

*College of  
Arts & Sciences*



Alumni Achievement Awards  
October 11, 2002

## *Anthropology*

Dr. Akhil Gupta received his B.S. from WMU in 1977, his S.M. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in mechanical engineering, and his Ph.D. from Stanford University in engineering-economic systems. He taught at the University of Washington in Seattle for two years and later joined the faculty in the department of anthropology at Stanford University in 1989. Since 1997 he has been associate professor in the department of cultural and social anthropology at Stanford. He has had academic appointments as a visiting professor to universities in Great Britain and France. In addition, he has been a fellow at the National Humanities Center, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Agrarian Studies Program at Yale University.



Chair Robert Ulin on right

## *Biological Sciences*

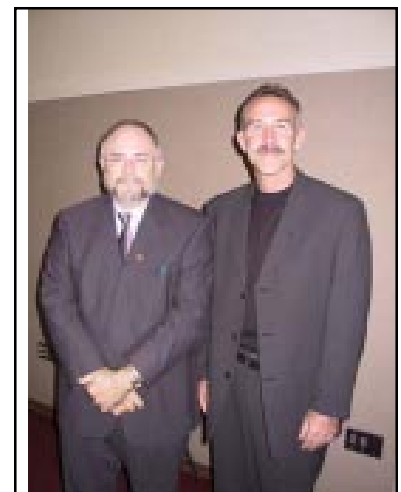
Dr. John Mulder earned his B.S. in biology from WMU in 1974. He later received his M.S. in physiology from Wayne State in 1975 and his M.D. in 1980. He worked as a family physician in Muskegon where he became active in the local hospice organization. After additional training and board certification in palliative care, he moved to Nashville, Tenn. where he currently serves as vice president of clinical services and medical director of Alive Hospice. He has been active to further the medical care of people in Third World countries and has worked extensively to facilitate medical care and adoption services for scores of orphaned children in Eastern Europe by coordinating linkages with stateside medical care services and adoption organizations.



Dr. Leonard Beuving on right

## *Communication*

Dr. Carl Botan graduated from WMU with a B.S. degree in 1970. He earned an M.A. in 1982, and a Ph.D. in 1985, from Wayne State University. Botan has traveled extensively in Australia, Europe, and South America lecturing on topics relating to the public relations field. He has also served on the executive committee of the National Public Relations Curriculum Commission of the United States as well as the editorial boards for several communication journals including the *Journal of Public Relations Research* and *Public Relations Review*. Currently Botan is an associate professor of communication at Purdue University where he is a noted scholar in public relations and electronic surveillance in the work place.



Chair Steve Rhodes on right

## *Comparative Religion*

Dr. Edward T. Linenthal graduated from WMU with a B.A. in comparative religion in 1969. He is currently the Edward M. Penson Professor of Religion and American Culture at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. He is the author of numerous books and articles and has written extensively on a variety of topics including the Holocaust and the Oklahoma City bombing. He is the author

of *Preserving Memory: The Struggle to Create America's Holocaust Museum* and co-editor of *History Wars: The Enola Gay and Other Battles to Preserve America's Past*. His latest book, *The Unfinished Bombing: Oklahoma City in American Memory*, is a powerful account of the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing.



Dr. Nancy Falk, Dr. Linenthal  
and Chair Brian Wilson

## *Economics*

Dr. Vinod Thomas earned his M.A. in economics at WMU in 1971 and his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Chicago in 1974.

In 1976 he was employed by the World Bank where he has served

in many different capacities including vice president of the World Bank Institute, chief economist for the World Bank in the East Asia and Pacific region, staff director for the 1991 World Development Report, and principal economist for Columbia. Currently, he is the country director of Brazil where he is responsible for one of the World Bank's largest portfolios of lending, policy and analytical work.

## *English*

Mr. Martin Critchell graduated from WMU in 1973 with a B.A. in English. He received his law degree from Wayne State University School of Law in 1976. He is a shareholder in the law firm of Conklin, Benham, Ducey, Listman & Chuhuran, P.C. where he represents automotive industry giants such as General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Michigan Self-Insurers' Association before the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Court of Appeals. Mr. Critchell was admitted not only to the State Bar of Michigan but

also to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court and the Bar of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. He is a contributing author to *Employment Law in Michigan: An Employer's Guide and Insurance Law in Michigan* a publication for the Institute for Continuing Legal Education.



Chair Arnie Johnston on left

## *Foreign Languages and Literatures*

Dr. Steven F. Kokmeyer graduated from WMU in 1986 with a B.A. in Spanish and biomedical sciences. Upon completion of his under-graduate studies, Dr. Kokmeyer was accepted by several prominent medical schools. He chose to enroll at the University of Michigan Medical School, where he earned his M.D. He concluded his internship in Kansas City specializing in orthopedics. He is currently an orthopedist affiliated with Kalamazoo Valley Orthopedics and specializes in traumatic injuries. Dr. Kokmeyer continues to use his Spanish extensively, both inside and outside his practice. He employed his language skills frequently with patients when he worked in St. Louis and more recently when he traveled to Central America where he performed *pro bono* medical services.



Chair John Benson on Lft

## *Geosciences*

Mr. Ronald A. Parker received a B.S. in geology from Western Michigan University in 1977. After graduation, he joined Cascade Testing Laboratory in Bellevue, Washington. In 1982 Mr. Parker was promoted to vice president and placed in charge of the newly formed division Cascade Geotechnical. In 1987 he joined Associated Earth Sciences, Inc. (AESI), located in Kirkland, Washington. Since that time, the firm has grown to employ a staff of 55 professional geologists, engineers, support staff, and five major divisions. Currently Mr. Parker is one of two major stockholders and principal geologist of the company. For the past three years, AESI has been named one of the fastest growing privately held companies in Washington.



Chair Al Kehew on the Rt

## *History*

Dr. Dale H. Porter graduated *cum laude* with a B.A. from WMU in 1963. He completed his M.A. at Stanford in 1964 and his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon in 1967 specializing in British history. He was appointed assistant professor of history at Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia in 1967. In 1970 he returned to WMU as an assistant professor of humanities in the College of General Studies where he taught until 1989. He also served as assistant to the dean and chair of the faculty while pursuing an extremely active career in research and publication. In 1989 Dale joined the department of history as a full professor. He retired from the history department in 2000 but continues to serve as the dissertation director of two doctoral students.



From Lft Buddy Gray, chair;  
Bruce Haight and Dale Porter

## *Mathematics*

Dr. Linda Lesniak received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in mathematics from WMU. She went on to serve as a faculty member at Louisiana State University. Currently, she is a professor of mathematics at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. She has also served as the managing editor of the *Journal of Graph Theory* and is on the editorial boards of both the *Journal of Graph Theory* and the electronic *Journal of Combinatorics*. Her numerous



Dean Jorgens on Rt.

grants include one from the Office of Naval Research as well as a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in Hungary. In addition she is a member of the Center for Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science (DIMACS) and director of the DIMACS Connect Institute.

## *Philosophy*

Dr. Bruce Brower received his B.A. in philosophy from WMU in 1976, followed by his M.A. in philosophy in 1980 and his Ph.D. in philosophy in 1985 at the University of Pittsburgh. He has had visiting teaching appointments at the University of Michigan; the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; and University of Illinois, Chicago. He has been a member of the department of philosophy at Tulane University since 1989 where he serves as placement director of graduate studies. His main teaching and research interests are in ethics and epistemology. He has published several articles in leading philosophical journals including the *Journal of Philosophy and Ethics* and is currently writing a book entitled *The Community of Reason*.



## *Philosophy*

Dr. Charles Lewis graduated from WMU in 1960 with a B.A. in philosophy. He later attended the Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern University where he graduated in 1969. In 1976 he became senior pastor of First Congregational Church in Muskegon, Mich. serving a congregation of 1500 members. In 1981 he moved to Naples, Fla. where he founded Community Congregational Church which has grown to a membership of more than 1400. He has served on the board of directors for Y.M.C.A. and United Way of Lee County where he chaired the budget division for seven years. He currently serves on the board of directors of Gulf Coast Center a home for severely challenged adults.



Chair Kent Baldner on right

## *Physics*

Dr. Leo Parpart graduated with a B.S. from WMU in 1980. He began his career as the accelerator engineer in the Tandem Van de Graaf Laboratory at WMU. In 1985 he became the accelerator installation engineer for National Electrostatic Corporation where he traveled to more than 30 countries supervising the installation of multi-million dollar accelerator systems. He later joined Eaton Corporation as a product support engineer and was primarily involved in the implementation of ion-implanting systems in Europe and Southeast Asia. He joined the U.S. Department of State in 1999 and became the information management specialist for the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon. Most recently he became the information processing officer at the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia.



Dr. Dean Halderson on left

## *Political Science*

Dr. Bradley F. Smith received both his B.A. in 1972 and M.A. in 1974 in political science from WMU. He received his Ph.D. in 1981 from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. Since 1994 he has served as dean of the Huxley College of Environmental Studies at Western Washington University. Prior to this, he served as the first director of the Office of Environmental Education in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. Presently he serves on the executive board of the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors in Washington, D.C. He is also a consultant to General Motors on sustainability and fuel cell education.



Dr. Smith and wife

## *Psychology*

Dr. Maria Malott earned her M.A. in industrial psychology in 1984 and her Ph.D. in behavior analysis in 1987 from WMU. She is the president of Malott and Associates, a consulting firm boasting clients such as General Motors, Kellogg, Meijer, and Pharmacia. She is also the executive director of the Association for Behavior Analysis, a professional society with nearly 4,000 international members. In addition, she has co-authored a psychology textbook and authored a number of publications in peer reviewed journals and has made numerous professional presentations at domestic and international meetings.



With Chair Wayne Fuqua

## *Public Affairs and Administration*

State Representative Nancy Quarles received her Ph.D. in public administration from WMU in December 2001. Her dissertation focused on how the city manager instills visionary leadership in local government. Nancy herself has exercised visionary leadership in the state legislature where she represents the Southfield and Lathrup Village area. She is also the president of the Southern Oakland County NAACP, PAC chair for the Michigan Women Political Caucus, and is currently campaigning as a Democratic candidate for the State Board of Education.



Representative Quarles center with Chair Robert Peters on left and husband on right

## *Sociology*

Dr. Ann Goetting received her Ph.D. from WMU in 1978. She is currently a professor of sociology at Western Kentucky University where she teaches courses in gender and family issues. An active researcher, she is the author or co-editor of three books and numerous articles many dealing with domestic violence. This includes a 1999 publication entitled *Getting Out: Life Stories of Women Who Left Abusive Men*. Dr. Goetting has made many presentations at regional and national professional meetings, and she often serves as an expert witness in cases that involve battered women. She is also the editor of *Network News*, a newsletter for the organization Sociologists for Women in Society.



Dr. Subhash Sonnad on left

## *Statistics*

Mr. Loren Huen graduated from WMU in 1966 with a B.S. in mathematics. Following his graduation he began working for the UpJohn Company in the research division. During his employment at UpJohn, he recognized the value of statistics to research analysis and returned to WMU to earn his M.S. in statistics in 1972. After thirty years with UpJohn, he retired in the mid-1990s and formed a company called SiSSA Consulting, Ltd. In 1997, he began teaching part-time in WMU's statistics department where he later joined the full-time staff. In 1999, he ran for a position on the national board of directors for the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) and was elected by the membership. He currently serves as the AYSO's national secretary.



Chair Daniel Mihalko on left