Items of Academic Interest

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Western Michigan’s Geosciences Department (faculty and students) was well represented this year at the Geological Society of America annual national meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. Faculty, students (graduates and undergraduates) presented their research to colleagues from around the world. Our geologic engineering group (Drs. Ronald Chase, Alan Kehew, and Rennie Kaunda) all made much anticipated oral presentations on groundbreaking methodologies for slope stability of the Lake Michigan bluffs. Oral presentations by the geochemistry group were made by Soumya Das, Tracy Lund, and Dr. Carla Koretsky on behalf of Sauma Ndengu. These students presented cutting-edge research related to the understanding of metal absorptions on assorted earth materials.

Steve Beukema, a representative of the stable isotope geochemistry group, presented his discoveries on paleoclimatic studies taking place in the Himalaya Mountains. Danielle Odette, the representative of the geophysical group, presented a poster pertaining to the study of deep-sea sediments. A new addition to the geosciences department, the environmental remote sensing group led by Dr. Mohamed Sultan, also presented at the conference this year. Christopher Jones presented a poster on the disintegration and restoration of the Mesopotamian Marshlands and Adam Milewski presented innovative methodologies on the application of remote sensing data sets as inputs and constraints to hydrologic models in arid lands. In addition to the impressive presentations given by the department this year, a booth was also on display to provide information to prospective students interested in joining our Geosciences Department.

**COLLEGE OF AVIATION**

WMU has signed a 10-year lease agreement with Minnesota-based Cirrus Design Corporation that calls for the state-of-the-art aircraft to be replaced every two years, giving the University continued access to the latest advances in safety, avionics and performance. The first aircraft arrived at the college’s W.K. Kellogg Airport facility in Battle Creek in October in a ceremony complete with two fire trucks spraying a water arc over the four aircraft taxiing on the runway.

“This is by far the best airplane for WMU’s needs,” says Capt. Rick Maloney, dean of the College of Aviation. “With these aircraft, we will meet or exceed the training standards of the commercial aviation industry, and we’ll be able to provide the best possible learning outcomes for our students. They’ll learn to fly in the most sophisticated aircraft used by any collegiate program in the nation.”

Karen Kitt organized Challenge Air Day for Kids to give aviation exposure to children with disabilities. Twenty-eight youth with disabilities from the Doris Klaussen Development Center had an opportunity to learn parts of an airplane; make pinwheel propellers, paper bag kites and soda straw rockets; see rocket demonstrations; fly in a plane; demo a simulator; and tour a new air traffic control tower.
Extended University Programs and the Haworth College of Business have collaborated with Whirlpool Corporation to offer a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at the WMU-Southwest Campus, beginning in January 2006. The initiative is the outcome of a larger partnership between WMU, Lake Michigan College and Whirlpool. This program enables students, many of whom are also Whirlpool employees, to take the first half of the business administration curriculum at LMC, then, after earning an LMC associate’s degree, continue at WMU to earn a BBA.

The BBA program at WMU-Southwest, which will have a management focus, will be the third complete bachelor’s degree program offered in the area by WMU. The Whirlpool commitment and anticipated employee participation will provide a base for building a strong program that is open to other area residents as well.

BBA courses will be taught at WMU-Southwest, located on Napier Avenue in Benton Harbor. Faculty members from the Haworth College of Business will commute to the University’s Southwest location to teach courses in the degree program, which is now offered on the main campus in Kalamazoo. The proximity of LMC and WMU allows students from both institutions to share resources and achieve their higher education goals close to home.

The EDLD 682 computer applications class in the Department of Education, Learning, and Leadership is field-testing a portion of a voluntary superintendent’s certification program entitled Champions for Teaching and Learning. The certificate, which will most likely be approved in Michigan, is an on-line course developed in conjunction with the Department of Education, MASA, Michigan Virtual University, WMU, MSU and Learnport. Three TLL assistant professors are involved: Dr. Patricia Reeves is directing this project and Dr. Walter Burt and Dr. Dennis McCrumb are on the development committee.

The Children’s Trauma Assessment Center (CTAC) at WMU’s College of Health and Human Services has been awarded a Department of Justice $420,000 two-year grant, renewable for a further two years, under the Office of Justice Programs’ Safe Start Promising Approaches for Children Exposed to Violence program. The funds will be used to implement effective intervention strategies that curb children’s exposure to violence. Safe Start Promising Approaches enables communities to strengthen existing alliances among community groups such as law enforcement, mental health practitioners, child welfare organizations and domestic violence victim advocates and providers, in order to supply the best services to meet the needs of young children and families who have been exposed to violence or who are at risk of exposure.

CTAC will be working in partnership with Kalamazoo County Head Start, Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Kalamazoo Family Court and the Court Appointed Special Advocates, and the Elizabeth Upjohn Healing Center. Under the leadership of Dr. Jim Henry and Connie Black-Pond, the partners will manage a School Intervention Project through Head Start, for children from ages 3 to 6. By introducing an inclusive curriculum designed to meet the needs of children affected by violence, and by offering a concurrent parenting component, the project aims to reduce the impact of violence, including community violence, giving children much better opportunities for development of healthy behavior early in their lives. The curriculum will be the subject of a research project to measure its effectiveness, with a view to developing and expanding the program within the local community.

In addition, the partners will invite other community agencies to collaborate in regular meetings evaluating current practices and developing general policies that improve and sustain the systematic response in our community to young children ages 0-6 exposed to violence. “We hope to develop ways of narrowing service gaps and establishing effective response systems that anticipate and minimize the harmful effects of violence,” says Dr. Henry.

Any organizations interested in participating in the community collaboration should call the CTAC Safe Start Project at 387-7046 ext.2.

On Thursday, November 17, at 3:00 p.m., Dr. David Karowe, Biological Sciences, gave a public presentation in the Lee Honors College Lounge. His talk, the second in a two-part series, was titled, “What Will Climate Change Mean for Ecosystems and Human Health?”

Manufacturing Engineering Students attend SME Meeting in Muskegon: On November 8, Dr. David Meade, Department of Manufacturing Engineering, held an information meeting for all Muskegon students who may be interested in joining the local chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. Over 20 students from WMU and Muskegon Community College attended.

Associate Professor of Dance, Sharon Garber, has been elected to the American College Dance Festival Association’s Board of Directors. She started her three-year term November 1. She also recently completed an article to be published in an upcoming issue of Dance Teacher magazine titled “WMU collaborates with ballet companies to introduce students to the professional dance world.” In addition to these accomplishments, Garber has also been invited to make two presentations this summer. The first is the World Dance
Alliance conference on July 17-21, 2006 at New York University in Toronto, where she will present “Teaching Dance Technique: Creating a one-semester undergraduate teaching course that bridges the genres.” The second is the CORPS de Ballet International conference, to be held July 24-27 by the National Ballet of Canada, also in Toronto. This presentation is titled “Developing Ballet Performance Experience at the University Level: WMU’s Department of Dance Great Works Project, 1996-present.”

The Merling Trio (Renata Artman Knific, violin; Bruce Uchimura, cello; Susan Wiersma Uchimura, piano) continued its busy tour schedule with appearances at Eastern Illinois University’s Tarble Arts Center and Taylor University (Upland, IN) in September, and Mankato State University and the Owatonna Arts Center (MN) in October. The trio was featured as guest ensemble for Bowling Green State University’s annual New Music and Art Festival on October 28, with a subsequent performance at Kettering Concert House in Ann Arbor on October 29. About their performance in Charleston, IL, Carl Lebovitz of the Journal Gazette Times-Courier said, “It was an exhilarating concert, and the capacity audience gave it a warm reception. Only one thing was missing… an encore!”

Bill Davis, School of Art, was named photographer of the month by Vermont’s Cone Editions Press, where he completed a Technology Fellowship Grant. Davis has also been appointed as Western Michigan University’s Prague Summer Program Visual Arts Coordinator. The program is currently administering photo courses for beginning, intermediate, and advanced students.

Associate Professor of Dance, Jane Baas, traveled to Sweden recently to present her paper, “Implementing a Web-based Dance Wellness Screen at Multiple Universities,” and her movement session, “Strategies for achieving strong, supple feet for dancers” at the 15th annual conference for the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science. She was also elected to a three-year term to the Education Committee, a standing committee of the organization, at the conference. As a result of the presentation, numerous US and international institutions expressed an interest in joining the Dance Wellness Research Team initiated by Baas and her colleagues at Case Western Reserve University.

On Saturday, October 8, David Montgomery and the Bronco Marching Band hosted High School Band Day. Over 400 students from high schools across Michigan participated in this year’s event. The students joined the Bronco Marching Band in a special halftime performance at the WMU football game.

On Friday, November 4, Marc Gomez (professional dancer, teacher and choreographer from Chicago) arrived at Western’s Department of Dance to create a world premiere for the Western Dance Project, the department’s performance ensemble directed by Associate Professor of Dance, David Curwen. Mr. Gomez had only 16 hours to create a six-minute dance for 10 dancers. The new work is titled In My Mind and uses the song “35 Minutes” from Moby’s CD “Hotel”. During this intensely creative time period, Mr. Gomez explored movement flavors from jazz, ballet and modern while demanding that every dancer learn every part, including partnering roles. In My Mind will join this year’s repertoire for the Western Dance Project and will have its premiere as part of January’s Art Hop in downtown Kalamazoo.

Director of the School of Art, Phil VanderWeg, was recently elected a member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design Commission on Accreditation.

Dean Margaret Merrion, College of Fine Arts, has been elected to the board of directors of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans. Her three-year term began earlier this month. Dean Merrion has previously served on the board and was the council’s president from 1998-2000. The council is a professional organization that provides leadership in arts education and serves as a forum for the advancement of the highest standards in the profession.

Dr. David Guth, Professor of Blindness and Low Vision Studies, was featured in the following Chronicle of Higher Education article for his research with Dr. John Gesink, Chair of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

The full article can be found at: http://chronicle.com/weekly/v52/i10/10a03601.htm.

Richard Long, David Guth, Robert Wall Emerson, and Paul Ponchillia also published the article “Street Crossing by Sighted and Blind Pedestrians at a Modern Roundabout” in the Journal of Transportation Engineering.


Bill Rantz, Tony Dennis, and Willem Homan were awarded a grant from the America West Education Foundation for their project, “Tuskegee Airmen/WMU Aviation Career Enrichment Program.” This educational and workforce development program will expose at-risk youth from the metropolitan Detroit area to careers in aviation.

Faculty development honors, Blair Balden - Honor Roll, Certificate of Achievement for the Trinity Term 2005; Blair also holds 4th place in his class at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.
Flight instructors Al Mann, Gus Gettas, and Rick Roberts participated in the Boy Scouts Camperee at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo on October 15. Boy Scouts were shown the aspects of the plane and received help earning their aviation merit badge. A thank-you note from the Boy Scout leader exclaimed, "WMU was GREAT! They helped with the kids on their Aviation merit badge and worked very well with the kids."

James Eckert, Department of Management, "Adaptive Selling: Adding Depth and Specificity to the Range of Adaptive Outputs," has been accepted for publication in the *Mid-American Journal of Business*.


On November 22, Dr. Elena Lisovskaya, associate professor, Department of Educational Studies, will participate in a panel entitled "After Atheism: Orthodoxy, Islam, and Intolerance in Russian Society and Education," part of The Department of Sociology and The Kercher Symposium Series. Using a unique set of data from six national surveys (1991-2005), the panel will present findings from the ongoing international collaborative project on religious intolerance among Christians and Muslims in Russia (funded by the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research).

Dr. Lynn Nations Johnson, professor, Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, has been named Director of the School/University Partnership Team (SUPT). SUPT is a unique partnership representing the collaboration of public schools and the College of Education’s teacher education programs.

Dr. James Muchmore, associate professor, Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, was elected to serve as Chair of a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) called "Lives of Teachers" (LOT). This special interest group is designed to bring together people who share an interest in the lives of teachers, from preschool through graduate school, and who seek to support scholarly activities (research, writing, discussion, dissemination) on this subject. Additional information can be found at: [http://galileo.stmarys-ca.edu/jbrunett/livestch/](http://galileo.stmarys-ca.edu/jbrunett/livestch/).

Dr. Ariel Anderson, professor, Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, was re-elected to a second (two-year) term as chair of the National AAUP’s Collective Bargaining Congress in June 2005.

Dr. Debra S. Berkey, professor and chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation, received the Monor Award of Meritorious Service from the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (MAHPERD). The criterion for this highest honor awarded by MAHPERD include: active involvement in MAHPERD disciplines in the State of Michigan for at least ten years; significant contributions to the profession through demonstrations, speeches, publications, workshops, service and/or leadership to the organization, state, national or local education or civic organizations; outstanding ability as an educator or administrator; and whose life and contributions have inspired youth in the State of Michigan.

Dr. Suzanne Hedstrom, assistant professor, Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, received the Outstanding Service Award from the Michigan Association for Counselor Education and Supervision.

Judi A. Rypma, Department of English, and frequent teacher in the LHC, has just published her second collection of poetry. It is a chapbook entitled *Mineral Treasures*, available from Finishing Line Press in Georgetown, KY.

Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership elementary education students Jennifer Brake, Sara Bueche, and Aaron Sauter presented novel lesson plans for teaching science concepts at the Southwest Michigan Science Education Symposium on October 28 at Portage Northern High School. This annual symposium is organized and run by teachers, and focuses on enriching science instruction by sharing creative ideas. This marks the first time WMU elementary education majors have presented at this conference. TLL faculty members Marcia Fetters, associate professor, and Paul Vellom, assistant professor, also presented lesson ideas at the symposium.

Thirteen doctoral students and four faculty (Drs. Carla Adkison-Bradley, professor, Phillip Johnson, assistant professor, Suzanne Hedstrom, assistant professor, and Sheila Witherspoon, assistant professor) from the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology attended and presented at the ACES Conference in Pittsburgh.
Five students in the Socio-Cultural Foundations Master's program presented papers at national conferences in October and November:


**College of Engineering and Applied Sciences**

UEM student earns Integrated Supply Matrix Management Scholarship: **Quentin Witkowski**, a senior in the engineering management (UEM) program, was awarded a $2,000 scholarship last month for maintaining high academic standards and for having a minor in the Integrated Supply Matrix Management (ISM) program. The scholarship, designated for ISM minors, was funded by Kellogg’s.

IME Professor **Dr. David Lyth**, who is the engineering representative in the ISM program, said that Kellogg’s is one of several companies that are actively involved on the advisory board of the Integrated Supply Matrix Management program. “There is a significant group of advisory board companies that support the program,” he said. Witkowski did not have to apply for the scholarship. “The award is based on academic performance, so no application was required,” Lyth said. “He (Witkowski) is an outstanding student.”

Lyth, who recommended Witkowski for the scholarship, surprised the senior with news that he had won the scholarship in an IME 4120 Industrial Systems Management class taught by **Dr. Larry Mallak**. “You have been awarded a scholarship, even though all you get today is a handshake,” Lyth said. The formal award came in a ceremony at WMU’s business college on the first Friday in October.

Developed in 1989, Integrated Supply Matrix Management combines business with engineering; it leads toward a supply management career. “It’s a joint venture between the business and engineering colleges,” Lyth said. “Business students can take it as a major and engineering students can take it as a minor.”

The ISM focus is on understanding what the supply chain is, from marketing to purchasing to production to logistics. Engineering and technology minors take a 15-hour set of courses while business majors take that same sequence plus others, including those supporting infrastructure, like engineering graphics, manufacturing engineering, and manufacturing processes and materials. “They understand the processes involved in a supply chain,” Lyth said. “The program is directed by representatives of marketing, management, and engineering.”

Witkowski, who came to WMU from Battle Creek and who plans to graduate in December 2006, said that having an ISM minor enhances his engineering management technology degree. “It broadens your appeal to employers,” he said. Because of his interest in integrated supply management, Witkowski is presently working with others to start a student chapter of the American Society of Engineering Management (ASEM). The first meeting was held this fall. “We’ve filed all the paperwork,” he said. ASEM is a professional organization, founded in 1979 and “dedicated to the science and art of engineering management,” according to its website.

**College of Fine Arts**

Several School of Music students and alumni represented WMU at the recent State Convention of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). Undergraduate students **Christopher Hathaway**, **Jessica Relitz**, **Alison Seamon**, **Matthew Snell**, and **Alexis Stark** were featured in a master class given by Simon Carrington, founder of the legendary King’s Singers. At the invitation of the ACDA board, graduate student **Amanda Quist** directed the WMU Collegium Singers as the demonstration choir for a session by Maestro Carrington. Quist and fellow graduate student **Jared Daugherty** were also chosen to conduct in the Graduate Master Class. Of the three high school choirs selected by audition to perform at the convention, two were directed by WMU alumni:

- **Catherine Adams** (Master of Music, 1995) conducted the Portage Northern High School Songleaders Chorale.

- **Kelly Ann Westgate** (Bachelor of Music, 1999) led the Lakeshore (Stevensville) High School Chamber Singers.

Alumnus **Les Rowsey** (Master of Music, 1988) was invited to showcase his Jenison High School Chamber Singers as the demonstration choir for the Undergraduate Conducting Master Class. In addition, two WMU alumni currently serve on the ACDA Michigan Board of Directors: **Chris Fenner** (Bachelor of Music, 2003) and **Mandy Mikita Scott** (Bachelor of Music, 2000).

All four organists selected to play in a November 12 master class led by world-renowned recitalist Felix Hell are current or former students of University Organist **Dr. Karl Schrock**. **Joel VanderZee** (graduate student from Grand Rapids), **Debra Candy** (graduate student from Battle Creek), **James Naumann** (senior from Benton Harbor), and **Sara Martin** (alumna from Kalamazoo). Sponsored by the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music, the event was open to the public at no charge. The
master class took place at First United Methodist Church at 212 S. Park St. in Kalamazoo on Saturday, November 12 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Pianist Guga Chkhikvadze (junior from Tbilisi, Georgia) was invited to perform as part of a Beethoven sonata festival presented by DePaul University’s AmeriKlavier Studio. The festival featured daily performances of 32 Beethoven piano sonatas from October 30 through November 6, 2005.

Two School of Art BFA Metals/Jewelry students, Gabriel Craig and Laura Coddens, presented a workshop at Parchment High School last month as part of their community service requirements for the program. Parchment High School teacher Emily Manning wrote them, “You did a WONDERFUL job of showing my students what the next level can be like, as well as inspiring them with your own works. They really enjoyed your demo and the whole session. I can’t thank you enough for being so willing and prepared to help us out.

Western Michigan University’s precision flight flight team, the Sky Broncos, captured the National Intercollegiate Flying Association’s Region III title in October with strong performances in all of the competition’s 10 events.

“This was a phenomenal representation of who we are as a college and what we do,” said Sky Bronco Head Coach James Whittles of his team’s performance. “This was a total team effort, and I don’t mean just the flight team. The whole college was 100 percent behind us. We’re ready to go to nationals!”

The Sky Broncos were led in the regional effort by veteran team members Travis Epp of Clark Lake, MI, and Garrett Heinz of Birmingham, MI, who came in first and second, respectively, in the competition for the event’s top-pilot honors. Heinz also serves as team captain. Another veteran team member, Robbie Beechuk of Plymouth, MI, took fourth in the top-pilot standings.
A project to improve the production system for Stryker Medical’s Stair Chair Pro involves Abdullah Al-Abbas, Maria Candela, Deanna Cunningham, and Daniel Grupp, who used work measurement techniques, statistics, and simulation models to evaluate the current production model and propose a re-design to improve the system.

Jeff Leppert, Craig Nelson, Michael Perry, Jason Phillips, and Warren White present the results of their investigation of options to meet international electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) requirements that multiple electrical or electronic systems function in the same environment without interfering with each other, for sponsor Kohler Company.

Adam Ritchie, Luka Bacal, Matt Getty, and Ryan Severns will present a ventilation ducting hole cutter in a project sponsored by EZ Concepts and for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) industry. A portable tool to cut a six-inch uniform hole in galvanized sheet metal with minimal scrap was designed and tested for durability, strength, repeatability, and functionality.

Clint Barnard, Mark Gajowskie, and Roger Anthony produced guidelines for using reverse engineering for complex parts.

Using virtual reality simulation, Advisor Pavel Ikonomov and seniors Brad Armstrong and Dana Gronau examined the control unit for a robot they used in a senior project that explores interaction between a virtual robot and a virtual human. The robot is programmed with intelligence to work with humans. “If a human gets in the way of the robot, the robot sensors go off, and the robot backs away and finds another path to keep working without harming the human,” Armstrong said.

To find a safe and efficient process for moving a bulkhead (pool divider) in WMU’s natatorium, Megan Lamont, Alejandro Rodriguez, and Justin Vriezema considered safety, time, and cost in their analysis of the existing system and resulting recommendations.

Advisors for this semester’s projects include Larry Mallak, Steven Butt, Tycho Fredericks, James VanDePolder, Mitchel Keil, Pavel Ikonomov, David Lyth, and Jorge Rodriguez.

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Three Educational Leadership Higher Education doctoral students led a roundtable discussion at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education in Philadelphia, November 17-20. Betty Dennis presented “The Politics of Race and Gender in the Professorate” and Maryann Lavendar along with Sharon Peterson presented “Entrepreneurship and Higher Education in Distance Learning.”

Seasonal songs are great because they are like old friends who stop by without fail. Our talented Music Theatre Performance students and a special guest artist from the Big Apple, Danny Gurwin, will blend the best of the holidays with the spice of variety. Join us for The Holiday Cabaret in the Multi-Form Theatre, Thursday through Saturday, December 1-3, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 4, at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the Gilmore Theatre ticket office, 387-6222.

Two School of Music events in December will celebrate the season. The school presents its annual “Christmas Card to the Community” with a free concert of holiday music Sunday, December 4, at 3 p.m. in Miller Auditorium. Popular with audiences of all ages, the School of Music holiday concert has become a regular part of celebrating the season for many area families. Over 250 musicians will present this year’s holiday extravaganza: the 180-voice University Grand Chorus, conducted by Joe Miller, and the 80-member University Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Bruce Uchimura. The highlight of the concert will be a performance of Mozart’s “Grand Mass in C Minor” featuring alumni soloists Susan Musselman (Bachelor of Music, 2002), Bradley Erbes (Bachelor of Music, 2002), and Aaron Wardell (Bachelor of Music, 2003).
The Western Brass Quintet, a resident faculty ensemble in the School of Music, will present its standing-room-only "Brass Celebration of Christmas" on Sunday, December 11, at 3 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The free concert will feature festive music for brass ensemble with selections from the Renaissance, the Baroque and beyond. The afternoon promises a great mixture of traditional holiday music, brass classics, and new favorites all performed by the Western Brass Quintet and an ensemble of outstanding students and faculty from the School of Music.

Members of the Western Brass Quintet are Scott Thornburg and Stephen Jones (trumpet), Lin Foulk (horn), Daniel Mattson (trombone), and Deanna Swoboda (tuba).

What We're Reading

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

*Fantastic Voyage, The Age of Spiritual Machines, and The Singularity is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology* by Ray Kurzweil.

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

A group of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership faculty are reading and discussing the writings of educational theorist/philosopher, John Dewey. Readings of the Dewey Study Group have included *Experience and Education* (1938) and *The Relation of Theory to Practice in Education* (1904). Faculty from across the University who may be interested in joining the group are encouraged to contact either Dr. Lauren Freedman (lauren.freedman@wmich.edu) or Dr. Cynthia Carver (cynthia.carver@wmich.edu).

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**Prism Newsletter**

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