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Cover photo by Chris Napier.



## West Virginia University Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Celebrating its 21st anniversary, the West Virginia University Academy of Distinguished Alumni bestowed its highest honor on two internationally known Eberly College graduates who hail from West Virginia.

General Bantz “John” Craddock, a native of Doddridge County, is Commander of the U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe. Dr. B. Thomas Hutchinson grew up in Flatwoods, West Virginia and has become a nationally recognized expert in ophthalmology and founded EyeCareAmerica. These distinguished alumni were inducted into the Academy on February 15.

Craddock graduated from WVU in 1971 with a bachelor’s degree in political science. During his long and illustrious service he has received numerous decorations and honors, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal, Legion of Merit (two oak leaf clusters), and Meritorious Service Medal (with three oak leaf clusters).

He has a master’s degree in military arts and sciences. He and his wife, Linda, have two children, Zachary and Amanda.

Hutchinson received a bachelor of arts in pre-medicine in 1955 and a bachelor of science

in medicine in 1956 from WVU. He went on to complete medical school at Harvard Medical School in 1958.

Hutchinson has received numerous awards, including the Senior Honor Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Distinguished Service Award. Other honors include Man of the Year from the New England Ophthalmological Society, a similar award from the Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, a Man of Vision award from Prevent Blindness America-Massachusetts, as well as the Howe Medal from the Buffalo Ophthalmological Society and a Distinguished Service Award from *Ophthalmology Times*. Woodward/White has repeatedly called him one of the best doctors in America.

Hutchinson has been a visiting professor at multiple universities and medical centers. He has endowed two lectureships in ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and the WVU School of Medicine. He and his wife, June, reside in Boston and Newport, Rhode Island.

If you would like to nominate an outstanding Eberly graduate for the Academy of Distinguished Alumni, visit <http://alumni.wvu.edu/awards/academy> for a nomination form and application criteria.

## The Slave Ship: A Human History

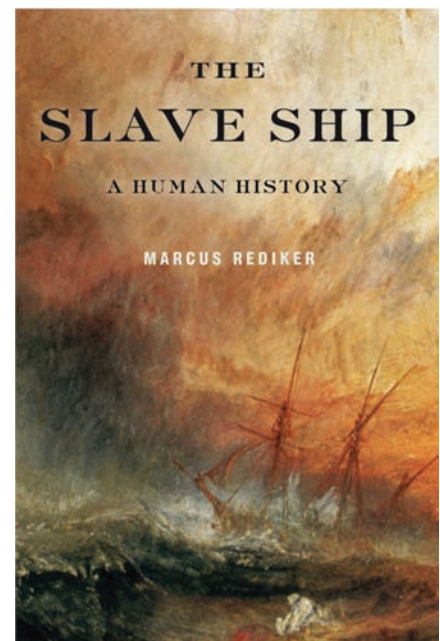
Marcus Rediker—author, professor and chair of the history department at the University of Pittsburgh—presented the Department of History’s Callahan Lecture during the Festival of Ideas on March 31. The event was co-sponsored by the WVU Center for Black Culture.

His lecture, “The Floating Dungeon: A History of the Slave Ship,” focused on information gathered for his latest book, *The Slave Ship: A Human History*.

In his book, Rediker draws on 30 years of research in maritime archives to create an unprecedented history of slave ships and the human drama acted out on their rolling decks. He reconstructs in chilling detail the lives, deaths, and terrors of captains, sailors, and the enslaved aboard a “floating dungeon.”

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker said, “For all Americans and indeed all those who live in the Western world who have profited by, or suffered from, the endless brutality of the slave trade, during all its centuries and into the present, this book is homework of the most insistent order.”

This year’s Callahan Lecture will be part of the Senator Rush D. Holt Conference scheduled for spring 2009. For a complete calendar listing of the History Department’s events visit <http://history.wvu.edu>.







## Native American Studies Elder-in-Residence

Leslie Marmon Silko joined WVU in April as the 2008 Native American Studies Elder-in-Residence.

Silko is a renowned Native American author of novels, short stories, essays, poetry, articles, and film scripts. A former professor of English and fiction writing, she has won awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, *The Boston Globe*, the MacArthur Foundation, and the Rosewater Foundation. She was the youngest writer to be included in *The Norton Anthology of Women's Literature* for her short story "Lullaby," and has many published works, including *The Man to Send Rain Clouds*, *Laguna Woman*, *Ceremony*, *Almanac of the Dead*, and *Gardens in the Dunes*.

During her visit to WVU, Silko visited with faculty and students, and gave a writing craft seminar for faculty and graduate students in creative writing. She also addressed students who read her works in courses such as Literature of Native America and Native American Women Writers.

The Elder-in-Residence Program is co-sponsored by the Carolyn Reyer Endowment for Native American Studies, with funding and support from Carolyn Reyer, the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of English, and the Center for Women's Studies.



Left to right, Mary Ellen Snyder, chief of interpretation and visitor services for Friendship Hill National Historic Site and Fort Necessity National Battlefield; Chad Proudfoot, coordinator of Eberly's Cultural Resource Management Program; and Kitty Seifert, park ranger.

## Eberly Teams with National Park Service

An affiliation agreement between the Western Pennsylvania Parks of the National Park Service and the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences provides graduate students with the opportunity to serve as interns at Friendship Hill National Historic Site, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site, Johnstown Flood National Memorial, and the United 93 National Memorial.



## Minority Doctoral Candidate 2008 Graduates in Lewisburg, W.Va.

Front Row (l to r): Eveldora Wheeler, educational psychology; Tara Brooks, special education; Jennifer McIntosh, WVU Executive Officer for Social Justice; and Rochelle Hutchins, political science. Back Row (l to r): Maximo Martinez, political science; Vivian Foyou, political science; Jose Oquendo, technology education; Brian Noland, Chancellor, Higher Education Policy Commission; Daton Dean, educational leadership; and Zoa Williams, history.

# Dispatches from the Diaspora

by Oliver Luck

As an undergraduate, I was unable to take advantage of international exchange programs because of my obligations to the Mountaineer football team (and my, how enjoyable those obligations were). There just was not enough time between summer practice, spring ball, and the summer workouts that are required in order for any athlete to report to camp in adequate shape. Like the biblical Job, I had to exercise patience and wait until my athletic career had run its course. After five seasons in the National Football League with the Houston Oilers, I retired from the NFL. At the same time, I was finishing up my law degree at the University of Texas and preparing to take the Texas bar exam.

Like many folks who have survived three years of law school and the bar preparation course, I was not all that eager to go to work immediately. Instead, between boning up on oil and gas law in Texas and trying to retain some of the more arcane aspects of criminal procedure, I began a serendipitous search at the University of Texas Law Library (yes, in the days before the Internet) for overseas legal programs for American lawyers.

Much to my surprise, I came across a program sponsored by the then-West German federal government through its German Aca-

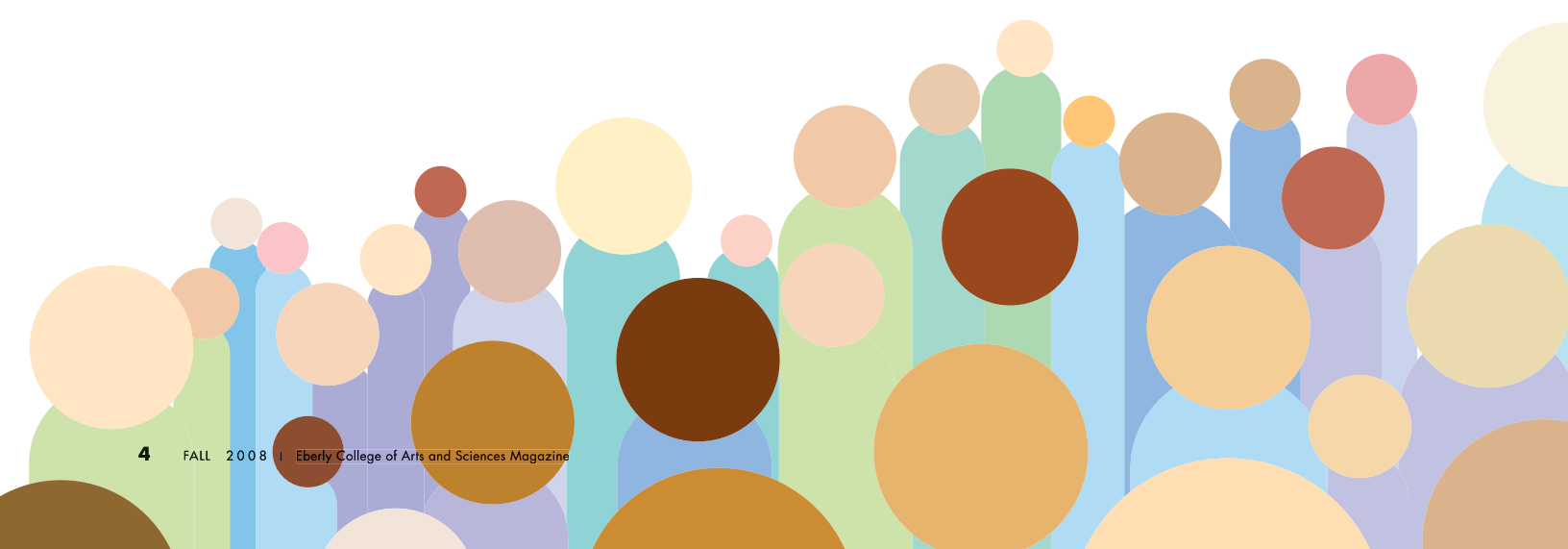
demic Exchange Service. The fellowship, officially known as the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Juristenprogramm (a title that only the Germans can love), was designed to give young attorneys an insight into both the German and the European Union legal system. The program was available to lawyers under 28 years of age from the United States, Belgium, the Netherlands, England, and France. As you might expect, the fellowship had its roots in the post-World War II rebuilding of Germany, an effort that in the eyes of this observer still remains one of the most generous and intelligent initiatives undertaken by the United States government.

Fluency in German was a requirement but that was not an issue due to the fact that I took a number of German courses at WVU. My mother, born and raised in the southwestern German city of Karlsruhe, emigrated to this country in the mid-1950s and passed a good bit of her native language along to my three siblings and me. All that paid off and I passed the language test with flying colors.

The program kicked off in September of 1987 with a three-month stay in the picturesque university town of Tübingen. The hills and forests in the area closely resemble the topography of Monongalia County. The



fellowship group consisted of 15 lawyers, including one other American. Studies focused on legal terminology and the structure of the German civil and criminal system. Following a Christmas break we moved a bit north for a six-month stop in Düsseldorf, the capital of Germany's most populous state and the historical economic engine of the country. Here, studying at the Oberlandesgericht, or appellate court, we were treated to a comprehensive look at the interaction between the long-established German legal system and the small but growing body of European Union jurisprudence.



The third and final segment of the fellowship was a four-month internship with a law firm. Being the Mountaineer that I am, I applied for a position with a mid-sized firm in Munich, the capital of Bavaria and just a short train ride from the Alps. Munich to me has always been the most interesting city in Germany. Aside from participating in the pleasures of the world's best beer gardens, the city has beautiful architecture, some of the finest urban gardens in Europe as well as a long tradition of supporting the arts. In fact, I can still remember attending the world-famous Gasteig (Munich's auditorium for classical music) for an outstanding performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

Of course, like virtually every foreign fellowship, the program was not just tedious academic work. Our host, the West German government, was keen to put its Western credentials on display to our enterprising group and what better way to show 15 young Western attorneys how far West Germany had come since the end of World War II than by taking us across the fraying Iron Curtain to see then-East Germany.

One of the more memorable trips was a three-day tour where we had a chance to travel deep into East Germany. Normally, citizens of any of the old Allied nations

were only allowed to spend 24 hours in East Germany. And to be quite honest, it was difficult to navigate the aging public transportation system of East Berlin to travel outside of the city center. As a result, most Western visitors came away from their stay in East Germany with a false impression of prosperity, affluence, and progress.

The East Germans learned from the Russians how to build a "Potemkin Village" right in the heart of East Berlin, the East German capital city, which showed off the "advances" of the socialist system. However, our group was given the opportunity to travel to some of the more obscure regional cities like Salzgitter and really see the effects of 40 years of socialism. Needless to say, it was eye-opening.

Of course, very few observers at the time realized that the Eastern Bloc was about to collapse under the crushing weight of its own inefficiencies. Virtually all of West Germany was obsessed by the "eternal" question, as one of our textbooks put it, of whether the two Germanys would ever reunite. The overwhelming sentiment was "not in our lifetime." Our group of young lawyers was no different, although my American colleague and I were much more sanguine about the prospects of a reunification, particularly

after we saw with our own eyes the results of decades of mismanagement under what we viewed as a fundamentally flawed system of government.

My year-long stay in Germany as a legal fellow was an exhilarating experience and left me wanting to know more about the culture, history, and languages of Europe. Within a few years I accepted a position based in Frankfurt, Germany, with the National Football League. Eventually my wife, Kathy, and I spent ten years in Europe. Our two daughters were born in Wiesbaden, Germany, and our youngest child, a boy, was born in London. As a family, we had the opportunity to travel extensively on the Continent. It is safe to say that my year as a legal fellow began a lifelong interest in Europe, and perhaps even led me in a Freudian manner to soccer, the only sport the Europeans truly care about. ■

*Oliver Luck is president and general manager of the Houston Dynamo Soccer franchise. He graduated with honors from WVU with a bachelor's degree in history in 1982. He is a two-time CoSIDA Academic All-American, three-year starter at quarterback, and member of the WVU Sports Hall of Fame. He currently serves as a member of the WVU Board of Governors.*

## COMMENCEMENT

### Address by Oliver Luck

May 19, 2009

2:00 p.m.

WVU Coliseum

Please mark your calendars and join us as we salute the class of 2009.

Vox  
Populi



# Student's Eye View by Tommy Napier Jr.

Thinking about geography was always interesting to me. I am originally from Kenova, West Virginia, a town of about 3,000 people, and the largest city in Wayne County. By elementary school, I knew that from Virginia Point I could see three states—Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia—from which the word Ken-o-va is derived. I knew that the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers separated the three states. I soon began to feel the pull of discovering new places.

Each summer, my sister and I would go to New York City and Houston, Texas, to see my aunts and uncles. I can still remember craning my neck back as far as it would go to look toward the top of the World Trade Center. As I got older, I noticed more than just the height of the buildings. In Houston, I heard a new language – Spanish. In New York, I began to eat exotic food such as Korean. For a kid in elementary school, these were big adventures. By traveling outside of my hometown I knew that although Kenova was the focus of my childhood, it wasn't the center of the world.

By the time of my senior year, my summer travels were fond memories, and it was time for a bigger adventure, a year in Spain. I chose not to apply to college right away. Instead, I decided that I wanted to take time off

and volunteer. Some of my teachers thought this was a wrong move, but my pastor encouraged me. He saw positive results for other students who had done the same.

I gained the support from mentors, my guidance counselor, friends, and most importantly, my mom. When I arrived in Europe, I thought I was doing something extra-special by taking time off. What I quickly realized was that the “gap year” was not a new idea in Europe. This was only one indicator that things were a little bit different on the opposite side of the Atlantic.

Another difference was language. I felt I was so far behind. I was volunteering with people from the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Romania. Almost all of them spoke English and had advanced knowledge of other languages. I only knew English and what little Spanish I had picked up in high school.

My time in Spain challenged me in so many ways and changed my outlook on life forever. I tended to view my country through its successes and cultural influence. Over time, I began to have a more balanced view, seeing positives and negatives that I might not have considered if I had not traveled abroad.

I learned that in Europe the gap year is encouraged, walking is the preferred mode



of transportation, foreign policy voices come from other countries, and the culture of Hollywood is not the only entertainment option. Interacting with new people challenged me to practice one of the most basic concepts in international relations: listening. The most important thing I took away from Spain was an understanding of different people, different places, and different histories, cultures, and customs.

Leaving Spain was bittersweet, and my adjustment back to life in the United States was not always easy. Reentering my own cul-

*Certainly, travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living. –Miriam Beard Vagts*

ture was, in ways, more shocking than my adjustment to Spain. I began to see myself, my culture, and our society through a more critical lens. People were excited to hear about my trip, but I felt misunderstood and upset that no one seemed to grasp the enormous changes that had taken place in my life. I was having trouble communicating just how the trip had changed me.

I had experienced so much, and my impressions about the world and the place of the United States in the world had been reshaped. I wondered if I would be able to fit in at WVU and if my new perspectives would be valued and appreciated.

Once at WVU, it did not take me long to realize that many within the University are focused on international education. In four years, I have traveled to nine more countries through study abroad and student organization activities, lived in the International House residence hall for three semesters with roommates from Ghana and Saudi Arabia, and been active in organizing an international students mentoring program.

I can also say that I have had some great courses focused on international topics. All of these experiences have added to my international knowledge and understanding. WVU has helped me find my voice and to

understand that sharing and debating different views related to international affairs are some of the most important conversations that happen within a university.

This summer I was in Hungary, Romania, and Serbia studying the history and religion of the region. I learned about the importance of historical interpretation, cultural and linguistic issues related to identity and territory, and the challenges created by those concepts within the context of the nation-state. On a lighter note, I ate wonderful local foods, experienced Central and Eastern European culture, met local people, walked through medieval towns, and saw beautiful churches, synagogues, and cathedrals.

It was amazing to me that my knowledge and understanding developed so quickly and deeply in just three weeks. It was also very encouraging to be surrounded by very engaged students and faculty who were excited about traveling, cultural exchange, and the topics in our courses. Having students and faculty on the trip with these common characteristics only challenged me more.

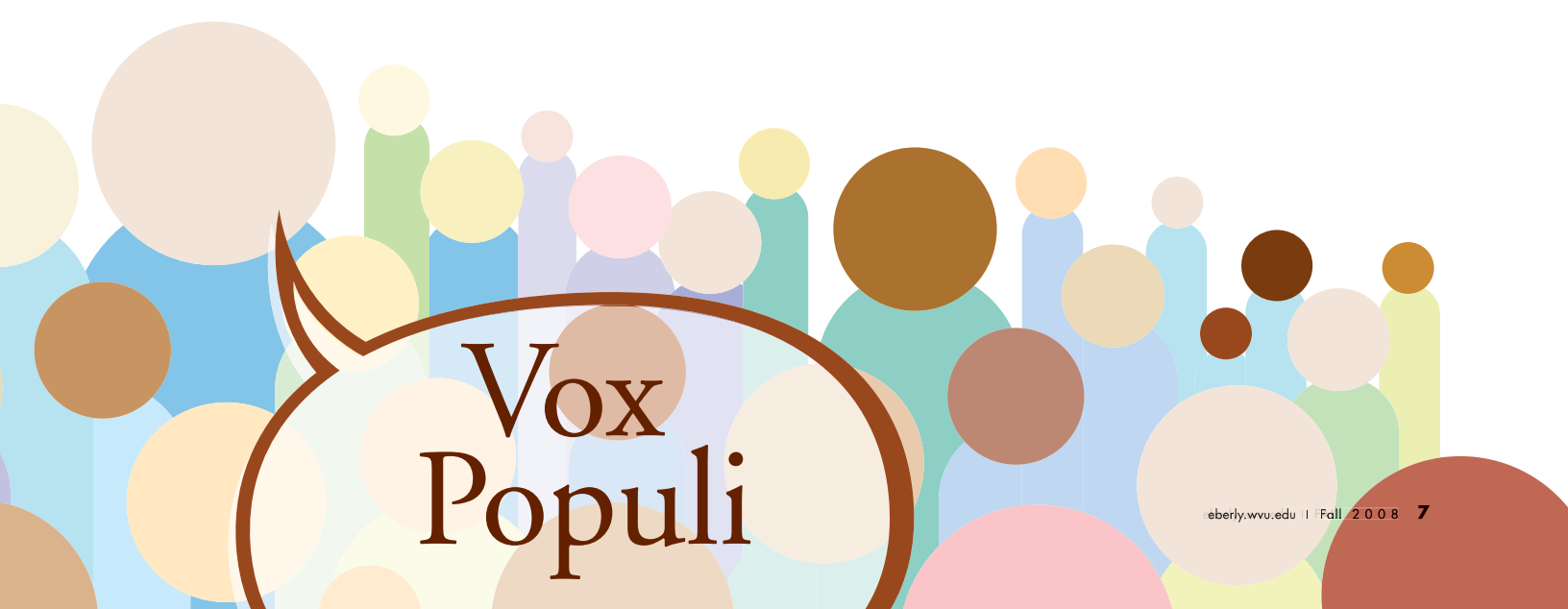
The programs I have been part of have taken an enormous amount of work and support from administrators, faculty, staff, and students. I have been so impressed that WVU is working hard on these types of pro-

grams and getting more students involved. International engagement and understanding will be required for my generation in the workforce and in life.

WVU has a unique position in West Virginia as the gateway for our state to the world. Support for international travel and partnerships at the University will produce action statewide, affecting our education, economy, and culture. It is a thrill to be a part of the international growth and educational opportunities at WVU and in the Eberly College. My hope is that more West Virginia communities, like Kenova, will have the foresight to challenge their young people to go abroad. ■

*Student Government Association Vice President Tommy Napier is a third-generation Mountaineer who is majoring in political science and geography. His trip to Eastern Europe was organized by the Slavic and Eastern European Studies Program in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, which was implemented in 2007. For more information, please go to [sees.wvu.edu](http://sees.wvu.edu).*

*Napier's trip was financed, in part, by the Eberly College's Undergraduate Academic Enrichment Program. In 2007, 241 Academic Enrichment Program Awards were given to Eberly College students. The program is supported by gifts from private donors. To become a supporter, please contact the Dean's Office at 304-293-4611.*



Vox  
Populi



# A Climate of Change: Land Use and Economic Development in



Mount Mulanje dominates the skyline.



# Malawi

by Rebecca Herod

**Slightly smaller than Pennsylvania**, the Republic of Malawi in sub-Saharan, southern Africa is one of the world's most densely populated and least developed countries. Agriculture is a way of life, and climate change is threatening that life and the livelihood of the people.

The current average life expectancy in Malawi is less than 44 years. Crop yields have fluctuated due to drought and land management practices. Unlike neighboring countries Botswana and South Africa, Malawi has not found diamonds and has few natural resources.

This summer Brent McCusker, a professor of geography, and Joseph Hodge, a professor of history, traveled to Malawi with six WVU students to examine poverty and climate change. McCusker, Hodge, and the students visited 200 African households to administer surveys and conduct interviews as part of a group that included an agricultural economist, a historian, local environmental scientist, and geographers.

The students represented a variety of majors: Chris Napier of Lewisburg, geography; Emily Renzelli of Bridgeport, political science and philosophy; Emily Kayser of Point



Day-laborer, tea pickers in the fields of the Glenorchy Tea Estate, subject of Matthew Wood's master's thesis. Few Malawians work on the once thriving estates, many of which have closed due to globalization of the tea market.







Chris Napier, a first-generation college student from Lewisburg, W.Va., entertains some local children.

Pleasant, economics and international studies; Domenick Poster of Bridgeport, international studies; Kathleen Fichtel of Salisbury, Maryland, doctoral student in history; and Matthew Wood of Moundsville, master's student in history.

*“Development on the African continent has amnesia; we keep trying unsuccessful projects that have been done before and then scratch our heads when they don’t work.”*

“Brent and I selected the students to work as part of a collaborative project, albeit with different roles and tasks,” said Hodge. “They became a close-knit group, and their individual experiences created exactly the kind of synergy that comes from this kind of interdisciplinary work.”

The fieldwork in Malawi allowed the team to examine how and where people make money, what their opportunity and transaction costs are, and how climate change and urbanization affect rural households. The undergraduates’ days were spent observing enumerators, local census-takers hired to perform the surveys, interacting with members of African households and using GPS to

determine how far people travel to diversify their incomes.

Graduate students Fichtel and Wood worked with Hodge and local enumerators to record oral histories from the oldest members of the villages. They also conducted archival research at the Malawi National Ar-



Brent McCusker walks through a market in Malawi.

chives in Zomba. While in Zomba, they met with students and faculty at the University of Malawi-Chancellor’s College, which has an official link with WVU.

Kat Fichtel’s graduate thesis will analyze and address historic land use on and around Mount Mulanje. Using archival maps, documents, aerial photographs, and oral interviews, Fichtel will be able to reconstruct the vegetation patterns of the area over time and determine how they are changing or being degraded.

“At this point, I am concerned primarily with the colonial period, though I will be moving the time frame forward as I develop my dissertation,” said Fichtel.

This detailed environmental information will be invaluable to the Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust, which hopes to make Mount Mulanje a UNESCO protected site. During the trip, Fichtel collected approximately 100 pages of photographic scans from 4,000 archival documents, which she will use in her research. Wood’s work will chronicle the economic rise and fall of the colonial tea estate in the Mulanje district.

“Development on the African continent has amnesia; we keep trying unsuccessful projects that have been done before and then





## Malawi Fast Facts

**Received Independence:**

July 6, 1964 (from United Kingdom)

**Current President:**

Bingu wa Mutharika

**Political System:**

Multi-party democracy

**Population:**

13,931,831

**Official Language:**

Chichewa

**Former Name:**

Nyasaland

Hear the team's story in their words. Excerpts from **"In the Shadow of Mount Mulanje,"** one of this year's Homecoming lectures, are available at <http://eberly.wvu.edu> in the WVUiTunesU section.



Emily Renzelli and Emily Kayser sit in on a household interview conducted by one of the local enumerators. Interviews were conducted in the villages of Mongombo, Tchete, Mbewa, and Nkawera.

scratch our heads when they don't work. For that reason, on the whole, development activities in Africa have done more harm than good," says Joseph Hodge, whose research on land use and colonialism seeks to inform political and economic development in Africa.

He describes Fichtel's work as critical for chronicling deforestation in the country and for providing an accurate account of the decrease in crop yield. "No one has done this kind of comprehensive study. It is a unique project and quite critical for the region. Putting development in a historical context allows us to learn from and correct past mistakes."

As a complement to the historical analysis, McCusker and his team look at how climate change and deforestation affect economic choices. Instead of looking at climate change and suggesting that a country change from one agrarian crop to another to maintain sustainability, he and the team take a microeconomic approach and look at how people deal with change on the ground. Where and how far are they traveling from home to supplement their income? What kind of manageable incremental changes can be made to help maintain economic sustainability for the area?

He and his team hypothesize—among other ideas—that climate change in Malawi will lead to massive urbanization as families move from rural communities to take advantage of jobs in urban areas.

"When examining diversity in economic

development, many economists do not look at space, distance, environmental variables, or characteristics of families," McCusker said. "They tend to focus on broad economic trends, not on the people who create them. As a geographer and social scientist, I wanted to look more closely at how climate change and location affect people's economic choices."

This summer research experience was a profound one for the undergraduates, each of whom had to undertake a research project of their own while abroad. Napier studied health clinic access; Poster, agricultural education in the primary schools; and Renzelli and Kayser, food aid programs. They came to Malawi with tremendous idealism, discovered big problems, and left with a renewed sense of purpose to tackle development issues head-on.

They describe a sense of frustration with current U.S. development policy and the effectiveness of non-government organizations. The group's frustration does not manifest itself in a defeatist attitude. Instead it motivates a desire to find viable solutions.

Examples of a disconnect between Western aid workers and the local people became apparent to the undergraduates when they observed the survey process. One of the survey questions asked what the villagers viewed as their biggest health concern. One local woman said diet and exercise. Malawians are predominantly subsistence farmers; they have very little food, and their daily life is one of constant physical exertion.

"It was like a surreal joke. We know that some aid worker told her that she should be concerned about that, but for her life, it's not practical advice," said Emily Kayser.



The team in Mbewa. (Front, left to right) Chris Napier, Emily Renzelli, Kat Fichtel, Emily Kayser, and Joe Hodge. (Back) Matthew Wood and Brent McCusker. Not pictured, Domenick Poster.

Emily Renzelli continues, “We came away with more questions than answers. How can sustainability be achieved in a country where nature itself is the enemy? Can viable alternatives to subsistence farming be found? Will the current economic development policies help or hurt the people of Malawi?”

All of the participants in the program see opportunities for change in Malawi. They also were changed by the trip.

Chris Napier, whose interest in international aid work began during a visit to Haiti with a family friend, was the first to articulate the group’s frustration. “We had this gung ho idea that we were going to come for a month and make all these changes, make a ‘real’ difference, and we realized that things are more complicated. Meaningful change takes time and a lot of work and study.”

Kat Fichtel and Matthew Wood benefited from primary source research materials, which will inform both graduate students’ theses.

Emily Kayser’s emotional connection to Malawi is palpable. You can hear how much she was affected by the experience when she speaks about the country’s scenic beauty and

its people. She appreciated the slower pace of life and the people’s connection to the land and their families. She and one of the project enumerators, Eurabie Limonde-Chikwita, became good friends and continue to correspond regularly.

She sums up the feelings of the whole group: “I would go back in a minute, today if I could.”

Like Mount Mulanje dominating the skyline, Malawi’s problems seem larger than life. Issues of poverty, environmental degradation, and ethical questions about U.S. development policies will require dialogue, research, and a collaborative approach to find solutions.

The research of Brent McCusker and Joseph Hodge is an important step in the right direction. The passion that they have cultivated in their students through this summer study abroad experience ensures that a new generation of scholars will search for the answers to these global problems. ■

*Brent McCusker graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in geography and international studies from WVU in 1995. He received his master’s and doctoral degrees from Michigan State University in 1997 and 2001, respectively, where he studied food security, human-environment interaction, livelihood, and land-use change in southern Africa. He completed postdoctoral research at WVU as an assistant professor from 2001-02. Currently, he teaches courses in geog-*

*raphy with a focus on Africa, land use, climate change, and sustainable economic development. McCusker has been working in southern Africa since 1994.*

*Joseph Hodge earned a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Waterloo in 1990, a master’s degree in sociology and international developmental studies from the University of Guelph in 1993, and a doctorate in history from Queen’s University at Kingston in 1999, all located in Ontario, Canada. He joined the faculty of WVU in 2005. His research analyzes the various connections among science, economics, culture, and politics of colonial development in east Africa.*

## Undergraduate Academic Enrichment Program

Students enrolled in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences participate in hands-on, real-world activities that complement, extend, and enhance their academic experiences at West Virginia University. The Undergraduate Academic Enrichment Program supports study abroad programs, like those featured in this publication, as well as field trips, internships, workshops, research projects, and public service work.

Established in 1996 as part of WVU’s Centennial Celebration, the program is funded by generous gifts from private donors. In 2007, 241 Academic Enrichment Program Awards were given to students.

To become a supporter of this program, contact Bonnie Fisher at 304-293-4116 or via e-mail at: [Bonnie.Fisher@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Bonnie.Fisher@mail.wvu.edu). You may also send a gift using the enclosed business reply envelope.



# Trafficking

Photos by Neil Newfield

For the past three years, the Division of Social Work has offered a summer study abroad program to Vietnam through the Office of International Programs. The Division maintains a linkage agreement with An Giang University in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam.

This summer WVU and An Giang University students and Vietnamese and Cambodian social service workers addressed childhood development and behavioral problems, poverty, AIDS, domestic violence, child abuse, and sex trafficking at a three-week conference.

The experience was chronicled in a blog. To learn more, go to [vietnam.sitespace.wvu.edu](http://vietnam.sitespace.wvu.edu).

**Right:** Mother number two, as she is affectionately known, prepares rice for approximately 100 children at the Khai Tri or Compassion School. The school feeds, clothes, houses, and educates at-risk children with an annual budget of only \$10,000.

**Bottom Left:** Jim Keim, director of the Southeast Asia Children's Project and adjunct assistant professor of social work at WVU, engages students in a training program supported by Project ADAPT (An Giang/Dong Thap Alliance for the Prevention of Trafficking). Students learn to embroider, which creates income for their families and reduces the risk of them being sold into sex work.

**Bottom Right:** Thao (left), a social service worker from Vietnam and Chanti (center), a Cambodian social service worker and interpreter, speak with a father who was considering selling his daughter to a brothel in Malaysia. As a result of this intervention, the man did not sell his daughter.



# Digital Democracy

by Rebecca Herod

Robert DiClerico, the Eberly Family Distinguished Professor of Political Science and a respected presidential historian, calls the 2008 election one of the most exciting of his lifetime.

“The most striking difference between this election and those of the past, aside from the diversity of the candidates, is the use of the Internet and digital media,” said DiClerico. “It has truly invigorated the democratic process by tapping into a base of low-dollar donors and grassroots organizers.”

R. Scott Crichlow, associate professor of political science, calls the digital media revolution a significant change in the political landscape.

“In many ways, the advent of digital media has had a more profound effect on the political process because the Internet does not allow the candidates to control their message and talking points in the same way that televised debates do,” said Crichlow. “Digital media has elevated and enhanced the participatory nature of our de-

mocracy, creating a conversation that television never could.”

Crichlow points out that the interactivity of the medium allows voters to dig deeply into very specific issues such as health care, the environment, or foreign policy. The downside to this openness is that unchecked reporting may be presented as fact. This can deter the electorate’s ability to make informed decisions.

DiClerico concurs and warns that while the Internet provides an amazing opportunity for grassroots mobilization and fundraising, it can also be a powerful tool for misinformation, rumor, and innuendo.

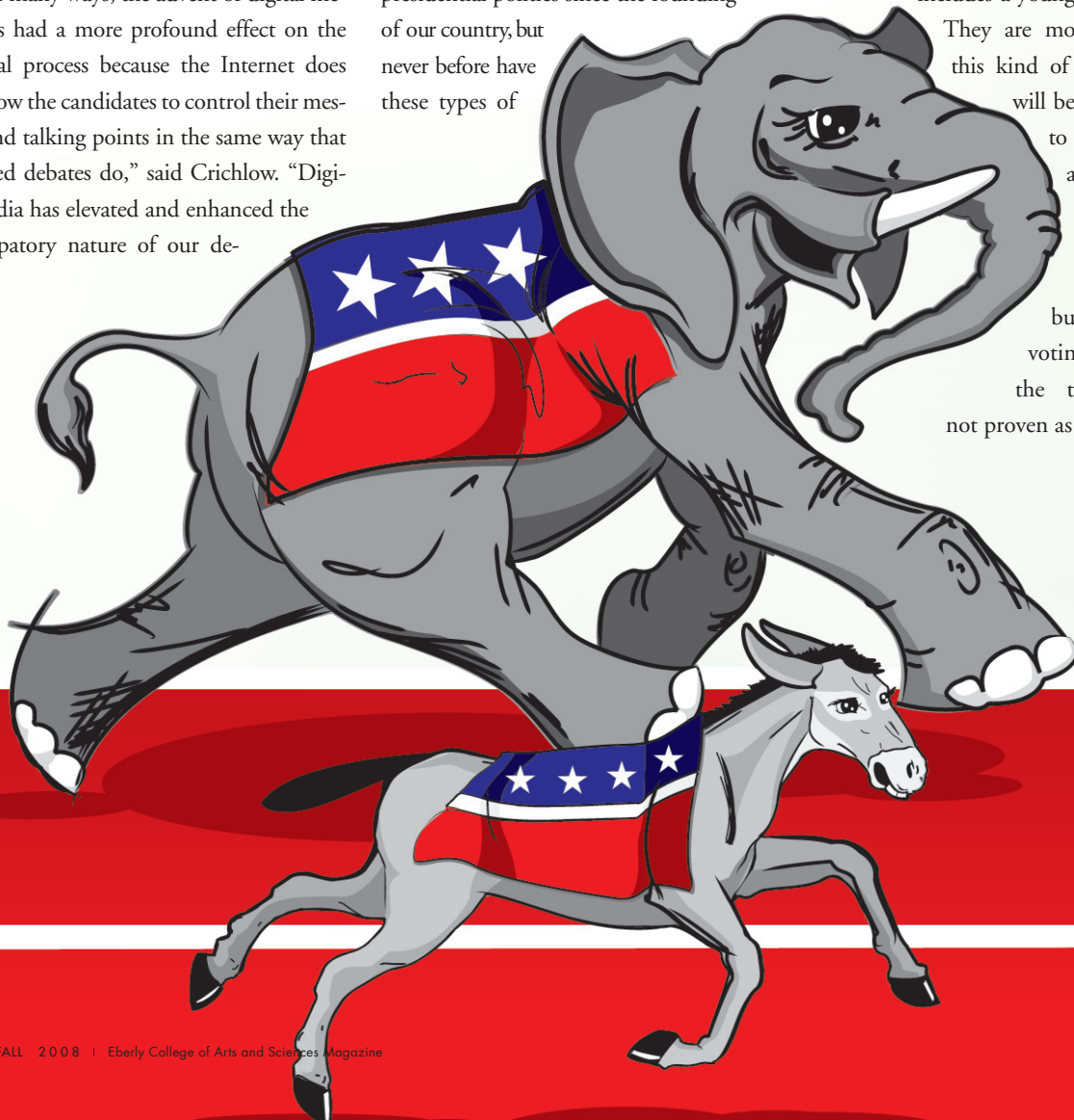
“Smear tactics have been a part of presidential politics since the founding of our country, but never before have these types of

personal attacks been able to circulate so widely and reach so many, so quickly,” said DiClerico. “The Internet gives this kind of anonymous and base attack a momentum that it could never achieve prior to the digital age.”

Both DiClerico and Crichlow believe that, on balance, the digital media revolution is a good thing. It allows people more avenues to receive information quickly, to mobilize politically, and to participate in the democratic process.

When asked why the Democratic Party seems to have an edge in the use of this technology, DiClerico responded, “The party associated with a message of change typically includes a younger base of voters.

They are more familiar with this kind of technology, and will be more responsive to it. Republicans are using technologies like e-mail, blogs, and social networking sites, but because their voting base is older, the techniques have not proven as effective.”





Crichlow anticipates that the Republican Party's use of e-mail, blogs, and social networking sites will continue.

"We've seen how effective these mediums can be, demographics aside, and both parties will continue to use digital media to get their messages to the people. The GOP will mobilize to draw younger voters to its base, and both parties will capitalize on the technology for grassroots fundraising."

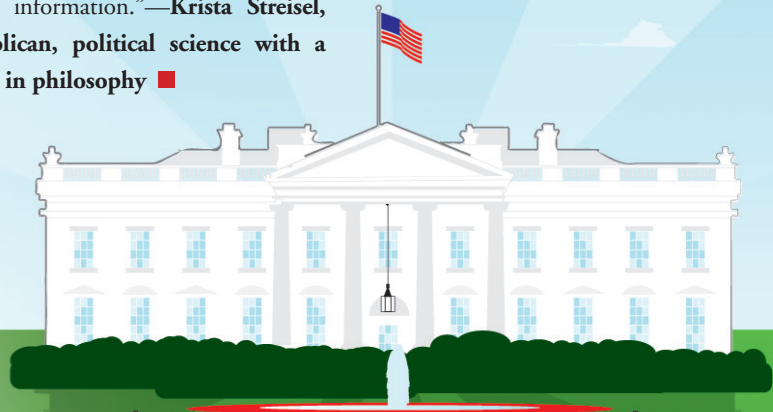
## What are Eberly students saying about digital media and politics?

"I rely on them [blogs] primarily for analysis. For instance, I enjoyed reading different opinions about the 'lipstick on a pig' controversy involving Senator Obama, but I went to the original transcript of his remarks to develop my opinions based on the context of his statements. By using the Internet as a tool, I have access to stories that traditional media does not cover in depth, and I can form a better opinion by comparing and analyzing the conservative and liberal blogs."—**Joseph Schaeffer, Libertarian, international studies and German**

"The Internet makes it easy to access international points of view about our political process. It's good for looking at the issues from a different perspective. I visit the BBC online site to see what Europeans have to say about the candidates and the election."—**Nick Seitz, Democrat, criminology**

"I use my iPhone to receive news bulletins from Ann Coulter and, when I have time, I watch FoxNews. I think that

traditional cable news sources and the mainstream media in general are very biased, so the Internet gives me the opportunity to hear other voices. I don't have time to sit in front of the computer, so the mobility of the phone makes it really convenient for me to get information."—**Krista Streisel, Republican, political science with a minor in philosophy** ■



**NOVEMBER 4th**

*Robert DiClerico is a national authority on the American presidency. His teaching and research specialties are American politics, presidential politics, political parties, electoral behavior, and the politics of agenda-setting. He is the author of Voting in America (ABC-CLIO, 2004) and The American President 5th ed. (Prentice-Hall, 2000), and has co-authored and edited a number of other books about American politics. He serves as the WVU campus representative for both the Rhodes and the Truman Scholarship foundations.*

*R. Scott Crichlow teaches and conducts research on international relations, U.S. foreign policy, political psychology, and Middle Eastern politics. His current research focuses on how group decision-making dynamics and the beliefs and personality traits of political leaders affect foreign policy. He has published articles in the Journal of Conflict Resolution, International Studies Quarterly, and Political Psychology.*

*Let us know how you feel about the use of digital media in the political process by going to [eberly.wvu.edu](http://eberly.wvu.edu) and selecting the Contact Us option at the top right corner of the page.*

# Fulbright Scholars

The United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board have awarded Fulbright Scholar grants to WVU professors Charles “Sandy”



Baldwin and Rebecca M. Chory. Recipients of Fulbright Awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

Baldwin will be a visiting lecturer in cultural studies at the Institute for English and American Studies at the University of Klagenfurt in Austria. “Their strength in media studies and literature meets my interests,” says Baldwin. “I’ll be introducing some new topics and approaches to their department. I’ll also be working with faculty there to seek out future collaborations.”

Baldwin, associate professor of English and director of the WVU Center for Literary Computing, specializes in the interrelations between literature and media technology, avant-garde writing, 20th century American literature, and critical theory. His work imagines the future of literary studies in a digital age. As director of the Center for Literary Computing, he facilitates interdisciplinary research projects in the poetics of new media and the media ecology of literary institutions, using Web-

technologies, multimedia, hypertext, audio/video, and virtual environments.

His scholarly work explores media technologies as rhetorical and aesthetic objects, asking how media structure our thought and experience. His particular focus is on continuities and borrowings between literary theory and theories of digital multimedia. Current research areas include Net art as a literary genre, avant-garde writing as a precursor of multimedia, the narrativity of computer games, and the cultural implications of nanotechnology.

Baldwin also directs many collaborative projects at WVU, such as the University 101 game, a pioneering computer game orienting WVU undergrads, and “A Map of Home,” a multimedia snapshot of people’s relation to Morgantown as home. During the last year he has directed the National Science Foundation-funded Codework Project, an exploration of intersections between creative writing and computer programming.

Rebecca M. Chory, associate professor of communication studies, is the first professor

from the Department of Communication Studies to receive a Fulbright Award. An expert in her field, she will be a visiting lecturer on American media entertainment in Hungary at the Budapest College of Communication and Business. Chory specializes in entertainment media portrayals and ef-

fects, media violence, public communication campaigns, organizational communication, and research methods. Her work in Hungary will emphasize how messages found in entertainment programs influence beliefs, feelings, and behaviors. “As the Hungarian mass media system assumes more democratic functions and becomes increasingly market-driven, entertainment media content is mirroring American content. This is a relatively new phenomenon for Central and Eastern European countries that were formerly under Soviet rule,” says Chory. “I hope to help Hungarians understand the effects of this type of entertainment media on their culture and themselves. As my paternal great-grandparents emigrated from Hungary to the U.S., teaching in Hungary was my top priority. I want to give something back to the country of my family’s origin.”

Chory’s past works explore the effects of violent video games on young adults, television viewers’ involvement with their favorite characters, and aggressive communication in the workplace.

The Fulbright Program, America’s flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program’s purpose is to build mutual understanding between



the people of the United States and the rest of the world. The program operates in over 150 countries worldwide. Baldwin and Chory are two of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright Scholar Program in 2008. ■



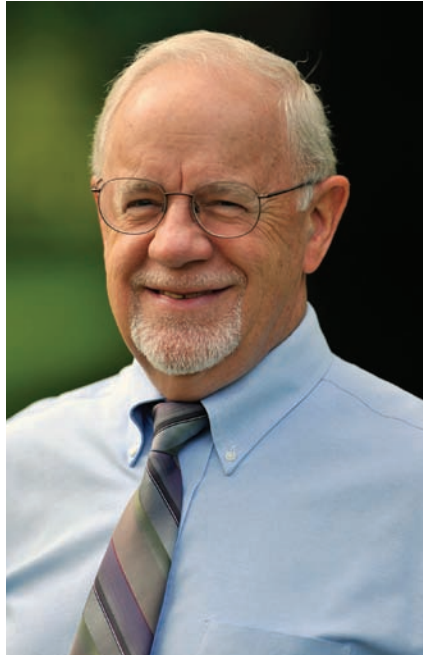
## Regional Scholar, International Impact: A Tribute to Ron Lewis

compiled by Corissa Greer

Ron Lewis served WVU for 23 years. He held administrative appointments as chair of the Department of History and as interim director of the Regional Research Institute. He also held faculty appointments as the Eberly Family Distinguished Professor of American History and as the Stuart and Joyce Robbins Distinguished Chair in History. Lewis retired in December 2007.

“I recently had the pleasure of attending a conference at West Virginia University that showcased the work of Ron’s many past and present graduate students in regional history. Their affection and respect were palpable and the quality of their scholarship was indicative of the lasting impact of an inspiring teacher, a fitting testimony to Ron’s craftsmanship as a historian and educator. I admire him greatly.”—**Dwight Billings ’70, Professor of Sociology, University of Kentucky**

“Ron has always been concerned with advancing historical scholarship by making it relevant, academically rigorous, and accessible outside the academy. To these ends, he took time from his own research so that he could mentor students, reinvigorate two historical journals, help revitalize a university press, contribute mightily to a variety of professional associations, and guide the public’s understanding of state and regional history. He is also one of the most generous scholars one could hope to meet; I feel privileged to have worked with him and call him my friend and colleague; I expect to be working with him for many more years.”—**Ken Fones-Wolf, Professor and Stuart and Joyce Robbins Distinguished Chair in History, WVU**



histories of America and Wales and of miners all over the world. Ron’s true scholarship, humanity, sense of place, and dry wit make him a real joy to work with.”—**Bill Jones, Co-director of the Cardiff Centre for Welsh American Studies and Reader in the School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff University, Wales, UK**

“As a scholar, Lewis has the ability to take local history and place it into the context of national and global history; or to take national and global history and reduce it to an individual person in a particular place and time. He makes connections others often fail to see.”—**Connie Rice ’94, ’98, ’07, Lecturer, WVU Department of History**

“Ron Lewis had a major impact on my academic career, but it’s difficult to describe

*“Ron Lewis is one of the finest professors in the nation. Son and grandson of a coal miner, he devoted his career to pioneering research on the history, economics, and social development of Appalachia.”* —**Andrew M. Isserman, Professor of Regional Economics and Public Policy, University of Illinois**

“Ron Lewis is one of the finest professors in the nation. Son and grandson of a coal miner, he devoted his career to pioneering research on the history, economics, and social development of Appalachia. His books are the model of clarity and full of lessons about why things are the way they are today and how they could be different. I treasure the time we spent together in Morgantown and other coal regions of the world. He was an outstanding contributor to the intellectual life of the Regional Research Institute and the campus, a man of incredible insight and dedication.”—**Andrew M. Isserman, Professor of Regional Economics and Public Policy, University of Illinois**

“It has been a great pleasure to collaborate with Ron Lewis for nearly 20 years. We share a friendship and a deep interest in the

how he did it. I guess his style could be described as subtle. A pertinent suggestion here, a thought-provoking conversation there...somehow these all added up to have a strong influence on my work. He led by example, as a prolific yet thoughtful scholar who is guided by the questions he asks rather than by a desire to show what he knows. Wise and modest, he genuinely cared about his students, but did not direct them—he wanted us to find our own paths.”—**Deb Weiner ’95, ’02, Research Historian, Jewish Museum of Maryland. ■**

*To find out how you can provide a lasting tribute in honor of Ron Lewis, or another Eberly professor who affected your life, contact Bonnie Fisher, director of development, at [Bonnie.Fisher@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Bonnie.Fisher@mail.wvu.edu).*



## McLaughlin Receives Sloan Fellowship

**One of the best young astrophysicists in North America has found a home at West Virginia University—a place where she can unlock the secrets of the universe.**

Maura McLaughlin, who distinguished herself in 2006 by helping to discover a new class of radio-bursting collapsed stars, known as Rotating Radio Transients, has been named a 2008 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow.

She was one of only 23 physicists in the United States and Canada selected for the fellowship. Outside of physics, only 95 other researchers in the early stages of their careers received the award, which includes fields such as chemistry, biology, and computer science.

As a Sloan Research Fellow, McLaughlin joins an extremely distinguished group. Since the awards began, 35 fellows have gone on to win the Nobel Prize, and 14 have received the Fields Medal, the top honor in mathematics.

“This is an extraordinarily competitive award, involving nominations for most of the very best scientists of your generation,” Paul L. Joskow, president of the Sloan Foundation, said in his award announcement letter to McLaughlin.

McLaughlin is the second WVU researcher—and only the second in the state—to receive a Sloan Research Fellowship. Mohindar Seehra, an Eberly Family Distinguished Professor in physics at WVU, received the award in 1973.

The fellowship includes a grant of \$50,000 for a two-year period (\$25,000 per year). Sloan Research Fellows may use their grants in a flexible and largely unrestricted manner

to further their research. McLaughlin will use her grant to support her work with the Pulsar Search Collaboratory. The collaboratory engages West Virginia high school students and teachers in a massive search for new pulsars using data taken with the Green Bank Telescope. The project is funded through nearly \$900,000 from the National Science Foundation.

“The Pulsar Search Collaboratory will give West Virginia high school students the chance to make groundbreaking discoveries like finding exotic pulsar binary systems, pulsars with planetary systems, or pulsars spinning faster than currently thought possible,” McLaughlin said. “What would be really exciting is if we found a pulsar orbiting a black hole. This would allow us to make many new measurements and learn even more about the universe.”

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation provides grants for science, technology, and the quality of American life. The goal of the Sloan Research Fellowship Program is to enhance the careers of the very best young faculty members in selected fields of science at American and Canadian universities and colleges.

You too can unlock the secrets of the universe with a visit to the Tomchin Planetarium. Tickets are free. Contact John Hopkins at 304-293-3442, ext. 1443 for reservations.

For a complete listing of shows, including the annual holiday shows, visit <http://physics.wvu.edu> and select the **Tomchin Planetarium** link.





## Science and Math Are Out of This World

Charles Jaffé, a chemist whose research bridges the disciplines of chemistry, physics, and mathematics was elected a fellow of the American Physical Society—an honor reserved for less than one percent of the organization's 40,000 members and awarded after a rigorous peer-review process. Jaffé was nominated and subsequently elected as a fellow for his fundamental discoveries in the theory of transport in atomic, molecular, and celestial mechanical systems.

His work synthesizes concepts originating in the theory of nuclear reactions and chemical reactions and couples them with the complex mathematics of chaos theory. His research provides unique insights into understanding the stability of the solar system.

Eric Heller, professor of physics at Harvard University, describes Jaffé's research as "beautiful and mathematically elegant work."

Jaffé specializes in transition-state theory as applied to celestial mechanics, atomic physics, and chemistry. He has taught chemistry at all levels; given lectures in many countries, including France and Japan; and has numerous publications.

He joined the faculty at WVU as an assistant professor in chemistry after receiving his doctorate in chemical physics from the University of Colorado in 1979. He earned his bachelor's degree in physics from Antioch College in 1973.

Jaffé's other honors include the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences 2008 Outstanding Researcher Award, American Society of Engineering Education/NASA summer faculty fellow at California Institute of Technology and a visiting associate professorship at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid in Madrid, Spain.

The American Physical Society, founded in 1899, is a professional group whose mission is to advance the knowledge of physics. The APS Fellowship Program was created to recognize members who have made advances in knowledge through original research and publication or made significant innovative contributions in the application of physics to science and technology. Recipients may also have made significant contributions to the teaching of physics or service and participation in the activities of the society.

### OUTSTANDING FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

- Siobhan Byrne**  
Department of Physics, Outstanding Staff
- Charles Jaffé**  
Professor of Chemistry, Outstanding Researcher
- Larry Nichols**  
Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Outstanding Researcher
- Laura Pyzdrowski**  
Associate Professor of Mathematics, Outstanding Public Service
- Debra Swinney**  
Department of Psychology, Outstanding Staff
- Matthew Vester**  
Associate Professor of History, Outstanding Researcher

### EBERLY COLLEGE ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS

- Jon K. Hammock '88**  
President, KeyLogic Systems Inc., B.S. in Computer Science
- Vaughn Kiger '66**  
President, Old Colony Realty, B.A. in History
- Chuck Kinder '65, '67**  
Author and Director of the Creative Writing Program, University of Pittsburgh, B.A. and M.A. in English
- Asra Nomani '86**  
Journalist, Author, and Social Activist, B.A. in Liberal Arts and Sciences

### EBERLY DEPARTMENTAL ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS

- Edgar O. Barrett '52**  
Athletic Director (Retired), Marshall University, B.A. in English
- Irene C. Berger '76**  
Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit in Kanawha County, West Virginia, B.S. in Mathematics
- Tina J. Cartwright '94**  
Assistant Professor of Science Education, Marshall University, B.A. in Geography
- Philip E. Comer '55, '65**  
Professor Emeritus, WVU Department of Psychology, Former Director of WVU Carruth Center for Counseling Services, B.A. in Economics, Ph.D. in Psychology
- Rebecca L. Fitzsimmons '06**  
Special Agent, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, B.S. in Forensic and Investigative Science
- David C. Hardesty, Jr. '67**  
Former President of West Virginia University, A.B. in Political Science
- Samuel A. Hickman '77**  
Director of Social Work Services, Memorial General Hospital (Elkins), CEO, National Association of Social Workers – WV Chapter, M.S.W. in Social Work
- Thomas E. Hunt, Jr. '50**  
Orthopaedic Surgeon Emeritus, Johns Hopkins University, A.B. in Pre-Medicine
- Charles E. Merrill '87**  
Family Practice Physician, affiliated with Selby General Hospital, B.A. in Biology and Religious Studies
- Harley F. Mooney, Jr. '54**  
U.S. Army Brigadier General (Retired) and Managing Partner for Mooney-Osborne & Associates Management Consultant Services, B.A. in History
- Keith P. Tomlinson '87**  
Manager, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Vienna, Virginia, Regents B.A.
- Gregory J. Totterdale '72, '74**  
President, Totterdale Group Inc., Irving, Texas, B.A. in Mathematics, M.S. in Statistics

# The Magic of New World Literature

by Lauren Peretti

**Kayode Ogunfolabi** wants you to join him in rediscovering our world. It is a world populated by strange, mythical characters.

In it the mundane becomes marvelous, the terrible and sublime coexist in equal magnificence side by side, time shifts backward and forward in inexplicable ways, and the imagined is as real as the tangible. It sounds like an escapist fantasy, but it is actually a world that demands rigorous analysis and intellectual questioning.

Ogunfolabi recently joined the Department of English and lives and works in the field of new world literature. His research centers on literature from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Southern India—specifically the genre of magical realism.

Magical realism uses elements of fantasy and myth alongside the mundane and normal events of everyday life. Characters experience a reality that includes fantasy and myth as fact, miracles as ordinary, and the mundane as miracle. Men and women are both beast and god and emotion is a powerful force that can manifest as action. Ogunfolabi describes it as literature of hope that translates shared values across cultural, religious, and geographical lines.

“As our world shrinks through global-



ization, our worldview must become more expansive and inclusive,” said Ogunfolabi. “The study of new world literature exposes students to different voices and cultures while illuminating the undeniable commonalities of all humankind.”

To experience the power of magical realism and voices of some of new world literature’s best authors, Ogunfolabi recommends adding the following books to everyone’s must-read list: *Shame* by Salman Rushdie, *Autumn of the Patriarch* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy, *Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Dangarembga, and *The Seven Solitudes of Lorsa Lopez* by Sony Labou Tansi.

Kayode Ogunfolabi received his bachelor’s degree with honors in English studies, and his master’s degree in literature in English from Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ile, Nigeria, in 1992 and 1998, respectively. He received a second master’s degree in comparative literature in 2003, and recently earned a doctoral degree from Michigan State University. Prior to joining WVU, he taught English and literature courses at

Michigan State University and Obafemi Awolowo University. He is a member of the Association of Nigerian Authors, African Literatures Association, and the Midwest Modern Language Association.

In his free time, Ogunfolabi enjoys writing poetry and reading the occasional airport novel (crime and adventure paperback). He also enjoys playing soccer and chess.

In addition to books, consider renting films that incorporate magical realism like *Amelie*; *Big Fish*; *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*; *O Brother Where Art Thou?*; or *What Dreams May Come*.

For a list of more books and movies with elements of magical realism, visit <http://eberly.wvu.edu> and select the **Alumni** link.



# Jordan Connects with WVU

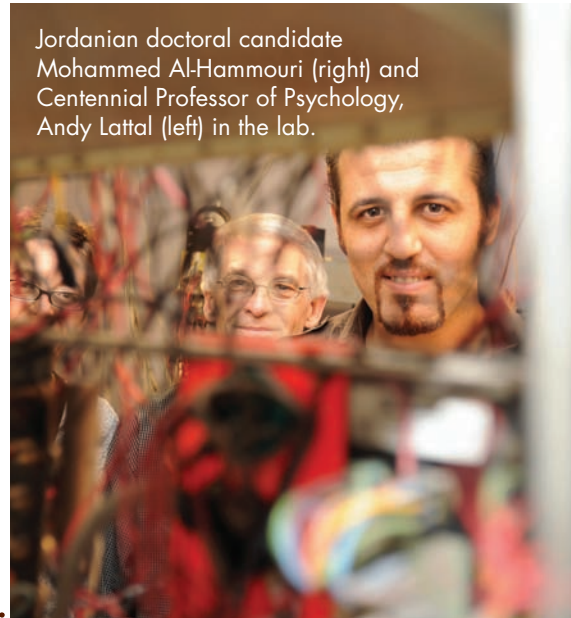
Behavior analysis is quickly gaining ground as the best method of treatment for disorders such as autism. The United States leads the world in this field and West Virginia University has one of the country's most respected programs.

Mohammed Al-Hammouri and Tariq Al-Dwaikat have been sent to WVU by the Jordanian government to receive doctoral training in behavior analysis. Upon completion of their degrees, the two men, who are trained nurses, will be responsible for creating their country's first training program in the field at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

"We are seeing more international interest in behavior analysis as other countries move away from older, more traditional, psychological models in favor of this more effective contemporary approach," said Andy Lattal.

WVU's program was recommended to the Jordanian government by the Association for Behavior Analysis.

Jordanian doctoral candidate Mohammed Al-Hammouri (right) and Centennial Professor of Psychology, Andy Lattal (left) in the lab.



## Ciao, Italian Studies

From Mussolini to Cicciolina to Berlusconi, no one can say that the study of contemporary Italian politics is dull.

This fall, Alessandro Cagossi, graduate teaching assistant of Italian and political science, is presenting a new course on the subject. The class covers the evolution of the Italian political system from World War II to the present-day. The first half of the course studies the

post-war settlement and the economic boom of the 1960s.

The second half analyzes Italy from the 1970s to the 1980s with particular focus on the era of collective action, problems of internal terrorism, and chronic governmen-

tal instability. Other areas of discussion and study include a look at the corruption created by the Mafia's penetration into state politics, the first left-wing government led by Romano Prodi, the rise of media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi as a political leader, and the role of Italy in the European Union.

Between spring 2000 and fall 2005, enrollments in Italian studies courses increased over 300 percent. Cagossi's course is just one example of the College's efforts to expand the offerings of the program at WVU. To meet the demand of students and further enhance interdisciplinary, international programs, a proposal for an Italian studies major is being developed, with a beginning target date of fall 2009.

*For more information about the major, please contact Matthew Vester, associate professor of history and coordinator of Italian Studies, at Matt.Vester@mail.wvu.edu. To find out how you can support the creation of the new major, contact Bonnie Fisher at 304-216-6801 or via e-mail at Bonnie.Fisher@mail.wvu.edu.*



# Chinese Studies Comes to West Virginia University

After the extensive media coverage of the summer Olympic games in Beijing, there can be no doubt in the minds of Americans that China is positioned for exponential growth in the coming decades.

Building strong relationships with China will be a priority of U.S. government and industry for years to come. In order to help fill the need for a U.S. workforce proficient in the Chinese language and culture, the WVU Department of Foreign Language now offers a major and minor in Chinese Studies.

Chinese Studies at WVU is an interdisciplinary program. Language courses utilize modern technology to help students learn the language skills they need in the 21st century. The main goal of the program is to provide students with strong knowledge of Mandarin

Chinese in conjunction with a solid general background in Chinese cultural literacy including history, literature, political science, religion, and philosophy. The Chinese Studies Program complements initiatives already in place in the Colleges of Business and Economics and Creative Arts, as well as the Office of International Programs.

WVU has already received recognition and support of its Chinese Studies Program from the government of China. Minister Counselor for the Education Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China,

Dr. You Shaozhong, visited WVU in April as part of the University's Cultural Attachés Program. Impressed with WVU's program and its existing partnerships with China, the Embassy agreed to offer a unique, all-expenses paid, language immersion scholarship to a WVU student.

"With China's tremendous economic growth and its emergent political power, the task of increasing the number of American students who can demonstrate a functional proficiency in Chinese and a general understanding of Chinese culture is undeniably urgent," said Hannah Lin, Johnson Clinical Professor and coordinator of the Chinese Studies Program.

*The Chinese Studies Program is supported by an endowment from the estate of J. Vance and Florence Highland Johnson. For more information about how you can help the Chinese Studies Program grow, contact Bonnie Fisher, director of development, at [Bonnie.Fisher@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Bonnie.Fisher@mail.wvu.edu).*

View "Demystify the Dragon," Hanna Lin's Homecoming lecture, at <http://eberly.wvu.edu> by selecting **WVUiTunesU**.



Most of us were exposed to scientific experimentation at a very young age. We grew up with television shows like the 1950's NBC favorite *Mr. Wizard*, Nickelodeon's *Mr. Wizard's World*, and *Bill Nye the Science Guy*. We participated in science labs as early as elementary school and, regardless of our major; we all took a required chemistry, biology, or geology lab to fulfill our science requirement in college. Many of us take for granted the easy access we have to hands-on science; cable television programming, well-equipped lab facilities of our primary and secondary schools, and the ability to order a chemistry set from Amazon.com seem commonplace. As Americans, we have many educational opportunities, and access to laboratory science is certainly one of them.

That is not the case around the globe. Believe it or not, there are science majors at international universities in the developing world who study complex scientific theory but have never seen or participated in an experiment in a laboratory setting. That includes students studying at the graduate level.

In 2005, a conversation between Ken Showalter, professor of chemistry at West Virginia University, and Rajarshi "Raj" Roy, professor of physics at the University of Maryland, at an International Centre of



# Opening a World of Discovery

by Rebecca Herod





Strong bonds of friendship developed between the students, both in and out of the classroom. Photo by Ken Showalter.

Theoretical Physics (ICTP) conference sowed the seeds for an idea that would take hands-on scientific experimentation to students of the developing world.

ICTP is a United Nations sponsored institute for promoting scientific research and science education in the developing world. It was established in 1964 by Nobel Laureate Abdus Salam and has since hosted hundreds of schools at its campus in Trieste, Italy. Leading scientists from the U.S. and other developed countries give lectures and tutorials to participants from countries in the developing world. For many scientists from poorer countries, like Cameroon, Nigeria, Thailand, and Peru, ICTP is their only lifeline to pursue scientific research and to improve science education at their home institutions.

Impressed by the good work of ICTP, Showalter and Roy wondered whether there might be some way to involve the U.S. in such endeavors. After their initial meeting

in 2005, Roy contacted Harry Swinney, a prominent scientist specializing in tabletop experimentation at the University of Texas, and the three began efforts to develop a program modeled after the excellent schools and workshops run by ICTP in Trieste. Those initial conversations led to the development and implementation of the Hands-On Research in Complex Systems School, which is affiliated with and supported by ICTP.

The Hands-On Research in Complex

The emphasis is on tabletop experiments conducted by instructors who specialize in and have carried out advanced studies that have been published in leading journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, and *Physical Review Letters*. Tabletop experiments are ideal for initiating research in the developing world because they are inexpensive and involve relatively simple instrumentation.

The first Hands-On School was held January 6-18, 2008, at the Institute for

*“I was very impressed by the camaraderie that developed between the students over the two-week school, especially considering that they were from so many different countries and had such different cultural backgrounds,” said Showalter.*

Systems School involves U.S. instructors and is held at institutions in the developing world. As the name suggests, the Hands-On School is not like a typical scientific meeting, with participants listening to lectures on the latest advances in the field. Instead, the school involves laboratory experiments in which students carry out hands-on research.

Plasma Research in Gandhinagar, India. Eight experimental sessions were offered, with equipment shipped, carried in suitcases, or provided by the host institution. A ninth session focused on hands-on training in the use of a leading data acquisition and analysis software package called Matlab. In addition to West Virginia University, professors and





Street scene in Gandhinagar, India. Photo by Ken Showalter.

their assistants from Emory University, University of Maryland, Olin College, Georgia Institute of Technology, City University of New York, University of Texas, and the Institute for Plasma Research in India presented experiments.

Approximately 250 undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral associates, and junior professors from 42 developing countries applied to attend the first session of the school. In order to ensure a high instructor-to-student ratio, 45 students from 21 developing countries were invited to attend. Participants came from Brazil, Cameroon, China, Columbia, Egypt, India, Iran, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Trinidad, Tunisia, Turkey, Vietnam, and the West Bank.

Days began with the senior faculty giving overview lectures so the students would be able to participate in the hands-on laboratory sessions later in the day. The lab sessions included experiments on coupled chemical oscillators, vibrated granular materials, metronome synchronization, and thermal convection, Brownian motion, microscopy and complex fluids, networks of electronic gates, fluid dynamics in concentric rotating cylinders, nonlinear dynamics in laser systems, and dynamics of nonlinear electronic circuits. The one non-experimental hands-on

session taught techniques of computer data acquisition and numerical modeling.

“I personally have never seen students so enthralled with a laboratory experience. That enthusiasm made the hands-on experimental sessions especially rewarding for me,” said Showalter.

Each day, five or six students carried out experiments or computer modeling in each of the hands-on sessions, and the next day they rotated to a new session. In the second week of the school, students were able to return to sessions they were particularly interested in to carry out advanced experiments.

“I was very impressed by the camaraderie that developed between the students over the two-week school, especially considering that they were from so many different countries and had such different cultural backgrounds,” said Showalter.

Showalter and his fellow directors, Roy and Swinney, will hold the next school July 27 through August 7, 2009, at the Federal University of ABC at Santo André, near Sao Paulo, Brazil. The third Hands-On School will be co-hosted by Cameroon and Nigeria and held at the University of Buea in Cameroon August 2 through 13, 2010. It will focus on countries in sub-Saharan Africa. ■

See what else is going on in WVU's Department of Chemistry at <http://chemistry.wvu.edu>.

## Dust Off Your Science Terminology

**Brownian motion** (named in honor of the botanist Robert Brown) is the random movement of particles suspended in a liquid or gas.

**Turbulence** is fluid flow that is marked by irregular motion and chaotic behavior. Turbulence arises in liquids like water and in gases in the atmosphere.

**Chemical oscillations** are found throughout nature, particularly in biological systems such as cellular oscillations and metabolic processes like glycolysis. Studies of coupled oscillators provide insights into collective behavior such as how individual oscillatory heart cells couple to produce the beating heart.

**The use of microscopy** in studies of colloids allows scientists to track particles, which otherwise would not be possible. Tracking particle motions permits an understanding of the properties of these complex systems of solids suspended in liquids.

**Laser** is an acronym for “light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation.” A laser is a device in which atoms or molecules are stimulated to emit light at particular wavelengths, typically producing a very narrow beam of radiation.





*"I love teaching. To me, it's cheering someone on to do things they never thought possible and guiding them to achieve their greatest potential."*





# SilverMoon

by Lauren Peretti

**For SilverMoon, coming to WVU was like coming home.**

When she met her colleagues in the Department of History, she instantly felt as though they were old friends she had known for years, and was surprised at how quickly she fell in love with the University and the Morgantown community. “I feel inspired, challenged, and accepted here,” said SilverMoon about the Eberly College. “There’s a great collegiate atmosphere that offers various opportunities for collaboration, and the community is so friendly and helpful.”

The new assistant professor of Latin American history never expected such a degree of general hospitality. Neighbors were cutting her grass, the local doctor was calling to check on her ten-year-old daughter’s cold, and people she had just met were inviting her to dinner parties. Before she knew it, she and her husband, Michael Ennis, Ph.D., were regulars at the Saturday farmer’s market and the Rail Trail had become one of the family’s favorite places to relax.

In the same way the Eberly College welcomed SilverMoon to WVU, she welcomes students to class. Her friendly, pleasant manner puts students at ease and her encouraging attitude challenges even the most unmotivated student. Growing up, her teachers believed in her and now she wants to inspire others to believe in themselves. She is a teacher, mentor, and friend who describes her work as less of a job and more of a calling.

“I love teaching. To me, it’s cheering someone on to do things they never thought possible and guiding them to achieve their greatest potential,” says SilverMoon, who once motivated a failing athlete to graduate with honors. “I want to do my part to make the world a better place.”

SilverMoon believes that getting to know her students individually makes them less nervous in class and more likely to take an interest in Latin American history. She makes learning fun through interactive lectures, and often invites students to join discussion groups outside of class. She hopes to encourage study abroad programs in Mexico and the Yucatan for students to study the Aztec (Nahuatl) and Maya languages and to experience life among indigenous people.

Her two courses this fall discuss socio-political and cultural issues from pre-conquest America to colonial and modern Latin America, and examine the indigenous people’s struggle to find their identity, sustain their religious beliefs, negotiate with others, and control epidemics during colonization.

Inspiration for SilverMoon’s research is her heritage. Born in the Canary Islands of Spain, she takes special interest in researching the indigenous people there because her ancestors experienced Spanish colonization, the effects of which still exist today.

Much of her investigation surrounds the Nahua Franciscan school for indigenous elites in New Spain (today’s Mexico) from 1500-1760, which was intended to prepare indigenous boys to be mediators in the colonization process. Many came to hold positions of power in the Spanish world. Throughout her research, she has collected names and stories of those who attended the school and is currently exploring how they navigated within their culture from the lowest ranks to positions of power. Populations endangered by colonialism or conquest survived by redefining their cultural difference as a source of empowerment. They were able to

cross between the two worlds: colonizer and colonized. The Aztec have a term for that space in between. They called it “nepantla,” meaning neither here nor there.

The only thing SilverMoon loves more than teaching is learning. She is the first in her family to attend college, and not only does she speak and teach Spanish, but she also works in English, Italian, Latin, Greek, French, German, and Classical Nahuatl.

Nahuatl was the language spoken by Aztecs during the Spanish conquest and it functioned as a *lingua-franca* between speakers of other languages. It is spoken today by millions of indigenous people in Mexico.

When SilverMoon isn’t studying the lives of indigenous people, she enjoys taking nature walks and gardening to clear her mind. She also likes doing more intricate activities, such as quilting and building miniatures with her daughter. Most recently the two built Hogwarts from the Harry Potter series, complete with tiny books and realistic rooms. ■

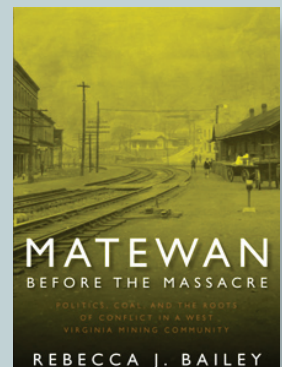
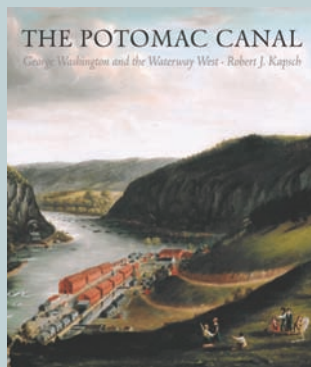
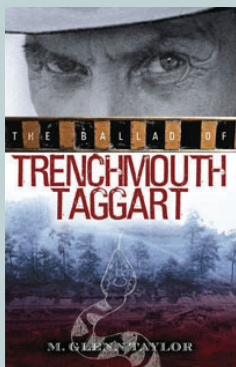
*SilverMoon earned her bachelor’s degree in modern languages and a master’s degree in history, both with concentrations in Native American studies, from Montana State University in 1997 and 1999, and her doctoral degree in history from Duke University in 2007. Prior to joining WVU, she taught history and Spanish at North Carolina State and Duke University. Her area of expertise also includes Native American, Mesoamerican and early modern transatlantic studies; world history and globalization, and ethnohistory.*

# The New Ambassador of WVU Publishing

by Lauren Peretti



Carrie Mullen, new Director of the WVU Press urges readers to attack books as they do life, with passion.





**Carrie Mullen loves the publishing industry,** but this southern California native never really aspired to join the field. Her interest lay in international politics, specifically arms control and nuclear nonproliferation.

In college at the University of California she studied political science and learned to speak Spanish and Russian. She went on to earn a master's degree in government and foreign affairs from the University of Virginia, all in the hope of entering the U.S. Foreign Service.

After she finished her thesis, Mullen needed a job to keep her afloat until she could take the Foreign Service exam. During her thesis research she repeatedly came across the name Sage Publications, Inc., a publishing company located in her hometown of Thousand Oaks, California. She accepted a position as editorial assistant at Sage Publications and quickly moved on to become an acquiring editor.

Fortunately for WVU, the job at Sage Publications was a surprisingly perfect fit. Instead of becoming an ambassador for the U.S. government, she became one for the publishing world. Mullen served as executive editor of the University of Minnesota Press, and, most recently, the director of publications for the Carnegie Endowment for Inter-

national Peace in Washington, D.C. As the new director of the West Virginia University Press, she is writing a new chapter for herself and for the Eberly College.

"I wanted to get back to University press publishing," says Mullen about why she decided to come to WVU. "There's an emphasis on quality, standards, and attention to detail in higher education that is unlike other places I have worked."

She plans to continue publishing books about West Virginia history, Appalachian music, fiction and poetry, and medieval studies. Additionally she hopes to expand more into the social and natural sciences.

"I hope, with the help of everyone at the Press, to build our national reputation," said Mullen, who has been in publishing for nearly 18 years. "We have a great track record of success, and I am excited to market it here in West Virginia and beyond." ■

*To purchase Press publications or support the activities of the WVU Press go to [wvupress.com](http://wvupress.com).*

## Carrie Mullen's Recommended Reading

### ***The Miracle of Castel Di***

**Sangro**, a memoir by Joe McGinnis, includes two things that Mullen loves – traveling to Italy and playing soccer. The author tells an inspiring story of the unlikely success of an absurd, ragtag, minor-league soccer team during a summer spent in a small, Italian village.

Fans of the television show *Six Feet Under* will enjoy ***The Loved One***, by Evelyn Waugh. This short, satirical novel set in a funeral home and pet cemetery in Los Angeles grapples with the dichotomies of the sacred and the mundane with biting wit and humor.

### ***Wilma: The Story of Wilma Rudolph***

is a biography of the first African-American woman to win three gold medals in track and field during the 1960 summer Olympic Games in Rome, Italy. Her triumph, despite running on a sprained ankle, elevated the status of women's track in the United States. This book is ideal for all ages.

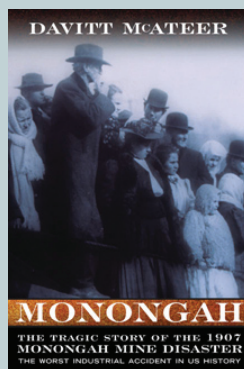
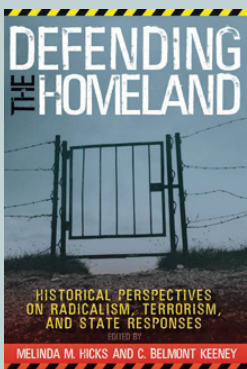
### ***The Ballad of Trenchmouth Taggart***

a novel by M. Glenn Taylor, follows the life and times of Trenchmouth Taggart, the oldest living man in West Virginia. Trouble seems to follow him as he goes through life—with stints as a sniper in the mine wars, musician, and prize-winning reporter—but he always finds a way to triumph. This WVU Press publication is a 2008 Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection.

### ***Purchasing Power: Black Kids and American Consumer Culture***

by Elizabeth Chin is an exposé examining what it means to be young, poor, and black in our consumer culture.

Find these award-winning books and more at [wvupress.com](http://wvupress.com)



# Out-of-this-World Science, Down-to-Earth Scientist

by Lauren Peretti &  
Rebecca Herod



Recently a video game called Spore hit the market. In it, players have the ability to create and guide the evolution of their own species, from single-celled microbe to full-fledged, space traveling civilization. In the game, players make choices on how to evolve and safely survive in a world populated by other creatures. The game has five levels: cell, creature, tribe, civilization, and space.

While most of us need to purchase a game like Spore to experience what it is like to create an organism, biologists such as Letha Sooter are doing it on a regular basis. Her love of science and her desire to serve her country motivate her work.

Sooter joined WVU this fall as an assistant professor of biology. Her work focuses on in vitro selection. Using DNA or amino acids, Sooter creates organisms called molecular recognition elements. These are species that have an affinity for or bind to specific compounds and materials.

She developed a handheld assay system with the Army Research Lab in Adelphi, Maryland, using nucleic acid and peptide binding sensors for the detection of biological, chemical, and explosive warfare agents. Current work with molecular recognition elements is being used to help in the detection of chemical toxins. These elements can detect threats to homeland security.

“No other nation on earth has the freedoms and privileges that we do,” says Sooter. “I have great love and tremendous pride for our government, and it is my honor to do research that helps the U.S. defend itself.”





Just like the creatures in *Spore*, Sooter's in vitro selection work has possible applications to aid in human space travel to Mars. Her examination of bacteria (*E. coli* and *Deinococcus radiodurans*) growth explores the evolution and resistance of single-celled organisms and their exposure to radiation present on the Martian surface. As Sooter applies radiation to bacteria, a new phenotype is isolated that may one day be used to provide oxygen and a rich food source for astronauts living and working on Mars.

Sooter is currently teaching upper-level undergraduate biochemistry and a new special topics course on in vitro selection to both undergraduate and graduate students. Her unique teaching style includes real-world experiences. She invites speakers who are

to build mechanical robots with Lego blocks, something she also enjoys.

Sooter is the first biologist hired to collaborate with WVNano. The WVNano Initiative is the State of West Virginia's focal point for nanoscale science, engineering and education (NSEE) research, workforce development, and economic development. At WVU, WVNano is a multi-disciplinary, faculty-driven effort that is the catalyst for campus NSEE discovery and innovation, shared resource stewardship, and culture.

"WVNano was a huge selling point for me," she said. "I am very excited about having a center that draws from diverse areas of the University to further nanoscience and nanotechnology. I believe WVU's collaborative environment and state-of-the-art facili-

*"I am very excited about having a center that draws from diverse areas of the University to further nanoscience and nanotechnology. I believe WVU's collaborative environment and state-of-the-art facilities will enable us to be leaders in today's research communities."*

working in the field and distributes ads so her students can prepare for the job market. She also has a genuine concern that all of her students learn the material and often teaches it three different ways to ensure that every student understands.

"I love seeing a student's eyes light up when they understand the material. It makes my job worthwhile," said Sooter.

Higher education is not the only area where Sooter uses her science skills to help people. She would like to implement the Lego Mind Storms program in middle schools in the Morgantown community. She says the program challenges children to use math, engineering, and computer concepts

ties will enable us to be leaders in today's research communities."

Letha Sooter double majored and received her bachelor's degree in biochemistry and genetics from Texas A&M in 1999, and earned a doctoral degree in biochemistry from the University of Texas at Austin in 2004. She was born in Oklahoma and grew up in Japan and Malaysia. In her spare time, she collects art glass and spends time with her pets, Tsukiji, a cat named after the largest fish market in the world, and her dog, Hachiko, a black Brussels Griffon. Visit Letha Sooter's website at <http://sooterlab.org>.

To learn more about WVNano visit <http://wvnano.wvu.edu>. ■

## Dust Off Your Science Terminology

In biochemistry, everything is defined relative to whether it is done inside a cell, **in vivo**, or outside a cell, **in vitro**.

A **selection** is the act of isolating one or two molecules that have a desired function from a starting library of ten million different molecules.

**Nanotechnology** encompasses devices and instruments that are very small, around  $10^{-9}$  meters in size. A piece of paper is approximately 100,000 nanometers thick.

A **phenotype** is a visible or measurable characteristic of an organism.

## Making Connections

**Speaking of Spore**, WVU alumnus, Chaim Gingold, worked with famed Sims creator Bill Wright to develop the game. Gingold received his bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering with a minor in English in 2001. He is the son of Harry Gingold, a professor of Eberly's Department of Mathematics.

The Eberly College's **Center for Literary Computing (CLC)** in the Department of English explores the narratives of computer games. See the article on page 16 for a story about Sandy Baldwin, the CLC's director, and visit <http://clc.wvu.edu> for more information about the intersections between literature and digital media.

# With Help of Alumni, Fisher Hopes to Propel Eberly to New Heights

by Patrick Curry

Bonnie Fisher, the former director of development and alumni relations for the Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Sciences, is now the director of development with the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences.

Fisher is no stranger to the Eberly College. She received her bachelor's degree in 1983 in history and her master's degree in public history in 1986. Additionally she served as the associate director of development from 2001 to 2004. She is looking forward to working with alumni to advance several exciting projects in the College.

"Private investment has created a vibrant and thriving Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. This year we are challenging ourselves to break all previous fund-raising records," said Mary Ellen Mazey. "Alumni investment today will ensure that we remain strong and continue to grow our national and international reputations."

One of the most important projects for Fisher in the coming year will be the Research Trust Fund, a West Virginia state funding program that will allocate \$35 million dollars to WVU on the basis of a 1:1 match for private dollars and will benefit several areas of research at West Virginia University. These areas include energy and environmental sciences, nanotechnology, material science; biological, biotechnical, and biomedical sciences; and biometrics, security, sensing, and



related identification technologies.

"The investment of this money will be influential in sparking long-term economic growth, the potential for patenting and licensing, as well as commercialization of scientific research in the state of West Virginia," Fisher said.

She also spoke of her desire to seek out alumni and friends of the University who are interested in helping to fund graduate fellowship programs.

"Funding for graduate fellowship programs is crucial in attracting the best students and will only help to bring the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences and West Virginia University into the national spotlight," Fisher said.

Another project that Fisher hopes that Eberly College of Arts and Sciences alumni

will embrace is White Hall, which is undergoing renovations to become the new home of the Department of Physics. The updated building will feature a new telescope and planetarium dome for the Astronomy Program. The Department of Physics has established a fund in honor of Jack Littleton, a former professor of physics at WVU. The new Littleton Observatory, to be built atop White Hall, is scheduled for completion in 2010.

Fisher replaces Rudy Almasy, who returns the Department of English to teach on a full-time basis. If you have questions about or would like to participate in these initiatives, please contact Bonnie Fisher at 304-293-4116 or via e-mail at [Bonnie.Fisher@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Bonnie.Fisher@mail.wvu.edu).