

RONALD W. COLLINS DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARDS

EMU's best earn Distinguished Faculty Awards

Watson stresses medium of television as agent of social change

For stories on other Distinguished Faculty Award recipients, see stories on pages 2-3.

By Ron Podell

Ever since she watched the newscasts of the Kennedy assassination and its aftermath as a fifth grader in Catholic school, Mary Ann Watson has been riveted with the medium of television. Today, she is a renowned television historian who sometimes appears on the small screen herself, offering anecdotes on the early history of television, including comment on those fateful days in Dallas in November 1963.

Now, Watson has been recognized by her peers for her longtime expertise.

Watson, professor of communication and theatre arts, is the recent recipient of the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Award for Scholarly/Creative Activity.

The Scholarly/Creative Activity Award is granted based on a nominee's record of scholarly and creative activity in publications, performances and other professional recognition, such as grants in support of activity.

"Everyone in academic life looks for the affirmation that what we do is deeply worthwhile," Watson said. "That's not an easy thing to measure. The next best thing to know is



MASTER OF HER DOMAIN: Mary Ann Watson, professor of communication and theatre arts, teaches her "Introduction to Telecommunications and Film" class. Watson is the recent winner of the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Award for Scholarly/Creative Activity.

that you're appreciated. It's good to know the institution feels you're part of it, that the work you're doing enhances it."

In her 13 years at Eastern Michigan University, Watson has

published two books, "The Expanding Vista: American Television in the Kennedy Years" and "Defining Visions: Television and the American Experience Since 1945." She also has pub-

lished 20 articles, four reviews and three encyclopedia entries; presented seven invited lectures and four conference papers; served as a consultant on two PBS documentaries and two major museum exhibitions; served on four professional advisory boards; is current chair of the "Television Quarterly" Review Board; was guest editor for an issue of the "Journal of Popular Film and Television;" and served as an expert for scores of newspaper articles and media reports.

"I've been able to pursue scholarship that can be disseminated more broadly than traditional scholarship through public programs, and radio and television interviews," said Watson. "After publication of my first book, that was the credential that probably labeled me as an expert (in the history of television) with the popular press."

"Mary Ann Watson's scholarly contributions to her field are highly regarded and she enjoys a national reputation as a broadcast analyst and historian of considerable note," said Dennis Beagen, department head of communication and theatre arts.

As a fan of television, Watson said her alter ego

SEE WATSON, page 4

EMU students showcase forensic skills while preparing for national competition

By Carol Anderson

Thanks to a special summer forensics program at Eastern Michigan University, two freshmen now are headed to the National Forensic Association Championship April 15-19 at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Ill.

Kyle Zrenchik, of Westland, and Vanessa Boatright, of Shelby Township, were introduced to forensics during Summerquest, a two-week, intensive learning program offered at EMU to 10-12 graders. Now that training has paid off.

To prepare for the national competition, Zrenchik and Boatright were among the six freshmen who performed in a freshmen-only forensics presentation April 6 at the Phelps/Sellers residence hall lounge. The entire award-winning forensics team then staged six performances April 7 in EMU's

Sponberg Theatre.

Ray Quiel, director of forensics at EMU, said Summerquest helps expose students to collegiate competition, which is more intense than high school. Quiel, who has been with nearly every EMU forensics team, said he expects the team to place in the top five this year at nationals. EMU's forensics team has won the nation's top spot 10 times since 1973 and 29 of the last 33 state titles.

"Summerquest is a very intense teaching activity. I worked one-on-one with some of the best coaches. It (the experience) made me better prepared for theatre," said



Quiel

Zrenchik, an 18-year-old theater major.

During the April 6 performance, he said his secret visual aid lent itself to understanding his humorous after-dinner speech entitled "The Communication Gap Between People With a Disability and Without."

Boatright, a 19-year-old communications major, will perform poetry dealing with sexual awareness and how parents respond to questions about sex.

"Summerquest helped my confidence level and my work ethic," said Boatright, who plans to be a speech coach after graduation.

Summerquest is a University strategic plan initiative that was created to provide an intensive experience for talented and gifted high school students while at the same time identify potential EMU student recruits.

For more information about forensics, contact Ray Quiel at 487-0320.

Leapard reaches students 'wounded' by math

By Carol Anderson

M&Ms make friends. The candies also can be used to help future elementary school teachers pass along mathematical concepts to their pupils in an understandable way.

Barbara Leapard, assistant professor of mathematics, sets the stage for her class to learn spreadsheet teaching methods by supplying her students with bags of M&Ms. Each student counts the number of pieces in their bag and inputs the total in a class spreadsheet. Students then calculate the overall totals and the breakdown of each color per bag.

Leapard recently won the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Teaching I Award for her dedication to helping students become more mathematically competent. The award is given to faculty with less than five years of teaching at EMU.

"My overriding philosophy of teaching is that I can teach any math concept to any student, given the proper timing and opportunity," Leapard said.

Leapard said that many of her students are the "mathematically walking wounded," meaning they have had unpleasant mathematical encounters. Leapard takes these students

from their current situation and works to improve their math abilities and confidence.

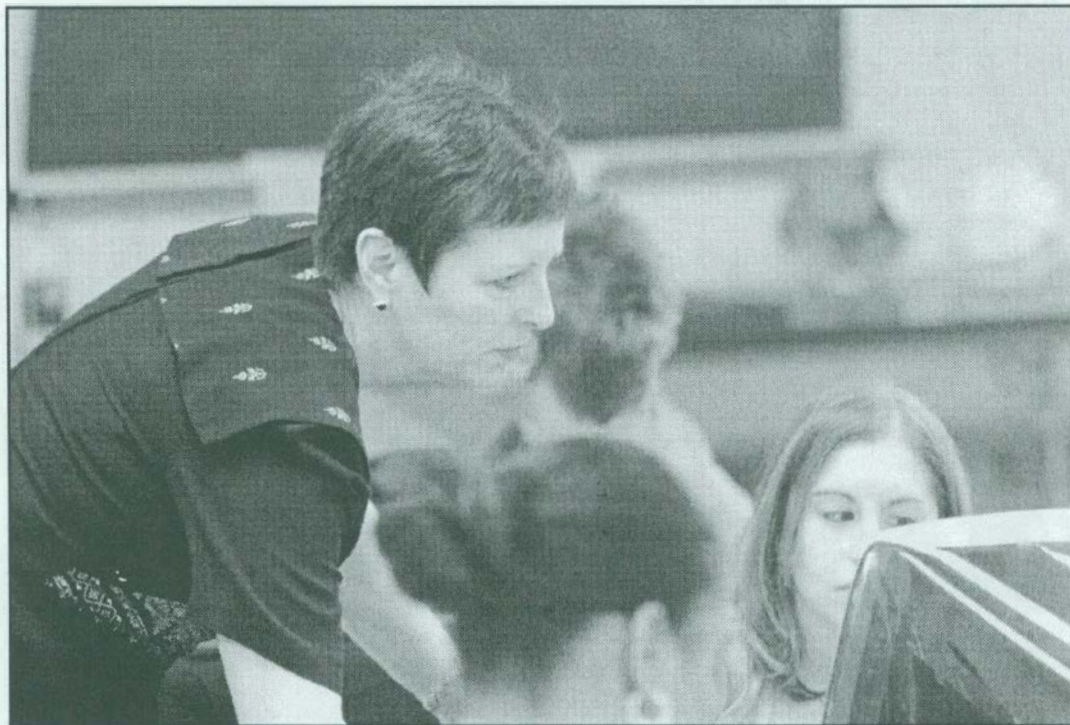
"The most troubling aspect is that these students with these wounds will be the math teachers of tomorrow," she said.

During one of her lessons, she stresses to her students the importance of "patty papers" when teaching geometry. The thin paper used to separate hamburger patties can be used to teach an entire year of geometry, she said. By just folding a sheet of paper, a teacher can illustrate parallel lines and line intersection, she said.

"This award is a challenge for me to keep learning and improving," Leapard said. "Teaching math is so different now than before. It's more hands on and more interesting."

But it wasn't always that way. In college, Leapard majored in German. It was only at her counselor's urging that Leapard added math as a second major. Leapard recalled how much fun she had learning math in high school with Miss Velma.

"Miss Velma was an excellent teacher. Her system (of teaching) was wonderful, but I don't know what it was," said Leapard, who discovered her math teacher had died before she could inquire about her system.



MAKING MATH FUN: Barbara Leapard, assistant professor of mathematics, assists a student in her "Calculators and Micro-Computers in Elementary Math Education" class. Leapard was recently named winner of the Distinguished Faculty Teaching I Award.

After teaching 16 years in South Carolina secondary schools, Leapard joined her husband, Dave, at EMU in 1993. Leapard was a lecturer until 2000 when she was hired as a full-time, tenure-track assistant professor.

When teaching a class about computers and calculators for elementary math teachers, she cautions her students to make sure their pupils know how to do

the math problems in longhand before giving them a calculator.

"If pupils just insert numbers and press buttons on a calculator or 'plug and chug,' there isn't any thinking," Leapard said. "There's no understanding of the process. I believe that competency must come first before confidence can be increased. For future elementary school teachers, this is imperative."

Leapard earned her doctorate

in mathematics education from the University of Toledo; a master's degree in mathematics education from the University of South Carolina; and a bachelor's degree in mathematics and German from Georgia Southern University.

"By instilling a love of mathematics in my students and preparing them to teach the subject, I hope that I am an inspiration for my students," she said.

Seely's love of language fuels teaching career

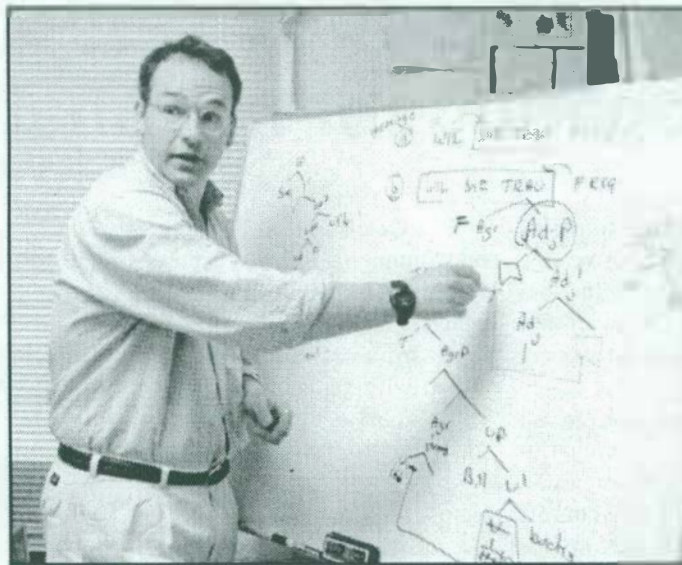
By Summer Wilhelm

When Daniel Seely was young, he didn't think of himself as one of those "smart" kids or professor types. In fact, teaching never really crossed his mind until he met his 11th grade French instructor, who was into existential philosophy. After that, he was hooked.

However, his plans for teaching philosophy were never realized. Late in his collegiate career, Seely took a linguistics course, thinking it would be a nice "detour" from his core classes.

"The first minute of the first day of the first course I took in linguistics, I knew I was hooked," said Seely, professor of English language and literature at Eastern Michigan University. "That 'detour' has lasted 20 years and I don't think I'm going to find my way back."

Seely is the chair of EMU's linguistics program and a professor who specializes in the sub-area of theoretical syntax, or the understanding of the nature of the human faculty for language.



SEELY DAN: (left) Dan Seely, professor of English language and literature, prepares a syntax lesson for one of his classes. Seely recently was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Teaching II Award, given to faculty members with five or more years of service.

He also is the recent recipient of the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Teaching II Award, given to faculty members with five or more years of teaching.

"I was very pleasantly surprised when I got the call informing me I had won the award," said Seely, who came to EMU in

1988. "It means a great deal to me because the University has given me a lot. I have a job I love and I work with faculty, staff and students that I admire. This award means that maybe I've been able to give something back; that students have been able to leave my class with a differ-

ent perspective on the world of language."

In the classroom, Seely tries to replicate the way the real world works in order to help students understand the nature of syntax or language. Through experimentation and varying presentation techniques, he encourages students to find answers to difficult questions.

"I don't stress memorization," said Seely. "I try to actually 'do' linguistics; to ask students the hard questions, such as, 'what is language and why is it the way it is?'"

From there, they can refine the question, gather data, recognize a pattern and explain their conclusions."

Seely urges students to let the obvious amaze them and to find new ways to look at ordinary things. Once that happens, he said, people will begin to ask different questions and unearth diverse results.

"The joyfulness of inquiry and discov-

SEE SEELY, page 4

Barton recognized for years of service to EMU

By Kathleen Shields

During her nearly 30 years at Eastern Michigan University, Daryl L. Barton has served on numerous committees and helped shepherd projects for the greater good of the institution. Barton likens the impact of every single EMU employee providing service to one of her favorite pastimes — building jigsaw puzzles.

"I would like to have a big jigsaw puzzle, with the EMU logo in the middle, surrounded by lots and lots of white space," said the marketing professor. "I would use that to display what happens when any one piece of a puzzle is missing. It is not complete. It is not the best that it can be."

Barton said that people do not frame unfinished puzzles, hang them on the wall, or show them off with pride. Even one missing piece means it gets tucked under the couch.

"That's how this university is. Everybody matters. Every voice needs to be heard, because everybody is that important," Barton said.

Barton was recently recognized for her importance when she was the recent recipient of the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Award for Service to the University.

Barton joined the EMU faculty in 1975 and became committed to service very early on. She has been active at the university committee, general university and community levels, and with the College of Business. On Faculty Council alone, she has been a departmental representative, executive board member, University calendar committee member and was recently appointed Faculty Council president.

In Barton's nomination packet, Martha Tack, senior executive for presidential initiatives, wrote, "Daryl's

commitment to our institution, its students and her faculty colleagues is clearly demonstrated by her willingness to help wherever her expertise is needed and to commit as many hours as necessary to 'get the job done.' "

Barton said that her commitment to committee work is shaped by a number of factors, including her experi-



AT YOUR SERVICE: Daryl Barton, professor of marketing, discusses her many service contributions to Eastern Michigan University. Barton recently was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award for Service to the University.

ences as an EMU student. In 1998, Barton earned a bachelor's degree in biology from EMU and is currently pursuing a master's degree in biology here.

"I know how our students feel about some issues, because I am or have experienced them myself," Barton said. "It's good to take that perspective into a meeting

where decisions that affect students will be made."

The EMU biology degrees are Barton's fourth and fifth. She earned a bachelor's degree in computer and communication science in 1970; a master's degree in computer, information and control engineering in 1971; and a law degree in 1975, all from the University of Michigan.

Barton said that her legal training is most evident, and helpful, when she is in the midst of a group that must take into account the needs and wants of a number of disciplines.

"We do tend to protect our own, whether it's a department or a project," she said. "Attorneys are trained to recognize that and trained to attempt to mediate a solution that works for the common good."

Barton believes that committee service is important because it keeps departments and individuals focused on University-wide goals.

"My first committee experience was working on the University calendar. I believe that every employee should sit on that committee because it's a real eye-opener," she said. "You sit there as a professor, with your agenda, hoping that classes will be scheduled to start later so you have a longer summer vacation, or you can get your children settled into their school year before you start yours, and then you see how each little 'want' affects every other department."

For instance, Barton said she was amazed when she learned what housing and dining have to have completed in the small window of time after summer programming ends and fall semester begins.

"You come away with a new appreciation for the way the whole institution must work together," Barton said.

Technology wave

Students use software to shrink wrap boats

By Carol Anderson

Covering boats, or shrink wrapping them, has entered the computer age.

LaChelle Mound, of Superior Township, and Robinette Killins, of Detroit — seniors in the apparel, textiles and merchandising department — are using Gerber software to digitize boat cover designs for the Transhield Company. The students are using a shrink-wrapped miniature boat model as an example of the end result of their hard work.

This project, headed by Julie Becker, director of EMU's Textiles, Research and Training Institute, involves scanning Transhield Company's boat-cover patterns. As an overhead laser pointer moves over a design, which is laid out on an 82 x 300-inch table, the image is digitized or traced into a computer. The students then adjust the measurements into a computer-aided design (CAD) program.

Some designs are so large, said the students, they have to scan it in sections and piece it together on the computer. The software can handle individual pieces up to 85 x 530 inches.

"We're the only university in the tri-state area using software like this," Becker



BOAT PROTECTION: (from left) Seniors LaChelle Mound and Robinette Killins, both apparel and textile merchandising majors, measure material to be used to shrink wrap boats. A model boat sits in the foreground.

said.

EMU is working with the company to build a CAD library of patterns that can be modified for any boat, Becker said.

Both Mound and Killins will continue to build the library after the winter semester. They have been offered internships with Transhield Company of Indiana this spring. The company will rent an apartment for the students and pay them to work at their headquarters.

EMU hosts 'Take Our Daughters to Work' Day

The Eastern Michigan University Women's Commission is sponsoring its annual "Take Our Daughters to Work" Day Thursday, April 22.

The day's schedule is as follows: drop off and check-in, 8:15-8:45 a.m. McKenny Union Ballroom; concurrent workshops, 9-11:45 a.m., McKenny Union; and a luncheon, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., McKenny Union Ballroom. All girls

must be picked up at the end of the luncheon. Daughters will spend time on the job with their parent or sponsor starting at 1 p.m.

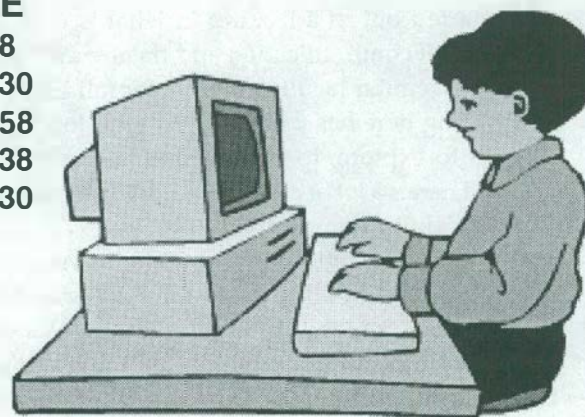
Registrants are limited to ages 9-12. If after registering you are unable to attend, notify Joanne Hansen at 487-0020, extension 2215, or e-mail her at joanne.hansen@emich.edu, as there has been a waiting list in previous years.

EMU BY THE NUMBERS

Eastern Michigan University began offering online courses in 1997-98, starting with 14 sections. Today, there are more than 250 sections available online. Below is a look at how the number of online sections has increased in the past five years.

EMU-ONLINE

1999-00	98
2000-01	130
2001-02	158
2002-03	238
2003-04	330



Source: Continuing Education

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Vacancy information may also be obtained by calling our 24-hour Jobs Line at 487-0016. Compensation/Employment Services office hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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FMSA0421 FM15 \$10.44 Production Kitchen Leader, Dining Services. Variable days and hours.

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would probably be Professor Andrea Haskell, played by Marcia Gay Harden in the short-lived series, "The Education of Max Bickford."

"I thought that was such a terrific show about academic life. Whoever wrote that had been on the inside (of academia)," she said.

She's also a big fan of "The West Wing," but laments that for those who love the medium, "these are sad times," pointing to such low-brow fare as "The

Jerry Springer Show" and a good share of reality television.

"What I'm not a fan of are shows that intentionally humiliate persons," she said. "Standards are lower than they've ever been. There's no quality control. With so many channels now, anything's going to find an outlet. Some things aren't worthy of an outlet."

Watson stresses to her students — most who plan to produce television or commercials — that "with freedom comes

responsibility. Ideas have power. Words and images have consequences. I try to give them a sense there is a responsibility with the privilege of the medium."

Watson's sense of television's impact on society began when she watched the coverage of the Kennedy assassination and related events. It was heightened even more when, as a college student, she read Eric Barnouw's "History of Broadcasting in the United States," a trilogy of books about the medium's history.

"If I weren't a professor, I'd be a museum curator. It would be another form of teaching," Watson said.

Watson earned her doctorate, master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Michigan. She joined EMU's faculty as an associate professor in 1990 and became a full professor in 1995. While she is honored to have won a Distinguished Faculty Award, Watson said she values the longtime support of her teaching colleagues.

"I never feel that my colleagues question the value of studying popular culture," Watson said. "They understand it is as deserving of teaching as government, families and church as an agency of social change."

SEELY, from page 2

ery is really important," he said. "There's nothing greater than that."

Seely received his doctorate in linguistics from the University of Massachusetts and his bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Connecticut.

He currently serves on the English Personnel and Finance Committee; is the director of EMU's Polish Exchange Program; and is a referee for two journals, "Linguistic Inquiry" and "Natural Language and Linguistic Theory." He also is working on his second book with co-author Sam Epstein.

Throughout his career, he has received several awards and honors, including an Ambassadors Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Teaching; a Holman Learning Center Outstanding Faculty in Classroom Instruction Award; and an invitation to teach a course, "The Syntax of English," at the Linguistics Society of America Summer Institute in Linguistics in 2003.



"The students continually nourish me. We know different things; they share what they know and I share what I know. It's joyfully reciprocal."

Patricia Zimmer
Professor
Communication and
Theatre Arts

Why I teach at Eastern Michigan University

I came to Eastern in the summer of 1980 after attending graduate school at Florida State University. I started out as a lecturer in what is now the department of communication and theatre arts, and was hired as a regular faculty member for fall 1980.

Working here has provided me with lots of opportunities to explore, to challenge myself and try new things. There's a lot of creative freedom; because of this, the work always stays fresh.

The students continually nourish me. We know different things; they share what they know and I share what I know. It's joyfully reciprocal. And in a very literal way, students have introduced me to the world. During a recent sabbatical, I worked in Seoul, South Korea, with an alumna who teaches at the Korean National University of the Arts. I wouldn't have had that

opportunity at all if she hadn't attended EMU.

Another important part of life here is a sense of humor. Even when things are frustrating, there is always someone that helps heal the situation with humor. For me, that's like lifeblood.

I have no plans to leave here, although you never know what might happen. But, put it this way: when I first came to EMU, I thought I might stay two years. And here I am, all these years later. Every time I think of running for the woods, the creative freedom, diverse students and supportive colleagues keep pulling me back.