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WMU International News September 2008

Haenicke Institute for Global Education

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Michigan’s fall harvest offers good things to eat and drink
Western Michigan University alumnus Dr. Nick Triantafilopoulos, an internationally recognized expert in paper coating process technologies and rheology and a native of Athens, Greece, is one of three recipients of WMU’s Alumni Association’s 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award.

WMU alumni Dr. Nick Triantafilopoulos, B.S.E. ‘81, M.S. ‘85, Richard Koehn, B.A. ‘63, and Charles Valluzzo, B.B.A. ‘62 are the 2008 recipients of the Alumni Association’s most prestigious honor. The annual award was established in 1963 to recognize alumni who have achieved a high level of success in their professions.

Triantafilopoulos received his first bachelor’s degree in physics from the University of Athens in 1979. As he approached graduation, his academic focus began to shift to follow in his father’s footsteps, who worked in the paper industry. Identified through scholastic tests in the fourth grade as a gifted student, he was awarded scholarships to attend the prestigious Athens College high school in Greece and he excelled in his studies at the University of Athens.

In his final year at Athens, his research to identify a university with a good paper science program pointed him to WMU to earn a second bachelor’s and a master’s in paper science and engineering.

"I wanted to get a practical education as a graduate student, so I searched the Fulbright books and others about colleges that included rankings and details about the curriculum," he said. "WMU was on the top of the list and the paper science
faculty then—Dr. Raymond James and Mr. Jim Kline—were the top academic researchers in their field."

Jolene Jackson, who retired from WMU in 2004 after 37 years of service as the director of international student services, met Triantafilopoulos in 1989 when he arrived on campus for orientation. She remembers being immediately impressed by his personality and communication skills.

"There was no doubt about it—Nick was focused, he was a leader," Jackson said. "Nick is not only very, very bright, but he is also very social, getting along well with people while still doing a good job on his academic work. He helped out in the office with new students and became a confidant for many. Nick also assumed the role of being the main student leader for four years of the international student orientation program that welcomes incoming international students and we worked closely on that. It was also very clear he wanted to make friends with American students, too, because he got involved in many other organizations on campus."

Having grown up in a hot, arid climate, Triantafilopoulos fondly remembers the contrasts he noted between his homeland and Michigan, even from the air, when he arrived in Kalamazoo.

"Kalamazoo was the first place I visited in the United States," he said. "Flying in, it was interesting to see single-family houses with A-frame roofs; in Greece, homes are multi-family square boxes with flat roofs, so that was new to me. It is also in Kalamazoo that I saw snow for the first time in my life. Coming to Kalamazoo and WMU was a great choice because the community is not too big and the university has a good enrollment, but it’s not huge."

Over the course of the five years that followed earning his WMU master’s degree, Triantafilopoulos worked as a research scientist, engineer and scientific advisor for several Midwest companies, while earning his doctorate in 1991 from the Institute of Paper Science and Technology in Atlanta, Georgia.

A return trip to Kalamazoo came about for Triantafilopoulos for the 1990-1991 academic year, when he was asked to serve as an assistant professor of paper and printing science and engineering. In addition to honing his teaching skills while on campus post-Ph.D., he met his wife, Kim Bakkum, a pianist and music pedagogy professional, who at the time was a graduate student in WMU’s music program.

"We met at the wedding of George Demedrakopoulos, who at the time was the associate dean of the college of arts," he said. "Kim was asked to play music for the ceremony and I ended up spending the entire reception getting to know her. We both enjoy classical music, so most of our dates were for performances at Miller Auditorium. We married in 2002 and she helped run a summer piano camp at WMU until 2005, so she also still has lots of connections on campus."

Triantafilopoulos continues to garner support for WMU’s Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering & Imaging (PCI) through his work at Omnova Solutions Inc., where he signed on in 1992 as a senior research associate. In 2000, he was named director of multi-site Polymer Innovation, Analytical Solutions and New Product Development for Paper and Carpet. His responsibilities were increased in 2003, when he became Director of New Technologies for RohmNova, and in 2006 when he became the Director of Technology for Performance Chemicals Division.

His advocacy for WMU’s PCI has resulted in a multi-year annual grant worth $30,000 from the OMNOVA Solutions Foundation for graduate research projects ($23,000), an undergraduate scholarship competition ($2,000) and faculty development ($5,000). Additionally, Triantafilopoulos helped WMU secure two
endowments of $25,000 each from the foundation to create two scholarships to provide financial assistance to WMU paper science and paper engineering undergraduate students.

In 2006, Triantafilopoulos was named an adjunct faculty member of WMU’s Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Imaging and has delivered two campus lectures and served as a coffer for publications. He also expects to serve on graduate committees as part of his adjunct responsibilities.

Triantafilopoulos holds four patents, has published three books and more than 65 articles, and is a technical editor of two professional journals. He is the recipient of numerous honors for his technical innovation and leadership in the paper industry, including a fellowship from the Technical Association of the Paper and Pulp Industry, a recognition given to only one percent of its 24,000 worldwide members.

The nomination for Triantafilopoulos’ Distinguished Alumni Award originated from the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Imaging, with support from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

"I was surprised to learn of the award because the Alumni Association typically recognizes people who are in their late fifties and sixties," said Triantafilopoulos, who is in his early fifties. "You never know how you are doing against a group of your peers until an outside body judges you based on a look at your resume and body of work. I am pleased and humbled to be the recipient of this prestigious award and thankful to the department and the college leadership for their nomination."

The 2008 award recipients will be honored at the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner planned for Friday, Oct. 3. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner follows at 7:15 p.m. in the Bernhard Center’s West Ballroom. Reservation information is available online at www.wmich.edu/alumni: click on "Events." Or, call (269) 387-8777.
**WMU international student enrollment jumps 15 percent**

Enrollment gains spurred by new freshmen, grad students

Western Michigan University experienced an overall growth of 1.6 percent in enrollment this fall, primarily the result of a large 8.8 percent boost in the number of new freshmen and healthy increases in graduate student numbers. International student enrollment grew by 15.2 percent, raising the total to 1,114 international students on campus.

Two government scholarship programs have been pivotal in overall growth in international enrollment. A recent scholarship program signed by President John M. Dunn with the government of the Dominican Republic has brought more than 100 of their students to Western’s campus. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has 139 students studying in Kalamazoo this fall.

"Our scholarship agreement with the government of the Dominican Republic reflects Western Michigan University’s commitment to meet the educational aspirations of students from other countries," said Dr. Donald McCloud, dean of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education. "The trust that the Saudi Arabian mission in Washington, DC continues to place in the high quality of education that their students can obtain here in Kalamazoo also reflects the commitment of our community to welcome students from around the world."

The official fall 2008 enrollment count for WMU is 24,818, an increase of 385 students over last year's total student count. Beginning freshmen hit 3,870, an increase of 314 over last year's beginning freshman class. The numbers reflect the University's official fall census conducted Sept. 9.

The number of master's level students increased by 195 or 5.8 percent, and the number of doctoral students is up by 43 or 5.2 percent. Strong graduate enrollment at WMU’s branch campuses drove those increases, with the greatest gains at the Battle Creek, Grand Rapids Beltline and Southwest campuses.

"We've been watching the numbers and listening to families all summer and we knew our growth would be strong," said WMU President Dunn, in a university press release. "It wasn't until we saw the final census count, however, that we began to uncover the wealth of good news this year's enrollment data reflects. In addition to strong freshman and graduate student numbers, we have major increases of 10.5 percent in our minority student population and a 15.2 percent in our international student body. This is important news for us because it reflects the ethnic and cultural qualities so important to a great multifaceted research university like ours."

Minority enrollment increased by 288 students to 3,030, with more than half of that increase among African American students. International student enrollment is 1,114, showing its first significant increase since 2001. For more information about international students and programs at WMU, visit the Haenicke Institute Web site: [http://international.wmich.edu](http://international.wmich.edu)
Former WMU engineering dean takes the provost’s reins

Dr. Timothy J. Greene, former dean of Western Michigan University's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, was named the University’s new provost and vice president for academic affairs effective Aug. 1 by President John M. Dunn. Greene had been the engineering and applied sciences dean at WMU since April 2005. He came to WMU from the University of Alabama, where he was serving as assistant vice president for research and academic affairs. Prior to accepting that position in 2004, he had served as engineering dean there since 1999. (additional biographical information follows)

An expert in the areas of scheduling, operations management, leadership and change management, Greene has made technical presentations in eight other nations and is the author or co-author of more than 50 articles and book chapters. He also has managed more than $10 million in research funding and has served as advisor to 30 master's level students and nine doctoral students.

"I am honored the president has selected me as WMU's next provost," says Greene. "I am very pleased that the University faculty, staff and students were supportive of my candidacy. During the next few months, I will spend a considerable amount of time meeting with faculty, staff and students across the University. Many things drew me to the provost's position, but clearly the most important one was the dedication our faculty and staff have to our students and university."

The internationalization of the university will continue to be a high priority under Greene’s leadership to ensure all WMU graduates—domestic and international—are prepared to enter the global workforce of the 21st century.

"Every one of our graduates, undergraduate or graduate, will live and work in a truly international environment," Greene said. "You can see that by reading the newspaper or watching the evening news. It is my belief that students need increased knowledge about how to live and work in an international environment."
environment. I will be having discussions with faculty about how they instill this knowledge in their students. Faculty owns the curriculum. The opportunity I have as provost is to ask the faculty, are you comfortable with what you are doing? Are there different things you could teach or research to better expand students’ global knowledge?"

The Haenicke Institute will help lead that conversion, said Greene, by providing access to resources for faculty that will support their efforts to globalize curriculums in their disciplines and to conduct research and teach overseas.

Greene replaces Dr. Bassam Harik, the University's interim provost since July 2007, who stepped in following the retirement of Dr. Janet Pisaneschi and agreed to serve while the national search was conducted.

"Our campus community came together to thoroughly examine the finalists and provide feedback to me during this critical appointment process," said WMU President John M. Dunn."The caliber of the candidates was extremely impressive, but in the final analysis, Dr. Greene proved to be the right candidate for WMU. His energy, proven leadership abilities, commitment to our values and strong knowledge of our University resonated with members of our faculty, staff and student body. He is well qualified to serve as our provost."

**Greene touts the Western Edge strategic plan for academic success**

During his tenure as dean of WMU’s engineering college, Greene welcomed hundreds of international engineering students to campus and is committed to their success. He said the Western Edge strategic plan for student success, established by the University in 2007, provides a clear path for international and domestic students to complete their degree supported by University resources.

"The Western Edge embodies a philosophy on this campus that we are and always have been deeply concerned with student success, irrespective of where students come from when they come to WMU," he said. "The Edge will continue to evolve and grow—it is the sum and total of all we do on this campus so our students can be successful."

**The five major components of the Western Edge**

1. **Retention scholarship** - students who maintain a 3.0 or better GPA who earn 30 credits from WMU in their first year on campus will receive a $500 scholarship when they return the following fall to WMU. That financial incentive, coupled with the University’s commitment to keep tuition affordable, can keep students in school.
2. **Enhanced academic advising** will help move students smoothly and quickly through their degree programs.
3. **Graduation compacts** will help to ensure courses are available when students need them to prevent delays in completing programs.
4. **Fixed room and board rates** for up to four years for students who opt to stay in campus residence halls.
5. **Academic opportunities** - a number of other for-credit opportunities will be offered to help students graduate with the skills and experience they need and will help keep them academically involved and excited about preparing for their future.

Comprehensive information about the Western Edge is accessible online at: [http://www.wmich.edu/edge/]
Career and academic background--Dr. Timothy J. Greene

Earlier in his career, Greene was at Oklahoma State University, where he was head of the School of Industrial Engineering and Management and later associate dean for research. In addition, Greene was a faculty member at Virginia Tech from 1980 to 1991. His background also includes extensive consulting work in private industry, for such diverse clients as Brunswick Corp., Ingersoll Rand, Union Carbide, Federal Mogul and IBM.

He is a senior member and fellow of the Institute of Industrial Engineers and served as national president of that organization in 1997-98. He also is a senior member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and a member of honor societies Phi Kappa Phi, Tau Beta Pi, Alpha Pi Mu and Sigma Xi. In addition, he has served as an onsite evaluator for ABET--the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology Inc.

Greene earned three engineering degrees from Purdue University--a bachelor's degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering in 1975 and master's and doctoral degrees in industrial engineering in 1977 and 1980, respectively. He is a tenured faculty member in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering.

WMU promotes internships abroad for academic credit

Negocia Business School, in Paris, France

In response to growing interest from Western Michigan University students and faculty, the Haenicke Institute for Global Education has developed a system to assist students seeking internships abroad for academic credit.

Thirty-five percent of college-bound high school seniors plan to undertake an international internship during their undergraduate studies, according to a 2008 survey conducted by the College Board, with the American Council on Education, and the Art & Science Group LLC. Forty-six percent believe that internship abroad possibilities are an important component in their choice of colleges.

A March 2008 survey conducted by the Association of American Colleges and Universities tapping employers to learn what skills and characteristics they seek in new hires revealed that four out of five executives believe that faculty-supervised and evaluated internships are an effective way to ‘...ensure that recent college graduates possess the skills and knowledge needed for success at their company’.

“Internships are an integral part of the curriculum in most educational programs in Europe, where the average business student graduating with a five-year degree will have completed 12 months of supervised and graded work in a company,” said Brett Berquist, Haenicke Institute executive director of international programs. “In the United States system, professional experience has traditionally been the responsibility of the individual student and is not often a required part of the curriculum.”

Berquist developed an international internship program at a business school in Paris in the late 1990s that eventually resulted in fifty-five percent of the student body completing an internship abroad. “The challenge for students at many American universities, including WMU, is how to find information on what is possible for academic credit and the appropriate faculty supervisor,” he said. “Thirty two students received credit for internships abroad in 2005-2006. Hopefully the new system we are putting into place will encourage more students to combine the valuable work experience of an internship with the chance to experience another culture.”
Student interest in interning abroad as part of their studies at WMU is strong, said Lynn Kelly-Albertson, director of career and student employment services.

“Many students ask us whether they should study abroad or do an internship,” she said. “They want to know which project will help them stand out in the marketplace after their degree. Now, we can assist students to consider combining both these options,”

International internship opportunities offered through WMU will be posted on BroncoJobs (www.wmich.edu/career/). Advice on finding an internship abroad, as well as support during the internship, will be provided through Kelly-Albertson’s office.

The first and most important step for students to complete when arranging an overseas internship is to find a faculty supervisor who will support the project and evaluate the student’s performance. Haenicke Institute staff can help direct students to appropriate faculty supervisors. There are three options for students to find an internship abroad:

1. Intern abroad in conjunction with a study abroad program.
2. Use an internship placement service.
3. Secure an internship offer directly with an overseas employer.

See www.wmich.edu/studyabroad select ‘intern abroad’ from the left-hand menu for more information.

This system for promoting internships abroad was developed through extensive dialogue with academic departments and colleges as well as advising staff. In 2006, the International Education Council of the Faculty Senate passed a resolution to “…recognize international experiential education as an integral component of the internationalization of our academic community and the learning experience.”

The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences has opened a student chapter of the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, under the guidance of Dr. Said AbuBakr. The Haworth College of Business is also considering creating a similar chapter for business students (AIESEC). Both organizations train student members on how to work with local corporations to identify internship opportunities for international students in the Kalamazoo area. Internship offers produced by the chapter’s efforts are disseminated to members overseas through an online clearinghouse. Local members can then apply for internships identified by their counterparts in other countries.

Sean Pepin and Katie Smith, WMU graduate students in the higher education leadership program, worked with Berquist during this past summer and early fall to implement the application process. Pepin and Smith surveyed existing WMU internship credits and all department chairs and researched best practices in U.S. universities for facilitating internships abroad for academic credit. In collaboration with the office of Career and Student Employment Services, they will lead a special information session during the institute’s Study/Work Abroad Fair on October 8. The info session begins at 5 p.m. in the Bernhard Center Room 212. Many internship provider organizations will also be exhibiting at the fair from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Bernhard Center’s South Ballroom.
ISORP welcomes 350-plus overseas students to campus

The Haenicke Institute for Global Education was pleased to welcome more than 350 new international students to Western Michigan University’s campus the week of August 25 through the International Student Orientation and Registration Program.

The week-long orientation took place the week before classes officially started for the fall 2008 semester, giving the new students a chance to meet with advisors, set up classes and socialize with fellow students.

Katie Smith, Hashim Alsharif, Kimberly Ritter (International Student Activities Program Specialist) and Stephen Wood man the ISORP sign-in table

"ISORP is the start to a great career at Western Michigan University," said Stephen Wood, international programming intern. "It helps our new students form friendships and get connected to groups involved in campus life around the university. Our international students are a rich part of our campus culture and we want them to feel welcome and comfortable as soon as possible after they arrive."
Not all was business during orientation, however. The international students also had the opportunity to take part in many great recreational activities held during WMU’s Fall Welcome, including the ‘Traveling Max’ entertainment show and Kalamazoo’s Kitchen, where participants received free food samples from area restaurants.

The students also took a trip to Meijer, a local chain grocery/department store, to get a feel for the American version of grocery shopping. On August 28, many of the students experienced an activity for the first time—ice skating—at WMU’s Lawson Arena. "Many of the students had never before seen that much ice in one place," Wood said.

Magda Wisniewska, a native of Poland who now calls Warren, Mich. home, is an ISORP orientation leader and said the program has expanded her horizons personally and professionally.

"ISORP is a unique and fun way to meet many people from all over the world, make friends and learn what Western Michigan University is all about," said Wisniewska, a junior majoring in geography. "I will always highly encourage all of the incoming international students to attend ISORP and be part of something special that just might change their lives forever!"
The final day of ISORP was time for fun in the sun with what’s become an annual trip to Saugatuck, Mich., a Lake Michigan community with beautiful beaches. The weather was sunny and warm as the students experienced a ferry ride on the lake and a tour of the downtown area. After lunch, the students played on the beach, swam in Lake Michigan, and competed in beach games for prizes donated by local businesses and WMU departments.

(I-r) Lygia Mueller (Germany) and Katie Smith, a WMU grad student, encouraged membership in WMU's International Programming Council at the pool party.

"I really enjoyed seeing so many people from so many different nations interacting," said Liz Tompkins, a junior majoring in global studies and Spanish from Perry, Mich. “It is inspiring that Western Michigan University is able to create an environment in which people from multiple cultural backgrounds can forge relationships that may last a lifetime."

Information about ISORP is accessible on the Haenicke Institute’s Web site at: http://international.wmich.edu
Study and Work Abroad Fair today

Learn how to join the ranks of the more than 200,000 Americans each year experiencing the personal and professional benefits of studying and working abroad to earn academic credit at the Haenicke Institute’s Study and Work Abroad Fair from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. October 8 in the Bernhard Center’s South Ballroom. Free slice of pizza and a pop, while supplies last! Win a global rail pass or travel voucher!

Studying aviation in Australia, language and culture in China, healthcare in Mexico, art and architecture on the Grand Tour of Europe, or completing an internship in an overseas company are just a few of the options students can learn about at the fair. The fair is also open to the public free of charge.

Fair attendees will have the opportunity to speak with WMU students who have studied and worked abroad, WMU professors who coordinate programs and courses around the world, and study abroad advisors from the Haenicke Institute, as well as representatives of non-WMU study/work abroad programs touting more than 100 programs conducted worldwide. More than 500 WMU students participate in study and work abroad programs each academic year.
Students of any major working on undergraduate or graduate degrees with or without foreign language skills have a variety of overseas study options to expand their cultural horizons and enhance their educations. Students may earn major/minor or general education and elective credits at WMU while studying. Some summer programs are also open to mature high school students and adults interested in travel and learning who are not currently attending college.

Read about Greg Flynn’s year in Japan

What’s new for the 2008 Study and Work Abroad Fair?

- Expanded opportunities for overseas internships in collaboration with WMU Career and Student Employment Services.
- Three information sessions:
  
  **Study Abroad 101 for High School Students**—4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
  **Intern Abroad for Academic Credit**—5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
  **Study Abroad 101**—panel including financial aid staff and former study abroad students—5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

- Raffle sponsored by STA Travel for a 10-day Global Rail pass and three $100 vouchers good towards travel booked with STA.
- Free slice of pizza and a pop for students attending the fair, while supplies last.
- Implementation of a new outreach plan to local high schools—juniors and seniors will be invited to the fair.

There are many scholarships available for study abroad, including the President’s Grant for Study Abroad that offers up to $10,000 for students studying a foreign language overseas. More than $400,000 in scholarships was awarded to WMU study abroad students in 2007. Additionally, all financial aid can be applied to study abroad programs, including the Kalamazoo Promise and Michigan Education Trust funds.

Representatives from WMU’s Financial Aid office, Career and Student Employment Services, and Sindecuse Health Center will be present at the fair to answer financial aid and health-related questions regarding traveling abroad.

*Eric Dial studied history and culture in New Zealand*

Display table rentals are available for program representatives and study abroad vendors. [Click here for the registration form](www.wmich.edu/studyabroad)

For more information:
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[www.wmich.edu/studyabroad](http://www.wmich.edu/studyabroad)
Ohio native, Melanie Mancini, brought a wealth of international experience to the table when she signed on as activities coordinator for WMU’s Career English Language Center for International Students in December 2007.

After attending Ohio Wesleyan University, where she double-majored in Spanish and international studies, Mancini studied at the Universidad de Salamanca and the Instituto Internacional in Madrid. She speaks English, French, Spanish and some Italian.

After studying and working in Spain, she moved to France with her Italian husband, where the couple lived for 11 years (in Rouen, Lyon and Paris) and brought three children into the world: Alessandro, Eva and Massimo.

Mancini spent her years in France teaching English and translating for a large French multinational. When the family returned to the United States at the end of 2004, she took advantage of the change to be a stay-at-home-mom to her three young children and to recover from the "reverse culture shock". "We maintain close ties to our French "family,"Mancini said, "as well as my husband's family spread throughout Italy, Spain and Venezuela."

The family moved to Kalamazoo in May 2007 and Mancini began her work with CELCIS the following December. She said the job helped ease her family’s transition to a new community and gave her the opportunity to tap back into her international experiences.

"As the CELCIS activities coordinator, my main goal is to make sure that our students have many opportunities to practice their English outside the classroom," she said. "With the help of the CELCIS director, I organize a variety of events, from orientation workshops to conversation tables to cultural and sporting activities—anything that will contribute to our students' English fluency and to their sense of belonging and well-being here at WMU. My biggest challenge lies in convincing the students that their participation in CELCIS activities is a key component to learning English. I work very hard to create activities that are both educational and fun."
The activities coordinator is also on the front line helping CELCIS students use wisely their time outside of the classroom to improve their English-language skills. Mancini makes sure students get involved in campus and community volunteer projects to increase their exposure to native English speakers.

"From my own experience, I am all too familiar with the ups and downs of being a student in a foreign country," she said. "I really appreciate knowing that I am helping to create a positive educational and social experience for our students. I love it when they leave glowing reviews of the activities on Facebook!"

In addition to getting to meet students from all over the globe, one of the main things Mancini enjoys about her position is the broad variety of tasks she performs and events she plans.

"There is no such thing as a typical day at my job," she said. "For example, the first week of the semester I conduct an orientation workshop, take the new students to get their Michigan identification cards and see to the final arrangements of a welcome reception for 125 people. I've got be prepared for anything and everything—from salsa dancing, to weekends in Mackinac, to advising students on how to purchase a car in the U.S., to making sure they know how to deal with culture shock when it hits. It's never the same thing twice!"

You can find Melanie in the CELCIS office from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and she is usually present at all evening and weekend activities. When asked what she does in her spare time, Mancini didn’t miss a beat to respond.
"Spare time? What's that?! I'm a busy mom of three active kids ages 10, 8 and 4, and I am currently holding down the fort at home for the next 9-10 months while my husband is on assignment in Mexico,” she said. “When I do find an occasional spare minute or two, I enjoy reading, yoga and socializing with some of the lovely people we have met here in Kalamazoo. I also volunteer at the kids' schools and spend lots of time keeping in touch with and traveling to see family and friends."

Click here to access the CELCIS Web page [http://international.wmich.edu/content/section/8/246/](http://international.wmich.edu/content/section/8/246/)

Contact Mancini by calling (269) 387-4800, or by e-mail: [celcis-activities@wmich.edu](mailto:celcis-activities@wmich.edu)
WMU transnational education and exchange programs draws 85 new students

About 85 transnational education and exchange students representing 15 countries were welcomed to Western Michigan University at a campus reception on August 27 during the International Student Orientation and Registration Program.

The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences continues to draw the largest group, attracting 27 students from WMU TNE partners and one exchange student, followed by the Haworth College of Business, which for fall semester enrolled 23 new TNE students and four students from WMU exchange partners. The balance of the students enrolled in the Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Education and Fine Arts Colleges.

New students enjoyed American appetizers and socializing
WMU began establishing exchange relationships with international institutions in 1961 and opened its first transnational education program (twinning) in 1987.

WMU President John M. Dunn attended the reception and told the new arrivals that meeting international students when he was in college was a life-changing experience.

“A chance to eat and socialize was a welcome break at the conclusion of the third day of orientation.”

“You are joining a university community with students and faculty members who come from more than 80 countries,” Dunn said. “You bring with you the rich traditions of your home nations, your communities and your families. You may come to us to expand your own horizons, but your presence here expands the world for many of our students. You’ll meet American students who come from small communities and have not traveled internationally or had the opportunity to live and work with people from other cultures. You’ll find them eager to get to know you. Believe me, I know. I was a student like that once. I grew up in a small town in Illinois, and I had opportunities to live and work with international students like you when I began my studies at Northern Illinois University. It changed my life.”

WMU President John M. Dunn made his rounds of the tables before welcoming the group.
Crista Mathew was born and raised in Kuwait, but is of Indian descent and decided in high school that she wanted to attend college in India. She met a WMU recruiting representative in Kuwait and learned about the WMU TNE program at Christ College in Bangalore, India.

“Both schools looked pretty interesting online,” said Mathew, who is majoring in accounting, “but it was the face-to-face contact with the person from WMU that helped me make the decision. When you read about a university online you will understand about 80 percent of what they have to offer—meeting someone from WMU helped me fill in the other 20 percent. I studied two years in India and will now study for two years here.”

Mathew has already joined WMU’s International Programs Council (link) and the Indian Student Association. Her long-term academic goal is to become a certified public accountant.

A native of Hong Kong, Mingho Lai followed in his sister’s footsteps in choosing WMU’s transnational education program offered through Saint Too College. At the reception, he reported being pleased about what he had seen of Kalamazoo and WMU’s campus and all that he was learning at orientation.

“Western is very nice,” said Lai, a business major. “If I have a problem, I just ask and the orientation leaders give me the correct answer. The orientation is very good. They teach us how to register for classes, how to find a job, and give us tips on how to find a car and get some training to drive. All these things are very useful. The evening sessions are recreational and great, especially because they help us meet new friends.”

President Dunn concluded his remarks at the reception by encouraging the students to stay in touch.

“I look forward to getting to know you,” Dunn said. “When you see me on campus, please stop me, introduce yourself and let me know how things are going for you. I really want to know what is working for you and whether there are things we can do better.”

For more information about WMU’s Transnational Education and exchange programs, visit the Haenicke Institute Web site: http://international.wmich.edu
Michigan’s fall harvest offers good things to eat and drink

One of the funnest fall attractions in Southwest Michigan is a visit to Gene the Pumpkin Man’s farm for a pumpkin-patch experience. Gene the Pumpkin Man is known for his overzealous devotion to all that is orange, including his Cadillac car, many of the contents in his home, and his orange barn with the giant “Gene the Pumpkin Man” sign, which is visible from M-43, the highway the farm borders.

The farm is open to the public mid-September through November and visitors can pick their own pumpkins. Thousands of customers visit the farm buying about 200 tons of pumpkins a year to celebrate fall and to carve jack-o-lanterns to celebrate Halloween on October 31.

Fall in Michigan also means crisp weather, colorful leaves and comfort food. September through November is harvest time, which is celebrated across the state at festivals, cider mills and wineries. Apples, wine and pumpkins are traditional Michigan crops farmers are working overtime to get ready for eager locals.

Michigan is the third largest producer of apples in the United States from more than 900 apple farms. Apples are the most valuable fruit crop in Michigan, generating $400-500 million in economic activity each year. September marks the start of the apple-harvest season. Southwest Michigan is known as the state’s fruit-growing region, with over 55 orchards. A list of Michigan apple growers and distributors is accessible online at: www.michiganapples.com.

In Kalamazoo, the Husted Farm and Market, located at 9191 W. Main, is open daily with a variety of products including 20 types of apples throughout the year, cider and donuts. The Husted family business is open May to Thanksgiving. Market information and hours are available online at: www.hustedfarmmarket.com.

Hayrides are available on the weekends starting beginning September 27. Visitors can pick their own apples from the 50-acre orchard or chose from 10 varieties of pumpkins. Crowd favorites, such as red and golden delicious apples, are also ready-to-pick in the fall, said owner Scott Husted.
“We just finished picking almost all the honeycrisps and this is one of the nicest crops to date,” Husted said. “Honeycrisp apples are a sweet variety only offered in mid-September to mid-October that is rising in popularity. The flavor is great and although they are higher priced, it is well worth it.”

Husted Farm and Market also offers apple cider, fruit pies and salsa made from locally grown peppers. Not available at the market is hard cider, which the farm produces from fermented, fresh-cider. The hard cider is only distributed to local breweries such as The Livery in Benton Harbor, although a liquor license is forthcoming. “We are learning preservation of times past, as making hard cider is a method to keep the cider through the winter,” Husted said.

Another apple farm in close proximity to WMU’s campus is Verhage Fruit Farms, 8619 W. Michigan Ave. The 100-year-old cider mill offers daily homemade cider, pies, jams, jellies, donuts and apple picking. Visitors can take hay or pony rides, see all the farm animals and see demonstrations on how cider is made until the end of October.

Tanya Stedman works in the farm’s store called Kelly’s Country Corner, after the owner, where products from the farm such as mixes, spices and toys are available. “The store is unbelievable it’s so beautiful,” Stedman said. “Kelly is very busy doing everything from making the mixes to checking the rides.”

Vineyards

Michigan is a great climate for more than just apples. There are more than 3,000 acres of grapes and 50 wineries in the state that offer locally-produced products. The annual Wine and Harvest Festival held each September in Paw Paw, located west of Kalamazoo off I-94, is a showcase for regionally grown food and beverage products, live music and tours of local vineyards. Daily activities included grape-stomping competitions, a car show and carnival rides. St. Julian Winery and Warner Vineyard, both sited in Paw Paw, offered free wine-tasting daily throughout the year. [www.wineandharvestfestival.com](http://www.wineandharvestfestival.com)
“The 2008 festival was as good as last year’s, with about 6,000 to 8,000 people coming through,” said Carl Davis, who runs the hospitality tasting room and winery at the St. Julian Winery Co. “The climate here is natural for growing grapes and wine-making from May until the grapes are harvested in September.”

St. Julian is a family-owned company and the oldest, largest winery in Michigan. The company produces 40 types of wines and 10 juices, which are distributed to more than seven states. Free wine tasting of their award-winning products and tours are held at the vineyard year round. A harvest and wine dinner pairing house-wines with each the five-courses is set for Sept. 25, for more information visit www.stjulian.com. New this season is Grey Heron Vodka made from white grapes, which is typically produced from potato or corn, Davis said.

Warner Vineyard, also a family-owned company, is the second oldest in the state. Warner produces 22 types of wine during the year. The vineyard and tasting room bordering the Paw Paw River is open seven days a week. www.warnerwines.com

A Kalamazoo wine producer is Peterson and Sons Winery located on East P Avenue. Started in 1983, the small, family winery produces seasonal, all-natural wines. The chemical-free wines are made without added sulfates, a preservative. The tasting room is open all year Friday through Monday. For more information or the hours of operation, visit the winery online at: www.naturalwine.net.

By Katherine Peach, Haenicke Institute journalism intern
**John Patten Spotlight**

Dr. John Patten is a professor with research interests in manufacturing processes, renewable energy and alternative fuel cars, such as plug in hybrid electric vehicles. He is chair of the Manufacturing Engineering Department at Western Michigan University and is the founding director of the [Manufacturing Research Center](#) within the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. His extensive manufacturing research beginning in the early 1980s at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte made Patten an ideal candidate to lead the MRC, when he was hired by WMU in 2003.

The MRC is a multidisciplinary operation that provides applied research in engineering and the sciences to serve manufacturing industries. The center efforts help to reduce the cost of the processes and improve productivity, thereby reducing the cost of products and technology for businesses. The state-of-the-art laboratories allow for research in machining, materials testing and green manufacturing.

WMU created the MRC in Battle Creek to serve as a resource to the manufacturing sector in Western Michigan. Patten said the MRC attracts international students from Spain, Turkey, Iran, India, Malaysia and many other countries, to study and conduct research, something he is very proud of.

"We take a technical and scientific approach to manufacturing," Patten said. "These processes have been around for hundreds of years. We use traditional and nontraditional methods. The machining component of the MRC is to take a block of material, like metal, and shape it into something useful, like an engine component. Engineers who have the ability to take a product or concept and design the manufacturing process are in high demand."

The center’s research involves a variety of projects to discover new processes for computer-integrated manufacturing, quality assurance and precision engineering. "Many modern engineering materials have to be put under very high pressures or temperatures to manipulate them," Patten said. "The materials tend to be expensive, as do the processes used to convert them into useful products."

Patten said work with advanced materials, such as semiconductors and ceramics, must be precise, and can present additional challenges when transforming such materials to a final form. Unlike traditional methods of using heat to manipulate material on the macroscopic scale, precision engineers use tools to work on a small scale, referred to as micro or nano manufacturing. Although heat may work to soften the material, he said items such as electronics or semiconductors need a more precise final form, as heat, or more precisely temperature, can cause a part to deform and change shape. One process, nanoindentation, observes the cracking threshold of brittle materials, and this information is used to improve the machining procedure.

"We typically work on the final shaping process used to finish up the product," Patten said. "Products we are working towards tend to be higher-cost components. These are new products that can’t be manufactured any other way, or existing products processes that are developed to reduce the cost of the final part."
Patten has a special interest in green manufacturing, which he has linked with his knowledge and research in the field. One of his projects applied his research to an alternative energy solution—a wind turbine he installed in 2007 on WMU’s Parkview Engineering Campus. It is the first modern, electricity-producing wind turbine installed in the Kalamazoo area and one of just a few in southwest Michigan.

The 450-foot turbine can be seen from US-131 with its three, six-foot blades. The generator produces two kilowatts of power, enough to handle the electrical needs of a typical home minus air conditioning. The wind turbine needs only eight mph of wind to start spinning. Plans for upgrades to the generator over the coming years will increase the output to five kilowatts. Patten has been fund-raising for two larger turbines: a 10 to 15 kilowatt and a 100 to 250 kilowatt output turbine.

"Every time I go past the wind turbine it puts a smile on my face," Patten said. "Other projects that won’t materialize for 5 to 20 years down the road, maybe do not have such an immediate impact. These longer range or long-term projects are job security."

For one such future project, he is researching production processes for plug in hybrid electric vehicles powered by wind energy. In 1992, he helped formed the Carolina’s Consortium for Alternatively Fueled Electric Vehicles. Michigan’s research universities, which include WMU, are establishing a Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing of Alternative & Renewable Energy Technologies to address the needs of alternative and renewable energy technology industries within the state.
Patten’s research focuses on how emissions from automobiles and electrical power plants can be reduced using wind-powered generation to fuel or charge plug in hybrid electric vehicles. He has worked extensively with plug-in vehicles and drove an electric car for eight years. He believes in the future it will be possible to charge a plug-in electric car from wind-powered plants. The future may be sooner rather than later as Patten recently received funding to implement a wind energy charged plug in hybrid electric vehicles.

"There is much focus on tailpipe emissions, but you have to think about the emissions from the power plant," Patten said. "The electric car plugs into a wall outlet and its power comes from a power plant somewhere."

He believes plug in hybrid electric vehicles can be one answer to decrease the limitations that electric plug-in cars present. Hybrid cars run on both electric and gasoline. When the car idles at a light or stop sign, the gasoline-powered engine charges the battery. A plug in hybrid electric vehicles allows the vehicle to switch between gas-power and electric, much like a typical hybrid. His research proposes a car that switches from electric power in the city and only uses the hybrid-mode during long-distance driving to reduce emissions in pollution-heavy cities. He said a major problem with electric cars is the limited distances one can travel between charges.

"The merit of the plug-in feature—you can probably go to school, work and then back, he said. "When you go to Chicago (120 miles from Kalamazoo) you can switch (automatically) to gas-electric hybrid-mode."

He said the costs are reasonable now (about $10,000) and the technology exists to make such a car a reality. With gas prices on the rise, Patten anticipates interest may increase for finding local alternative and renewable energy solutions, such as plug in hybrid electric vehicles and wind energy.

"The production of wind turbines has a couple of advantages in terms of producing energy—there are no emissions, and they create job opportunities," he said. "Since Michigan is also the auto capital of the world, the goal is to develop plug in hybrid electric vehicles in collaboration with the auto companies that make these vehicles and to eventually work with manufacturers and utilities to charge the vehicles with renewable energy sources, such as wind."

Visit Dr. Patten's Web site: homepages.wmich.edu/~jpatten

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