

EMU, East China Normal ink new agreement



CULTURAL EXCHANGE: EMU President Samuel A. Kirkpatrick (center) shares a light moment with East China Normal University Vice President Lizhong Yu (right) during a signing of an agreement between the two institutions that will allow an exchange of student teaching majors. George Klein (left), interim director, EMU's World College, looks on. Photo by Joe Dewey

By Ron Podell

It wasn't a Nixon-China summit and no cuddly-looking pandas were exchanged. But in a scenario of east meets west on a smaller scale, Eastern Michigan University and East China Normal University made a symbolic gesture March 5 to strengthen ties between the two educational institutions.

"We've had a relationship in the past and we'd like to enhance that with a new agreement," said EMU President Samuel A. Kirkpatrick, shortly before the signing ceremony. "We'll be looking at research opportunities and group exchanges."

Kirkpatrick noted the two universities already share something in common, with both institutions having some form of "east" in its name and that EMU used to be known as Michigan State Normal School in the mid-to-late 1800s.

"We started exchange programs in the early '90s (with EMU)," East China Nor-

SEE CHINA, page 4

Contis named interim dean of College of Arts and Sciences

By Ron Podell

Dr. Ellene Contis has been appointed interim dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, effective July 1, 2001. Contis, currently associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, will fill the position that becomes vacant after current CAS Dean Barry Fish returns to the faculty.

"Dr. Contis will have full responsibility for this position during her interim," said Interim Provost Michael Harris, who made the appointment. "She has a broad-based background of knowledge and experience in higher education."



Contis

"It's certainly an honor to be chosen and be able to continue the progress and the work Barry Fish so ably started," said Contis, who pointed to strategic planning and program review in the fall as key issues she will be involved with.

Contis termed the length of her appointment as "indefinite," but said a search for a permanent dean of the College of Arts and Sciences would begin after a new provost is chosen. A new provost is expected to be in place by June 1, if not earlier.

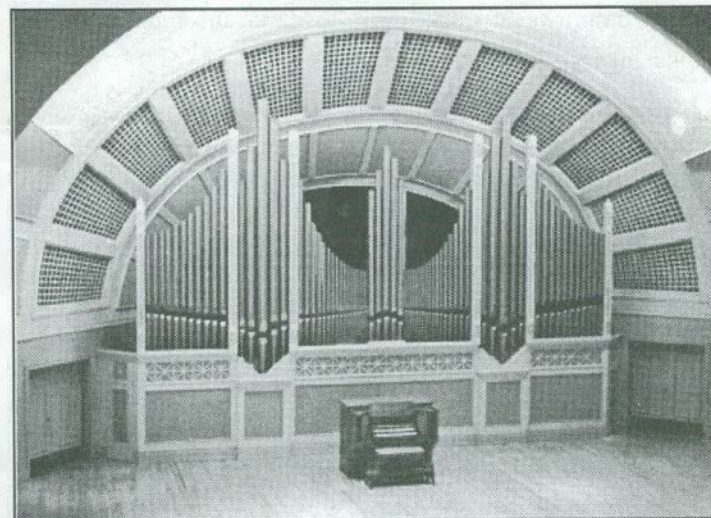
Contis began teaching at EMU in fall 1971 in the department of chemistry and received the Distinguished Faculty Award (Junior Teaching Award) in 1979; Josephine Nevins Keal Fellowship Awards in 1987 and 1990; and a Sabbatical Leave Award for 1990-91. Contis earned tenure in 1980 and served as a faculty member until her administrative assignment in 1990.

She received her bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University; her master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh; and her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Michigan.

"She has been in a key leadership role in the College of

SEE CONTIS, PAGE 4

Restored organ to be unveiled at dedication concert April 6



FROM THE ASHES: The Frederick Alexander Memorial Organ, restored to its full luster, will be heard for the first time in more than a decade during an inaugural concert scheduled Friday, April 6, 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium.

By Ron Podell

Like the mythical Phoenix, the Frederick Alexander Memorial Organ has risen from the musical ashes — piece by painstaking piece — and will receive its first public display and listen during a Pease Organ Inaugural Concert Friday, April 6, 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium. The concert is sponsored by EMU's music department and the EMU Foundation.

Delbert Disselhorst, head of the organ department at the University of Iowa, will receive first crack at making beautiful music on the 4,000-pipe, Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ. Disselhorst will per-

form Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue*, and the Reubke Organ *Sonata*.

Frederick Alexander, director of the Conservatory of Music and chairman of EMU's music department from 1909-41, bequeathed the Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ as a gift to the University. The organ, built in 1960, is of value because it was one of the last organs built before the company went out of business.

When Pease Auditorium was closed and scheduled to be renovated in September 1990, members of the music department came to the res-

SEE ORGAN, page 3

Frank Jones wins 2001 Tess Award for coatings research

By Tricia Couture

Frank Jones, Director of the National Science Foundation Coatings Research Center, was recently named the winner of the 2001 Roy W. Tess Award in Coatings.

The award, presented annually since 1986, is given to recognize outstanding contributions to coatings science and technology. The purpose of the award is to encourage interest and progress in coatings and recognize significant contributions to the field.

The award will be presented to Jones August 27 in Chicago during the 222nd Meeting of the American Chemical Society. The society's Polymeric Material: Science and Engineering Division (PMSE) presents the award.

"I felt pretty darn good," Jones said. "After a certain point in your life, you don't get daily compliments.

You do appreciate comments from peers and I guess this qualifies that way."

Jones is particularly noted for his research in the discovery and development of polymers for low-polluting, high-solids, solventless coatings.



Jones

With his co-workers, Jones has designed and synthesized innovative oligomers and has elucidated and controlled their cross-linking reactions to form solid films.

Jones has synthesized prototypical oligomers to test the influence of structure on coating properties, and has advanced the comprehension of two chemical reactions most important for cross-linking high-solids coatings: the reaction of polyols

with melamine-formaldehyde (MF) and with polyisocyanate resins.

His work has demonstrated that solventless liquid coatings may be commercially feasible for many industrial applications and has shown that MF resins can be cured at unexpectedly low temperatures.

Jones' service to the polymer community includes holding major office in the American Chemical Society's PMSE Division in the mid-1990s. He now serves as secretary of the Intersociety Polymer Education Council.

Jones graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio with a degree in chemistry. After Jones completed his graduate studies at Duke University, he did his post-graduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the DuPont Company. He then took a chairman's position at North Dakota State University in 1983 and came to

Eastern Michigan in 1990.

Jones said that the Coatings Center works on coatings for cars, home appliances, bridges and optical fibers.

"The thing that keeps me interested in the field is that it's constantly changing," he said.

Eastern's Coatings Program started in 1980 and is one of the nation's largest.

"Most students (that graduate from our program) are quite sought after and earn good salaries, comparative to chemical engineering," Jones said.

Jones has won numerous other awards, including the Faculty Research Fellowship, the Distinguished Faculty Award Joseph P. Matiello Memorial Lecturer Award, the Roon Foundation Award and he was a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow.

"This is as good an award as I have ever received," he said.

Porter experiments with improving car stereo systems

By Rashid S. Umar

Did you ever feel that the loudspeaker quality in your car's stereo system was not all that great? Did you ever wonder why?

Well, James Porter, a professor in the department of physics, has and has gone to some lengths to find out why and whether car acoustics can be improved.

Porter has been researching this subject at Eastern Michigan University since 1987, after Ford Motor Co. approached the University about funding a study on the quality of their automobiles' loudspeakers.

Ford was not only interested in expanding a basic understanding of audio, but also in developing a strategy for transferring to American loudspeaker suppliers the technology necessary to enable them to maintain a competitive position in the world market.

American car manufacturers have not remained competitive in the area of audio production because they have failed to develop a research base for their products, Porter said.

Rather, they have relied on a "cut and try" process when designing new equipment, he said.

Recognition of this fact prompted Ford, in 1984, to promulgate a company-wide

priority to involve local universities in corporate research. So, Ford funded contracted research through the department of physics and astronomy at EMU

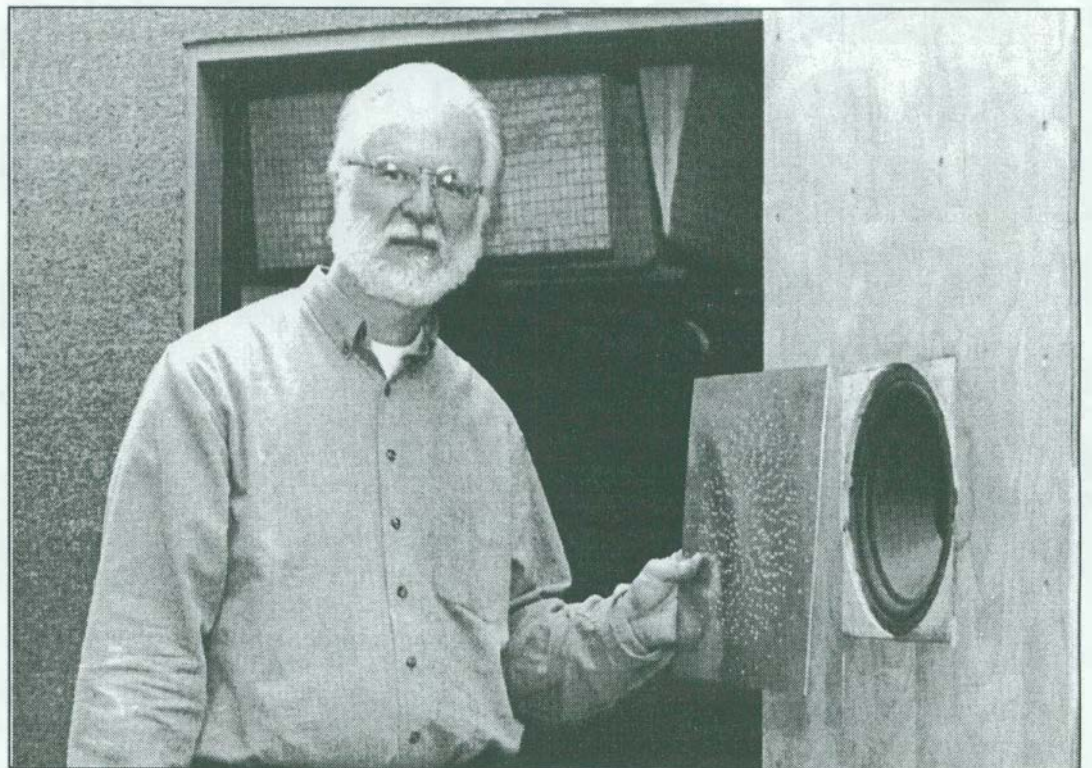
"Ford wanted to improve their understanding of automotive loud speakers," Porter said. "They were trying to help their suppliers, so that they would have better access to modeling techniques in the future."

Earl Geddes, an EMU physics graduate and currently a Ford researcher in acoustics, assisted Porter in the research, as did EMU graduate students Yifan Tang and Yafan Zhang.

"It was Dr. Geddes who originally suggested to Ford that we here at EMU develop an expertise in finite element analysis of acoustic speakers," Porter said. "(The study) focused on the effect of the depth of loudspeaker cones in changing the intensity pattern, or radiated sound, relative to the intensity distribution known to be produced by a vibration flat piston."

The speaker cones refer to the inner circular part of the speaker that vibrates during operation, Porter said.

Tang, a software engineer at Ford Motor Co. in Brazil, generated a data base needed to model the quality of the "acoustic cavity," or the place where sound emanates from



ACCENTUATING ACOUSTICS: Physics professor James Porter poses with one of the loudspeaker cones he used to study ways to improve the acoustics quality of car stereo systems.

an automobile speaker.

Zhang, a researcher in the medical physics department at the University of Michigan, developed a capability for modeling the effects of loudspeaker cone "breakup" or the tendency of loudspeakers to break up in section.

Currently, Porter is working on the effect of loudspeaker grilles or covers for automobile speakers.

Basically, Porter wants to find out whether the grille will alter the quality of response

of the speakers.

"We are preparing to experimentally test the resulting predictions in the anechoic (free from echoes) chamber in our acoustic lab," Porter said.

Porter is confident that the research will lead to the development of better automotive loudspeakers, which should result in greater consumer satisfaction.

Despite the demanding workload and time consumption, Porter said the effort is

well worth it.

"The rewards, at least in my view of doing this, or any other form of creative research, revolves around the resulting mental stimulation," Porter said.

"What a wonderful feeling it is to see new and deeper understandings of everyday phenomena come out of an abstract mathematical formulation; to know that you are perhaps the very first human to achieve a particular depth of understanding."

cue of the organ, which was in desperate need of repair.

Mary Ida Yost, professor emeritus of music; Kristy Meretta, a professor of music; and Gordon McQuere, head of the department of music, sought funding to restore the precious instrument to its original sound and beauty.

The organ's restoration cost approximately \$300,000, McQuere said. Former EMU president William E. Shelton pledged approximately \$150,000 in undesignated funds toward the project and former provost Ron Collins advanced \$150,000 toward the effort. The music department and the EMU Foundation are "pretty close" to raising the funds needed to repay the University, McQuere said.

"Mary Ida Yost gets the credit for making sure the organ was carefully packed away so that nothing was lost during the building renovation," said McQuere.

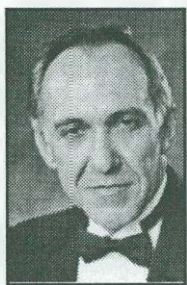
In 1996, McQuere and others were joined in their restoration efforts by Pamela Ruitter-Feenstra, associate professor of music and the University's organist. She never had the pleasure to play the organ, as it was already packed away when she came to the University.

"It is an instrument that has attracted many students to EMU," she said, noting there are many students who would like the opportunity to play it.

While Ruitter-Feenstra has nurtured the project through

completion, she gives credit to the late Erich Goldschmidt, a former EMU professor of organ from 1955-78. He was a one-time builder for the Aeolian-Skinner company, which designed the Frederick Alexander Memorial Organ.

"He was Mary Ida's predecessor. Without him, the organ wouldn't exist," Ruitter-Feenstra said. "He's responsible for installing it and voicing it. He deserves so much credit. He made music come to life."



Disselhorst

With Aeolian-Skinner out of business, the dedicated committee had to find a company that could bring the organ back to working life in tribute to Goldschmidt's work.

They settled upon California-based Schoenstein & Co., known Aeolian-Skinner experts.

However, the cost of transporting the organ to California almost ended the project before it started. But Schoenstein & Co. sealed an agreement by suggesting a collaborative restoration. Schoenstein & Co. supervised the project while Jerroll Adams, a Milan, Michigan-based organ restorer did the on-site mechanical restoration. Richard Houghten, also of Milan, handled the electronic work. Adams had previous experience working on

Aeolian-Skinner organs.

"Jerroll treats an organ like a member of his family," said Ruitter-Feenstra. "He's willing to go the extra mile so that the instrument is not just happy for the moment, but will have a long healthy life. The extra care he takes is a rare quality, but one that ensures we'll have the organ to cherish well into the future."

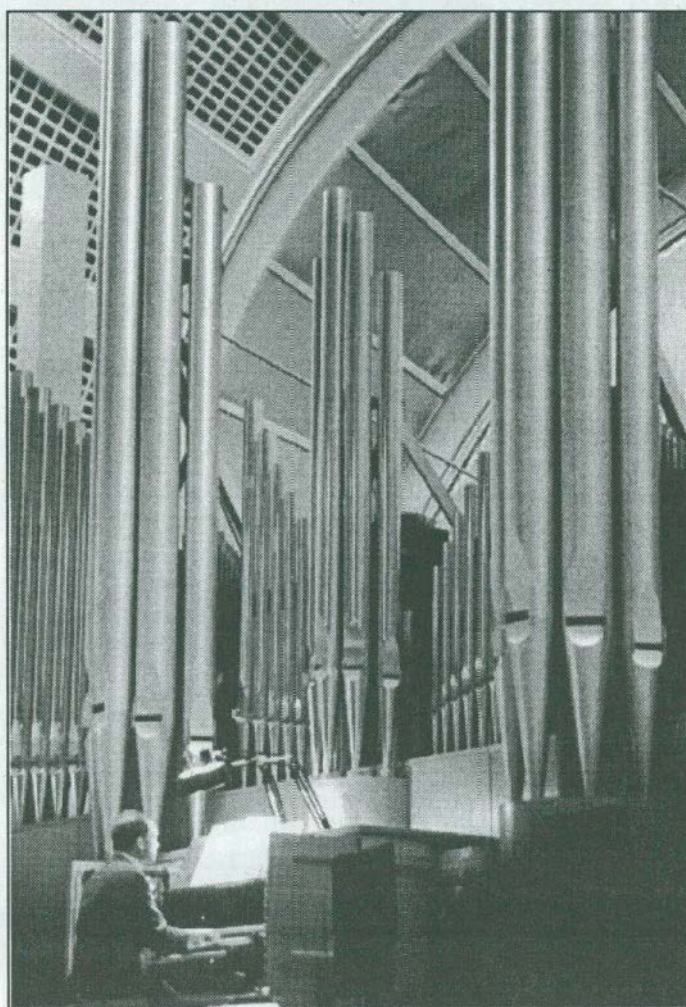
Restoring the organ has been a real challenge. Imagine pulling 4,200 metal and wooden pipes — some of them 32 feet long and 1-foot wide, and others 6 inches long and half an inch in diameter — out of storage boxes and then putting them all back together again so that they resemble an organ, be able to shoehorn it into Pease Auditorium and create the melodic sounds of an entire orchestra.

Some of the organ's pipes have been slightly rearranged to allow more stage room for the performing ensembles, McQuere said.

"The new look is more in keeping with the style of the auditorium," he said. "It's just gorgeous."

Disselhorst will have the honor of being the first organist to play the restored instrument. Under a Fulbright grant, Disselhorst studied organ with Helmut Walcha at the Staatliche Hochschule fur Musik in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Disselhorst has performed in the United States, Canada and Europe. He appeared as a recitalist for the Region VI American Guild of Organists



PIPES FROM THE PAST: Erich Goldschmidt plays the Frederick Alexander Memorial Organ as it looked in 1976. Goldschmidt, a former EMU professor of organ from 1955-78, "voiced" the 4,000-pipe, Aeolian-Skinner organ.

Convention at three separate appearances. He also performed at the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists Convention in Houston, Texas.

A champagne reception following the recital will honor the many donors who contributed toward the reconstruction of Pease Auditorium and restoration of the historic pipe organ. A special invita-

tion has been extended to former organ students of Goldschmidt and Yost. The event is free and open to the public.

Ruitter-Feenstra and many of her students look forward to the day they can play the organ.

"It should be very interesting," she said. — *Karen Sanborn contributed to this article.*



For a more extensive listing of University events, go to the Office of Public Information home page at www.emich.edu/public/public_information/

Open meetings available for campus to meet with NCA

Various factions of the University will have the opportunity to meet with North Central Association (NCA) visiting team members during their accreditation review of Eastern Michigan University May 19-21.

The open meetings schedule is as follows:

Monday, March 19
Faculty, Halle Auditorium, 2-2:45 p.m.
Staff, Halle Auditorium, 3-3:45 p.m.
Alumni, Halle Auditorium, 4-4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20
Students, Halle Auditorium, 3-3:45 p.m.

Wilbanks opts for early retirement

Roy Wilbanks, president and chief executive officer of the EMU Foundation, retired March 1.

Scheduled to retire June 30, Wilbanks opted for an early retirement and his request was granted by the EMU Foundation's Executive Committee. Wilbanks had served as president and CEO of the Foundation since 1996.

James McIntyre, vice president of the foundation, will assume the foundation CEO's duties pending conclusion of the current search for a University vice president for advancement who will also serve as executive director of the foundation.

Psychology department hosts convention

Eastern Michigan University's Department of Psychology hosts the Behavior Analysis Association of Michigan (BAAM) Convention, March 15-16, Ypsilanti Marriott Conference Center, 1275 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti.

Keynote speakers include James H. Woods, University of Michigan, and Stephen C. Luce, executive director, Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, University of Chicago.

To register, call James Todd, 487-4349 or at the BAAAM Web site: www.online.emich.edu/~psy_todd/baam.htm

JOBLINE

To be considered for vacant positions, all Promotional Openings Application Forms **MUST BE SUBMITTED** directly to the Compensation/Employment Services Office and received no later than 5 p.m., Monday, March 19. **NOTE: LATE OR INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

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. to 5 p.m.

CLERICAL/SECRETARIAL

(Hiring Rate)

CSUR0107 CS05 \$24,147
Senior Secretary, Charter Schools (Experience with Windows98, Office98, Microsoft Word, MS Publisher, and Netscape desired).

PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL

(Hiring Range)

PTAA0133 PT06 \$26,300-\$30,716 Program Assistant I, Continuing Education

An Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Employer

PTAA0132 PT07 \$30,244-\$35,568 Regional Manager, Continuing Education, Jackson/Monroe Centers.

FOOD SERVICE/MAINT.

(Hourly Rate)

FMBF0149 FM12 \$8.81
Groundsperson, Physical Plant, Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

FMBF0150 FM12 \$8.81
Groundsperson, Physical Plant, Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

CHINA, from page 1

mal University Vice President Lizhong Yu. "Because of personnel changes, we haven't carried on. But now, we have new students and it's a new century. We want to renew relationships between the two universities."

Kirkpatrick and Yu signed four copies of the contract — two in English and two in Chinese — during the ceremony in 204 Welch Hall that was attended by approxi-

mately 35 EMU and East China Normal officials.

East China Normal, located near Shanghai, was established in 1951 and has nine schools with regular programs, including educational science and technology; international business; and pre-school education and special education. It currently has 17,600 students, including 8,500 full-time undergraduate students, 1,300 master degree candidates, 400 doctoral candidates and nearly 600 long-term international students.

In the past decade, approximately 20 EMU education majors spent time abroad at East China Normal while the Asian institution has sent roughly 10 students, some for post-doctoral work, to EMU for a semester or a full academic year, Yu said.

"I hope EMU and East China Normal School can work to develop bilinguistic teaching programs in mathematics and chemistry," Yu said. "It's a challenge to teach courses in both Chinese and English. I think it would be good to teach with English speakers (in China)."

George Klein, interim director of the World College, said he's in the midst of trying to reach similar agreements with Bell University and Wanli University — both located near Shanghai — and Hebei Normal University and Hebei Vocational Teachers Technical College, both located near Beijing.

"We're about to complete an agreement with Bell or Wanli," Klein said. "We're working on a 2+2 or a 3+2 program concept, which is primarily to have foreign students come to EMU for their final two years for undergraduate work and get a bachelor's degree (in business or computer science) from EMU and also from their home institution."

Why I work at Eastern Michigan University

Coming to Eastern Michigan 2 1/2 years ago as a department head was a real change because I had been a faculty member at Ohio State for 24 years. My current position has helped me to look at the faculty role in a new light. Every day, I invest time and energy in clearing hurdles and obstacles to help faculty do their job.

This is an exciting time at EMU. I have had several neat assignments, including serving on the administration's collective bargaining team, the steering committee for the proposed Ph.D. in technology, the search committee for the dean of technology position, and the University Strategic Planning Committee.

I think of strategic planning as a rope with three strands. The first one has to do with the direction in which we are going and the strategies on how to achieve it. The second is political - "where are resources to be concentrated and allocated?" Our core beliefs and values are the third strand. While we started with the first strand, we're now getting around to the other two.

The exciting thing is that we're willing to confront differences and their implications for EMU and its future. It's a great time to be at EMU with all of this thinking, writing and dialoguing going on over what matters most.



David Boggs, Ph.D.
Professor and Department Head,
Business and Technology Education

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CONTIS, from page 1

Arts and Sciences and will provide continuity as we prepare for the transition from Barry Fish to a new dean," Harris said. "She has the skills and ability to get the job done as we move forward. I look forward to working with Dr. Contis."