

College of Arts & Sciences



Alumni Achievement Awards

October 10, 2003

WMIJ



*I*n this Centennial year we are reminded that the College of Arts and Sciences has played a dynamic role in the growth and development of Western Michigan University. Many of the College's 20 departments and 6 interdisciplinary programs are foundation stones upon which the University was built and were present at the establishment of Western State Normal School in 1903.



The College of Arts and Sciences' roots originate with the Divisions of Language and Literature, Social Sciences, and part of the Division of Science and Mathematics. In the 1956-57 school year, these divisions were grouped together to become the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For a little over a decade, the School retained this name until 1970 when it was changed to the College of Arts and Sciences.

Today the College of Arts and Sciences is the largest of the six academic colleges at WMU with over 6,500 undergraduate students and 1,500 graduate students. The College enrolls half of the student population and holds appointments for over 360 full time faculty members.

Our alumni have been major contributors to our national reputation and recognition. We currently have over 12,000 alumni nationwide.

The College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Awards program began in 1997 as a way of reconnecting our students and faculty with our alumni and our alumni with the College. The Awards are given in recognition for the recipients' achievements in their fields and for their service to their departments. Not every department will make a recommendation each year. While each of the departments in the College provide different opportunities for their Alumni Award recipients, most of the recipients talk with our students and faculty about their careers and their experiences at WMU.



Centennial
1903-2003 Celebration

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Africana Studies

Ms. Sandra Fields-Neal earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees in social work and her Master's Certification in Substance Abuse Counseling from WMU in 1987 and 1989, respectively. Ms. Fields-Neal is president and CEO of Sandra Fields-Neal and Associates in Kalamazoo, where she provides therapy for clinical issues, chemical dependency and psychological testing. She has extensive experience as a licensed social worker. Additionally, she serves on the advisory board for Kalamazoo's Ecumenical Senior Center. Her past involvements include work as a member of the Team Leaders Kalamazoo Public Schools Strategic Planning Process, a member of the YWCA board of directors, and a member of the Prevention Works - Substance Abuse board of directors.



Ms. Fields-Neal with Dr. Lawrence T. Potter, Jr.

American Studies

Ms. Anne Harcus graduated from WMU in 1976 with degrees in American studies and communication. Ms. Harcus spent 17 years as a news and feature reporter for the Kalamazoo Gazette and the Passaic Herald News, writing hundreds of articles concerning a variety of topics, ranging from health, education and government to social services and entertainment. In her news writing career, she interviewed people from all walks of life, including politicians, scientists, educators, entrepreneurs, entertainers, authors, artists, and leaders of business and industry. Ms. Harcus is co-founder, partner and senior consultant of Stony Point Communications, a mid-Michigan public relations and marketing firm specializing in a variety of services for healthcare, education, insurance, law and business clients.



Ms. Harcus (left) with Dr. Katherine Joslin

Anthropology

Dr. Terrance J. Martin received his M.A. in anthropology from WMU in 1976 and his Ph.D. in anthropology from Michigan State University in 1986. He has been involved in collaborative archaeological research projects for more than 30 years, focusing on osteological evidence for animal exploitation in the greater Midwest and Great Lakes regions. Dr. Martin has published more than three dozen chapters and articles in addition to more than 70 limited distribution technical reports. He regularly presents papers at meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, the Society for Historical Archaeology, and the Midwest Archaeological Conference. Dr. Martin is Curator and Chair of Anthropology at the Illinois State Museum. He is currently working with WMU professors Nassaney and Cremin in the excavation of Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Michigan.



Dr. Martin

Biological Sciences

Dr. Robert Provenzano earned his B.A. in biological sciences from WMU in 1977. In 1983, he earned his M.D. from Wayne State University School of Medicine, where he is currently a clinical associate professor of medicine. Dr. Provenzano is also chief of the section of Nephrology, Hypertension & Transplantation, Program Director of Nephrology, Director of Nephrology Research, and Director of Acute Dialysis Services at St. John Hospital and Medical Center in Detroit. He recently helped develop and implement the Early Renal Insufficiency Clinic, which serves chronic kidney disease patients in southeastern Michigan. Dr. Provenzano is a recipient of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan Distinguished Service Award and was twice voted "Top Doc" in *Detroit Monthly* magazine.

Chemistry

Dr. Bruce Roe received his M.A. in chemistry and his Ph.D. in biochemistry from WMU in 1967 and 1970, respectively. He taught at Kent State University and Case Western Reserve University before taking his current position as George Lynn Cross Research Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Oklahoma, where he was named full professor in 1981. During his career, Dr. Roe has made significant contributions to the advancement of research in several fields, including DNA and genomic sequence analysis, and the understanding of structure and function of t-RNA in normal and abnormal mammalian tissues. He has also received numerous awards and has been asked to deliver many lectures as a result of his more than 190 peer-reviewed papers and acknowledged status as a leader in chemistry, biochemistry and molecular biology.

Communication

Mr. Kyle Caldwell earned his B.A. in communication from WMU in 1991 and his M.A. in organizational communication from the University in 1993. After graduation, Mr. Caldwell worked as a governor's management intern with the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC), a state agency that promotes volunteerism. During his internship, among other activities, he served as the first director of Michigan CARES (Communities Assessing Resources to Engage in Service). After three years with the MCSC, he left the commission and taught photography to high school students and interpersonal communication part-time to college students at WMU. In 1998, Mr. Caldwell was selected by Governor John Engler to serve as Executive Director of the MCSC, a position he still holds today.



Mr. Caldwell with
Dr. Leigh Ford

Communication

Mr. Jack Clifford graduated from WMU in 1956 with a B.A. in communication. At WMU, he helped create WIDR-FM, the campus radio station. Mr. Clifford has been in the cable television industry for over 50 years, serving in capacities ranging from sports anchor to station president. He founded and served as chairman of the Food Network and Northwest Cable News. Mr. Clifford has received many honors from the cable television industry, including membership in the Silver Circle Society of his chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in 2002. Also, he is active with the Clifford Family Charitable Foundation, which lends financial support to various organizations. He currently serves as a consultant to several major broadcast corporations.



Mr. Clifford (left) with Dean
Leonard Ginsberg

Comparative Religion

Mr. Ed Gaskin received his B.A. in comparative religion and his B.B.A. in business from WMU in 1982 and 1983, respectively. He later graduated as a Merit Scholar from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Gaskin also attended the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary where he completed a short-term missionary project with Mother Theresa on his way to receiving a Masters of Divinity degree. Later, he worked for the Council for Economic Action, helping minority individuals start, expand or acquire businesses. Mr. Gaskin then joined an international management consulting firm as a senior management consultant. He is currently the Executive Director of the Charles Street A.M.E. Life Development Center in Boston.



Mr. Gaskin (right) with Dr. E.
Thomas Lawson

Economics

Dr. Catalina (Caty) Amuedo-Dorantes was the first WMU student to receive a Ph.D. in applied economics when she graduated in 1998. Prior to her studies at WMU, Dr. Amuedo-Dorantes earned a J.D. in law from Universidad Nacional de Educación Distancia in 1996, a B.A. in economics from Universidad de Sevilla in 1992, and a Licence et Maîtrise from Université de Poitiers in 1991. She has researched and been published many times on the topics of labor economics, international finance, and international migration. Dr. Amuedo-Dorantes currently works as an associate professor of economics at San Diego State University and as a research associate at Centra, an institute established by the Spanish government to advance economics research in the country.



Dr. Amuedo-Dorantes

English

Mr. William A. (Bud) Brian graduated from WMU in 1966 with a B.A. in English. After leaving WMU, Mr. Brian taught English in Walled Lake, Michigan from 1966 to 1969, specializing in “at-risk” children. Currently, he is owner and chairman of Budco, a Detroit-based marketing services company. Mr. Brian has also served as president and CEO of the company. Budco employs five hundred people and serves many well-known clients, including Ameritech, Daimler- Chrysler, Disney, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Honda and Honey Baked Ham. Mr. Brian’s company received the “Best Overall” award in a 2001 competition that highlighted the “101 Best & Brightest Companies to Work For” in metropolitan Detroit. Mr. Brian himself was named Michigan Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young in 1999.

Environmental Studies

Mr. Tom Ulrich earned his B.S. in natural resource management from WMU in 1985. After leaving WMU, he began working as a clerk at Crater Lake National Park, and has been working for the National Park Service ever since. Mr. Ulrich has worked at several national parks, monuments and historic sites, and has served in a number of different positions, including park ranger, resource management specialist, chief and superintendent. Among other honors, Mr. Ulrich has received four National Park Service special achievement awards for his work. He currently serves as assistant superintendent of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, which covers 71,000 acres on the shores of Lake Michigan and hosts more than one million visitors each year.



Mr. Ulrich

Foreign Languages

Dr. Mary-Kathleen (Gernant) Blanchard received her B.A. in French from WMU in 1970, her M.A. in French from Middlebury College in 1971, and her Ph.D. in French from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1979. She is a professor of French at Augusta State University in Georgia, where she has been teaching since 1971. Dr. Blanchard has distinguished herself as a scholar and teacher of surrealist poetry and art, and more recently of Quebec literature, language and culture. She is also studying for the vocational diaconate in the Episcopal Church and expects to be ordained a deacon in 2004. Dr. Blanchard’s family has strong ties to WMU. Her father, for example, a WMU alumnus, was a member of the University administration from 1943 to 1975.



Dr. Blanchard

Geography

Mr. Wm. Brian Hartman received his geography degree from WMU in 1981. Since then, Mr. Hartman has experienced great success in the real estate business. Today, he is president and owner of Appraisal Services, Inc., a real estate appraisal company with several offices located throughout west Michigan and in Chicago. The firm currently carries out all of National City Bank's appraisals in the region. Additionally, Mr. Hartman is CEO of Network Appraisal Service, Inc., and of Appraisals.com, which extend his company's appraisal services across the United States. Mr. Hartman is also active in many organizations, including the Michigan Maritime Museum, Heritage Community of Kalamazoo, United Way of Kalamazoo, and Lakeside Boys and Girls Home.



Mr. Hartman (right) with Dr. David Houghton

Geosciences

Mr. Jeff Hawkins graduated from WMU in 1995 with an M.S. in earth science. Prior to that, he received his B.S. in geology from Southern Illinois University in 1983. Mr. Hawkins is president, founder and an owner of West Michigan Drilling, an environmental and geotechnical drilling firm, and Envirologic Technologies Inc., an environmental consulting and services firm. At Envirologic, Mr. Hawkins is responsible for marketing and business development and technical oversight and shares responsibility for the overall functions of the company. He has served on the board of directors and as president of the Environmental Management Association and is a member of the Advisory Council for the geosciences department at WMU. For the past four years, he has taught a course at WMU on issues in brownfield development.



Mr. Hawkins

History

Dr. Florin Curta earned both his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from WMU in 1995 and 1998, respectively. He earned his B.A. in history and philosophy from the University of Bucharest in 1988 and his M.A. in medieval studies from Cornell University in 1999. Dr. Curta is an associate professor of history at the University of Florida. He is also working as a visiting research fellow at the University of Notre Dame. Along with many other publications, Dr. Curta is the author of *The Making of the Slavs: History and Archaeology of the Lower Danube Region, c. 500-700 A.D.*, which offers new perspectives on the origins of the Slavic ethnicity in southeastern Europe. In January 2003, this work earned him the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize of the American Historical Association.



Dr. Curta and his wife, Lucia

History and Political Science

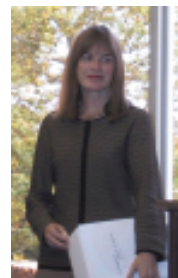
Mr. Richard D. Reed received his B.A. in political science with a minor in history from WMU in 1957. Shortly thereafter, he entered the Detroit College of Law, from which he graduated in 1961. After graduation, Mr. Reed worked to become law clerk for former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Theodore Souris. Mr. Reed has since owned his own law practice for more than 40 years. During his career, he has been a member of the board of directors for the Kalamazoo Legal Aid Bureau, chairman of the State Bar Representative Assembly, president of the Kalamazoo County Bar Association, and commissioner of the State Bar of Michigan. Additionally, he serves as a trustee of the Richard U. Light Foundation, which distributes \$2 million each year in grants for academic scholarships and fellowships.



From left: Mr. Reed, Dr. Buddy Gray, Dean Leonard Ginsberg

Mallinson Institute for Science Education

Dr. Janet Vail was awarded a Ph.D. in Science Education from WMU in 1998. For more than a decade, she has been coordinating the outreach and education programs at the Annis Water Resources Institute at Grand Valley State University. Her current project allows K-12 and college students to participate in hands-on learning aboard two specially designed vessels. Dr. Vail is active in many other environmental education programs as well. She is the State of Michigan coordinator for Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and is a trainer for the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program. Dr. Vail is also co-chair of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Lake Michigan Forum. She has been published numerous times in such periodicals as *Lakeline* and the *Journal of Environmental Quality*.



Dr. Vail

Philosophy

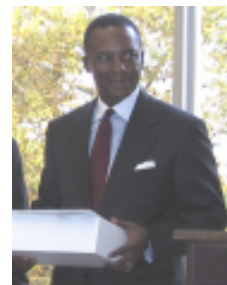
Dr. Robert von der Osten earned his B.A. in philosophy from WMU in 1974. He later received his M.A. in philosophy from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1980 and his Ph.D. in linguistics from New York University in 1986. Today, he is a professor of languages and literature at Ferris State University. Dr. von der Osten was Ferris State's first general education coordinator, serving when the University received North Central Accreditation for its general education program. He has also chaired the University Curriculum Committee at Ferris State and served on the executive committee of the Academic Senate. Dr. von der Osten is co-author of the widely used book, *Strategies for Successful Writing*, now in its 6th edition.



From left: Dr. von der Osten, Dr. Michael Pritchard, and Dr. Arthur Falk

Political Science

Mr. Christopher C. Womack received his B.A. in political science from WMU in 1979 and his M.A. of public administration from American University in 1985. He attended the Executive Finance and Accounting Program at the Wharton School in 1996 and the Stanford Executive Program in 2001. Mr. Womack worked in Washington, D.C. from 1979-1987 as a legislative aide to Representative Leon Panetta and as staff director for the Subcommittee on Personnel and Police for the Committee on House Administration. In late 2001, he was named Senior Vice President for Georgia Power and Senior Production Officer for Southern Company Generation and Energy Marketing. Mr. Womack is active with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Southern Regional Council, 100 Black Men of Atlanta, and the Birmingham Culture and Heritage Foundation.



Mr. Womack

Psychology

Dr. Mitchell J. Picker was awarded his Ph.D. in experimental psychology from WMU in 1984. He is currently a professor in the department of psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he has taught since 1985. In addition to being honored for his teaching excellence, Dr. Picker has established a national reputation for his research in behavioral pharmacology, the study of the behavioral effects of pharmacological agents. Dr. Picker has published numerous research articles in the top tier of psychopharmacology journals such as *Psychopharmacology* and the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*. He often speaks at national conferences. Dr. Picker also serves as a reviewer for a number of prestigious journals and evaluates grants for federal agencies.

Public Affairs and Administration

Dr. Dale Howe earned his Ph.D. in public administration from WMU in 2002. Between 2000 and 2001, he developed Medicaid financial and service population projections for Kent County Community Mental Health. Dr. Howe was subsequently employed by the Michigan Department of Community Health, where he is currently responsible for auditing and distributing approximately \$1.2 billion per year of mental health and substance abuse service funds. He also serves as co-chair of the Strategic National Implementation Process (SNIP) of the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI), a national workgroup on health information privacy issues. Dr. Howe's exceptional skills as a mentor to public administration students provide the model for the WMU School of Public Affairs and Administration's newly established dissertation mentoring program.



Dr. Howe

Sociology

Dr. Don Williams became WMU's first Ph.D. recipient in sociology in 1968. After receiving his Ph.D., he joined the faculty at what would become Grand Valley State University, where he is currently a professor of sociology and director of the Freshman Studies Program. Over his more than three decades at GVSU, he has served as both a department chair and chair of the academic senate. Dr. Williams helped establish an annual teaching conference and the Faculty Teaching and Learning Center at GVSU and is active in community service learning. As an applied sociologist, he has worked with a number of community agencies including Habitat for Humanity, the Public Health Department, the GRACE Institute on Racism, and the Lakeshore Substance Coordinating Council.



Dr. Williams (right) with
Dean Leonard Ginsberg

Spanish

Mr. Thomas King graduated from WMU in 1977 with B.A. degrees in Spanish and political science. After leaving WMU, he taught Spanish for a year in Carpentersville, Illinois, before entering law school at Loyola University. He completed his law degree in 1981. From 1982-1990, Mr. King served as Assistant City Attorney and Deputy City Attorney for the City of Kalamazoo. In 1990 he joined the firm of Kreis, Enderle, Callander & Hudgins, in which he is now a partner, specializing in municipal and government law. Mr. King has remained active in the WMU community, serving as vice chair and chair of the Mike Gary Athletic Fund and as a member of the WMU Foundation and the University Master Plan study group.



Mr. King and his wife