Welcome
The College of Arts and Sciences has played a dynamic role in the growth and development of Western Michigan University. The College’s 27 departments, schools, and interdisciplinary programs provide the educational foundation for every student who enrolls at WMU.

Our alumni have been major contributors to our national reputation and recognition, and we currently have more than 48,000 alumni nationwide.

The Alumni Achievement Awards program began in 1997 as a way of reconnecting our students and faculty with our alumni, as well as our alumni with the College. The awards are given in recognition of the recipients’ achievements in their fields and for their service to their former departments.

Not every department makes a recommendation every year. While each of the departments in the College provides different opportunities for the Alumni Award recipients, most recipients spend a day or two on campus talking with students and faculty about their careers and experiences at WMU.

We applaud those alumni listed within these pages and invite you to browse the outstanding accomplishments of this year’s winners.
Africana Studies
Dr. Ollie Barnes

Dr. Ollie Barnes is a strategist with an extensive record of successfully designing and delivering executive leadership programs in corporate learning and development institutions. As a principal owner of Impact Consultants, Inc., he worked with organizational populations ranging from 500 to 115,000 worldwide. He has more than 23 years of high-level consulting experience, coaching and developing corporate executives during periods of major change in their organizations. Dr. Barnes has developed a respected reputation for his work on organizational diversity, inclusion, and engagement.

Dr. Barnes currently serves as the manager of Global Leadership Development for Pfizer’s Global Manufacturing division, where he designs and implements strategies that build and maintain the leadership capability of Pfizer’s Global Manufacturing leaders. He collaborates across all Pfizer divisions to ensure strategic alignment.

Dr. Barnes has been an adjunct professor at Western Michigan University for 12 years, where he teaches graduate courses in group dynamics; test and measurement; organizational consultation; and diversity and inclusion. He holds a Master’s Degree in Clinical Psychology and a Ph.D. that yielded a specially designed program of study to ensure proficiency in organizational behavior management, clinical psychology, and substance abuse.

Dr. Barnes’ expertise and scholarly interest are in the areas of developing emotional intelligence in organizational leaders, and in organizational diversity and inclusion. He was named International Baccalaureate Educator of Distinction (2008-2009) and was selected by his peers as the Michigan Interscholastic Coaches Association’s Diving Coach of the Year (2008 and 2009).
Anthropology
Marvin Keller

Marvin Keller graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle in 1972, and received his Master’s Degree in Anthropology from Western Michigan University in 1975. Since graduating from Western, he has been active in archaeology and cultural resource management in both the private and public sectors. Keller began his career with a private environmental consulting firm in New York and worked in the northeastern and western United States, as well as the Caribbean.

Drawn to Northern Plains archaeology, Keller left the private sector, and in 1987 joined the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). He ultimately served 23 years as the regional archaeologist in the BIA Rocky Mountain Region, where he was responsible for historic preservation on seven reservations in Montana and Wyoming, and worked closely with tribes to protect their cultural resources. During this time he was active in the Montana Archaeological Society and contributed articles and papers on regional issues. He also developed an archaeological training program for tribal members.
Biological Sciences
Annette Elizabeth Fleckenstein

Dr. Annette Elizabeth Fleckenstein earned her B.S. in Biomedical Sciences in 1988 from Western Michigan University. Under the direction of Drs. Leonard Beuving and Edward Hall, she earned her M.S. degree from WMU in 1990. She was the recipient of both the WMU Distinguished Senior and Distinguished Graduate Student awards in Biomedical Sciences. She received an Advanced Pre-doctoral Fellowship from the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association Foundation and, in 1994, earned a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from Michigan State University (MSU).

Dr. Fleckenstein completed an Intramural Research Training Award postdoctoral fellowship from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and a subsequent postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Utah. She currently is a professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at MSU, and in the Interdepartmental Program in Neuroscience, at the University of Utah. Dr. Fleckenstein’s research on substance abuse and neurodegenerative disorders has been funded continuously by NIDA since 1998.

Dr. Fleckenstein has authored more than 80 manuscripts, reviews and/or book chapters, and has presented more than 140 abstracts at national or international meetings. She has supervised numerous dissertation students, post-doctoral fellows and undergraduate students. In 2000, Dr. Fleckenstein received the University of Utah College of Pharmacy Distinguished Teaching Award, and in 2003, the University of Utah Early Career Teaching Award. She was the 2007 recipient of the Kenneth E. Moore Distinguished Alumnus Award from MSU.

Career highlights include serving as secretary/treasurer of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and on numerous National Institutes of Health peer-review panels. She is one of three authors of the textbook “Drugs and Society;” is a member of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology; and has presented numerous seminars nationally and internationally.

2010 College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Awards
Chemistry

John Nappier

Dr. John L. Nappier, M.A. ’78, Ph.D. ’83 is an associate research fellow with Pfizer Animal Health located in Kalamazoo, Mich. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Missouri, St. Louis in 1972 before coming to WMU. At Western, Dr. Nappier earned graduate degrees in chemistry specializing in analytical chemistry (M.A.) and biochemistry (Ph.D.) while working full time at the Upjohn Company. After receiving his doctorate, he was promoted within Upjohn into the scientist career path, where he advanced through several promotions to his current position.

Within the Upjohn Company, the merger with Pharmacia, and finally the acquisition by Pfizer, Dr. Nappier has remained in his same research unit. He currently designs and conducts pharmacokinetic, metabolism, and residue studies to address human food safety of veterinary medicines developed for use in livestock.

Dr. Nappier is a member of the American Chemical Society, the Animal Health Institute, the International Federation for Animal Health, and the International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) Expert Working Group on Metabolism and Residue Kinetics.

Dr. Nappier is internationally recognized as an expert in metabolism and residue chemistry and currently is a topic leader within the VICH Expert Working Group on Metabolism and Residue Kinetics. This working group consisting of experts from regulatory agencies and industry is tasked with developing harmonized food safety study guidelines for the conduct of studies that will be considered acceptable by the regulatory authorities in the U.S., Europe, and Japan.
Communication
Deirdre Bryant Worth

Deirdre Bryant Worth earned her bachelor’s degree from WMU secondary education/speech (’70). She has been a news correspondent for ABC Radio Networks for 20 years, anchoring hourly newscasts heard coast to coast. She has won a number of professional awards for her work including the Pinnacle Award from American Women in Radio and Television.

She began her career in broadcasting when she was hired for an entry-level position working on “The CBS Evening News With Walter Cronkite.” Two years later, she received a master’s degree from Pennsylvania State University and returned to CBS. After several years of working behind the scenes, Worth became a reporter, joining ABC Radio News in New York to anchor hourly newscasts in 1981. In addition to her ongoing anchor responsibilities at ABC Radio News, Worth also is heard on WRNJ in New Jersey, where she has hosted several talk programs and has been heard on hundreds of local radio commercials.

Worth has been active in her community, drawing attention to substance abuse and educational issues and has received numerous awards for her many service contributions. She currently is a trustee for Joan’s Legacy in New York City, a foundation focusing on the rise in nonsmoking-related lung cancer in women.

Still a performer at heart, Worth teaches tap dancing to adults and dances with a small troupe for charity events and at senior citizen homes. She currently is writing a musical with fellow alumnus Robert Jester, and thanks WMU for opening the door to so many possibilities.
Economics
Kevin Haverdink

Kevin Haverdink currently is president of Haverdink Financial Management, LLC, located in Portage, Mich. He graduated from Western Michigan University in 1997 with a B.A. in Economics. He first attended WMU in the mid-1980s when he was an All-Mid-American Conference football player. He left WMU in 1989 after being drafted in the fifth round by the New Orleans Saints. He played for the Saints from 1989 to 1992, when a back injury ended his playing career.

After leaving professional football, Haverdink embarked on a career in banking and resumed work on his WMU degree. In 2004, he founded Haverdink Financial Management which provides financial planning and portfolio management for individuals and businesses and manages total assets of approximately $50 million.
English

Dave Dempsey

Dave Dempsey holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Western Michigan University ('77), a Master’s in Resource Development from Michigan State University ('01), and served from 1999-2004 as an adjunct instructor at MSU in Environmental Policy. Throughout his career, he has been professionally engaged in conservation and environmental policy.

Widely recognized as a leading expert on Great Lakes environmental history and policy, Dempsey has authored six books and lectured extensively in public forums throughout the region. His 2006 biography on William G. Milliken—Michigan’s longest-serving governor and champion of the environment—received the Michigan Notable Book Award. The Michigan Library Association named him Michigan Author of the Year in 2009, and the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club honored him with the Jane Elder Award for service to Michigan’s natural resources and environment in 1999.

Dempsey has served in both governmental and nonprofit leadership capacities, taught environmental and conservation law and policy courses at the college level, and developed ambitious environmental policy initiatives as environmental advisor to Michigan Governor James J. Blanchard (1983-89); Executive Director of the Michigan Council on Environmental Quality (1989-90); program director at Clean Water Action (1991-1994); policy director for the Michigan Environmental Council (1994-1999); and member of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Presidential appointment, 1994-2001).

He currently serves as communications director for Conservation Minnesota, a nonprofit organization in Minneapolis, Minn.
Foreign Languages
Aaron Boesenecker

Dr. Aaron Boesenecker received his B.A. in German, International and Comparative Politics, and Comparative Religion from Western Michigan University in 1999. In his work since that time, he has drawn on all three areas.

After obtaining his degree at WMU, he worked for several years in community planning and development for the Office of the City Manager in Kalamazoo, Mich., and in the fall of 2000, was an intern in the German Federal Parliament. Boesenecker then received his M.A. in 2005 in the Center for German and European Studies, and his Ph.D. in Comparative Government in 2009, both from Georgetown University. He joined the faculty of the American University in the fall of 2009 in the School for International Service, where he is an assistant professor in the International Politics Program.

Dr. Boesenecker’s research interests include European politics, comparative political economy, religion and politics, and qualitative methods. His current research focuses on social policy development and reform in Europe and the United States. He also is engaged in an ongoing collaborative research project concerning the role of religion in post-conflict societies. Dr. Boesenecker has received funding for his research in the United States and abroad from the American Consortium for European Union Studies, the Max-Planck Society (Germany), and Georgetown University.
Gender and Women’s Studies
Amber Depuydt-Goodlock

Amber Depuydt-Goodlock, LLMSW, has been a therapist and advocate with Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County (SAS) since 2006. In her clinical work, she specializes in working with children, adults and families victimized by sexual violence.

Depuydt-Goodlock earned a M.S. in Social Work (‘06), and her B.S. in Psychology and Gender Studies (‘01) from Western Michigan University. As an undergraduate student, Depuydt-Goodlock was awarded the Presidential Scholar Award for the Department of Psychology in 2001 and a Graduate Fellowship Award in 2004.

Prior to her work as a therapist, Depuydt-Goodlock was the volunteer coordinator of the Victim Advocacy Program with SAS from 2001 to 2006. She has provided training on the dynamics of sexual violence and crisis intervention skills at a community and statewide level. In addition, she has experience as a forensic interviewer as part of a multi-disciplinary team designated to investigate and provide resources to children who have disclosed sexual abuse.

Currently, she is training her German Shepherd to become a therapy dog and join her in her work with children traumatized by sexual violence.
Lotta Jarnefelt-Burns obtained her B.S. in Geography with an urban and regional planning concentration from Western Michigan University in 1983, and an M.A. in Geography with a concentration in geographic information system (GIS) in 1997. In 2008, she was certified as a GISP (Geographic Information Systems Professional).

From 1985 to 1994, Jarnefelt-Burns worked at Karttakeskus Oy (Map Centre Inc.), the Finnish Government Mapping Agency, in Helsinki, Finland. At that agency, she served in various capacities, first as production assistant (1985-1992); then as marketing assistant (1992-1993); and finally as project planner (1993-1994).

In 1997, Jarnefelt returned to Western to obtain her master’s degree, specializing in geographic information systems. In 1998, she became the GIS director for St. Joseph (Mich.) County, and held that position until 2006. After St. Joseph County, Jarnefelt became the director of planning and community development in Kalamazoo County. In this capacity, she has helped boost the County GIS program, including starting a popular interactive county mapping website.

Jarnefelt-Burns divides her time amongst several committees such as the County Planning Commission and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. She also administers the County Remonumentation grant program, and her office is in charge of keeping the Kalamazoo County Street Directory up to date.
Geosciences

Howard A. Nevins

Howard A. Nevins received his Bachelor of Science in Geology from Western Michigan University in 1978. He was a three-year letter winner in football at WMU, captain of the team, and recipient of the President’s Award for Leadership his senior season. Work toward his M.B.A. was undertaken at WMU, Morehead State University, Ky., and University of Evansville, Ind.

Nevins is a 30-year veteran of the oil and gas industry. He started his career with Ashland Petroleum Company (Marathon) initially working throughout the Appalachian Basin in coal mapping, reserve calculations and mine planning. He then was a founding partner in Lafitte Exploration, Inc., doing prospect generation, oil and gas development, and engineering studies in the Illinois and Michigan Basins.

In 1987, Nevins started Trey Exploration, Inc. an oil and gas exploration and production company. Trey Exploration continues to provide geological investigations and explorations for oil, gas, and coal bed methane. In 1989, he co-founded Midwest Custom Chemicals, Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of internationally recognized proprietary chemicals used in demulsification, wastewater clarification, and oil and gas production. Nevins currently is the North America business unit manager for Weatherford’s Engineered Chemistry division.

In 1992, Nevins founded, and was president of American Enviro Services, Inc., a regional leader in environmental consulting, emergency response, and used oil recycling. In 1997, AES was sold to U.S. Energy Systems, Inc., an international leader in green energy. Nevins was named chief operating officer for North American and Swedish operations and served on the board of directors.

Nevins has remained active in numerous professional and community organizations. He has always been proud he chose to be a WMU Bronco.
History
Grafton “Grif” Cook

Grafton “Grif” Cook II, a long-time amateur historian, attended Washington and Lee University before graduating with his associate’s degree from Southwest Michigan College (SMC). Thirty-seven years after founding his successful lumber brokerage businesses in Dowagiac, Mich., Cook completed his B.A. in History at Western Michigan University in 1996 and retired.

Throughout his lifetime, Cook was an active student, collector, author, and patron of local history projects, with a particular passion for the history of arms and armor. In 1967, Cook donated his impressive collection of military artifacts from the Philippines to SMC, assisting in the establishment of the SMC Museum.

Over the next several decades, Cook served as a member of the SMC Museum’s advisory committee, regularly donating historic materials and assisting in the development of multiple exhibits throughout Michiana. Prior to his death, the Cooks donated their extensive 17th, 18th, and 19th century arms collection and library to Fort Ticonderoga in Ticonderoga, N.Y.

Cook’s wife, Barbara, shared his passion for history. Together, they co-authored a number of books and articles on a variety of topics, including books on the local communities of Dowagiac, Sumnerville, and Pokagon. The Cooks also wrote a book-length study of the M-1 carbine rifle, widely used during the Second World War and mass-produced in southwest Michigan. More recently, Cook and Barbara were involved in supporting the ongoing WMU archeological work at Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Mich.

Grafton Cook passed away on August 7, 2009, but the legacies he and Barbara contributed to local communities, institutions, and students of history, will continue to have a lasting impact on southwest Michigan. Barbara will accept the Alumni Achievement Award on his behalf.
Mallinson Institute for Science Education

Eric Schreur

Dr. Eric Schreur earned his Master of Arts in Science Education in 1985. In 1996 he received the Astronomical League Hans Baldauf Award for service to amateur astronomy, and in 1998 he was awarded the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Enrichment Award.

Dr. Schreur’s work in science education over the last 25 years has been through his employment as the planetarium coordinator at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, which is part of Kalamazoo Valley Community College. He currently is the longest-serving employee of the museum. Dr. Schreur and another colleague were awarded a grant from Kalamazoo Public Education Foundation and Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center to coordinate observations of the 1994 annular eclipse.

The main focus of Dr. Schreur’s work at the planetarium has been the development and delivery of educational programs for school groups and public audiences. These programs are designed to meet curriculum needs of regional school systems at appropriate grade levels, and can range from elementary grade tours of the solar system to college entry-level programs about cosmology. Over the past 10 years, Dr. Schreur has reached an estimated 14,000 school-aged children and an additional 6,000 weekend visitors with his programs. He also works with a community focus group to plan and implement the museum’s hands-on science gallery, which has three sections related to physical science, the human body, and technology, with themes that overlap from one area to another.

Dr. Schreur develops science workshops and demonstrations presented at the museum, which allow the museum to expand on the topics presented in the science gallery. He also instructs part-time staff who present programs in the planetarium. He serves as a mentor to staff and is proud that some have gone on to teaching positions or to work in educational positions in other museums.
Philosophy
David Zacker

Dr. David Zacker received his B.A. in 1989 and his M.A. in 1991, both in Philosophy, from Western Michigan University. He earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy at Michigan State University in 1996. Currently an associate professor of humanities at Elgin Community College (ECC) in Ill. since 1999, his teaching goes beyond the classroom. He firmly believes in helping students understand their place in their local and global communities.

Dr. Zacker began teaching philosophy full time at Middle Tennessee State University in 1995. In response to interest from his environmental ethics students, he organized a trip into the Peruvian Amazon Rainforest. Over the past 11 years, he has organized many educational excursions, including return trips to the Peruvian Amazon and visits to Machu Picchu and the Galapagos.

In 2007 Dr. Zacker took a sabbatical to the Nepali Himalayas to study Buddhism. After several weeks, Dr. Zacker returned to ECC with a better understanding of philosophical Buddhism. He often leads discussions on Buddhism and philosophy in local elementary and middle schools.

Dr. Zacker continues his efforts to bring global and philosophical perspectives to his local community. He currently serves on the founding advisory board of the ECC Humanities Center and recruits speakers for the Humanities Speakers Series at ECC. Dr. Zacker helped found the International Film Series and also proudly founded the Socrates Café, which discusses philosophical issues in the spirit of joint inquiry.

Dr. Zacker is a member of several professional organizations including the American Philosophical Association (APA), the APA Committee on Teaching Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges, and Community Colleges for International Development.
Physics
Ahmad Farhat

Dr. Ahmad Farhat currently is a warranty business supervisor in global manufacturing quality for the Ford Motor Company. He has been extremely successful in improving quality and processes across a wide range of Ford automotive products. Besides requiring the implementation of advanced methods in analysis and simulation of complex systems, this also involves understanding and managing very large databases efficiently.

Farhat’s research in atomic physics, performed in WMU’s Professor Nora Berrah’s group, well prepared him for these various challenges. He co-authored eight professional articles and received his Ph.D. in Physics from WMU in 1998. After finishing his degree, he went to work for Ford almost immediately, and quickly rose in the ranks to his present position. Previously, he served Ford Motor Company as a technical expert in reliability and data analysis, a process assurance auditor, and a reliability implementation engineer. During that same time, he also taught physics at the University of Michigan, Dearborn, as an adjunct instructor.
Political Science
Daniel A. Witt

Daniel A. Witt received his BBA ('83) and MBA ('84) from Western Michigan University. Witt is the president of the International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC), which he helped found in September 1993. ITIC is a multinational, nonprofit organization that is helping lower the barriers of tax, trade, and investment in transition economies by facilitating the exchange of information between business executives, academic experts, and government officials. ITIC has worked in more than 50 countries and has conducted training and education programs for more than 2,500 government and parliamentary officials.

Since 1991 Witt has led more than 30 private sector delegations to Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Libya, Azerbaijan, and Vietnam to hold meetings with top finance, taxation, and government and parliamentary officials. He has chaired more than 20 international tax and investment conferences on five continents. He is co-founder of the Asia Tax Forum, which annually brings together tax policy officials, academics, and industry representatives from 12 Asian countries.

Previously, Witt was executive director of the Tax Foundation, the oldest tax and budget research organization in the United States. Before joining the Tax Foundation, Witt was vice president and director of membership with Citizens for a Sound Economy (CSE), a 250,000-member Washington-based public interest group. He first joined CSE as director of privatization and transportation, and has authored numerous public policy papers, including the CSE monograph, “Myths About Transportation Deregulation.” In this capacity he also served as a consultant to President Ronald Reagan’s Commission on Privatization.

Before joining Citizens for a Sound Economy, Witt spent two years traveling in the Pacific and East Asia as a Rotary International Foundation Fellow. He was a visiting economist with the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research and Victoria University of Wellington, where he published a book on the deregulation of the New Zealand motorcar industry. While overseas, Witt made more than 75 speeches on international trade and economic policy.

2010 College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Awards
Psychology
William Heward

Dr. William Heward earned his B.A., magna cum laude, from Western Michigan University with majors in psychology and sociology. After earning his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Dr. Heward pursued an academic career in special education at The Ohio State University. A prolific researcher and writer, Dr. Heward has published more than 100 articles and chapters on a range of topics, with a focus on improving the education and treatment of people with disabilities.

Dr. Heward is the author of a highly influential textbook, “Exceptional Children: An Introduction to Special Education,” now in its eighth edition and translated into multiple foreign languages. He also is the co-author of “Applied Behavior Analysis,” a textbook that has introduced thousands of university students in the United States and in foreign countries to the science of behavior and its application to the remediation of important education and social problems.

In addition, Dr. Heward has given hundreds of presentations at conferences in the United States and in numerous foreign countries. A board certified behavior analyst, Dr. Heward’s accomplishments have been recognized by his peers with the American Psychological Association’s Division 25 Fred S. Keller Behavioral Education Award, and his selection as a Fellow of the Association for Behavior Analysis. Dr. Heward recently served as president of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, a major professional organization devoted to promoting behavior analysis research and disseminating evidence-based practices to understand and improve behavior in education, business, community, and clinical settings.

In his free time, Dr. Heward is an avid athlete and sports fan. His book, “Some Are Called Clowns: A Season With the Last of the Great Barnstorming Baseball Teams,” is often cited as a “must-read” baseball book.
Public Affairs and Administration
Carolyn Cassin

Carolyn Cassin earned her Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Western Michigan University, her B.A. from Miami University, and the esteemed three-year National Leadership Fellowship from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to study healthcare systems throughout the world.

Cassin is considered a national expert in end-of-life care, organizational management, and the efficient, effective delivery of healthcare services. In 1983 she was part of a group that helped guide the first Medicare reimbursement for hospice successfully through Congress. In 2009, Cassin accepted leadership of the Michigan Women’s Foundation – Michigan’s only Foundation dedicated solely to helping women and girls realize their dreams of economic self-sufficiency and social equality.

In addition to her work with the Foundation, Cassin also continues to lead the National Hospice Work Group (NHWG) after 17 years as a founding member. A professional coalition of executives from some of the nation’s largest and most innovative hospices, the NHWG is committed to increasing access to hospice and palliative care. Cassin accepted a one-year appointment to oversee Michigan’s $1.5 Billion Medicaid Managed Care program in 2001. As Bureau Director, Office of Medicaid Managed Care, she was also responsible for the Medicaid Pharmacy program, Managed Care enrollment, Customer Service Bureau and 15 contracts providing healthcare to over 1 million Medicaid recipients.

In 2002, Cassin joined Continuum Hospice Care in New York City. Under Cassin’s leadership, Continuum Hospice Care was honored with the prestigious American Hospital Association’s 2006 Circle of Life award. During her 10 years as President and CEO of Hospice of Michigan in Detroit, Cassin headed the acquisition and merger of 11 hospice programs into one corporation.

Cassin’s political involvement includes: chairperson and president of the National Hospice Organization (NHO) and board of trustees of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). Of the numerous honors and special assignments given her, Cassin is particularly proud of her achievements with NHPCO, including being honored with the 2006 Founder’s Award; serving as Governor appointed Trustee, Board of Control, Ferris State University (1997–1999); receiving the American Hospital Association’s “Circle of Life” award for innovation in 2006, earning the “Best Managed Non-Profit” award, Crain’s Detroit Business, 1994; being named one of “Detroit’s 100 Most Influential Women,” Crain’s Detroit Business, 1997; and receiving the first prestigious “Heart of Hospice Award” by NHO in 1993.
Spanish Lee Lovely

Lee Lovely is a highly accomplished executive with a diverse leadership background that includes experiences in international sales, marketing and distribution (within the medical device industry), human resources, manufacturing operations, supply chain management, finance, strategic planning, compliance and customer service. He has extensive experience working and managing across diverse cultures in the developing world, and is fluent in Spanish with working ability in Portuguese.

Lovely was born in Kalamazoo, Mich., and received his Bachelor of Science in Spanish and MBA degrees from Western Michigan University. After completing several internships with the Stryker Corporation during college, Lovely began his career with Stryker as a buyer/planner for Stryker Puerto Rico. He held various operations roles, including distribution supervisor and associate unit manager in Puerto Rico, before transferring to Stryker Endoscopy in San Jose, Calif. in 1995 as human resources manager.

Lovely was promoted to director of human resources in 1998 and vice president of human resources in 2000. In July 2003, Lovely was appointed vice president and general manager of Stryker Canada and Latin America.

Lovely also is president and owner of Confetti Contract Fabrics, Telaco, Inc., and Vrain Street Group.
Dr. Sudhakar Rao currently is the senior director of biostatistics with Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development in Raritan, N.J. Rao’s key responsibility is to provide statistical leadership in the development and life cycle management of drugs for treatment of cancer in various stages, ranging from First in Human (FIH) trials to near patent expiration. Dr. Rao is a key member of several oncology therapeutic strategic development teams including clinical, regulatory, commercial, and marketing functions to attain team and company goals.

Dr. Rao joined Johnson & Johnson in 2002 after spending 12 years at Schering Plough Corporation, also in New Jersey—now part of Merck & Co. He received his Master’s in Statistics from Michigan State University in 1985 and his Ph.D. in Statistics from Western Michigan University in 1989. In 1980, prior to coming to the United States, he attended college in India and earned a Master’s in Statistics from the University of Mysore.

Rao’s experience covers 21 years in the pharmaceutical industry and extensive expertise in oncologic drug development. Other areas of expertise include clinical pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and pre-clinical and non-clinical areas. Dr. Rao is the lead statistician for several new drug applications and biologic license applications with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, European Medicines Agency, Health Canada, Australia and other countries, and part of at least a dozen submissions for new indications in various types of cancer. Dr. Rao is the point person for statistical support to the FDA Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee, and a Cardio-Renal Drugs Advisory Committee. Dr. Rao is the recipient of eight Johnson & Johnson Standards of Leadership Awards between 2002-2010.