Welcome

The College of Arts and Sciences has played a dynamic role in the growth and development of Western Michigan University. The College’s 26 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. These 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 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.
Kenneth R. Pott holds bachelor’s and master’s degree in anthropology from Western Michigan University with an emphasis on the study of maritime cultures. During his academic and professional careers, Pott has worked on maritime archaeological sites in Texas, Maine, East Africa, and the Great Lakes region. From 1981-2000 he was curator at the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven, Mich. In May of 2000 he was appointed executive director of The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center in St. Joseph, Mich.

Pott has served on working committees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Council of American Maritime Museums, the Society of Professional Archaeologists, the Board of Directors of the Michigan Museums Association, and as president of the Historical Society of Michigan. He currently is active as a member of the steering committee of the Michigan Port Collaborative.

On June 1, 2011 Pott began his new position as executive director of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in Grand Haven, Mich.
Dr. James Fordyce received his Bachelor of Science ('91) and Master of Science ('95) degrees from the Department of Biological Sciences at Western Michigan University. He earned his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of California, Davis in 2003, where he was awarded the Merton Love Award for most outstanding dissertation in evolution and ecology.

Immediately following the completion of his Ph.D., Fordyce accepted a position in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he currently is an associate professor.

Fordyce has authored more than 60 manuscripts, presented more than 100 papers at national and international meetings, and has received more than $1 million in funding from the National Science Foundation. In 2005, Fordyce was awarded the George Mercer Award for outstanding ecology paper from the Ecological Society of America. In 2007, he was awarded the Chancellor’s Award for Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement from the University of Tennessee.

Fordyce’s research interests include chemically mediated interactions between plants and animals, vertical partitioning of insect communities in tropical rainforests, genomic consequences of hybridization, and statistical approaches for analyzing next-generation DNA sequence data. He has co-developed two computer programs that implement novel analytical approaches to diversification rate analyses and hierarchical Bayesian approaches to experimental data.
David S. Ansel recently retired after a 32-year career as an industrial chemist at WACKER Chemical Corporation, Adrian, Mich. He came to WACKER after receiving a Bachelor’s in Chemistry and Mathematics from WMU ('74) and a Master’s in Chemistry from Colorado State University ('80). He is a member of the American Chemical Society; he desires to write about his father, travels and other experiences in retirement; and community college teaching also is under consideration.

At WACKER, Ansel delivered technical support using silicone technology, meeting various customer opportunities. More specifically, he created silicone solutions for textile, home and car care, industrial defoaming, water repellency, general industrial release and high heat coating applications. He also advocated various fumed silica systems to meet customer process and product needs. During his first 24 years, Ansel provided a “WACKER technical face” to customers while supervising a laboratory staff. Additional responsibilities included silicone polymer and product development and production technical support.

The highlight of his career was 11 years of being associated with rolling out, on-site customer processing support and overseeing production start up of the WACKER DEHESIVE® pressure-sensitive adhesive release line in Adrian. He also spent one year working at WACKER’s Burghausen, Germany plant and spoke regularly at industry consultant-sponsored seminars. Ansel's remaining eight years were spent on the WACKER Distribution Management team. He provided technical assistance to WACKER's national NAFTA distributor and their customers. This commercial role focused on maintaining WACKER as a major distributor principal while growing WACKER Division Silicone NAFTA.

As a resident of Sylvania Township, Ohio, Ansel enjoys his two cats and all forms of music, particularly jazz. WMU has always been a major part of his life. His father James was a 1935 graduate and a 26-year WMU professor of education. Ansel attended WMU's Campus School for 10 years, through its closing after grade nine. Volunteering as an alumni ambassador for southeastern Mich. and northwestern Ohio from 1988-2000, with a centennial project, and supporting chemistry students by sponsoring the elements silicon and tin on the Chemistry mural.

He never misses WMU home football games.
T.R. Reid is a strategic-communications consultant based near Austin, Tex. He works with companies large and small in a variety of industries, including aviation, electric generation and propulsion, and brownfield redevelopment.

Directly and through his teams, Reid helped define, develop and protect corporate reputations—through media and analyst relations, executive and internal communications, and marketing support—during successful, in-house roles at leading global companies. He is highly trusted and respected by executives, colleagues and journalists, among others.

In 13 years at Dell, Reid rose to vice president of Global Communications, responsible for corporate, employee and business-unit communications, as the company grew from $8 billion to $60 billion in revenue. Based in Singapore for three years, he built and directed the company’s communications function in Asia-Pacific and Japan, playing a principal role in significantly broadening and enhancing perceptions of Dell in the fast-growing region.

Prior to Dell, Reid was a public relations manager at Whirlpool Corporation in Benton Harbor, Mich., and a communication professional at The Upjohn Company (now part of Pfizer Inc.), in Kalamazoo, Mich.

As president of the Georgetown Library Foundation, Reid led an advocacy campaign that resulted in voter approval of bonds to build a new, $9.8 million library. He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and communication from Western Michigan University, where he was active in student-run WIDR and the Western Herald.

Reid, his wife, Dawn, and sons, Adam and Carter, make their home in Georgetown, Tex.
Dr. Nadia Tremonti serves as the medical director for both the Pediatric Palliative Care Team at Children’s Hospital of Michigan and the Kaleidoscope Kids Team at Henry Ford Hospice, in Detroit, Mich. Tremonti also is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Wayne State University and is board certified in pediatrics and in hospice and palliative medicine.

Tremonti was born in Detroit, Mich., and grew up in Grosse Pointe Park. She graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1994 with honors. She was awarded a full merit-based Medallion scholarship to attend Western Michigan University where she pursued majors in biomedical science and comparative religion, with minors in chemistry, psychology, and philosophy—with an emphasis in medical ethics. In 1998 Tremonti earned a Bachelor of Science from Western Michigan University. She then attended Wayne State University School of Medicine, earning her medical degree in 2002. Tremonti completed her internship and residency in Pediatrics at Children’s Hospital of Michigan and went on to serve an additional year as chief resident. After the completion of her residency, Tremonti completed a fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine at the Detroit Medical Center. She also spent time training at both Akron Children’s Hospital in Ohio and Children’s Hospital Boston and completed a seminar by the Hospice Education Institute in London, England.

In 2007, Tremonti was hired to develop a pediatric palliative care team at Children’s Hospital of Michigan. Since that time, the program has grown into a comprehensive service for children with life-threatening and life-limiting diseases and their families, providing continuous, consistent, and compassionate care in the hospital, in outpatient settings, and at home. With over 350 families served and a broad range of medical diseases, this program remains among the largest in the country.

Tremonti resides with her husband and daughter in Detroit, Mich. and remains very active in her community and committed to the revitalization of the city.
Dr. Adugna Lemi has served as an assistant professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts, Boston since 2004. Areas of special interest include: international trade and finance; development economics; poverty; and income dynamics.


Lemi writes:

“I am glad that the Department of Economics has awarded me this year’s alumni achievement award. Thank you to all the department faculty and staff for supporting my candidacy for this award. I am honored to have been recognized for my work since graduating from WMU.

“I will be in Nairobi, Kenya this coming fall and unfortunately couldn’t come to be part of the ceremony. My planned trip to Nairobi was arranged in the spring and couldn’t be rescheduled. I hope to come to visit Kalamazoo some other time.”
Bonnie Jo Campbell is the author of the novel “Once Upon a River” (July 2011, W.W. Norton) and is a 2011 Guggenheim Fellow. She was a 2009 National Book Award finalist and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist for her collection of stories, “American Salvage,” which won the Foreword Book of the Year award for short fiction.

Campbell also is author of the novel “Q Road” and the story collection “Women & Other Animals.” She has received the AWP Award for Short Fiction, a Pushcart Prize, and the Eudora Welty Prize. Her poetry collection “Love Letters to Sons of Bitches” won the 2009 CBA Letterpress Chapbook award.

Campbell received her B.A. ('92), M.A. ('95), and M.F.A. ('98) from Western Michigan University and lives in Kalamazoo, Mich., with her husband. She holds a second-degree black belt in Koburyu Kobudo, an Okinawan weapons art, and in her spare time gardens and hangs out with her donkeys Jack and Don Quixote. You can check out her website at www.bonniejocampbell.com and her writer’s blog, The Bone-Eye.
Dr. Cynthia Osowiec Ruoff is a distinguished educator and a pillar of the international community in our area. A 1973 graduate from Western Michigan University with an Master's in French, and later a recipient of a Ph.D. in French Language and Literature from Michigan State University, she has been an instructor in the Department of Foreign Languages since 1980, honoring the department with her teaching expertise, sense of logic, and wit. Ruoff’s activities preceding her work with Western Michigan University gave her a basis in English literature as well as French.

She received her Bachelor's in English, with minors in French and secondary education, from Mundelein College of Loyola University in Chicago. After moving to Kalamazoo with her husband, Dr. Gary Ruoff, she taught honors British literature, French, and reading at Loy Norrix High School for several years. During the following years she taught in the English program for international students and the Continuing Education Unit at WMU, as well as in the Department of Foreign Languages.

Ruoff was a French instructor for The Upjohn Company employees, and served as a teacher-counselor for students at the Université de Nice through the American Leadership Study Groups. As a doctoral student, and in the years since, she has pursued research in her area of specialty—French literature and theatre of the 17th-18th centuries—as well as contemporary French literature, presenting papers and publishing her work nationally and internationally. She has researched modern performance of classical plays, for example interviewing actors and directors of the French national theatre company, the Comédie française.

In the community, Ruoff has served as a leader of several international organizations, including the Alliance Française of Kalamazoo, of which she currently is president, and Colleagues International. In both organizations she has been active on the local and national levels. Currently, in addition to teaching French and pursuing her organizational activities, she is learning Polish, the language of her heritage, traveling to Europe and the Caribbean, and delighting in her three grandchildren.
Kenneth A. Nacci has been the president of Downtown Kalamazoo Incorporated (DKI) since 1998. He directs all aspects of downtown management, including real estate acquisitions, economic development strategies and the downtown parking system. Under Nacci’s leadership, DKI has received numerous awards from various national and international professional organizations, including the International Downtown Association, Urban Land Institute, Michigan American Planning Association, Council on Urban Economic Development, Michigan Society of Planning, International Economic Development Council and the International Parking Institute.

Nacci has extensive experience in organizational structure and private fundraising. He has authored numerous professional journal articles, including co-authoring a chapter in Making Business Districts Work (Hayworth Press), The Kalamazoo Prism: Downtown Michigan Metamorphosis.

Nacci is a 30-plus year veteran in the urban planning and development industry and has been affiliated with International Downtown Association since 1987. Nacci is a regular presenter for the International Downtown Association on public private funding partnerships and organizational structure. He served as vice president of DKI from 1987-94, during which time he managed the development of the $120 million Arcadia Creek project. Prior to that, Nacci worked for the City of Kalamazoo and the City of Jackson.

Nacci earned a Bachelor’s in Geography and Urban Planning from Western Michigan University in 1977, and a Master’s in Community Development from Michigan State University in 1981.

Nacci is a native of Dearborn Heights, and now lives in Kalamazoo with his wife Marie and their three sons ages 22, 18 and 15. Nacci is a 2002 Leadership Kalamazoo graduate and currently serves on several local community service boards of directors.
Dr. Richard Laton is an expert in the field of hydrology/hydrogeology. He currently is an associate professor of hydrogeology in the Department of Geological Sciences, at California State University, Fullerton. This is a continuation of a career that includes years of teaching, consulting, litigation support and management experience. Laton possesses extensive knowledge in the areas of hydrogeology, soil and water contamination, hydrology and surface water, wetlands, coastal monitoring/geomorphology, field sampling techniques and well hydraulics as well as environmental remote sensing/GIS.

His classes at the university encompass topics including water quality, environmental sampling, groundwater modeling, well hydraulics, oceanography and basic geology. He enjoys introducing students to applied research and acts as faculty advisor to a large number of upper-level students. He also has acted as consultant for a variety of companies and agencies which need input on the above subjects, as well as natural hazard assessment and mapping.

Laton writes:

“Thank you for the nomination...With all the great alumni that our department has, I find it hard to believe that my achievements warrant such an award. I will, however, do my best to honor the department that made me the person I am today!”
Dr. Michael H. Parsons has spent a life in education—first obtaining no fewer than five higher education degrees, then the rest of his life in continuing his education, researching and teaching. To this résumé he has added a lifelong commitment to community service.

Parsons earned an associate’s degree from Muskegon Community College ('62), and a Bachelor’s in English and History from WMU ('64). This was followed by a Master’s in History and an Ed.D. in Interdisciplinary Educational Leadership from WMU ('71).

The subsequent decades saw him involved in numerous grant-funded enrichment studies at the University of Texas ('79), Carnegie-Mellon University ('81), Harvard ('94), Columbia University (2002-05) and, most recently, at Oxford ('09). In the meantime, he published numerous books about teaching and how to teach, and on community development. He has taught most of his life at Hagerstown Community College from which he retired as dean and professor emeritus. Clearly unable to rest on his laurels, he is now an adjunct professor at Morgan State University.

He has been recognized for his contribution to teaching (National Council on Learning Person of the Year, '80) and community service (Governor’s Citations for Service to the Community). The Department of History is very pleased to recognize, in our own limited way, Dr. Michael Parsons.
Mary Lindow received her Master’s in Science Education from the Mallinson Institute for Science Education in 1994. Since 1995, she has been a teacher of science at the Battle Creek Area Mathematics and Science Center, and is one of only two teachers at the Center who have received National Board certification. In the Excellence In Education teacher-recognition program, sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Kellogg Community College, Lindow is chosen year after year by students as an outstanding educator.

Lindow’s instructional innovations include developing manipulatives for the teaching of mitosis, meiosis, DNA replication, protein synthesis, and recombinant DNA technology. She conducts workshops for teachers on biotechnology and its incorporation into science curricula, and is a frequent presenter at the Michigan Science Teachers Association annual meetings.

Lindow initiated a study unit on global climate change for the junior class at the Center, making the last two weeks of the school year an interesting and relevant experience for them. She made it a success, and the unit has continued every year at the Center.

Lindow has led partnerships with the City of Battle Creek where her students participate in river clean-up events, the Battle Creek Children’s Water Festival, and work with Trout Unlimited on long-term projects to improve a Battle Creek area trout stream.

It would be difficult to find a more able teacher, more capable leader, and more tireless worker than Mary Lindow. Highly respected by students, colleagues and her friends here at MISE, it is with considerable pleasure and pride that the faculty of The Mallinson Institute for Science Education names Mary Lindow as its 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.
Dr. Jesús De Loera received his Bachelor’s in Mathematics from the National University of Mexico (’89), a Master’s in Mathematics from Western Michigan University (’90), and his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Cornell University (’95).

An expert in discrete mathematics, his work approaches difficult computational problems in applied combinatorics and optimization using tools from algebra and convex geometry. He has held visiting positions at the University of Minnesota, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zürich), the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) at Berkeley, Universität Magdeburg (Germany), and the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IPAM) at UCLA.

De Loera arrived at UC Davis in 1999, where he is a professor of mathematics as well as a member of the graduate groups in computer science and applied mathematics. His research has been recognized by a 2004 Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship and the 2010 INFORMS computer society prize. He has received over $3 million in national and international grants.

De Loera is associate editor of the journals SIAM Journal of Discrete Mathematics and Discrete Optimization. For his dedication to outstanding mentoring and teaching he received the 2003 UC Davis Chancellor’s Fellowship, the 2006 UC Davis award for diversity, and the 2007 Award for Excellence in Service to Graduate Students by the UC Davis graduate student association.

He has supervised seven Ph.D. students, five postdocs, and over 20 undergraduate theses.
Kristin Andrews is an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy and Cognitive Science at York University, in Toronto, Canada. Her interests in animal and child social cognition and communication have always extended beyond the library. She has worked with dolphins in Hawaii (Kewalo Basin Marine Mammal Laboratory), children in Minnesota (Institute for Child Development), and most recently, orangutans in Borneo (Samboja Lestari Reintroduction Project). Her main research interests are, broadly, animal cognition and folk psychology.

Her book, “Reading People: Folk Psychological Pluralism for Humans and Other Apes” will be published by MIT Press in 2012. This book is a criticism of the mainstream folk psychology and theory of mind debates, and she develops a novel account of folk psychology, arguing that most of the behaviors associated with folk psychology do not require the attribution of propositional attitudes. This book integrates philosophical research with empirical work done with human children and great apes, as does her other publications on ape theory of mind.

Andrews also works on philosophical issues in scientific methodology, and thinks that as a good philosopher of science, she should engage in scientific research herself. In addition to her early research on the young child’s ability to explain false belief scenarios, she has recently collaborated with Anne Russon to publish on orangutan pantomime behavior. Her interest in scientific methodology has led her to publish on the question of anthropomorphism in comparative cognition studies.


In addition to her academic research, Andrews is an active member of the Executive Board for the NGO Borneo Orangutan Society Canada, and a founding member of the Vista Project, a group of parents and educators working to open an alternative public Montessori school in Toronto.
Dr. Rozanne Elder graduated from WMU with an M.A. in Medieval Studies in 1964, a time when academic positions in medieval studies were opening up. When she finished her residence at the Centre for Mediaeval Studies at the University of Toronto, graduates were advised to seek employment in Canadian and American archives. Ultimately, she was offered an irresistible position: editor in charge of two series of books about the intellectual and monastic history of the High Middle Ages. The catch? Cistercian Publications would relocate from Massachusetts to Western Michigan University and there co-sponsor, with WMU, an Institute of Cistercian Studies. Over the next 32 years, she would have the privilege of working with renowned scholars in the field and young scholars publishing their first monographs.

Elder has published 26 articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia articles in the field of Cistercian studies, given papers at conferences both here and abroad, written book reviews, and contributed to three volumes on ecumenical relations between the Anglican Communion and Roman Catholic Church. She also has served a member of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International [Theological] Commission and as a member of the Anglican-Orthodox Theological Commission in the United States. She has served as a reviewer and panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Classics of Western Spirituality series of Paulist Press; the Board of Directors of The Anglican Theological Review; and the Board of Editors of the bilingual journal Theoforum of the Université Saint Paul in Ottawa.

While still classified as administrative staff, she taught one, sometimes two, seminars a year under the auspices of The Medieval Institute between 1976 and 1993, when she was reclassified as faculty and attached to the Department of History. Now teaching half-time at WMU, she hopes to finish two lengthy long-term research projects—a translation of documents and a study about abbots in the early twelfth century—before taking down the dusty notebooks she has collected that are stuffed with information on other intriguing research projects.
Dennis A. Swan became Sparrow Hospital President and CEO in June 2005, after serving as interim president beginning Nov. 1, 2004.

A member of the Sparrow executive team for 30 years, Swan previously served as Sparrow’s Senior Vice President of Operations and Chief Operating Officer. Dennis graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree (magna cum laude) from Western Michigan University. He earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Prior to joining Sparrow in 1981, Swan had a 10-year career with two leading bank holding companies.

Swan is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, and currently serves on a number of boards, committees and commissions, for such organizations as the American Hospital Association; Region 5 Policy Board; Capital Area United Way; Caymich; Cooley Law School; Ingham Health Plan; Lansing Economic Area Partnership; Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce; Michigan Health and Hospital Association (board and executive committee); Michigan Health Information Technology Commission; and Value Health Partners.

Swan and his wife, Kathleen, reside in Okemos, Mich. They have one daughter and two grandsons.
Dr. Sherry Pagoto received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2001 from Western Michigan University under the mentorship of Dr. Wayne Fuqua. She is currently an associate professor of medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and a staff psychologist in the U-Mass Medical Weight Center.

Pagoto is an expert in behavioral treatments for obesity, both via her research and clinically. Her research is in the area of psychiatric comorbidities of obesity, with particular focus on depression, binge eating disorder, ADHD, and severe mental illness. She also is an expert in behavioral activation treatment for depression, having published numerous papers in this area and conducted clinical trainings nationally and internationally.

She has had NIH funding for her program of research consistently for the last 10 years. She has published over 60 papers, several book chapters, and is editor of the book “Psychological Comorbidities of Physical Illness: A Behavioral Medicine Perspective,” to be released by Springer in fall 2011. She also is a field editor for the journal, Translational Behavioral Medicine.

Pagoto was the 2006 recipient of the Society of Behavioral Medicine’s (SBM) Early Career/Young Investigator Award, currently is a Fellow of SBM, and is chair of the SBM Obesity and Diabetes Policy Action Team.

An active participant in social media, Pagoto can be found discussing her work on Twitter @DrSherryPagoto and hosts the blog www.FUdiet.com, which provides a community of advice and support for people committed to making healthy lifestyle changes.
Darnell Earley, with more than 30 years of professional public service, currently is the City Manager of Saginaw, Mich. He was instrumental in the push for “transparency to citizens,” as Saginaw—under his leadership—received both the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

Earley first joined the City of Saginaw when he became deputy city manager and interim finance director in August of 2004. He was named as the interim city manager of Saginaw in 2005, and was selected as city manager in 2006. He previously served as city administrator and temporarily as mayor of Flint, Mich. Earley also served as Ingham County budget director and then as Ingham County deputy controller for Administrative Services and Budget (1993-2001).

His career has spanned the state of Michigan, with political appointment as the director of Research and Public Policy staff for the Michigan House of Representatives (1988-92), selection as township manager of Buena Vista Charter Township (1986-88) and as the administrative assistant to the county administrator/EEO officer in Muskegon (1981-86). During his M.P.A. graduate school years he worked as the director of community and economic development for the Urban League in Muskegon.

Earley is also recognized internationally as past president of the International City/County Management Association, which has over 9,000 members in 31 countries. He served as president from 2009-10. Earley has a Master of Public Administration (’81) from Western Michigan University and a Bachelor of Science from Grand Valley State University (’77). He has also served as an adjunct faculty member with Grand Valley State University, having taught undergraduate and graduate public administration courses in budgeting, financial administration, and organization development. Earley’s public service in Michigan includes two gubernatorial appointments, having served as a public member of the State Board of Examiners in Mortuary Science and as a commissioner with the Natural Resources Commission.
Jeremy Sayles is a seasoned marketing professional with over 14 years of experience working for leading Fortune 500 and global companies including Kellogg, Novartis, Nestle and Pfizer. He has led multi-million dollar brand positioning and promotional efforts for such well-known brands as Pop Tarts®, Eggo®, Gerber®, Ovaltine® and Advil®.

During his career, Sayles has lived and/or worked in over 30 countries and has traveled extensively throughout Latin America, Europe and Asia. He currently is a senior marketing manager at Pfizer Consumer Healthcare where he is responsible for leading advertising and new product development efforts on the Advil® franchise.

Sayles earned his Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Western Michigan University and was one of six students who were chosen for the inaugural study abroad program in Queretaro, Mexico in 1995. While at WMU, he also earned his Bachelor of Business Administration. Sayles also holds a Master of Business Administration from New York University's Stern School of Business.

Originally from St. Clair Shores, Mich., Sayles currently resides in Hoboken, N.J. (birthplace of Frank Sinatra and baseball; within five minutes of New York city) with his wife and daughter.
Dr. Kimberly Perry (Ph.D. ’92) currently is co-owner and director of clinical services at Innovative Analytics, Inc., a Kalamazoo, Mich.-based life sciences company that provides support to clinical drug and device development programs through standard and innovative data management, statistical, and medical writing services. She received her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics in 1981; her Master of Science in Statistics in 1983; and her Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1992 from Western Michigan University.

Perry’s professional experience spans 28 years, including 17 years as a biostatistician and five years as director of Clinical Support Biostatistics II at Upjohn/Pharmacia (now a part of Pfizer) in Kalamazoo. She has served six years in her current position as director of Clinical Services at Innovative Analytics. In this role, she provides statistical leadership and coordinates statistical support for clinical studies and registration activities, ranging from first-in-human phase I trials through phase III registration trials, for pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device companies, as well as for federally funded drug development programs.

Perry’s expertise includes statistical consulting and support for nonclinical, clinical, and exploratory studies with drugs, biologics, and devices. She has been the lead statistician for numerous new drug applications (NDA) and marketing authorization applications, which have resulted in the successful registration and marketing of healthcare products for the treatment of central nervous system disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety, and Parkinson’s disease), cardiovascular diseases (heart arrhythmias), and infectious diseases (including special pathogens) in the United States and Europe. Her experience also encompasses the development of orphan drugs and medical devices.

In addition to her hands-on statistical work, Perry consults with clinical and regulatory colleagues in preparation for FDA end-of-phase II meetings, and special protocol assessment meetings and has represented companies at such meetings to respond to regulatory concerns related to the design of clinical trials or analysis of clinical trial data. While at Upjohn/Pharmacia, she was the company’s statistical point person at an FDA Cardiovascular Disease Advisory Committee meeting for a NDA for the class III antiarrhythmic agent, ibutilide (Corvert™ Injection).

Perry was the recipient of Pfizer’s 2004 Michigan Pharmaceutical Sciences Recognition Award for demonstrating leader behaviors. She is an active member of the American Statistical Association and has served as the chair of the Southwest Michigan Chapter. She is also a member of the Drug Information Association and a Trustee of the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency Foundation.