

Items of Academic Interest

**HAWORTH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

John Deere is pursuing a division-wide Build-To-Demand (BTD) order fulfillment initiative. A local Midwest John Deere supplier will assign a project manager who will have overall project responsibility. This person, in conjunction with the John Deere project manager and Dr. Sime Curkovic and Dr. Bret Wagner (from the WMU Integrated Supply Management program), will use a group of WMU ISM students to measure the Manufacturing Critical-path Time (MCT).

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

The 16th Annual Southwest Regional Conference for Physical Educators was held on March 9, 2007 at the Student Recreation Center. This conference was planned by teachers for teachers in order to offer cost effective, professional development for physical educators. The conference was opened with an update on physical education state standards, graduation requirements and new legislation. The conference was led by Ms. Trina Boyle-Holmes, Michigan Department of Education Physical Education Consultant and current president of the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD) and Dr. Deb Berkey, chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Dr. Tom Peterson, Medical Director of Quality and Healthier Communities at Spectrum Health and DeVos Children’s Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan, delivered the keynote presentation entitled, “Prevention and Wellness: Is It The Future of Health Care?” Mr. Pat Ryan and Dr. Ray Cool, faculty members in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, served as speakers during the daylong event. The members of the planning committee graduated from either the undergraduate physical education teacher education program or the graduate pedagogy program and are teachers employed in Southwest Michigan or Northern Indiana.

Dr. Chris Cheatham, assistant professor, and Dr. Timothy Michael, associate professor, both in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation received a $190,200 Department of Defense Army Research Office grant to create an environmental physiology laboratory that will be the only one of its kind in Michigan and will be used to study the effect of hot and cold temperatures on the human body in combination with other factors, such as nicotine intake. The grant is part of the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program. Faculty in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation have been busy buying and installing diagnostic equipment and creating an 11 foot by 11 foot state of the art laboratory, housed in the Student Recreation Center. Cheatham says the body's physical response to high heat and nicotine might be of particular interest to the U.S. military, since soldiers today are often deployed to hot parts of the world and one-fourth of service people use tobacco products.

Dr. Linda Dannison, chair of Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and Dr. Andrea Smith, professor in Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies, recently completed a Fulbright Senior Specialist program in northern Norway. They collaborated with Dr. Amy Holtan, faculty of medicine, Department of Clinical Medicine at the University of Tromso. During their two-week stay, they presented a two-day workshop and two classes related to their research on kinship care and visited several pre-schools, elementary schools and orphanages. Further collaboration will include adapting the kinship care materials, that Dannison and Smith have written for use in Norway. Jointly authored articles on kinship care will be forthcoming.

**LEE HONORS COLLEGE**

A WMU advising graduate assistant, Christian Witt, spent the last couple of months organizing a peer support program that the Lee Honors College will initiate in June during orientation. This is a program that allows current LHC students to apply to be a part of a team that will help freshmen and transfer students transition to WMU and, specifically, to the Lee Honors College. By now, current LHC students have received information packets and are applying to be a part of the LHC Peer Student Success Team.

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES**

Last month, WMU’s first female engineering graduate offered an audience of mostly women engineering students many first-person stories of and insights into survival in a male-dominated profession. Margean Gladysz, senior vice president and regional director of the National Executive Service Corps., Tinton Falls, NJ, earned a WMU BS in Industrial Engineering in 1975. She broke barriers in both college and work in the “testosterone laden environment” of engineering. During her junior year, Gladysz transferred from math to engineering after taking an inspirational physics class. She was encouraged by her father who had taught her drafting, a subject “girls” were

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not allowed to take. “Everything fell into place,” she said. “I knew engineering was what I wanted to do.” Gladysz earned acceptance from engineering students and professors when they realized how competent she was. “[Being an engineering major] was like having 250 big brothers,” she said, “but I had to prove that I deserved to be there.” Gladysz described “biting her tongue” when a professor accused her of seeking her “Mrs.” degree and referred to her as the “secretary” of her first project group. After she scored so high on his test that she “broke the curve,” the professor helped her get a foundry scholarship. She said WMU prepared her well for “the rigors of the workplace” and her career in the aerospace industry. “I have to thank Western for giving me a very well-rounded education,” she said. After graduation, Gladysz began a long and successful career with Bendix Corp. (later called Allied Signal and then Honeywell) in South Bend, IN. Gladysz shared stories of her promotions and senior strategic planner, six major national projects, problems, and on-the-job education. She also explained how off-shoring and out-sourcing trends resulted from actions taken by companies in the 1980s. “Know your industry,” she told the students. As “the first woman” to enter many areas of the corporate world, she encouraged females to develop and use good problem-solving strategies, dress professionally, and assert their credentials. She attributed much of her success to people and communication skills. “I was an excellent report writer, and I ran good meetings,” she said. “I used my skills to interact with everyone.” Part of working well with people, Gladysz said, is learning to listen, developing human relations skills, having a “thick skin,” and treating everyone with respect. “Never act as if you’re better than anyone else,” she said. “Those without degrees have practical experience you could never get in college.” Students were encouraged to be active as undergraduates and to continue their education after graduation. Gladysz passed the quality engineering exam on her first try, completed management training, and earned a MBA. After the formal presentation, Gladysz answered questions from a group of engineering students that included several officers of WMU chapter of Society of Women Engineers (SWE), which coordinated her visit. “There was no SWE in 1975,” she said. Gladysz now runs a consulting group for 170 non-profit groups. “I find it very satisfying to use all my skills and background to help others,” she said.

About 110 Girl Scouts convened at the Parkview Campus of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) last month for the annual “Engineer for a Day” workshop provided by WMU’s Society of Women Engineers (SWE). The 8-to-11-year-old Glowing Embers’ scouts from Kalamazoo, Portage, Plainwell, Coldwater, Marshall, and Battle Creek spent a day designing and launching paper rockets, mixing chocolate asphalt, studying electrical circuitry, building gum drop and toothpick bridges, and using chromatography to decorate canvas bags. They also made “muck,” a putty-like substance good for squishing. Melanie Hancock, a senior in aeronautical engineering and the president of WMU’s student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), said this is the fourth year SWE has offered the hands-on event designed to provide experiences related to mechanical and aeronautical, civil and construction, chemical, and electrical engineering curricula. Engineering students directed all events. “We are all studying engineering, and we try to show the younger girls what engineering has to offer them,” Hancock said. “We also try to keep it fun.” Scouts from different troops were assigned to one of five groups and rotated through the interactive events. The activities seemed to energize both scouts and their troop leaders. “The girls are loving this,” Terri Miller, leader from Marshall Troop 284, said of the 10 scouts she accompanied. “They’re all walking around here with big smiles on their faces. Katy Culbertson, 11, a fifth-grader from Kalamazoo Troop 440, enjoyed the workshop but wasn’t sure about a career in engineering. “Working with the muck is really fun, but engineering looks hard,” she said. Even if the scouts don’t become engineers, the workshop opened a dialogue. Miller said. Her daughter, Michelle Miller, has indicated interest in careers as a veterinarian and as an engineer, but Miller isn’t concerned about what her daughter finally chooses. “The important thing is that she’s thinking about it,” Miller said. “One of the biggest things about this workshop is that the girls have this experience, and now we can talk about college with them.” Hancock said that SWE plans to continue the workshop next year.

Earlier this month, about 40 civil and construction engineers gathered at WMU’s Parkview Campus to examine problems and innovations in bridges. “Bridge Design, Management, Assessment, and Rehabilitation Techniques Workshop” was organized by Dr. Sherif Yehia, assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE); Dr. Osama Abdudayyeh, associate dean for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; and Dennis Randolph, American Public Works Association (APWA) president and Calhoun Co. Road Commission managing director. “The workshop was a complete success which was reflected by the positive feedback from the participants,” Yehia said. “The main objective of the workshop was to provide the engineers in our
region with the state of the art knowledge related to bridge design, construction, assessment and rehabilitation." This was the first of several bridge related conferences planned. "The theme this year was Rapid Bridge Construction and Non Destructive Evaluation Methods," Yehia said. "The organizing committee plans to offer the workshop with a different emphasis each year." Four speakers shared bridge ideas. Dr. Maher K. Tadros was amongst the speakers. He is a University of Nebraska Charles Vranek distinguished professor who has won numerous awards for, and holds eight patents related to, bridge design. He described innovative bridge systems that can be constructed rapidly. In a review of recent trends in bridge design, he described the Nebraska University (NU) I-Girder shape, which offers advantages over present technology. Shoukry Elnahal, a structures team leader from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) who has more than 30 years experience in structural engineering, identified examples of the FHWA's efforts to save time, money and lives by using prefabricated bridge components and by shifting the focus from building to upgrading bridges. He noted that one-third of the country's bridges are in poor condition and that 90% of the urban interstate is expected to exceed or approach capacity by 2020. Hala Elgaaly, a FHWA federal lands bridge engineer with 23 years of structural engineering experience, reviewed the key factors involved in bridge design. Among the principles involved in bridge design are keeping the design simple, establishing harmony through proportion, using continuous, smoothly curved lines, keeping it slender, and establishing structural sensibility. Her presentation included photos of several bridges. Chris Ligozio, a senior structural engineer at Construction Technology Laboratories, Inc. who's responsible for evaluation, inspections, and testing of bridges and their components, examined the remaining service life of concrete bridge substructures. Dr. Tim Greene, CEAS dean, and Dr. Haluk Aktan, CCE chair, welcomed the participants. Workshop sponsors included WMU, the CEAS, the CCE department, and the Southwest Michigan Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

Kathleen Hermesdorf, award-winning choreographer, performer and master teacher will be inducted into the Western Michigan University Department of Dance Outstanding Alumni Academy on Tuesday, March 26th and 27th. Ms. Hermesdorf graduated from Western Michigan University with a BFA in Dance in 1989 and earned an MFA in Dance Performance & Pedagogy from the University of Illinois. She has been dancing in San Francisco since 1991 and directing MOTIONLAB with musician Albert Mathias since 1998. Western University's nursing honors society gained official chapter status during a ceremony Sunday, March 18th at the Fetzer Center. The Bronson School of Nursing Lillian Wald Nursing Honor Society is now chartered as the Upsilon Epsilon Chapter by the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International. Approval for the charter was granted November 16, 2006, just two years after the March 2004 creation of the WMU nursing honors society.

On March 15, two faculty and one staff member from the School of Social Work accompanied 42 students to the annual Legislative Education and Advocacy Day sponsored by NASW-MI in Lansing, Michigan. There were approximately 350 students in attendance with WMU having one of the largest groups of students from any of the state universities or colleges in Michigan. Students had the opportunity to attend senate or house committee hearings, meet with local legislators, and attend at least four workshops covering topics such as understanding the legislative process, how to resolve the state budget crisis, issues with term limits, stem cell research, techniques in becoming an effective advocate, bullying in the school environment, etc. It was a very informative day and also provided the students an opportunity to come together and participate in a unique learning experience outside the classroom setting. Feedback from the students has been extremely positive.
Faculty Accolades

**COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**

Cat L. Crotchett, associate professor of art, will have her art work included in the exhibition “A Woman’s Hands,” at the Smithtown Township Arts Council National Juried Exhibit, Mills Pond House Gallery: St. James, NY.

Nichole A. Maury, assistant professor of art, will mount a solo exhibition of prints entitled “An Array of Plausible Perspectives” at the Galleria Sotoportego, Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, Venice, Italy in July of 2007.

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Barbara Johnson, instructor in the School of Social Work, is being nominated for the Departmental Graduate College Teaching Effectiveness Award and the University Graduate College Teaching Effectiveness Award. She was previously nominated, along with Don Cooney, Bob Werthkin, and Fritz MacDonald, for the university-wide Outstanding Teacher Award.

Social Work associate professor Yvonne Unrau and Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare coordinator Melinda McCormick presented their work funded by the Faculty Assessment Grant on Monday, March 19 in Schneider Hall. Dr. Unrau also presented with graduate student Kristin Putney their research on foster care at Family and Children’s Services on March 21, 2007.

Beverly Moore, former social work admissions director and former Mayor of Kalamazoo, will be speaking at Galilee Baptist Church on Saturday, March 24, at the Women’s Leadership Conference.

Occupational therapy assistant professor, Dr. Carla Chase, will be presenting at the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland (AOTI) 2007 Annual Conference on the "Use of E-mail as an Occupation to Bring the Generations Together.” The conference will take place in Tullamore, Ireland in May.

**HAWORTH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

A paper by Dr. Ajay Samant and Dr. Onur Arugaslan, (Department of Finance and Commercial Law) entitled “American Depository Receipts: A Study of Issuance from the Australian Region” presented at the Association for Global Business Annual Meetings in Los Angeles, November 2006, received a “Best Paper” award.

A paper by Dr. Pairin Katerattanakul (Department of Business Information Systems), Dr. Soongoo Hong (Dong-A University, Korea), and Dr. Jinyoul Lee (State University of New York at Binghamton) entitled “Enterprise Resource Planning Survey of Korean Manufacturing Firms” was published in Management Research News, 29 (12), pp.820-837.

A paper by Dr. Andrew Targowski (Department of Business Information Systems) entitled “Comparing Behavior of Civilizations” was published in a Japanese Journal -- Comparative Civilization no. 22, November 2006.

A paper by Dr. Devrim Yaman (Department of Finance and Commercial Law) entitled “The Role of Convertible Bonds in Alleviating Contracting Costs” (co-authored with Sudha Krishnaswami of the University of New Orleans) was accepted for publication in the Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance (QREF).

A paper by Dr. Onur Arugaslan (Department of Finance and Commercial Law) entitled “Why Are Dual Class Shares Unified?” was published in Business Quest.

A paper by Dr. Jennifer Palthe (Department of Management), Fisher, and Wasserman(Clarkson University) entitled “Management Practices for On-site Consultants: Lessons Learned from the Expatriate Experience” will be published in the March 2007 Issue of Consulting Psychology Journal (Vol. 59, No.1). Also, her article “The Role of Interaction and General Adjustment in Expatriate Attitudes: Evidence from a Field Study of Global Executives on Assignment in South Korea, Japan, and the Netherlands” was accepted for publication in the Journal of Asia Business Studies (forthcoming).

A paper by Dr. Sime Curkovic (Department of Management) and R. Sroufe entitled “An Examination of ISO 9000: 2000 and Supply Chain Quality Assurance” was accepted for publication in the Journal of Operations Management (forthcoming).


A paper by Dr. Lori Muse (Department of Management), M.W. Rutherford, and S.L. Oswald entitled “A new perspective on the developmental model for family business” was published in Family Business Review, 19(4). In addition, a paper by Dr. Lori Muse, S.G. Harris, W.F. Giles, and H.S. Field titled “Work-Life Benefits and Positive Organizational Behavior: Is There a Connection?” was accepted for publication in the Journal of Organizational Behavior, in a special upcoming issue on the Contexts of Positive Organizational Behavior. In addition, an article by Dr. Lori Muse and Dr. Christina Stamper (Department of Management) entitled “Perceived organizational support and its consequences: Evidence for a mediated association with work performance” will be published in the Journal of Managerial Inquiry (forthcoming).

A paper by Dr. David Flanagan, Dr. Lori Muse, and Dr. K. C. O'Shaughnessy (all of the Department of Management) entitled “An overview of accounting restatement activity in the United States” was accepted for publication in International Journal of Commerce and Management (forthcoming).
**Faculty Accolades Continued...**

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**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Allison Downey, assistant professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies, authored a chapter in the newly published anthology, *Interactive and Improvisational Drama: Varieties of Applied Theatre and Performance*. Downey’s chapter, “Theatre-in-Education,” describes a form of interactive theatre (TIE) that uses theatrical techniques and elements to emotionally engage the audience in exploring a particular social or curricular issue. The chapter includes examples of the work produced by Theatre Action Project, the company Downey co-founded in Austin, TX, that toured to schools and juvenile detention facilities.

Dr. Tetyana Kosmanova, assistant professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies, recently had two articles published: “Teacher candidate narratives about extreme social events: Implications for teacher education” was published in the *Journal of Teaching and Teacher Education* Vol. 23, 2007, 215-225 and “Exploratory study of changing ethnic stereotypes of the Ukrainian teacher candidates towards peaceful attitudes” was published in the *Journal of Peace*, Vol 4., No. 1, March 2007, pp. 75-93.

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**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES**

Dr. Alexandra (Sasha) Pekarovicova, an associate professor in the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI), has been elected as one of 12 directors on the Technical Association of the Graphic Arts (TAGA) Board of Directors. According to its Web site, TAGA is “the only global technical association for the graphic arts industries.” Organized in 1948, it shares and disseminates information on current and new processes and products in the graphics industry to its 15 active chapters around the world. Its annual technical conference offers competitions, scholarships, fellowships, and networking opportunities to students. Pekarovicova is a TAGA advisor for the WMU student TAGA chapter. She has published 42 peer-reviewed papers, 16 other papers, and 61 conference proceeding papers and submitted 65 grant applications, which have resulted in her being awarded 22 grants. Since coming to WMU in 1997, she has received funding from numerous extramural grants including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Eppley Foundation, Omnova Solutions Foundation, Kimberly-Clark, International Paper, and various industries. Last year, she was Co-PI on a WMU team receiving a $980,000 Michigan 21st Century Jobs grant. She has also received funding for intramural grants from Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund, Hot Melt Inks for Rotogravure, and Inks for Braille Printing. She also holds five Czechoslovak patents and is presently involved in the application process for two US patents. She teaches a variety of courses, including Introduction to Ink, Rotogravure, Printability Analysis, Lignin and Carbohydrate Chemistry, Digital Color Imaging, Recycling and Deinking, Paper, Printing and Ink, Teaching in Discipline, and Graduate and Undergraduate Seminars. She is serving as a committee chair for two doctoral students and several MS students. Pekarovicova earned her Ph.D. and MS degrees in Chemical Engineering at Slovak Technical University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic. She came to WMU from North Carolina State University. As one of TAGA’s 12 board members, Pekarovicova plans to attend the upcoming TAGA 2007 Conference in mid-March in Pittsburgh, PA. Her term on the TAGA board expires in 2009.

On January 30th, Publish America of Baltimore, MD announced the release of Troy Place’s debut novel, *Pizza Pie and Politics: How Mitchell Moon Lost His Childhood*. Place, a faculty specialist in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, teaches IME 1020: Technical Communications and IME 3160: Report Writing. *Pizza Pie and Politics* is a coming-of-age-story that takes place in Battle Creek, MI, and Chicago. It follows Mitchell Moon through his trials and tribulations after graduating from college from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The plot is driven by the consequences of Moon’s erratic decisions, his outward finesse, and his inner angst; it is also propelled by four love affairs, four weddings, and a grass roots political campaign to establish the technologically progressive and aggressively egalitarian E-party as a strong third party in American politics. The novel engages readers with poetic description and a cast of unforgettable characters: Moon, the romantic anti-hero; Charlie Waters, Moon’s muse and friend from birth, who has the odd habit of bathing in the Kalamazoo River; Neil Casteele, the foul-mouthed right-winged bull dog, who serves as Moon’s dramatic foil; Mandy, the salacious and ebullient thorn in everyone’s side; and three strong women that will help Mitchell Moon be a better man: Hé Velasquez, Julie McDermott, and Tabby Cannon. Despite a fair amount of tongue-in-cheek humor, the novel has its serious aspects in that it delves very honestly into the problem of binge drinking among young people, and it contrasts love relationships based on possessive passive aggression with those that evolve naturally from healthy affection and respect. *Pizza Pie and Politics: How Mitchell Moon Lost His Childhood* can be purchased at PublishAmerica.com, Amazon.com, and barnesandnoble.com. It can also be ordered at any Barnes and Noble location. Place’s first local book signing will be at the Barnes and Noble on South Westnedge in Portage on May 26th from 2-4 p.m.

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**Student Accolades**

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**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation community health education majors Mickey Neph and Stephanie Beutel recently completed field experience work based at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. This capstone experience focused on improving the health of students attending NMMU and of populations living in shantytown communities surrounding Port Elizabeth. Neph and Beutel worked directly with students at NMMU to develop and implement programming designed to promote healthy living.

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Poor nutrition, widespread HIV infection, and alcohol use are major factors impacting the health of South Africans. The ongoing relationship between NMMU and WMU was established by Dr. Robert Bensley, professor of community health education, during a Fulbright-sponsored sabbatical in 2003.

The Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Phi Epsilon Kappa initiated 12 new members on February 18. The new members include: Jerry Burgess, Steve Czarnecki, Matt Diamambro, Matt Havrily, David Marsh, John Mellen, Bill Meyers, Mical Newman, Sarah Palmer, Cole Scripter, Megan Thomas and Stacey Williams. Service projects for the year include: Jump Rope for Heart, Relay for Life, WMU Health Fair, Girls and Woman in Sport Day, and hosts for the Michigan High School Athletic Association Volleyball Tournament including a clinic for junior high girls called “CHAMPS” (Cooperation, Hardwork, Attitude, Motivation, Participation and Sportsmanship).

LEE HONORS COLLEGE

Chris Sell was awarded an Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities Award as well as a Dean’s Summer Research Grant. Chris used those funds to do a film and research project that involved traveling around the country to conduct interviews. According to Chris, “The project has become my most challenging and rewarding experience here at Western.” His interviews included his former high school math teacher at Williamston High School; former WMU President, Elson Floyd, in Columbia, Missouri; Steve Hawkins, WMU men’s basketball coach; and Kailash, a professor turned Buddhist Monk in Toronto, Canada. He also interviewed people at the University of Iowa, Ohio University, and Marietta College. Chris says, “I was taken aback as to how powerful and insightful my interviews were. It was as if the very phenomenon I was investigating—powerful moments in communication—was occurring during my interviews.” Chris will soon be wrapping up his project by editing the film for a documentary that encapsulates not only the thoughts of his interviewees, but the change and growth he encountered during his project. He hopes his film will help show the college community how incredible an opportunity a student-led research project can be.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Five CEAS engineering students won scholarships at this year’s Engineers Week Dinner sponsored by the Southwestern Michigan engineering societies in conjunction with National Engineers Week and its 2007 theme, Engineers Make a World of Difference. Winning an American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Southwest Michigan scholarship is Andrew Stastny, a senior civil engineering student from Portage, MI who is graduating in April. He has a 3.36 GPA, and passed the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam last fall. An active member of the ASCE, Associated General Contractors (AGC), and Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) student chapter for the last 4 years, he is currently the vice president and treasurer and is actively busy preparing for the group’s concrete canoe and steel bridge competitions. He’s also a member of Tau Beta Pi engineering honors society. His other awards include the Kalamazoo Technology and Science Fellows Scholarship/ Mentorship with AVB Construction through the Monroe-Brown Foundation, the AGC Greater Detroit John Daley Leadership Award 2006 and the AGC Foundation’s Undergraduate Scholarship 2006. In Fall 2002, his 22-page research paper, “Advancements in Reinforced Concrete,” won second place in a WMU freshman writing contest. His goals beyond graduation are to make a positive contribution to his new employer, Kimley-Horn and Associates in Phoenix, Arizona, where he has accepted a position as traffic engineer analyst. He plans to study under professional engineers for 4 years and then take the PE exam to get his license.

Matthew Neiman, a senior civil engineering student who graduates in April, also won an ASCE Southwest Michigan scholarship. His interest in construction, engineering, and leadership began while he was growing up in St. Clair, Michigan. He said that Kalamazoo and WMU have been “a great place to continue pursuing a rewarding career in civil engineering.” He has been an active member of the WMU ASCE chapter for two years. Serving presently as its president, he has also been the secretary/treasurer. According to Neiman, participating in the chapter’s concrete canoe team as a builder, paddle, and oral presenter has been fun and challenging. His goal is to take an entry level position in transportation or land development. “I would like to thank those who have contributed to my education and encouraged my progress.”

Winning an Eaton E-Week scholarship is Shannon Bowerson, a junior from Livonia, who has a 3.79 GPA in industrial engineering. She is presently the president of the WMU chapter of Institute of Industrial Engineering and was recently elected vice president of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honors Society. The Lee Honors College student is also a member of Alpha Pi Mu Industrial Engineering Honors Society, Phi Sigma Theta Honors Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, and Golden Key International Honors Society. She works on various IE projects at The Human Performance Institute at WMU and she is employed at Parkview Café at the Parkview Campus. She loves to travel, and last fall she studied abroad in Wollongong, Australia. While at WMU, she has been active in intramural sports and as a Special Olympics coach, and involved in Best Buddies. After graduation in April 2008, she plans to remain at WMU for graduate school, possibly aiming for a Ph.D. and a career as a college professor. “I truly admire and appreciate the amazing faculty in the Industrial Engineering department,” she said. “I know all the IE students share my appreciation for all their hard work, dedication, and genuine concern for their students.”

Trisha Janicki, a junior in chemical engineering from Houghton, MI, won an Eaton E-Week scholarship. A member of the Lee Honor’s College with a 3.81 GPA, she has been a member of the e-board for American
Winning an ASPE E-Week scholarship is Melissa Saltzman, a senior in Engineering Management Technology with a minor in Integrated Supply Management. She maintains a 3.95 GPA and will graduate in April. In addition to being a member of Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and several honor societies, she has been an intern at Summit Polymers Engineering for more than a year. Summit designs, prototypes, and manufactures interior car components. “Being an intern has helped teach me a lot about the engineering world,” she said. 

“Experiencing the fast-paced, high-quality demands of the auto industry first hand has really helped me appreciate the knowledge I’m gaining from school.” She chose WMU because “it offers such a wide range of options for students.” She hopes to pursue a career in operations and supply chain management preferably in Southwest Michigan. “The prospect of being able to help generate plans that will lead to savings in not only time and money, but precious resources and energy really excites me,” she said. “I look forward to being able to apply what I learn in school to the real world.”

The WMU chapter of the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) won several awards last month at the 2007 IIE Region IV Conference held at Ohio State University, in Columbus, OH. IIE professors and IIE advisors Dr. Steven Butt, current IIE Region IV vice president, and Dr. Tycho Fredericks, current IIE Region IV assistant vice president for student development, accompanied 19 WMU students to the event. Four WMU students won first and third place honors for two papers presented in the technical paper contest. Seniors John Knapp, Michael Kruse, and Lawrence Pitcher took the top prize for a paper based on their senior design project: “Analysis of Forecasted Capacity Utilization Through a Simulated Environment of an Outpatient Pharmacy.” The paper explores a Southwestern Michigan hospital’s outpatient pharmacy and uses work design and a simulated environment to develop models, analyses, and recommendations to improve the workflow and customer wait time. To complete the project, the students used several exploratory tools to uncover the items that were adversely affecting productivity, efficiency, and customer wait time. The seniors will compete on May 20, 2007, at the national conference in Nashville. Senior Jason R. Saksewski won third place with “Process Design and Improvement: Primary and Finish Broaching Operations,” a paper based on his experiences as an intern. The WMU group also won awards for having more students in attendance than any other traveling chapter and for traveling farther than any other chapter. “We are very excited about how the conference turned out,” said Shannon Bowerson, president of WMU IIE chapter. Other IIE Region IV universities include Dayton University, Kettering University, Ohio University, Purdue University, University of Louisville, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, University of Michigan – Dearborn, University of Toledo, Wayne State University, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University. This year’s regional conference, with its “Think Global” theme, included social networking, team-building events, a panel discussion on post-graduation opportunities, and several prominent speakers including Dr. Deborah J. Nightingale (MIT – Lean Aerospace Initiative), Dr. Scott Sink (VP, MTS Corp.), Dr. Seth Bonder (CEO, VRI), and Ms. Darlene Martin (GM, GE-Aviation).

**College of Fine Arts**

Senior technical theatre major, Zac Law, was selected to be a master electrician at the American College Dance Festival this summer. Zac was referred to the American Dance Festival by dance faculty member Megan Slayer, with whom he has worked on several dance productions.

Sophomore dance major Stacy Schley recently auditioned and was cast as a dancer for Norwegian Cruises on The Majesty that will debark this summer.

Anders Christensen and Tina Walter had artwork published in the March/April 2007 issue of *Adbusters Magazine*. The work was created in assistant professor Karen Bondarchuk’s Art 1070: Form and Surface class in December, 2006, and was inspired by a project that explores the magazine’s “Buy Nothing Day” campaign.

Western Michigan University alumna Amanda Quist recently was awarded the prestigious James Mulholland Choral Music Fellowship by the American Choral Directors Association. The fellowship, worth $5,000, is presented to one doctoral student in the United States each year. Quist earned a bachelor’s degree from WMU in 2000, and a master’s degree in 2006, both in music. Quist is now working toward a doctoral degree in choral conducting at the University of North Texas, where she is director of the women’s choir. She also is associate conductor of the Denton (Texas) Bach Choir.
HA WORTH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Five Western Michigan University MBA students have recently completed an independent study working with Benteler Automotive, in Grand Rapids. The sixteen week project tasked the students with scheduling inbound freight inventories and movements, designing a multi-plant logistical plan, and optimizing manufacturing and storage floor space. The WMU students involved were Trenton Langkamp, Dan Launt, Silas Mulder, Regina Newcomb, and Sharon Stankewicz. HCoB Professors Sime Curkovic and Thomas Scannell coordinated the effort.

The Haworth College of Business and Keystone Community invite you to attend the sixth presentation of the Seventh Annual Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series. This event takes place in the Dean's Conference Room (Room 2150 Schneider Hall) of the Haworth College of Business on Friday, March 30, 2007 beginning at 8:00 a.m. The speaker is Mr. Coleman Long, CFA, Senior Research Analyst and Vice President with Greenleaf Trust of Kalamazoo. His presentation is entitled, “Is Socially Responsible Investing Right for You? The Risks and Rewards of Integrating Your Values into Your Wealth Management Plan.” Prior to Greenleaf Trust, Coleman Long worked for five years at KLD Research & Analytics, an investment research firm that provides social and environmental research on publicly traded companies. Mr. Long is a graduate from Yale University with a bachelor’s degree in political science, and a master’s degree in business administration from the Kellogg School of Management (Northwestern University), with majors in analytical finance and marketing. The Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series is underwritten through the generosity of Keystone Community Bank. The series provides an opportunity for the local community to hear prominent business leaders, WMU faculty, alumni, and friends of the College of Business discuss current business issues, corporate strategies as well as key information regarding the continuing progress of the business college. Parking will be available in the Fetzer Center parking lot. Please RSVP to the Office of the Dean at 269.387.5050. Complimentary breakfast will be available beginning at 7:30 a.m.

EMERITI COUNCIL

On Friday, April 20, there will be a forum on The Future of the University: WMU Financing and State Relations. It will take place from 3:00 to 4:45 p.m. in Schneider Hall Room 2000, in the auditorium at the Haworth College of Business. The four speakers include Robert Beam, VP for Business & Finance; Thomas Clay, State Director of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, Jon Neill, Economics Department faculty member and AAUP Grievance Officer, and Gregory Rosine, Senior VP for Advancement and Legislative Affairs. The forum will address the university and state’s financial situation today and over the next three-to-five years and our options for dealing with these challenges. It is being sponsored by the Western Association of Retired Faculty, WMU’s Emeriti Council, and the Friends of WMU (the university’s political action committee). There will be time reserved for a question and answer session between the speakers and the audience. WMU faculty, emeriti faculty, staff, and members of the community are encouraged to attend.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

About 20 members of the WMU student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) are headed to Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI, on March 31 to participate in the 2007 North Central Regional Concrete Canoe Competition. The canoe – 20 feet long and 32 inches wide – will be judged on its ability to float, its aesthetics, and its performance. Other judging criteria include two papers and a presentation on the canoe’s design and construction. Dr. Sherif Yehia, an assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering, said the project was going well. “This year looks very good,” he said. WMU competed last year, and according to WMU project coordinator April Bollenbach, a MBA graduate student and WMU CCE alum, this year’s entry is “smaller and lighter” and features a new design and a better concrete mix. “Last year the canoe was big and hard to turn,” she said. According to Andrew Stastny, a civil engineering senior from Portage who wrote the ethics paper for the competition, this year’s canoe is a lot thinner and includes a lip along the front that acts as a splash guard. “Last year we used four batches of concrete and this year we used only a little over three,” he said. “It will also be improved due to better trowelling techniques.” The canoe is presently “curing,” a process that takes 28 days after the concrete is poured. “When it’s 90 percent cured, we can take the sanders to it,” Stastny said. Yehia credited Blair Bates from Building Restoration, who showed trowelling techniques and who spent an entire Sunday with the students when they poured the concrete for the canoe. This year’s event also includes a steel bridge competition, which WMU’s team is entering for the first time. The students have designed a 25-foot-long and 8-foot-wide bridge that must be assembled at the competition. Craig Kursinsky, a civil engineering senior, is coordinating the event. Stastny said that the conference also includes a Steelcrete hockey shootout. “Basically we play with hockey pucks made out of concrete,” Stastny said. “It’s a fun thing.” Dennis Randolph, a Calhoun County Road Commission managing director and civil engineer who serves as advisor to the project, said this year’s entry is vastly improved. “We’ve learned a lot from last year,” he said. “This new one is very nice.”
About 20 CEAS student members of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE, pronounced Nez bee) will join over 10,000 participants anticipated at the 33rd Annual National Convention in Columbus, OH, from March 28 to April 1. With the theme Our Time, Our Renaissance, the conference will include workshops, forums, competitions, and discussions. According to Vanessa Lucas, a UEM senior and president of the WMU-NSBE, the convention offered the students an opportunity “to network with other minorities in engineering and other technological disciplines, to build the morale of Western’s NSBE chapter, and to show younger members just how great NSBE is and the standards they will have to uphold.” The convention also offers a career fair with representatives of over 100 companies and graduate schools. The WMU participants include freshmen through seniors from several engineering and technology programs: chemical (ChemE) civil (CE), computer science (CS), electrical (EE), manufacturing (MFT), mechanical (ME), engineering management (UEM). Attendees include Ervin Armstrong (EE), Marie Armstrong (ChemE), Christopher Bellomy (MFT), Dustin Cast (ChemE), Lauren Denham-Hubbard (CS), Torri Garland (ME), Shedrick Harrell (ME), Vanessa Lucas (EM), Cameron Mallard (UEM), Abimbola Ogunleye (CS), Alexander Plair (CivilE), Adrian Sargent (ME), Cedrick Shelton (ME), Andrew Sigfrids (ME), Jeffrey Staten (UEM), Rashad Thomas (CS), Naidra Walls, and Dominique Young (CS). When asked what she hoped to get from the NSBE Convention, Lucas said, “As someone who really cares about the success of this chapter, I am more focused on what the younger members will get out of this convention. I really want them to see how important this organization is and just how much it will add to their success. I want them to be dedicated to this organization just as much as my e-board members and I are. I think this convention will get them excited about NSBE and as a result they will give their all to it just as I have during my time as president.” Lucas said the chapter has attended past national conventions but never at this volume. “This is the first time these particular students have attended a national convention,” she said. Lucas credited several groups for providing the funding for the trip: CEAS, and specifically the Departments of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE), Electrical and Computer (ECE), Industrial and Manufacturing (IME), Mechanical and Aeronautical (MAE), and Print, Chemical and Imaging (PCI). “We’ve also received funding from Whirlpool Corporation and from our own fundraising efforts,” she said.

The 40th Conference on Senior Engineering Projects, set for Tues., April 17, features 71 projects presented by 185 seniors who represent programs in seven CEAS departments. The 25-minute presentations are scheduled between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Parkview Campus. No projects will be presented during lunch break from 12 to 1 p.m. All sessions begin exactly on the hour and on the half hour. The Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE) is offering three nearly concurrent sets of sessions to accommodate 18 projects from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in C-122 and in C-123 and from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in D-115. The Department of Industrial Design (ID) will present 13 projects from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in D-109. The Department of Computer Science (CS) plans nine project presentations from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in D-206. The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) presents nine projects from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in D-204/5. The Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME) has scheduled nine presentations from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in D-201. The Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI) offers eight presentations from 11 a.m. to noon in D-202 and from 1 to 4 p.m. in D-208. The Department of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE), is providing six projects from 9 a.m. to noon in D208. For more information about the conference, contact Laura Decker at laura.j.decker@wmich.edu or 269-276-3248.

Many of these NSBE students are headed to the Annual National NSBE Convention at the end of the month; (from left to right) Adrian Sargent, Britney Henry, Chris Bellomy, Cameron Mallard, Lauren Denham-Hubbard, Shedrick Harrell, Vanessa Lucas, Josh Armstrong, Marie Armstrong, Cedrick Shelton, Alex Plair, Rashad Thomas, Gabrielle Knutson, Brittany Roye, and Trenel Tatum.

For their senior engineering design project, electrical engineering seniors install wiring for a robotic vision system for the FIRST robotics competition: (From left) Mike Prowsiad from Ann Arbor, Faris Khawandeh from Jordan, and Noumoussa Toukara from Mali. Advisor for the senior design project is Dr. Ilhias Abdel-Qader, and the FIRST project advisor is Dr. Tarun Gupta.

Anthony Serge, a senior in manufacturing engineering technology from Novi, analyzes plastic parts in a senior design project in which he, Matt Dawson and Ryan Miller studied cooling effectiveness in plastic injection molding. Advisors for the project are Dr. Paul Engelmann and Brian Sather, WMU alum and a master’s student.

Nursing home care in America today will get a closer look at Western Michigan University on Wednesday, April 11, when the PBS documentary "Almost Home" is shown and followed by a panel discussion on long-term care. The event, from 4 to 6 p.m. in Room 4010 of the College of Health and Human Services building, is being offered by the Departments of Occupational Therapy and Nursing. It is free and open to the public. "Almost Home" was shot on location in a nursing home that undergoes a dramatic culture change to improve the quality of life for both residents and staff. The film captures the efforts of a visionary nursing home director, who is committed to transforming a hospital-like institution into a community that more closely resembles a true home. Event organizer Maureen Mickus, associate professor of occupational therapy, saw the film last year on public television and found it powerful. She hopes that students and community members will attend and start a dialogue aimed at changing the culture of long-term care. "Many of our students have a negative view of long-term care," she says. "And with recent examples of horrific incidents in nursing homes, we need to have a conversation about how we can work toward a better quality of care in these settings" Despite an aging population, few people

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Upcoming Events Continued...

are trained to work with older adults, Mickus says. "Anything we can do to encourage students to pursue careers in aging will benefit us all.” Members of the public, as well as professionals in aging, family members of those in long-term care facilities, residents of those facilities and those involved in making a decision about long-term care are encouraged to attend. RSVP (269) 387-7260. For more on the documentary, visit www.almosthomedoc.org.

On Friday, March 23, students named to the fall 2006 dean’s list will be honored in a ceremony at the College of Health and Human Services from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Over 400 college students made the dean’s list and close to three hundred guests are expected for Friday’s event.

On April 5, two or three WMU social work faculty will accompany 55 undergraduate students on a bus trip to visit Hull House and another settlement house in Chicago, IL. This trip is being sponsored by the undergraduate student organization and will provide another remarkable learning opportunity for our students.

EXTENDED UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

The Graduate Center-Downtown at Western Michigan University’s Grand Rapids Campus will hold an MSW Continuing Education (CE) training session on Friday, May 18 from 8:15 a.m. to noon at 200 Ionia SW in Grand Rapids. The program is called “When Tragedy Strikes: An Introduction to Critical Incident Response in the Workplace” and is being sponsored by the WMU School of Social Work in Grand Rapids. The trainer is Jeff Gorter, National Account Manager for Crisis Care Network and Adjunct Professor at the WMU School of Social Work in Grand Rapids. The training will provide an overview of trends in the occurrence of critical incidents as well as giving participants an understanding of how to organize response to such incidents and how to serve in a consulting capacity in the workplace. The session will provide attendees with 3 hours of continuing education. The State of Michigan now mandates 45 hours of CE over a three year period for licensure renewal. A special rate of $45 is being offered to WMU alumni. This training will be promoted to MSW alumni as well as local social service agency personnel as an affordable option to traveling to Lansing or Detroit for CE credits. The cost is $55.00 which includes continental breakfast, parking and CE certificate. A special rate of $45 is being offered to WMU alumni. For more information, please contact Jean Hibbard at 616.771.9470 or by email at jean.hibbard@wmich.edu. Registration deadline is May 11, 2007.

The Office of Lifelong Learning and Education presents The Education for Social Justice Lecture Series which offers presentations by two visiting scholars during the month of April 2007 at the Fetzer Center from 7:00-9:00 p.m.:

- Dr. Gladys M. Jiménez-Muñoz will present Historical Lessons: Making a Racial Difference on April 11th. Dr. Jiménez-Muñoz received her BA in Education from the University of Puerto Rico, with a major in Secondary Education in History and Social Studies and a minor in Special Education; her MA in History from Binghamton University in 1989, and her PhD in Women’s History from Binghamton University in 1994 with a minor in U.S. History, Multicultural Education and a Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies. Her research and scholarly interests include: U.S. Women’s History; Latinas/os in the U.S.; Feminist theories; Multicultural education; Cultural studies and a critique to Coloniality; Latin American and Caribbean history; Race, class, gender, sexuality, and nationality.

- Dr. Bill Ayers will present Emancipate Yourself from Mental Slavery on April 18th. Dr. Ayers is a distinguished professor of Education and Senior University Scholar at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). He is the founder of both the Small Schools Workshop and the Center for Youth and Society and teaches courses in interpretive and qualitative research, urban school change, and teaching and the modern predicament. A graduate of the University of Michigan, the Bank Street College of Education, and Teachers College, Columbia University, Ayers has written extensively about social justice, democracy and education, the political and cultural contexts of schooling, and the meaning-making and ethical purposes of students and families and teachers.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

The annual senior interior design comprehensive project exhibition and reception will be held in the gallery on Saturday, April 28, immediately following the College of Education graduation ceremony.

On Saturday, April 14, 2007 the following graduates from the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation will be inducted into the Alumni Honor Academy: Robert Ezelle (1994), executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Kalamazoo; Kathy Hutfilz (1972), high school physical education teacher in the St. Louis, MI Public Schools; Marcia Karwas (1988), faculty at California State University Monterey Bay; Robert Moss (1975, 1980), faculty member and director of the athletic training program at Albion College; Martha Jan Orloff (1970), retired lecturer/teacher of Aquatics at Texas A&M University; and Ellen Schnackel (1992), facilities supervisor for the City of Farmington Hills, Department of Special Services.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Western Michigan University will officially open the new Richmond Center for Visual Arts (RCVA) with a celebration from 2-5 p.m. on Thursday, April 12. The dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. features welcoming remarks from WMU President Diether Haenicke and lead donors James W. and Lois I. Richmond, among others. Tours of the fabulous new facility and information about RCVA programs, the WMU College of Fine Arts, and the School of Art will be highlighted throughout the afternoon.
Once On This Island is a family musical of love and hope. It will be performed in the Multiform Theatre, March 22-23 and 29-31 at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, April 1 at 2 p.m. Two different worlds collide in the Caribbean: one of poor, laboring peasants, and the other of wealthy, careless grands hommes. This family musical by renowned composing team Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (Ragtime, Seussical) tells the story of a young girl’s first love and her quest to conquer death. Tickets may be purchased through the theatre box office, 387-6222.

The 48th Annual Concerto Concert, featuring two student soloists and the University Symphony Orchestra, will be performed on Sunday, April 15 at 3 p.m. in Miller Auditorium. Soloists Mialtin Zhezha (violin) and Lindsey Sheen (flute) were selected through an audition process in February to perform in this concert.

Western Michigan University's Music Therapy program will host its 28th Annual Music Therapy Clinic Concert at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 16, in the Dalton Center Multimedia Room. Over the years the concert has become a joyous celebration of achievement and an evening of affirmation for the individuals, groups, families, and caregivers who have participated in music therapy services over the course of the semester.

In the Elizabethan classic, Doctor Faustus, we enter a world of devils and dealings. Trading his soul for daily pleasures, Faustus spirals into a hell of his own making in this production supported by a WMU innovation grant. Guest director Leon Ingulsrud and the design team will adapt the latest digital media technology to make the brimstone burn. Doctor Faustus runs Thursday through Saturday, April 12-14 and April 19-21, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 22, at 2 p.m. in Shaw Theatre. Tickets are available through the Gilmore Theatre ticket office at 387-6222.