

2005

Anthropology

Andrea M. Allen received her B.S. in anthropology with honors from the Lee Honors College at WMU in 1982. Her senior thesis focused on the social network and survival of the Michigan dairy farmers during the 1980's farm crisis. Dr. Allen went on to attend graduate school at the University of Kentucky. She obtained her Ph.D. in 1993 with her dissertation research on the social, economic and political aspects of indigenous organizations in two Andean communities. From 1994 to 1996, Dr. Allen worked for CARE, as the manager of technical assistance teams. She went on to work for four years under contract with the U.S. Agency for international Development (USAID) as an advisor on strategic plans to achieve heightened participation of men and women and integrated social and gender analysis into contract solutions. Dr. Allen currently serves as associate director of Partnership for Food Industry Development-Fruits and Vegetables.

Biological Sciences

Roger Ulrich earned his bachelor's of science in biology from WMU in 1974 and his master's in biological science from the university in 1978. After graduation, Dr. Ulrich taught at West Virginia University in the biological sciences department. He has held positions at the Upjohn Company, Pharmacia & Upjohn, Inc. (now Pfizer), and Abbott Laboratories. Dr. Ulrich holds membership in the American Society for Cell Biology, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Microscopy Society of America, the Michigan Electron Microscopy and the American Association for the study of Liver Disease. Currently, Dr. Ulrich serves as the senior scientific director of preclinical molecular profiling for Rosetta Impharmatics, a wholly owned subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc. that develops and implements technologies to improve drug discoveries, a position held since 2001.

Chemistry

Norman Holy received his B.S. in chemistry and in Physics in 1963 at WMU and his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Purdue University in 1967. Upon graduation, Dr. Holy taught at Western Kentucky University until 1985. As a faculty member, Dr. Holy received the University Research Award and the Alexander von Humboldt Fellow which allowed him to be a guest of Munich, Germany's Technical University. For the next 18 years, Dr. Holy worked with Rohn and Haas in Philadelphia, PA as its research fellow. In 1998, he became the president of Better Gear, LLC a position still currently held. In 2003 he became the research associate at the New England Aquarium. As the research associate, Dr. Holy has invented a number of fishing gear components such as reflective netting, a "slow" netting material that is protective of whales, dolphins and other marine species among others. For these inventions, he received the World Wildlife Fund Smart Gear, and the Tech Museum Award-Technology Benefiting Humanity in the Laureate in the environmental technology. He has published a total of 75 journal articles and patents ranging from organic synthesis to removal of heavy metals from living tissues.

Chemistry

Thomas Asmus earned his B.S. in paper science and engineering and chemistry, as well as his master's and Ph.D. in physical chemistry from WMU in 1968 and 1970, respectively. He went on to obtain his post doctoral fellow in combustion kinetics from Drexel University. For three years, Dr. Asmus worked for the Mead Corporation as a pulp and paper researcher. He went on to teach at various universities including the University of Guadalajara (Mexico), Wayne State University in Detroit, the Detroit Institute of Technology, University as well as Oakland University and University of Michigan Ann Arbor where he currently serves as an adjunct professor of mechanical engineering. He has created a number of patents that improves the efficiency of internal combustion in engines to minimize environmental impacts. He published 10 articles for chemistry journals and SAE papers. Dr. Asmus has recently retired as the senior research executive at Daimler-Chrysler. At Daimler-Chrysler, he was the first-ever recipient of the Walter P. Chrysler Lifetime Achievement Award as well as a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Communication

James E. McHale received his bachelor's in public relations and journalism from WMU and his master's in business administration at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. Upon graduation, Mr. McHale worked as a development manager and marketing specialist for Hackley Hospital in Muskegon and as a development associate for St. Mary's Health Service in Grand Rapids. Mr. McHale has served as a community foundation program associate for the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF). He joined the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in 1993 where he currently serves as the assistant vice president. He has founded Camp Catch-A-Rainbow, a summer program for children with cancer and helped with the establishment of the first camp for children with cancer in Russia and has co-founded Kalamazoo Special Skiing, a program that trains the blind and physically disabled how to downhill ski. Mr. McHale served on numerous boards which includes the United Way, which he chaired the 2000 Greater Battle Creek United Way campaign. He is a lifelong member of the N.A.A.C.P.

Comparative Religion

Joel L. Olah earned his B.A. in religion and psychology in 1971 from WMU, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in educational gerontology from the University of Michigan in 1974 and 1976, respectively. He has specialist certification in gerontology from the University of Michigan-Wayne State University and state licensure for nursing home administrators for the state of Michigan. Dr. Olah has held adjunct faculty positions at Des Moines University and Des Moines Area Community College, and has published numerous articles on the subject of retirement and aging. Dr. Olah is active in many organizations and serves on several advisory boards, such as the Gerontology Society of Iowa (founding president), Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and the Aging Resources Foundation, to name a few. He has provided over 35 years of professional service in aging and health care administration and currently serves as executive director of Aging Resources of Central Iowa.