WMU International News November 2008

Haenicke Institute for Global Education

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WMU joins Internationalization Laboratory of the American Council on Education

A campus-wide "laboratory" to advance comprehensive internationalization of the University's undergraduate curriculum has been launched by the International Education Council of the Faculty Senate and the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Western has committed to participate in the American Council on Education’s Internationalization Laboratory, a two-year program of assessment and planning aimed at strengthening the international education components of undergraduate curriculum. Over the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 academic years, WMU faculty will engage in an array of activities guided by the ACE Laboratory format to develop, assess and implement strategies.

Dr. Barbara Hill, senior associate of ACE’s Internationalization Initiatives, conducted the first campus visit for the Internationalization Laboratory on October 22 and 23. She met with the provost, deans, the IEC, and college internationalization committees. A follow-up visit with the University's senior leadership group will be scheduled in spring 2009.

The campus community is already hard at work preparing a comprehensive survey of international activities and curricula. The IEC serves as the task force for the laboratory and has four working groups in the following areas: internationalization across the curriculum, faculty development, international student recruitment and retention, assessment. [Click here for more information.](#)
IEC members recently attended a Webinar organized by ACE and the Association of International Education Administrators on National Trends in Internationalization: Implications for Institutional Strategies. Click here to view the program.

"All of our students must have the tools to know and judge the world around them whether they exercise those judgments in conjunction with business or other assignments abroad, whether they continue within the academy to study the great issues that globalization raises, or whether they simply venture into the voting booth in Kalamazoo or New York City, or anywhere in between," said Haenicke Institute Dean Dr. Donald G. McCloud. "Through the internationalization laboratory, our faculty will play an important role in reexamining our community and what we teach to ensure our graduates carry with them the needed perspectives and understandings to function in the contemporary world which we so readily label as "globalized."

Both McCloud and Dr. Stephen B. Malcolm, IEC chair, are leading the campus activities that will be developed during membership of the current laboratory cohort.

Malcolm considers that WMU’s membership "is in perfect alignment with the mission of the University and is a wholly constructive and persuasive means of more strongly integrating international and intercultural dimensions into the teaching, research, and service activities of our institution. The interface between students and faculty is key to the success and dynamism of WMU, and enhanced "internationalization" facilitates our intent to make this interface within our university community truly "universal" and "collegial."

Western is one of seven universities and colleges ACE invited to host a laboratory this year to build on the data already collected from the 80 institutions that have participated since the program began in 2003. The University’s nationwide "lab partners" are Central Connecticut State University, Pacific University, Purdue University, Saint Mary’s College, Temple University, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. The "textbook" for the lab is "A Handbook for Advancing Comprehensive Internationalization: What Institutions Can Do and What Students Should Learn," published by the ACE.

For more information, contact Brett Berquist, executive director of international programs, Haenicke Institute, at (269) 387-5890, brett.berquist@wmich.edu.

Please visit this page for periodic updates.
Japan university awards honorary doctorate to WMU emeritus physics professor

Dr. Michitoshi Soga, Western Michigan University Emeritus Professor of Physics, who worked tirelessly for decades to build relationships and linkages in Japan by setting up programs with Japanese universities, hosting Japanese students attending WMU, and helping to build a Japanese alumni network, was awarded an honorary doctorate by Josai University in Saitama, Japan in September.

The invitation to accept the award at Josai University was extended to Soga by President Yasunori Morimodo. Soga, and his wife of 53 years, Ryoko, attended Josai’s September 30 commencement to accept the degree presented by WMU alumnus and JU Professor Yoshiaki Ryu, director of the Josai University International Education Center.

"Since 1968, Dr. Soga has welcomed Japanese exchange students in Kalamazoo and has worked to established relationships with a number of Japanese universities," said Ryu, who earned a master’s degree in economics at WMU in 1977. "Moreover, he has worked to build a network of friendships throughout the western Michigan area with Japanese businesses and visitors. He was also instrumental in founding the Battle Creek Japanese School."

Soga joined the WMU physics faculty in 1968. In 1986, he transitioned to a half-time teaching load and serving half-time as an administrative officer for the Office of International Affairs. In 1993, Soga retired from teaching and worked full-time in the international office until his retirement in 1996.
His 28-year legacy of bridge-building between his native land and Kalamazoo through the exchange of faculty, students, and business leaders was honored by WMU in 2006 with the founding of the **Michitoshi Soga Japan Center**.

Housed in the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, the center was designed to strengthen the University’s Japan-related study, research and relationships, as well as to serve as a community resource. Many of WMU’s Japanese alumni were instrumental in helping establish the facility and traveled to Kalamazoo in September 2006 to celebrate the opening of the center with Japanese-style toasts. [Click here to read about the reception.](#)

This degree was not for me; this was for Western," said Soga, when he visited the Haenicke Institute with his Josai degree in October. "This office worked very hard to maintain good relationships with Japanese universities. WMU was the first university from outside Japan that Josai University partnered with to exchange students. I still vividly remember the day when former Chancellor Seiko Mizuta and Chancellor Noriko Mizuta visited the WMU campus and signed the agreement between the two institutions."

Haenicke Institute Associate Dean Wilson "Bill" Woods worked closely with Soga when he served in WMU’s Office of International Affairs and to establish the Soga Japan Center.

"Dr. Soga is a man of gentle bearing but firm determination in spreading the word of cross-cultural understanding," Woods said. "From the day he began his work in international education on our campus, he has set an example for his colleagues in how to interact with people from foreign lands. His unofficial title as 'Ambassador to Japan' was earned many times over. Generations of students studying in Japan, and Japanese students studying in Kalamazoo, owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Soga."
Ever the teacher, Soga used his 30-minute acceptance speech to advise the young graduates "that a life does not necessarily happen as expected, but rather as a succession of unexpected events." [Click here for full speech.]

Born in Tokyo in 1926, Soga said during the first 18 years of his life Japan waged a series of wars on foreign soil that ended in total defeat in World War II. Soga witnessed the 1945 Tokyo Air Raid, Japan’s September Surrender, and the devastation that followed. He remembers that "there was no food, no jobs, and people’s hearts were hardened."

After Japan regained its independence and made some economic recovery, Soga studied theoretical physics, earned a Ph.D. in natural science, and was hired as an assistant in the physics department of a national university in Tokyo. In his early 30's, Soga responded to demand in the United States for scientists and researchers to rapidly advance the nation’s aerospace program for the space race with Russia. In 1961, by propeller plane, Soga made a two-day journey to Chicago to work in a U.S. government laboratory and eventually made his way to an east coast research laboratory. Seeking a research professorship in 1968, Soga turned down a one-year position at Massachusetts Institute of Technology to join WMU as a tenure-track faculty.

"I had a good offer in California, but we had three small kids and one of my colleagues told me it wasn’t a good place to raise kids," Soga said. "WMU had an Argonne accelerator, which I knew would be helpful for my research, so we moved to Kalamazoo."

Mrs. Soga

The WMU Japanese Alumni group Soga helped form brought together about 100 people October 2 at a Tokyo restaurant to recognize Soga’s honorary doctorate and to pay homage to the Soga’s, who have played host to hundreds of Japanese students attending WMU and Japanese businesspersons and academics visiting the western Michigan region. As is customary when the group gathers, they sing a song about Kalamazoo written by Shun Fujishima, a 1971-1972 exchange student, who lives in Gifu, Japan. The song, "Kalamazoo in Our Heart" was written by Fujishima to honor the positive impact the Soga’s and WMU had on the Japanese exchange students. The song lyrics are accessible on the Haenicke Institute Website.
Soga entered full retirement in 1996 and enjoys a "quiet retired life" with Ryoko in a house designed and built by one of their son in a rural area near Kalamazoo. He has turned his attention to reading books and attending concerts, sports, and other University events he did not have time to enjoy when he was teaching and conducting research. He remains "on call" for the University to serve as a diplomat for Japanese institutions, alumni, and students.

Soga closed his acceptance speech with some sage advice and a call to action for JU’s new graduates.

"Money might be important; you may want power," he said. "However, you should not be controlled by these things — rather you should control them. You should build such a society. Make Japan just, bright and energetic. Make the world peaceful for everybody."

Michitoshi Soga Japan Center

Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education
Fall activities feature flags, apples, Halloween and Chicago

The Parade of Nations, a trip to an apple orchard, a Halloween Dance and a bus trip to Chicago were enjoyed in fall by WMU students courtesy of the International Programs Council and the Haenicke Institute.

**Parade of Nations**

About 90 flags from nations around the globe were paraded on the field at Waldo Stadium by Western Michigan University students, faculty and staff preceding Western’s Homecoming football game on October 4.

The Parade of Nations is held every year before the homecoming football game, giving campus and community members the opportunity to carry a flag representing their homeland or the nation of their ethnicity. WMU’s International Programs Council hosted the event in collaboration with the International Student Activities office in the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

The event kicks off each year with a tailgate party that was held on Kanley Track a couple hours before the game begins. About 100 tailgaters enjoyed LEE’s Famous Recipe fried chicken, pasta salads, fruit, hot chocolate and soft drinks. Pick up soccer and Frisbee games added to the fun, before the flag bearers unfurled their flags and lined up for the parade.

"The Parade of Nations was a great opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity and meet new friends,” said Laurel McCarty, a junior majoring in Spanish education from Colon, Mich., who carried the Venezuelan flag.
Samer Shammas, Haenicke Institute senior budget analyst and native of Lebanon, participated in the parade with his three daughters, Miriam, Samira and Hibba.

"The Parade of Nations is a visual display of the diversity of WMU," Shammas said. "There were people from all over the planet helping each other, talking to each other, and taking pictures with each other. With all the chaos going on in the world it was nice to see such unity."

By 1:15pm everyone had their flags assembled, places set, and had done a practice run around the track before walking to Waldo Stadium.

Once staged and given the green light to go, WMU President Dr. John Dunn lead the parade holding high the American flag as the crowd cheered at the colorful display of flags and faces.

Once all carriers were on the football field, flags waving in the breeze, the American National Anthem played before the reverent crowd of fans packing the stadium.

The WMU Bronco football teamed blanked the Ohio State University Buckeyes 41-20, providing a happy ending to 2008 Homecoming activities.

Parade of Nations photo gallery

Reception for engineering students

On October 7 the Haenicke Institute and the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences hosted a reception to welcome the new international engineering students to Western Michigan University. Students had the opportunity to meet with the faculty and staff members who they will be working with as they complete their degrees in Kalamazoo.

The reception welcomed more than 50 attendees, who were personally welcomed by Haenicke Institute Dean Dr. Donald McCloud and Dr. Daniel Litynski, dean of the CEAS.

CEAS reception photo gallery
**Apple picking trip**

Michigan is one of the largest apple-producing states and harvest time makes for a fun fall activity for the young and the old.

On October 11 more than 30 international and domestic students traveled to Crane Orchards in Fennville, Michigan (about 45 minutes from campus) to pick apples, drink freshly milled apple cider and and shop for Halloween pumpkins to carve. The students also navigated a maze cut into a corn field and those looking to be spooked visited a tunnel of terror created each fall by the orchard staff.

[Apple picking photo gallery]

**Halloween Dance**

The 10th annual IPC Halloween Dance was hosted on November 1 in Ellsworth Cafeteria with great success. Student volunteers helped set up the festive event with black lights, glow paint, and even two projectors showing eerie images on tri-split screens hanging from the ceiling.

More than 450 American and International students, most of them in costume, attended the dance and joined the fun in watching a Brazilian dance team, participating in the costume contest, and dancing to music spun by local disc jockeys.

“This year Halloween Dance was a huge success for IPC. I hope this tradition would continue as a showcase of American culture to all international students on campus.” said Quang Nguyen, from Vietnam.

The Brazilian dance team showcased true talent and dominance on the floor while doing aerial kicks and back flips that everyone in the crowd responded to with cheers.

“They really got everyone going and really broke the ice as far as getting people to open up and start dancing” said Joseph Kelly, IPC vice president.
The costume contest also went off with much excitement, as there were winners in the funniest, scariest, group, and overall categories. All winners received t-shirts, mugs and other assorted prizes.

What was most thrilling perhaps were the live DJs who with the help of a pre-arranged, student-oriented song request list kept everyone dancing through midnight.

Keep an eye out next October for the next Halloween dance which is guaranteed to be even bigger and better!  

Halloween Dance photo gallery

Windy City bus trip

On Saturday Nov. 14th at about 7:30 a.m. members of the IPC saw their planning and promotion efforts pay off as they watched more than 100 students fill two buses in front of the Bernhard Center for an all-day trip to the famous Windy City—Chicago.

Upon arriving at Navy Pier on Lake Michigan, just blocks from downtown, the students piled out of the bus to visit various destinations. Some went to Chinatown, others went salsa dancing, several went to the Shedd Aquarium, while a separate group admired the city from the view at the top of the Sears tower. Many students began their adventure on the majestic memorable Magnificent Mile—the city’s main high-end, designer shopping district.

“It was SO much fun,” Said Julia McCune, a junior from La Crescent, Minneapolis who is majoring in Jazz studies and Spanish. “We enjoyed salsa dancing, amazing European hot chocolate, good food, and beautiful scenery all day long. I had a GREAT time with all of my friends and everyone in IPC is so much fun. I hope there is another trip next semester because there's still so much to see!”

For some this was their first trip to Chicago or a major U.S. city, including Qian Yang, a MBA graduate student from China. “Thanks for giving me this chance—it was an unforgettable experience.” she said. Overall the trip was deemed a great success, which was made evident by how quickly the participants dozed off on the bus on the way back to Kalamazoo with smiles on their faces.

International Programming Interns Nick DiFranco and Maran Subramain contributed to this report.
Quenching the Middle East’s thirst for water is desired outcome for WMU geoscience researchers

Deep beneath the vast sea of sand that blankets the Sinai Peninsula and the surrounding region, three Western Michigan University professors believe a voluminous aquifer that exists there may be a sustainable source of fresh water for the arid region.

Bolstered by more than $750,000 in research dollars from NATO, NSF, NASA, and USAID, Geosciences Professors Mohamed Sultan, Alan Kehew, and William Sauck are mining the desert for water using satellite imaging and other geochemical and geophysical methods to help the burgeoning nations of the Middle East meet demand for fresh water.

A native of Egypt, Sultan is chair of WMU’s Department of Geosciences and heads up the research team. He said growing up in an arid nation spurred his interest in understanding the journey the water makes from the time it rains to the point where it discharges in an oasis in the middle of a desert, or as a stream flowing into a distant water body; in the case of Egypt that would be the River Nile flowing into the Mediterranean Sea. Sultan is referring here to what the hydrologist calls the water cycle, something that intrigued him from a young age.

"Geosciences is a very unique field—a hard-core scientific field that treats the whole world as your lab," Sultan said. "This is very appealing to me and other geoscientists to be in a discipline
where you can apply your expertise to various elements of the earth. Hopefully, some of the applications will have use or direct benefits to fellow human beings."

Drawn to the state-of-the-art research equipment, datasets, and expertise available at United States’ research universities, Sultan moved to the states in 1978 and earned his Ph.D. in 1984 from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. in the general area of geochemistry and petrology. As a senior research scientist at the Earth and Planetary Remote Sensing Laboratory at Washington University, he then developed and led the research efforts to bring together remotely sensed observations with others from traditional data sources for a better understanding of the geological problem at hand. He was then lured in 1996 to the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago to serve as director of international programs in the environmental research division.

Despite the fact he enjoyed the interdisciplinary research environment that Argonne provided, Sultan missed the interaction with students, and for that reason he then decided to teach at the University at Buffalo Geology Department for two years, from 2002 to 2004. Through his research on the Middle East and the surrounding region, Sultan learned WMU’s Geosciences Department had a long history of research in the area being conducted by Professors Kehe, Sauck, Hampton and Krishnamurthy.

"We all had ongoing projects in Egypt," said Sultan, who joined the department as chair in 2004. "I thought it would be a great complement if we teamed up together and became a focal point in the U.S. in the general area of hydrogeology in Egypt and countries nearby. I believe we are now one of the strongest groups today among U.S. universities conducting research in the general area of hydrogeologic applications in the Middle East, based on the amount of grants we’ve received and graduate student participation."
Over the last two years, 15 visiting research scientists have joined the WMU faculty researchers for short- and long-term campus residencies to complete missions funded by their respective governments. Sultan said more than 50 percent of the Ph.D. candidates for geosciences come from the Middle East, also funded by their governments. The department currently enrolls two doctoral students from Saudi Arabia, one from Iraq and two from Egypt. "We are becoming a focal point on a national and global scale," he said.

Looking for water in arid lands—the projects

A three-year project funded by NATO in collaboration with Dr. Farouk Soliman, Suez Canal University, Ismailia, Egypt, is focused on assessing the groundwater potential of the Sinai Peninsula. Sultan said NATO is interested in funding this project to advance its Environmental Security Program.

The project was launched with the results of a three-year project WMU researchers completed with United Nations Development Program funding, which made it possible for the development of robust cost-effective methodologies for the assessment of groundwater potential over large domains of the Earth’s surface with techniques that rely on readily available remotely acquired data sets. Sultan said these techniques are now applied to locate groundwater in the deserts of the Sinai Peninsula and the Quetta region in Pakistan, vast areas that cover thousands of square kilometers. These technologies could be readily applied to the majority of the world’s arid and semi-arid terrains.

"NATO is supporting this research because their angle is that if you find water you can develop sustainable jobs and engage people in more positive ways of living," Sultan said. "Bringing expertise from the earlier UNDP-funded project, and based on our preliminary findings, we can come up with a map that shows prospective locations for productive wells and reservoir types. There are two types of sources—fossil water and new precipitation—and we are studying the nature of these two main sources using chemical and geophysical methods. Many people consider fossil waters found in aquifers well below the earth’s surface to be a non-renewable source, but we are discovering in Sinai that the Nubian Aquifer, previously recognized as being formed of fossil water, is in reality a mix of old waters and newer waters."
If the fossil waters are indeed replenished from a renewable source, Sultan, Kelew, Sauck and their collaborating researchers plan to figure out the proportion of the water that is renewable, which will enable them to develop extraction scenarios that are sustainable in nature for these reservoirs.

The NASA-funded project utilizes GRACE (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment) satellite data to measure changes in the gravitational field of the earth as the satellite passes over a particular area on each pass. WMU received about $400,000 from the space agency for the project. The collaborating institutions are the Argonne National Laboratory, Cairo University (Cairo, Egypt), Macquarie University, a WMU exchange partner (Sydney, Australia), and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"We get a new measurement of the gravitational field of our research area every three to four weeks," Sultan said. "The changes hold clues as to the changes in the mass underneath the satellite. We use this data to examine changes in mass that are related to the recharge or discharge of aquifers—water going into or out of—or changes in surface water volumes, such as the water impounded behind dams."

The area the WMU researchers are observing includes Egypt and the Nubian Aquifer, a giant aquifer encompassing large areas in Egypt, Libya, Chad, and Sudan. Sultan said the people of these hyper-arid areas are eager to understand the hydrogeologic systems of this extensive ground water reservoir that they depend on to sustain their rising populations. "With GRACE data, we are now conducting trans-boundary exercises that were not possible earlier that are enhancing our understanding of the Nubian Aquifer reservoir," he said.

The USAID project, which is focused on Pakistan, was also launched from the results the UNDP-funded project. Sultan said Afghans and Pakistanis seeking refuge from the war zone are moving to the Quetta valley region and are putting extreme pressures on the existing fresh water supplies. USAID awarded WMU $300,000 and the Pakistani Government awarded a similar dollar amount to WMU’s Pakistani collaborators in the University of Balochistan: Dr. Abdul Salam Khan, and Dr. Khalid Mahmood, National Center of Excellence In Mineralogy, University of Balochistan, Quetta, Pakistan.
"What we are trying to do is in this project to find alternative reservoir types than the ones the locals typically exploit," Sultan said. "Alluvial reservoirs are easily found and exploited. The overexploitation of these reservoir types has been leading to a continuous decline in water levels throughout the years. We are trying to find reservoirs in the hard rock and the surrounding mountains, which are more difficult to identify, but with the technologies we’ve developed we believe we are on the verge of refining our methodologies to successfully pinpoint the location of productive wells in hard rocks. The hope of sustaining larger populations in these areas is becoming a reachable goal."

Sultan said funding for these projects is making it possible for WMU researchers to do field work in these remote areas in the Middle East and Far East and for research scientists and junior scientists from overseas institutions to travel to WMU to get trained on state-of-the-art technologies.

**Student participation**

WMU graduate students are actively involved in the department’s research projects and Sultan has worked with more than a few undergraduates who have entered the field to work with him as graduate students. Two of his former undergraduate students at the University of Buffalo followed him to WMU and have completed Ph.D.’s—Chris Jones, who now works for an environmental company on the east coast, and Adam Mielski, who took Sultan’s 100-level class at Buffalo and is now working for Sultan as a post-doctorate fellow.

A new opportunity for undergraduates to learn more about the region was created this fall, when the WMU Geosciences and Foreign Languages Departments, in collaboration with the Haenicke Institute, developed an innovative 3-credit-hour study abroad program, *Civilization and Geology in Egypt*, which will be taught by WMU Professors Dr. Robb Gillespie, geosciences, and Dr. Mustafa Mughazy, Arabic language and culture. About 18 students and up to five members of the 20-member Geosciences advisory board, which includes many department alumni, will participate in the inaugural offering of the two-week field trip to Egypt as part of the requirements for the course. Read the [story here](#).
"Robb took advantage of the solid research connections we have with various institutions in Egypt to develop this new course," Sultan said. "Part of the course will be spent visiting tourist sites and tying geology to civilization. There is a reason why the pyramids were built where they are. Students will get a first-hand look at how civilization is tied to climatic and geologic factors."

The group will also visit the Red Sea Hills, where Sultan said they will observe geologic settings and rock types that mimic mountain-building, the formation of continents, and the development of oceans.

"Students will be able to see the rock successions that are indicative of island arc settings such as the ones we seen in the Marianas and Japan today," he said. "Unlike the modern arcs, the ancient island arcs of Egypt are not in their original setting, but were shoved and attached to a much older African continent to the west. Students will see ocean formation processes because the Red Sea is a young sea in the making. They will be able to come to an understanding that if they were there some 20 million years ago they would have been able to walk from Egypt to Saudi Arabia without crossing water. We’ve invited alums from our advisory council to participate and be mentors to our students. They are hard-core geologists, so we’ll have additional experts on the trip to increase one-on-one contact with a geologist for our students."

Read more about the projects on WMU’s Department of Geosciences Web site.
New innovative summer program in Egypt

The role of geology in the civilization and culture of ancient and modern Egyptians is the focus of a new Western Michigan University summer study abroad program open to undergraduate and graduate students planned for May 1-16, 2009.

The WMU Geosciences and Foreign Languages Departments, in collaboration with the Haenicke Institute, have developed the innovative 3-credit-hour program, Civilization and Geology in Egypt, which will be taught by WMU Professors Dr. Robb Gillespie and Dr. Mustafa Mughazy.

The main objective of the course is to demonstrate to students how geology, and science in general, is integral with day-to-day events, and plays a central role in shaping society and civilization. Geology faculty from South Valley University in Qena, Egypt will participate in conducting portions of the field trip, giving WMU students exposure to scientists from other cultures.

Gillespie said the program will help students come to an understanding that Egypt is much more than just the home of Pharaohs and pyramids.
“This program will not only expose the students to Egypt’s majestic past, but will also introduce them to the realities of contemporary Egypt,” Gillespie said. “Egypt is still viewed by many as a land of mystery and romance, epitomized by the River Nile and the pyramids and it remains a popular tourist destination, ranking high on most peoples’ lists as a place they would like to visit sometime during their life.

“Egypt is obviously much more than the simple romantic notion,” he said. “It is a complex and multi-faceted country, predominantly an Arabic community with Coptic and Christian components. It is a strong Middle East cultural partner in area-wide politics, economics and ongoing cultural developments. It is a player in global energy supplies, now being totally self-sufficient in crude oil, and a net global oil exporter. Yet, much of the country remains the same as it has been for centuries, more aligned with the poorer sections of Africa than the big cities of Alexandria and Cairo that appear aligned with the Middle East and Europe.”

The course has been approved to meet requirements for General Education Area IV (Other Cultures and Civilizations). The geological content of the GEOS 2020 course will be wrapped within the context of the cultural development and history of Egypt, from the Pharaohs through contemporary times. This will provide an integrated perspective as to how science interacts with everyday events, eventually leading to cultural development or defeat. Mughazy, a WMU Arabic language professor, will team teach the course with Gillespie to enhance its multi-disciplinary aspect.

Mughazy developed and has led a very popular intensive Arabic Language and Culture in Egypt summer program to Alexandria. His innovative pedagogical approach—combining standard and colloquial Arabic from the beginning level—has brought national recognition to WMU’s Foreign Languages department and a textbook he authored is the most-used book in the U.S. for colloquial Arabic. WMU became the first university in Michigan to offer a minor in Arabic this fall.

Gillespie teaches in WMU’s Geosciences Department, which is heavily involved in research activities in Egypt and ranks as the third most active among United States’ universities.
conducting research in Egypt (www.esrs.wmich.edu/). The department plans to expand this research activity into a “Western Michigan University Center of Excellence in Egyptian and Middle Eastern Scientific Studies.”

Gillespie joined WMU after a successful career in petroleum geology. His passion for helping students understand how geology influences cultural development, along with his many years studying Egyptian history and culture, led him to propose the Civilization and Geology in Egypt program. Supported by a grant from the Haenicke Institute, Gillespie participated in the Arabic summer program led by Mughazy to learn the ins and outs of leading a study abroad program. With Brett Berquist, executive director of international programs, Gillespie visited several Egyptian universities to discuss collaboration on this project.

“Robb was extremely knowledgeable about the geomorphology of Egypt, as expected,” said Berquist. “I was very impressed by how much he had absorbed through study of Egyptian history and culture. It was his first trip to Egypt, but he was far more knowledgeable about each site than an experienced tour guide. He has a passion to share his knowledge with students that is infectious.”

Dr. Donald McCloud, dean of the Haenicke Institute, said he is particularly pleased “to see the interdepartmental collaboration behind this proposal that builds on two areas of strength that have already brought international recognition to our university: hydrogeology research and Arabic language and culture.”

Civilization and Geology in Egypt program profile

Dean's Scholarship for Summer Study Abroad

Dr. Gillespie's home page

WMU's Arabic program--Dr. Mughazy, advisor

Faculty interested in learning more about developing study abroad programs may contact Brett Berquist, Haenicke Institute for Global Education, (269) 387-5890, brett.berquist@wmich.edu
International lady Broncos share tips for succeeding on the field and in the classroom

WMU women's basketball team

Western Michigan University boasts a full roster of athletics programs with women's sports as no exception. This year there are many fresh faces on all teams, boosting the ranks of the seasoned players and staff.

WMU is a Division 1-ranked school based on the wide range of sports offered, the scholarships available to athletes, and the sheer size of the programs. WMU athletes compete in the Mid-American Conference with 12 Midwest schools. Many teams begin playing in the fall and compete into spring.

The women's basketball team schedule tips off in November and games are played well into March—longer if the team makes the playoffs. The lady Broncos play in University Arena's Read Fieldhouse, which offers wrap-around seating for 5,500 fans. Head Coach Tasha McDowell said the team works diligently between games to practice maneuvers for defensive tactics, as well as training for endurance to stay strong in high-scoring games.

"We take it one day at a time and the girls never back down," McDowell said. "I encourage our athletes to engage themselves in the team for these are their sisters. They learn to rely on one another and bond during the season and strive to reach their potential each season, with the MAC championship a major focus of the team's goals."
McDowell has 12 years of experience coaching, but is new this year to the WMU team. In her former position at the University of Wisconsin, McDowell set a program record with 23 wins before coming to WMU in her first head coach position. She said she fell in love immediately with campus and Kalamazoo when she was invited to visit campus and interview for the job.

McDowell made a late recruitment of freshman player Ryann Fletcher this season. Fletcher is a stand-out high school player from Mississauga, Ontario, who admits it's tough being so far from home.

"It's a huge change going from high school basketball to university basketball without family to support you," Fletcher said. "To be an international student athlete takes mental toughness. There will be hard times, but you can't quit. You'll get lonely, but you'll get through it and it will be worth it in the end."

**Bronco Golf**

One of the five freshmen on the women's golf team, Briana May understands the challenge of being far from home. May is from Barrie, Ontario. She said except for minute details, the people are the same; it's the sport's culture that changes.

"In high school you are the top of the food chain as a senior playing varsity sports and then to come here to be at the bottom is an adjustment," May said. "There are obstacles you have overcome, but it will be better to experience different cultures."

Larger courses and longer distances are major technical differences between high school and college golf, May said. Her main goals are to obtain a 4.0 GPA to be an all-around athlete, while she improves her technical and tactical game for competing. The women's golf team is ranked based on individual player performance. Players attempt to hit par, the regulated numbers of shots or swings per hole for the entire course, with the lower score winning the round.

Head Coach Cindy Trout began coaching the WMU team in 1998 and said one of her biggest challenges is preparing freshman for college sports.

"I haven't found the magic words to help freshman avoid stressing out the first two months," Trout said. "We literally hit the ground running. I want them to look back at playing college golf in 10 years as the best decision they ever made."

Golf is split into two seasons in fall and spring with a break from November to February. Trout said the fall games count towards the team's ranking and that the team works on strength conditioning during the off-months to keep players flexible and strong. The repetitive motion of
the sport can cause problems if players don't keep muscles flexible and relaxed. The seasons are a series of tournaments of up to 36 holes.

"Many people ask why would golf players need to condition, but how many sports have their players competing for up to 10 hours at a time?" Trout said. "This sport takes muscular endurance and mental endurance. We train to raise GPAs and lower golf scores."

**Bronco Tennis**

Bronco women's tennis holds its tournaments at the Sorensen Courts on WMU's campus and the team includes players from Japan, England, Canada and Germany. The fall season concludes in early November, and then matches begin in January after the holiday break. Players compete individually or as doubles in the fast-paced sport. Coach Betsy Kuhle, a 26-year coaching veteran at WMU, has led the team for 24 winning seasons. "The ladies know when to work hard and when to let back," Kuhle said.

A senior on the team, Kerstin Pahl is from Kiel, Germany and hopes to return to her hometown after she graduates. Pahl played a 16-0 perfect winning streak in both singles and doubles last season. She is no stranger to the challenges of excelling as an athlete and student while being far from home.

"It's important to be open-minded as a new student," Pahl said. "It takes time to adjust and you have to be very disciplined."

Visit Bronco Athletics online at [www.wmubroncos.com](http://www.wmubroncos.com).
Love of linguistics leads to ESL career for Ila Baker

An intense interest in English linguistics opened the door to the 18-plus-year career Master Faculty Specialist Ila Baker has enjoyed teaching in Western Michigan University’s Career English Language Center for International Students.

Her professional interests include accent modification, the teaching and learning of vocabulary in a foreign language, and learning differences. Baker’s curiosity about life outside of the United States was piqued by a semester abroad in Ireland while she was a U.S. history major at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. She followed that up after graduation by teaching English for one year in Kyoto, Japan.

After returning to the U.S., Baker worked for two years as a residential and commercial energy consultant for various Michigan utility companies while taking a couple of linguistics classes at Hope College. She then enrolled in graduate school at Michigan State University, where she taught in the English Language Center while earning a MA-TESOL; she graduated in 1988.

“My husband and I then taught at Glenville State University in Glenville, West Virginia,” Baker said. “We returned to Michigan when my husband took a job for the Barry County District Health Department, and I began teaching at CELCIS in January 1990. I applied for work at CELCIS because I had met the program’s instructors at MITESOL conferences and was impressed with the quality of their professional activities. While teaching ESL full time at CELCIS, I completed a Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology at WMU in 1994.”

Helping international students advance their English reading and writing skills to prepare for studying at WMU is the focus of Baker’s teaching. CELCIS students come to WMU from more than 12 countries, and about 90 percent of the program’s graduates enroll in a WMU degree program upon graduating from CELCIS.

“For the first half of the fall semester I taught a reading and writing class at the intermediate level,” Baker said. “In this class the students learned English reading and writing skills through introductory economics, which was the content area of the course. This class concluded on October 22 and now I am working full time at my position as CELCIS Curriculum Coordinator. I provide training and guidance to new instructors at CELCIS, evaluate and update the curriculum, and coordinate our portfolio assessment project.”

Baker also volunteers for various department and university committees, including serving as chair of the CELCIS Promotion Committee and as the CELCIS representative to the Executive Committee of the WMU faculty union.
CELCIS Interim Director Joel Boyd said he met Baker and became friends while they were graduate students at MSU, working as teaching assistants in the English Language Center. Their paths crossed at professional conferences a few times post-graduation, and she eventually recruited him to teach in CELCIS in 1995.

“While I was studying linguistics, I was an active member of a group of students who got together to practice speaking German, and those of us who were TAs also participated in many social activities together,” Boyd said. “Ila, her husband, and I were involved in these two groups which overlapped. It was a wonderful time in all of our lives when we had a large contingent of international and American students all interested in language, food and culture, who socialized together and enjoyed the kind of lives that many of us yearned for. Most of us had travelled and seen things that many people had not seen; sharing our lives and adventures was joyous.”

Not only has Boyd been a witness to Baker’s professional development, he enjoyed watching the Baker’s become parents to Adriana and Johanna, who are now 13 and 12.

“Our opportunities to socialize like in the old days are rarer than they used to be, but I still feel close to Ila and her family,” Boyd said. “The girls are both young ladies now who show interest in language, food and culture. Friends like Ila add so much to life.”

Baker said the most rewarding part of her job is helping students see progress in their language learning and working with the CELCIS faculty and staff.

“I enjoy inviting students to compare their early work in the semester and their later work and hearing them comment with pride at how much they have progressed,” she said. “I also enjoy working with my fellow teachers at CELCIS. We share scholarship, materials, and teaching techniques. Many of our teachers have taught in various countries and in various types of English language programs, so each teacher brings unique experiences and skills to this work.”

Baker continues to expand her language catalog studying her husband’s native language—Dutch—which she gets a chance to hear every day through Dutch TV shows broadcast on satellite stations. The family even has a dog with a Dutch name, a Goldendoodle named Boef, which means “rascal.” Outside the classroom, Baker also enjoys gardening.

Visit the CELCIS Web site: www.wmich.edu/celcis
Maran Subramain Spotlight

Maran Subramain
Kulim, Malaysia
Graduate student in WMU’s Communication Department

Maran Subramain is a graduate student in WMU’s Communication Department from Kulim, Malaysia. A recipient of funding from the Malaysian government and the WMU Presidential Scholarship, Maran was advised by some of his instructors at the National University of Malaysia to complete his graduate studies at Western.

Maran in the Petronas Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur

Maran embraced campus life when he arrived in spring 2008 by joining the International Programs Council and other student organizations. His cheerful, helpful manner helped him earn his position as the international programming intern in the Haenicke Institute. He shares below some thoughts about campus life, Kalamazoo, and his home.

WMU has helped me intensify the knowledge I already have in the communication filed. It is giving me a new dimension on learning, not only in the beautiful and best facilities, but also through valuable educational content. The instructors are very knowledgeable and willing to help us boost our hidden talents. The international student activities are fun, help me meet people, and are building my self confidence.

Working in the international programming office is a very pleasurable experience. I am assigned to outreach for international students in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Haworth College of Business, and also plan special events, such as WMU’s week-long celebration of International Education Week. The position has helped me meet lots of domestic
and international students and gives me the opportunity to work with faculty and staff to build a strong network.

Kalamazoo is a friendly place to live, with lots of interesting things to do near campus. Visiting the Barnes and Noble bookstore is something I enjoy very much, and there are movie theaters and malls nearby when you need a break from studying. Michigan, which is surrounded by freshwater lakes, is a fun place to live, particularly in summer. My country is a place where you can see unity in diversity—Malaysians, Chinese and Indians live together in a harmonious environment. One of my favorite things to do at home is to chat for hours with friends in small coffee shops called, mamak stalls.

*Maran in the Malaysia Telecom Tower, Kuala Lumpur*