich.edu/research/news/#pubs. Many thanks to Rudy Ziehl, long-time editor of *Funding Ventures*, for his excellent work.

Related Research

A new summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) in Construction Engineering and Management has been instituted at WMU. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation and coordinated by Dr. Osama Abudayyeh in the construction engineering and management department, this 10-week program exposes undergraduate students to varied aspects of construction engineering and management research. It encourages students to continue research throughout their graduate studies. Ten students arrived at Western on June 1 to participate in the 2000 program, two of whom are WMU students: Stacey Teufel (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Daniel Kujawski) and Brad Hurley (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Osama Abudayyeh). WMU faculty who are mentoring students from other universities include: Dr. Ikhlas Abdel-Qader, Ms. Molly Cole, Dr. Tycho K. Fredericks, and Dr. Lynn Todman.

WMU's REU in Interdisciplinary Research in Environmental Signal Transduction continues this summer from June 5 to August 11. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the program is coordinated by Dr. Susan Stapleton (chemistry) and Dr. Stephen Malcolm (biological sciences). Students will explore the process of science, participate in research seminars and career-oriented discussions, consider scientific ethics and integrity, and complete a research project. WMU student participants include: Katie Bekker (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Silvia Rossbach); Scott Foster (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alex Enyedi); Lindsay Schuster (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Charles Ide); and Sarah Warner (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen B. Malcolm). WMU faculty mentoring students from other universities include Dr. Bruce Bejcek, Dr. Jay Means, Dr. David Reinhold, and Dr. Susan Stapleton. ■

Grants and Contracts Awarded

APRIL-MAY 2000

INSTRUCTION

Dr. Ellen Brinkley, English	\$25,000.00	Natl. Writing Project
Ms. Sandra Glista, Speech Path. & Audiology; Dr. Maija Petersons, Family & Consumer Sci.	\$141,056.00	U.S. Dept. of Health & Hum. Serv.
Dr. Nickola Nelson, Speech Path. & Audiology	\$149,984.00	U.S. Dept. of Education
Ms. Cindee Peterson, Dr. Richard Cooper, Occup. Ther.	\$117,334.00	U.S. Dept. of Health & Hum. Serv.
Dr. Annette Skellenger, Blind Rehab.	\$290,673.00	U.S. Dept. of Education
Dr. Susan Stapleton, Chem.	\$46,000.00	Kellogg Co.
Dr. Susan Stapleton, Chem.; Dr. Stephen Malcolm, Bio. Sci.	\$50,126.00	Natl. Sci. Foundation
Mr. James VanRhee, Physician	\$134,738.00	U.S. Dept. of Health & Hum. Serv.

RESEARCH

Dr. Massood Atashbar, Dr. Frank Severance, Elec. & Comp. Eng.	\$4,000.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Dr. John Austin, Psychology	\$92,000.00	Donnelly Corp.
Dr. Bradley Bazuin, Elec. & Comp. Eng.	\$4,000.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Ms. Lyndell Bleyer, Community Info. Sys.	\$5,800.00	Legal Aid Bureau of SW Mich.
Dr. Elise deDoncker, Dr. Ajay Gupta, Comp. Sci.	\$316,343.00	Natl. Sci. Foundation
Dr. Karim Essani, Bio. Sci.	\$30,000.00	Viron Therapeutics Inc.
Dr. Arlen Gullickson, The Evaluation Ctr.	\$40,000.00 \$30,000.00	Mich. Dept. of Community Health Appalachia Edu. Lab. (AEL)
Dr. Dean Halderson, Physics	\$7,365.00	Natl. Sci. Foundation
Dr. Willem Homan, College of Aviation Sci.	\$88,872.00	Natl. Aero. & Space Admin.
Dr. Jerry Horn, The Evaluation Ctr.	\$70,000.00	N. Amer. Assoc. for Env. Ed.
Dr. Margaret Joyce, Paper & Printing Sci. & Eng.	\$15,000.00 \$1,050.00	Paper Tech. Foundation, Inc. Various Industries
Dr. Thomas Joyce, Paper & Printing Sci. & Eng.	\$100,290.11 \$50,658.46 \$36,021.10 \$6,488.84	Various Industries
Dr. John Kapenga, Comp. Sci.; Dr. Joseph McKean, Math. & Stat.	\$40,000.00	Pharmacia Corp.
Dr. Alan Kehew, GeoSci.	\$5,250.00	U.S. Dept. of Interior
Dr. Mitchell Keil, Dr. David Lyth, Ind. & Man. Eng.	\$1,920,000.00	Varatech Inc.
Dr. Mitchell Keil, Mr. Murari Shah, Ind. & Man. Eng.	\$170,550.00	Microsolid Solutions Inc.
Dr. Paula Kohler, Educational Studies	\$39,338.00	Univ. of Ill.-Urbana Champaign
Dr. Kirk Korista, Physics	\$37,379.00	Space Telescope Sci. Inst.
Dr. Daniel Kujawski, Mech. & Aero. Eng.	\$3,720.00 \$375.00	Flowserve Corp. Flowserve Corp.
Dr. Robert Laing, Dr. Ruth Ann Meyer, Math. & Stat.; Dr. Mark Jenness, Sci. Studies	\$114,422.00	Mich. Dept. of Education
Dr. William Liou, Mech. & Aero. Eng.	\$4,000.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Dr. Matthew Mingus, School of Public Affairs & Admin.	\$3,650.00	Canadian Embassy
Dr. Subra Muralidharan, Chem.	\$145,000.00 \$50,000.00 \$90,000.00	U.S. Dept. of Energy PG Foundation FINDS Foundation
Dr. Koorash Naghshineh, Mech. and Aero. Eng.	\$10,400.00 \$6,240.00	Stryker Instruments Whirlpool Corp.
Dr. Lisa Paulius, Physics	\$122,264.00	Natl. Sci. Foundation
Dr. Marc Perkovic, Chem.	\$70,000.00	Natl. Sci. Foundation
Dr. Michael Reed, Ms. Cynthia Halderson, Sci. Studies	\$5,500.00	Horizon Research, Inc.
Dr. James Sanders, The Evaluation Ctr.	\$202,688.00	Battle Creek Public Schools
Dr. Thomas VanValey, Sociology	\$37,993.80	Various School Districts
Dr. Pamela Zeller, The Evaluation Ctr.	\$27,000.00	Genesee Intermediate School

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Michael Black, Mr. William Cotton, Office of Business Dev. Services	\$32,530.71	U.S. Dept. of Defense
Ms. Lyndell Bleyer, Community Info. Sys.	\$9,215.00	City of Kalamazoo
	\$1,200.00	Mich. League for Human Serv.
Ms. Lyndell Bleyer, Ms. Kathy Joiner, Community Info. Sys.	\$8,000.00	Mich. Foster & Adoptive Parent Assoc.
Mr. James Crehan, College of Aviation Sci.	\$165,000.00	Mich. Dept. of Transportation
Dr. Bruce Haight, History; Mr. W. Wilson Woods, Internatl. Affairs	\$1,850.00	Kalamazoo Public Schools
	\$800.00	United Arts Council of Calhoun County
	\$400.00	Battle Creek School District
Dr. Peter Krawutschke, Foreign Languages & Literatures	\$3,000.00	American Translators Assoc.
Ms. Cheryl Lay, Division of Continuing Education	\$20,000.00	Mich. Dept. of Community Health
Dr. Paul Ponchillio, Blind Rehab.	\$146,900.00	U.S. Dept. of Education
Dr. Frank Severance, Elec. & Comp. Eng.	\$1,575.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Mr. Murari Shah, Dr. Jorge Rodriguez, Dr. Mitchel Keil, Ind. & Man. Eng.	\$2,040.00	American Soc. of Mech. Eng.
Ms. Alison Sylvester, Sociology	\$52,659.00	City of Benton Harbor
	\$34,060.00	City of Benton Harbor

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Dr. Ikhlas Abdel-Qader, Dr. Hossein Mousavinezhad, Elec. & Comp. Eng.	\$40,970.00	Natl. Sci. Foundation
Dr. Philip Guichelaar, Mech. & Aero. Eng.	\$4,500.00	Autodesk, Inc.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dr. Frank Severance, Elec. & Comp. Eng.	\$2,500.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Dr. Frank Severance, Elec. & Comp. Eng.; Dr. Alan Kehew, GeoSci.	\$5,000.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Dr. Frank Severance, Elec. & Comp. Eng.; Dr. Estella Atekwana, GeoSci.	\$5,000.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Dr. Frank Severance, Elec. & Comp. Eng.; Dr. Aletta Zietsman, Sci. Studies	\$5,000.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Dr. Frank Severance, Elec. & Comp. Eng.; Dr. Ronald Chase, GeoSci.	\$5,000.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Dr. Frank Severance, Elec. & Comp. Eng.; Mr. Arthur Hoadley, Mech. & Aero. Eng.	\$5,000.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Dr. Frank Severance, Dr. Bradley Bazuin, Elec. & Comp. Eng.	\$2,500.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Dr. Frank Severance, Dr. Janos Grantner, Elec. & Comp. Eng.	\$2,500.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium
Dr. Frank Severance, Elec. & Comp. Eng.; Dr. Daniel Kujawski, Mech. & Aero. Eng.	\$2,500.00	Mich. Space Grant Consortium

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

\$5,518,269.02

Calendar

DATE EVENT

Friday, July 7	Last day for August doctoral graduates to hold dissertation defense
Tuesday, July 11	Graduate College thesis/dissertation formatting workshop, 3:00–4:30 pm (call 387-3569 to register)
Friday, July 14	Departmentally approved theses, projects, & dissertations due at The Graduate College for August graduation
Tuesday, August 1	Applications due for December 2000 graduation
Friday, August 11	Summer session ends
Monday–Friday, August 14–18	International Teaching Assistant Training
Monday–Tuesday, August 21–22	Departmental Teaching Assistant Training
Wednesday–Friday, August 23–25	University-wide Graduate Assistant Training
Wednesday, August 23	Graduate and Nontraditional Student Services Fair, 3:00–6:00 pm, John Bernhard Ctr., North Ballroom (if your office would like to participate, call Doris Dirks 7-3576)

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