Items of Academic Interest

Colleges of Arts and Sciences

Mike Pritchard (Philosophy), Wayne Fuqua (Psychology), Dave Hartmann (Sociology), Tom Van Valey (Sociology), and Vicki Janson (VP for Research) attended the annual meetings of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics in San Antonio. They presented on the NSF-funded project, "Teaching Research Ethics: An Institutional Change Approach."

On Saturday, March 12, 2005, two faculty members from the WMU Statistics Department, Professor Michael Stoline and Professor Magdalena Bugaj, drove to Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan to assist with the judging of Statistics posters. The posters were collected from approximately 400 Michigan students in mathematics classes ranging from the Kindergarten level through high school. The common theme of all posters was the use of statistics in the investigation of a topic of interest.

For judging purposes, the posters were divided into one of four categories: Kindergarten through third grade, fourth grade through sixth grade, seventh grade through ninth grade, and tenth grade through twelfth grade. This year, Statistics faculty members from Grand Valley State University and Central Michigan University selected five winning posters from each of the four categories. Posters from winners within each category will be sent on to the National Statistics Poster competition. Last year, several of the Michigan winners won national honors.

Many topics are selected by the participants. For example, the theme of the top poster in the Kindergarten through third grade division was the frequency of different animals found in animal crackers boxes. The poster was very colorful and was nicely presented. Topics explored by some of the prize winners in the seventh to ninth grade categories included: (1) comparison of waiting times for service between McDonalds and Burger King restaurants, (2) comparison of the magnitude of destruction involved with the recent 2005 tsunami compared to those tsunamis occurring earlier, and (3) results of an actual survey of support in a community for the introduction of a new Rugby sports program in the school.

The Michigan Statistics Poster program was begun six years ago by the Statistics faculty from Grand Valley State University as a regional program in the Grand Rapids area. It has now expanded to include many public, private, and charter schools in Michigan, and is now truly a state-wide program. The posters are collected once a year by faculty from Grand Valley State University, and are then judged in an all-day session. Grand Valley deserves much credit for creating and administering this very valuable program.

Haworth College of Business

The Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) at WMU works closely with the CIS Department at the Haworth College of Business to provide students with a professional IT networking, learning, and personal growth environment. AITP sponsors IT-related guest speakers and company tours throughout the academic year. These events feature information professionals from such organizations as Stryker Instruments, BlueGranite, and WMU's own Office of Information Technology. Any WMU student with an interest in IT may join AITP. Students of any background have the opportunity to become leaders in AITP. All that is required is an interest in Information Technology. AITP members may choose to join a number of committees within the organization, with each committee focusing on a different task. Currently, student members are working on the AITP Chapter web site, among other projects. AITP is conducting a raffle fundraiser this month. Two grand prizewinners will each receive a 1.0 GB USB Flash drive, while six runners-up will each receive a 128 MB USB Flash drive. These Flash drives are the smallest models in the world, at only one inch long! Tickets are $2.00 each, and will be on sale Mondays and Wednesdays in March from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM in the Bronco Mall. Sales tables will also be located in the HCoB Cafe and Parkview Campus lobby. The drawing will be held on Friday, March 25, at the 4th Annual WMU-HCoB IT Forum at the Fetzer Center. Proceeds will benefit AITP services in the Western community. More information can be found at the AITP chapter website: http://www.rso.wmich.edu/aitp/

College of Education

The world's largest provider of online learning, Skillsoft, Inc. has signed a grant agreement valued at $391,875 per year for four years with Western Michigan University and the Association of Rehabilitation Programs in Computer Technology (ARPCT). The grant will provide access for up to 2,500 users to its online learning management system, including over 10,000 hours of corporate quality learning.
modules, simulations and other online learning resources. This, according to Dr. Robert Leneway EditU Project Director, includes “the same quality online I.T., business, and professional development content provided to Skillsoft’s 4,000 corporate, education and government customers worldwide along with 24 x 7 live mentoring.” Read more at: http://www.wmich.edu/coe/research.html

The final weekend of the Seminar on Brazil will be held on March 18 and 19 and features presentations on foods and nutrition in Brazil, Brazilian music, films, and discussion. Students will be guided through the preparation of a typical Brazilian meal by Battle Creek resident and Registered Dietitian, Raquel Pereira.

The Department of Family and Consumer Education is offering the Seminar on Brazil in preparation for a Study Tour to Brazil, scheduled April 24 to May 8, 2005. A group of 14 students and faculty will be participating in this educational endeavor to better understand South America’s largest country. While in Brazil they will receive lectures and demonstrations from university faculty and professionals in textiles, architecture and design, nutrition, and family support programs. In-country experiences will include walking tours of old Rio de Janeiro, Ouro Preto, Ribeirão Preto, and the Caraças forest; visits to medical centers, museums, family homes, artists’ studios, open-air art shows, and businesses; presentations to students in an English class; and attendance at live performances of Brazilian music. The Seminar and Study Tour are led by Dr. Karen Blaisure, Associate Professor of Family & Consumer Sciences. For more information, please contact her at 387-3663.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The University Libraries had acquired the full text of dissertations and theses from 1997 to date. The ProQuest Dissertations & Theses database indexes dissertations and theses in all fields from over 1,000 universities. Abstracts are available from 1980 for doctoral dissertations and from 1988 for master’s theses. Indexing goes back to 1861. Full text PDFs of dissertations are available from 1997 unless restricted by the author. Those dissertations not available full text may be requested through interlibrary loan or ordered directly from UMI for a fee.

EXTENDED UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Marking nearly a year in operation, the MBA Alumni Book Club at the WMU Grand Rapids campus met in January at The Graduate Center - Downtown to discuss its latest selection, First Break All the Rules by Buckingham and Coffman. The Book Club was created as a means of remaining connected with alumni of the MBA program at the WMU Grand Rapids campus, providing alumni the opportunity to strengthen associations with each other and the university in an academic setting.

The MBA Alumni Book Club meetings are held four times a year, and the club currently consists of 40 active members, with attendance of approximately 20 members at meetings. Members meet for an hour and a half to discuss how the objectives and topics of the book selections relate to experiences in their current employment.

In addition, the Book Club plays a role in recruiting new students to the MBA program at the WMU Grand Rapids campus: MBA Alumni Book Club members may be more likely to refer co-workers to the program, and may be more willing to assist faculty in on-site recruiting visits to their companies. WMU faculty member Dr. K.C. O'Shaughnessy leads the MBA Alumni Book Club at The Graduate Center - Downtown on the Grand Rapids Campus of Western Michigan University.

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The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra performed C. Curtis-Smith’s (School of Music) “Ghosts” (Rice Field at Phnom Penh) at its Youth Concerts in early March. There were a total of eight performances of the piece, March 1–4 in Cheney Auditorium. More than 13,000 students heard these concerts. “Ghosts” is the second movement of “Sinfonia Concertante,” which was written in 1997 for Yoshimi Takeda and premiered by the KSO at that time. The KSO previously performed "Ghosts" for its Youth Concerts in 1999 in Miller Auditorium to a combined audience of some 16,000 students.

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Dr. James M. Hillenbrand, professor of speech pathology and audiology, garnered a $459,277 award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a series of acoustic analysis and speech recognition experiments aimed at improved understanding of phonetic recognition.

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Gunter Hega, associate professor in Political Science, was an invited participant at the 3rd International Conference on “Federalism: Turning Diversity into Harmony, Sharing Best Practices” in Brussels, Belgium in the first week of March. The conference was a forum for more than 600 participants - leading policy makers, representatives from civil society, academics, journalists, youth - to exchange ideas and experiences on a central question: “How can federalism, in its various expressions, contribute to good governance, social and economic welfare, peace and democracy, as well as to the respect of identity in the context of globalisation?”

**HAWORTH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**


**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

The 2005 College of Education Awards have been announced. These awards were designed to honor faculty, staff and students who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary service to the College, University and community.
through teaching, research, leadership and professional activities. The third annual awards program and reception will be held on Friday, April 15 in the Gilmore Theater Complex from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The award recipients include:

- Rising Star Award – Undergraduate: Mikhail Sara Must (TLL – Elementary Education)
- Rising Star Award – Master’s: Caren Rojas (FCS – Dietetics)
- Rising Star Award – Doctoral: Kim Xuejin Lu (TLL – Educational Leadership)
- Staff Excellence Award – Pamela Miller (Teacher Certification)
- Strengthening Community Connections Award – Dr. Lynn Brice (TLL)
- Mary L. Dawson Teaching Excellence Award/Full-Time – Dr. Lynn Nations Johnson (TLL)
- Teaching Excellence Award/Part-Time – Nancy King (FCS)
- Trailblazer Award – Dr. Paula Kohler (ES)
- Esprit De Corps Award – Dr. Katharine Cummings (Dean’s Office)

Congratulations to Don Weber (ETS) and Nancy Dyksterhouse (Dean’s Office) on receiving Make a Difference awards. Make a Difference is a campus-wide peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. The Spring Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, March 24 at 2:00 p.m. in the President’s Dining Room in the Bernhard Center.

Dr. Josephine Barry-Davis (TLL) has been invited to attend a Round Table Session on Early Childhood Education Literacy at the University of Oxford, England. These invitations are sent to selected persons around the world who have been identified by virtue of their research and its potential leadership qualities in the field of Early Childhood Education. Papers presented there will be published and distributed worldwide. Dr. Barry-Davis will present a paper entitled “Global Literacy and Early Childhood Education.” The Round Table Conference begins March 27.

Also presenting at the Michigan Academy were academic librarians Michele Behr and Randle Gedeon. Their presentations were titled “Information Literacy Initiatives for Off Campus Doctoral Students” and, “E-books at WMU.” Behr will chair the Information Science Section for 2005-2006.

Barbara Cockrell and Michele Behr presented a workshop for WMU doctoral students and faculty: “Managing your Citations with RefWorks.” This was sponsored by the Graduate Center for Research, Writing, and Proposal Development.


College of Fine Arts

Western Michigan University Theatre students made a remarkable showing at this year’s American College Theatre Festival regional competition—remarkable enough to receive an invitation to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in April. Their production of Othello, which played to Kalamazoo audiences in November and in January, will travel to the capital as one of only three plays selected nation-wide to participate. Directed by Professor James Daniels, WMU’s Othello has, in the words of one adjudicator, “re-set the standard for collegiate performance of Shakespeare.” It will appear in the Terrace Theatre at the Kennedy Center on Monday, April 18 and Tuesday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m.

For the second time in three years, the Department of Dance has been invited to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. George Faison, Tony-award winning choreographer of “The Wiz,” has invited Western Michigan University dancers to perform excerpts of his dance “Suite
Otis” at the Kennedy Center on April 23, 2005 as a part of the five-day series of concerts honoring African-American choreographers’ contributions to the world of modern dance. WMU dancers will dance with members of Philadanco and also be on the same program as Rennie Harris and Company and Tamango Urban Tap (big names in the dance world).

Brandon Drew, a sophomore trombone performance major from Fort Wayne, Indiana, has been selected as one of three finalists for the International Trombone Association’s Larry Wiehe/King Trombone Solo Competition. He will compete in May at Loyola University in New Orleans. The other three finalists are from Yale University and Baylor University. The competition was judged by: Ian Bousfield, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra; James Erdman, U.S. Marine Band (retired); and John Marcellus, Eastman School of Music.

Michael Haisten, a graduate student from Battle Creek, Michigan, was a semifinalist for the National Solo Competition, Division 3 (age 23-29) at the Eastern Trombone Workshop in Washington, D.C. This event was sponsored by the United States Army Band. The semifinals and finals occurred on March 17-18.

Two music education graduate students presented their research at the 60th Annual Michigan Music Education In-Service Conference in January. Patty Heintzelman, from Schoolcraft, Michigan, presented “Best practice scheduling for middle school bands.” Lou Sinigos, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, presented “Effect of handchime instruction in developing rhythm and pitch identification of standard notation of fourth-grade students with reading difficulties.”

Amanda Quist, a graduate student in choral conducting from Grand Rapids, Michigan, was selected to compete in the American Choral Directors Association Graduate Choral Conducting Competition held in Los Angeles. She submitted a videotaped audition to a national committee made up of professional choral conductors and was selected from graduate conductors (master’s and doctoral) from around the United States. Amanda was one of seven candidates selected. The competition was held in two rounds and was adjudicated by five conductors in each round. She auditioned by conducting the Appalachian State University Concert Chorale and was one of four selected to compete in the final round. Amanda received a cash prize and was recognized by ACDA in the final concert session of the National Convention.

Crystal Guenther, second-year full-time MSW student and Graduate Assistant for the Office of Field Education in Kalamazoo, received the WMU Student Employee of the Year Award. She was chosen from a pool of 47 other nominees.

Heather Tubbs, who earned her bachelor’s degree in Nursing at WMU, has been accepted to the doctoral nursing program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Christine Guptill, graduate student in Occupational Therapy, co-published the article “Treatment preferences of injured college student musicians” in the Occupational Therapy Journal of Research.

Master of Social Work Students Rachel Richmond and Sharon Rodriguez have been named the recipients of the Whitney Young Jr. Award by the School of Social Work.

Six WMU students participated in the 2005 Bill of Rights Program sponsored by the Southwestern Michigan Branch of the ACLU. Western Michigan University is a co-sponsor of the program that includes debates between three-person teams from Kalamazoo College and WMU. On March 9, Carrie Caputo, Yvonne Siford, and Sarah Turner presented arguments in favor of the Massachusetts Supreme Court decision to support gay marriage. On March 30, James Holmes, Luke McGee and Nicole Reid will present arguments challenging the University of Michigan’s affirmative action programs.

According to Gift of Life Michigan, sponsors of the University Challenge to register organ donors, Western Michigan University registered more donors than any of the other 13 college and universities in the 2005 contest. Counted from Jan. 17 to Feb. 14, the college with the highest percentage of donors compared to enrollment was Finlandia College in Hancock, MI. That college has only 453 students and they registered over half of them. Western Michigan registered 660 donors. In second place for total donors was Ferris State with 626.

Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting fraternity, organized Western’s registration effort with help from the accounting department and the athletic department. Western will receive a plaque from Gift of Life recognizing the accomplishment of its students. Finlandia will receive the traveling trophy for highest percentage of donors registered.

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**Upcoming Events**

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### Haworth College of Business

On Thursday, March 24, as part of the Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series, Thomas L. Reece, chairman of the Dover Corp., will discuss “Doing the Right Things Right in a World of Global Business” at 7:30 p.m. in the Brown Auditorium of Schneider Hall.

The 4th Annual WMU-HCoB IT Forum—Facilitating Information Security, Reliability and Compliance—will be held on Friday, March 25 at the Fetzer Center from 7:30 am-4:00 pm.

“The New Economy and Supply Chain Management”: Dr. Sime Curkovic—Keynote Speaker for the South Bend, IN APICS (American Production and Inventory Control Society)/ISM (Institute of Supply Management) Meeting, March 8, 2005.

“Supply Chain Management and American Productivity”: Dr. Sime Curkovic—Guest Speaker for the Holland-Johnson Controls (JCI) Town Hall Meeting, March 18, 2005.

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### College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

The Senior Engineering Design Project Conference is scheduled for April 12: An on-line calendar database, a low-cost automobile diagnostic tool, a DNA model which was designed to provide a 3-D conceptual learning aid for high school students, a hybrid hydraulic bicycle design and an evaluation of chilled water distribution are among the projects that will be presented at the 36th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects at Western Michigan University.

The conference will be held Tuesday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Parkview Campus. It is sponsored by WMU’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and is open to the public free of charge.

One hundred and ninety seniors in construction engineering, computer science, electrical and computer engineering, industrial design, industrial and manufacturing engineering, mechanical and aeronautical engineering and paper science and engineering will present the results of 60 projects they have completed to solve problems facing business and industry. More information is available from Cathleen Smith at (269) 276-3244.

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### College of Health and Human Services

The School of Social Work co-sponsored, along with the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society and the GEAR UP Project, a series of public lectures by the historian and activist Dr. Barbara Ransby. Dr. Ransby is an Associate Professor of History and African-American Studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago. The lectures on subjects such as Ella Baker, Young People and Social Change in the 20th Century, and Revisiting Dr. King’s Unfinished Agenda, took place on March 15 and 16 at WMU, Bangor High School, and at the North Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo.

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### Extended University Programs

On April 3-5, Western Michigan University will host the 2005 Equity in the Classroom conference. Managed by EUP Conferences and Seminars, the theme of the conference is “Visualizing the World of Possibilities: Preparing Students for the Challenges of Equity and Opportunities in Higher Education.”

This year marks the 15th annual conference focusing on achieving parity in enrollment, retention and graduation for under-represented minority students and academically and economically disadvantaged students in higher education. The conference seeks to achieve full participation levels of groups traditionally under-represented in Michigan’s institutions of higher education.

The conference will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and the Bernhard Center. Faculty, department chairs, faculty search committees, deans and administrators who are willing to implement new ideas and strategies in campus programming, curriculum and faculty recruitment are all encouraged to attend. For conference agenda and registration information: http://conference.wmich.edu/equitv/equitv.html

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### University Libraries

With the leadership of Dr. Laurel Grotzinger, University Libraries will sponsor a professional development workshop as part of the Alberta L. Brown Lecture Series: “Web Search Overview: Google & Beyond,” April 21, 2005 at Fetzer, 1:00 – 4:00. Gary Price, librarian, information research consultant and writer, will be the featured presenter.

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### College of Education

Nationally known scholar, Dr. Courtland Lee, will present a workshop on “Working with Diverse Youth” on Tuesday, March 22 in Room 204 of the Bernhard Center. Dr. Lee is past president of Chi Sigma Iota (International Counseling Honor Society) and president-elect of the International Counseling Association. Dr. Lee has published extensively on working with diverse youth, most recently on the unique needs of...
students in urban settings. He is the Director of the Counselor Education program at the University of Maryland at College Park and has established the first Urban School Counseling Training program in the country. This event has been made possible by Mu Beta (Counseling Honor Society) and the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology.

**COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**

Craig Minor and Joe VanDerBos, “Curious Journey,” a residency workshop and career paths lecture with WMU graphic design alumni. The workshop will take place in 1206 Sangren Hall on March 23 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; March 24 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m and March 25 from 8:30 a.m.-noon. A Career Paths presentation will be held in the Lee Honors College on Thursday, March 24 at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, April 10, the University Chorale, a select ensemble of 33 singers, will present a European Tour Preview Concert at 3:00 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Admission is free. The program will feature Johannes Brahms’ “Funf Gesang,” Op. 104; Johann Sebastian Bach’s “Lobet dem Herrn,” BWV 230; and Jaakko Mantyjarvi’s “Shakespeare Songs,” as well as choral music from Europe and the United States. The Chorale has been selected by audition to participate in the International May Choir Competition in Varna, Bulgaria this May. The ensemble is conducted by Dr. Joe Miller, Director of Choral Studies.

The School of Music will close its 2004-05 season with the Concerto Concert on Sunday afternoon, April 17. The 46th installment of this annual event will begin at 3:00 p.m. in James W. Miller Auditorium. Admission is open to the public free of charge. Each year student soloists compete in preliminary and final rounds for the honor of being featured in a performance with the University Symphony Orchestra. This year’s three soloists are violist Justin Eichler (a graduate student from Fairbanks, Alaska), saxophonist Aaron Kruziki (a senior from Stevens Point, Wisconsin), and singer Robert Potsic (a junior from Alsip, Illinois). In addition to the soloists’ works, the symphony will perform “Death and Transfiguration” by Richard Strauss and “Fireworks” by contemporary composer Alexander Miller. Grand Rapids Symphony Associate Conductor John Varineau will be the guest conductor, as WMU professor Bruce Uchimura is on a sabbatical leave.

Lerner & Loewe’s enchanting musical, Brigadoon, will be presented in Shaw Theatre April 7-9 at 8 p.m., April 10 at 2 p.m., and April 14-16 at 8 p.m., as the final stop in the College’s Journey of the Spirit: Exploring Beauty series. Theatre faculty will host a pre-curtain discussion, “Brigadoon and the Beauty Behind the Musical,” at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 10. Additionally, there will be a post-show discussion on Thursday, April 14, with the director, cast and crew.

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

University Libraries staff and faculty have been reading “The Color of Water” by James McBride as part of the Reading Together Program sponsored by the Kalamazoo Public Library. Sara Wick and David Isaacson led two discussion groups involving readers from both the campus and Kalamazoo communities.

Jim Dexheimer and Joe Reish will lead a discussion of the film “My Beautiful Laundrette,” shown for its treatment of complementary issues on social phobias and bias raised by McBride. The film will be shown March 21 at the Little Theater.

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Blind Eye: The Terrifying Story of a Doctor Who Got Away with Murder by James B. Stewart.

Ready or Not, Here Life Comes by Mel Levine.