



Western News

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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Volunteers needed for goalball event

Some 80 volunteers are needed to help stage the 2011 John Bakos Memorial Goalball Tournament Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 26-27. No previous knowledge of goalball is necessary.

The tournament is the Midwest regional goalball competition sponsored by the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes and the Michigan Blind Athletic Association. Every year, it attracts the nation's top teams, whose members include players from the U.S. National Goalball Team.

Contact Mary Lou Brooks, volunteer coordinator, at mary.brooks@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3415 or (269) 744-7486, or Luke Patterson, tournament director, at lukusp@gmail.com or (269) 832-4930.

Registration open for CPR classes

The Office of Health Promotion and Education is offering a four-hour training course that provides certification in child, infant and adult CPR; choking; and automated external defibrillation.

The last two scheduled sessions are set for 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, and 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, March 11, in the Sindecuse Health Center.

The course costs \$40 for WMU students and faculty and staff members and \$45 for community members. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. Call (269) 387-3263 to register. Visit www.wmich.edu/healthcenter for more details.

CMU wins spring blood challenge

The University and local communities raised almost 71 percent of their 546-unit goal in last month's annual spring blood challenge between WMU and Central Michigan University. CMU took top honors, raising nearly 87 percent of its 257-unit goal.

Locally, cold temperatures during the two-week challenge may have dampened turnout; but the event collectively allowed the American Red Cross to bank 610 units of blood, enough to save 1,830 lives.

High schoolers invited to College Goal

College Goal Sunday will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, in Schneider Hall for area college-bound high school students and their families.

The event is one of more than two dozen such events being held at sites around the state to help high school seniors fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid, or FAFSA, and submit it in time to ensure eligibility for maximum benefit.

"It is critical that high school seniors and their parents are aware of these College Goal Sunday events," said Bryan Taylor, president of EduGuide. "Students must complete and file a FAFSA in order to secure financial aid and should file by the March 1 priority date to ensure eligibility for federal and state programs."

Debel named trustee; Miller reappointed

Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed Dana Debel of Ann Arbor to the WMU Board of Trustees and has reappointed Ken Miller of Kalamazoo.

Both appointments are for eight-year terms and were announced Jan. 25. William Martin of Battle Creek is the trustee who is leaving the governing board.

Debel, director of state and local government affairs for Delta Air Lines, served as a policy director for former Gov. Jennifer Granholm from 2003 to 2007, primarily in the areas of environmental and energy policy. She earned both a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and a master's degree in business from Michigan State University.



Debel

Trustees to meet Feb. 24

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet Thursday, Feb. 24, to elect 2011 officers, act on a differential tuition proposal and conduct a variety of additional business.

The time and location of the meeting will be posted at www.wmich.edu/news when they become available. That website also will report information about another major Feb. 24 event, the swearing in of WMU's newest trustee.

Miller, a Kalamazoo business leader, has been on WMU's governing board since 2002 and served as its chair in 2008 and 2009. He is principal partner in Havirco, an investment management firm, and owner of the Millennium Restaurant Group. Miller earned bachelor's and master's degrees in business from WMU, and received the WMU Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009.



Miller

Renewed effort to boost STEM leadership statewide

Michigan's four flagship universities and nine top community colleges are embarking on a newly expanded collaboration to accelerate statewide development of leaders in science, technology, engineering and math—known as STEM programs.

At a Feb. 3 kickoff event on the Lansing Community College campus, the institutions announced the reauthorization and expansion of the Michigan-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. In addition to remarks from leaders of alliance partners, the event included comments from National Science Foundation officials and displays of projects showcasing the work of STEM students.

The Stokes Alliance is part of a national initiative named for an Ohio political figure who spent 30 years in Congress championing the causes of civil rights and social and economic justice.



Among the school presidents participating in the Stokes Alliance kickoff event were, from left: Mary Sue Coleman, U-M; Lou Anna Simon, MSU; and John M. Dunn, WMU. (Photo by Harley J. Seeley, courtesy of Michigan State University College of Engineering)

WMU, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University established the Michigan Stokes Alliance in 2005, with support from the National Science Foundation.

The four universities committed to significantly increase the number of under-represented minority students graduating with degrees in science, technology, engineering and math.

"This effort allows us to capitalize on the fact that the development of human

capital is all about talent and helping talented young people contribute to our society in ways that tap their true potential," WMU President John M. Dunn says of the initiative. "Rep. Louis Stokes championed that idea during his years in public service, and the success we've seen over the past five years is a tribute to that vision."

Michigan's newly expanded Stokes Alliance is positioned to accelerate workforce development in fields crucial to the state's technology economy. During Phase I of the program (2005-10), award of baccalaureates in STEM fields increased by nearly 50 percent. In Phase II, a 100-percent increase is expected, as nine of Michigan's top community colleges are joining the alliance.

The new institutional partners are: Grand Rapids Community College; Kalamazoo Valley Community College; Kellogg Community College; Lake Michigan College; Lansing Commu-

Around campus and beyond

Black History Month event slated

The contributions of African-American patriots will be the focus of an event from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, in 158 Bernhard Center being held in conjunction with Black History Month.

Vietnam veterans Glenn Charles and Buddy Hannah will share their experiences during a talk covering their service and how the military impacted their lives.

Both speakers are longtime residents of the Kalamazoo community. The event will include refreshments and is being sponsored by WMU Army ROTC and First-Year Experience.

Panel explores moral philosophy

Moral philosophy outside academia will be examined in a panel discussion at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in the Bernhard Center's Brown and Gold Room. The event is part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society's spring season.

Titled "Ethics for Everyone: Taking Moral Philosophy Outside the Academy," the discussion will be wide ranging, covering university instruction, research by faculty, programming, compliance and codes of conduct.

The program also will cover how ethics can have an impact beyond university walls and other questions.

Serving on the panel will be WMU's Michael Pritchard and Fritz Allhoff, philosophy; Jeff Dean, executive editor for academic and professional publishing giant Wiley-Blackwell; and Jesse Steinberg, director of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh, Bradford.

Playwright is next in Frostic Series

The Gwen Frostic Reading Series continues its spring 2011 season with a reading by accomplished WMU playwright Steve Feffer, English, at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in 105-107 Bernhard Center.

Feffer has received wide recognition for his plays and has won a number of national playwriting awards. He teaches creative writing at WMU and in the University's Prague Summer Program, and serves as chair for the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival's National Playwriting Program for Region Three.

Upcoming Frostic series readings are March 15, with poet Nancy Eimers; March 31, with poet Richard Katrovas; and April 7, with poet Jerome Rothenberg. All readings start at 8 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Art show features folk tale images

Images of folk tales are brought to life and depicted in a mixture of light and dark in an exhibit of works by artist Nancy Stroupe on the second floor gallery of the Health and Human Services Building.

Stroupe has taught English and general studies at WMU and earned a master's degree from the University. Her exhibit is titled "Once Upon a Time: Scenes from Childhood—Folktales Revisited."

The exhibit will be on display until March 14. The pieces in the display reveal Stroupe's perspective of the dark and light sides of familiar folk tales.

Viewing is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday as well as 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Administrator named to state council

Penny D. Bundy, admissions director, has been appointed to serve on the statewide council associated with the ACT college entrance exam.



Bundy

Membership on the council puts Bundy in a leadership role relative to ACT issues in Michigan. She started her three-year term this month.

ACT is an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides a broad array of assessment, research, information and program management solutions in the areas of education and workforce development. It is dedicated to helping individuals attain their educational and career goals through assessment programs with solid research foundations.

Bundy came to WMU in 2006 after accumulating 19 years of recruiting and retention experience. Prior to joining WMU, she had served Ball State University for 11 years, most recently as associate director of admissions for high school and college relations.

Prof produces new poetry collection

Richard Katrovas, English, has completed a new book, "Scorpio Rising: Selected Poems." The book was published by Carnegie Mellon University Press and is scheduled to be released this month.



Katrovas

Culled from six previous collections, "Scorpio Rising" is the culmination of Katrovas's 35-year career.

His early poems reflect a harrowing childhood on the highways of America as his parents fled the FBI, while his later works meditate upon his own American identity as he raises bicultural, bilingual daughters.

Katrovas has written 12 books of poetry, fiction and non-fiction. He has been teaching at WMU since 2002 and is the founding director of the University's Prague Summer Program. A former Fulbright Fellow, he has received numerous grants and awards.

NSF division selects chemist as fellow

Sherine O. Obare, chemistry, has received an American Competitiveness and Innovation Fellowship from the National Science Foundation's Division of Materials Research.



Obare

Obare, a WMU faculty member since 2004, focuses her research on nanoscale materials, sensors and environmental remediation.

The ACI fellowship program was established in 2008 to identify and promote high-risk, high-payoff research that is expected to lead to innovations and, thus, enhance American competitiveness in the global economy.

ACI fellows are selected from among a group of recent NSF awardees whose proposals have already risen to the top via peer review and received funding. The selection criteria also includes a demonstrated effort to broaden the participation in scientific research by women, members of underrepresented minority groups and persons with disabilities.

Major events rescheduled after weather prompts cancellations

Bad weather in recent weeks prompted cancellation of several major campus events, most of which have now been rescheduled.

- The talk on "Changes and Challenges in Community Banking" by former American Bankers Association chairman Arthur C. Johnson will now take place at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, in Schneider Hall's Brown

Auditorium. Those planning to attend the talk should register no later than Monday, Feb. 14, with Shawna Cassada at shawna.cassada@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6059.

- The WMU Career Fair has been rescheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. Recruiters from some 130 employers are expected to participate.

- The meeting to gather input on and share information about developing a more appropriate facility to house Archives and Regional History Collections has yet to be rescheduled.

Retirement reception

The retirement reception for Pamela Libera, admissions, that was postponed due to inclement weather has been rescheduled for 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in 1040 Fetzer Center.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.



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WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

New aviation program takes off next fall

The latest training initiative for future air-traffic controllers is scheduled to take flight this fall at the College of Aviation.

The college is home to the third-largest aviation program in the country and is based at the W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, Mich. It will be admitting a limited number of students into its new air-traffic control program for the 2011-12 academic year.

The program was developed in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration and is designed to prepare students to report directly to the FAA's Oklahoma City academy and bypass an initial five-week basics course.

WMU was asked to join the FAA's Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative network last April, making it one of 36 schools in the nation to offer AT-CTI training—the only one in Michigan. Launched in 1990 by the FAA, AT-CTI aims to help recruit candidates for terminal and air-traffic controller positions.



Although jobs are not guaranteed to AT-CTI graduates, about 41 percent of FAA new hires over the past five years have attended such a program.

To ensure students' future success, WMU is integrating the AT-CTI training with its existing four-year aviation programs. This

will give WMU AT-CTI program graduates the opportunity to follow multiple career paths without returning to the classroom.

Tom Thinnes, manager of aviation recruitment and outreach, says WMU plans to focus on training controllers to work in towers, control ground movement and handle local traffic, but also to offer specialized courses

so students get experience in all facets of air-traffic control.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the federal government employs about 90 percent of all air-traffic controllers. In March 2009, the average yearly salary of U.S. air-traffic controllers was \$109,000.

International Space Station focus of Engineers Week talk

"Design Challenges and Status of the International Space Station" will be the keynote topic when engineers from across southwest Michigan convene at WMU Tuesday, Feb. 22, for the 32nd annual Engineers Week Dinner.

The keynote talk will be presented from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. by Daniel P. Dennies, a metallurgical engineer and director of Southern California Operations for Engineering Systems Inc.

His presentation will be preceded by a social hour, dinner and awards ceremony from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Registrations are required by Monday, Feb. 14, for the event, which is taking place in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom as part of National Engineering Week Feb. 20-26.

Dennies has participated in the International Space Station project, and will discuss the station's systems and partners, assembly status, and major design challenges. He has more than 30 years experience in aerospace and aircraft-related industries.

Visit www.wmich.edu/engineer/eweek to register or obtain more information.

Board of Trustees grants development, sabbatical leaves to 35 faculty members

The WMU Board of Trustees granted 34 leaves during its Dec. 17 meeting.

Approved were a professional development leave effective spring 2011 for Kristin Szylvian, history, and 33 sabbatical leaves for 2011-1. Sabbatical leaves went to:

JoAnn L. Atkin, marketing; Nora Berrah, physics; Maira Bundza, University Libraries; Kuanchin Chen, business information systems; Sue Ellen Christian, communication; Janet L. Coryell, history; Cat L. Crotchett, art; Sime Curkovic, management;

Anthony Ellis, English; Robert Wall Emerson, blindness and low vision studies; Olivia Gabor-Peirce, foreign languages; Richard A. Gershon, communication; Debra Lindstrom Hazel, occupational therapy; Michelle Kominz, geosciences; Ashlyn K. Kuersten, political science; David Kutzko,

foreign languages;

David Lemberg, geography; William W. Liou, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Lisa Minnick, English; Mustafa K. Mirzeler, English; Judy L. Moonert, music; Mustafa Mughazy, foreign languages; Debasri Mukherjee, economics; Amy Naugle, psychology; John S. Petrovic, mathematics;

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during February.

30 Years—Lewis D. Hamilton, Development Office.

25 Years—Douglas T. Alrick, information technology; Carol J. Black, financial aid and scholarships; and Russell P. Northey, Facilities Management-power plant.

20 Years—Linda D. Baird, Development Office; Jeffrey M. Carr, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Dorla S. Evans, Development Office; Jan M. Prange, Facilities Management-landscape services; and Alice Wheatley, Dining Services-Burnham.

15 Years—Scott Austin, College of Aviation; Betsy Drummer, Haworth College of Business; Christopher D. Jackson, biological sciences; Darrell D. Junkins, Facilities

Kapseong Ro, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Silvia Rossbach, biological sciences; Jana K. Schulman, English; Roger Y. Tang, accountancy; John A. Tanis, physics; Laura R. Van Zoest, mathematics; Maarten Vonhof, biological sciences; Delores D. Walcott, University Counseling and Testing Center; and Alan H. Wuosmaa, physics.

Management-landscape services; Lauralee Pierce Middleton, Sincuse Health Center; Robert D. Moon, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Patricia A. Thomas, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and LaTonja M. Wilson, counselor education and counseling psychology.

10 Years—William A. Emmert, Facilities Management-transportation services, and Kim Stevens, Extended University Programs-Traverse City.

Five Years—Katherine Lawton Bates, student activities and leadership programs; Denise J. Bowen, physician assistant; Scott Garrison, University Libraries; Lynn A. Mohney, Auxiliary Enterprises; Teressa J. Williams, institutional research; and Valerie A. Young, WMU Bookstore.

New economy to be discussed

Thought leaders helping to move Michigan forward will discuss "The New Economy" from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, February 17, in the Fetzer Center. The event costs \$30 and requires registration by Wednesday, Feb. 16. Visit <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/534273/4d56a3bdf2> to register or obtain more information.

Obituaries



Ellin

Joseph Shalom Ellin, emeritus in philosophy, died Feb. 4 in Kalamazoo. He was 74.

A renowned scholar, Ellin joined the WMU faculty in 1962 and retired in 2004 after some 41 years of service, but continued teaching after

his retirement. He served as department chair and took on numerous other leadership roles while at the University.

A memorial service and internment at Mountain Home Cemetery will be arranged in about a month by Harper Funeral Home in

Kalamazoo. Memorial contributions may be made to Temple B'Nai Israel or the Fontana Society of Kalamazoo.



Faires

Nora H. Faires, professor emerita of history, died Feb. 6 at her residence. She was 61.

A well-known social and cultural historian of migration, Faires joined the WMU faculty in 2000 and had a dual appointment in gender and

women's studies. She chaired the Canadian Studies Initiative for eight years and retired Dec. 12 after 10-1/2 years of service.

At *Western News* press time, funeral arrangements were pending through the Janowiak Funeral Home. Keep checking www.JanowiakFuneralHome.com for details.

Jo Rachel Turner McLemore, a retired staff member, died Nov. 22 in Kalamazoo. She was 84.

McLemore came to WMU in 1966 and retired in 1983 after 17 years of service. She was a secretary in the business and finance area.

Robert "Bob" F. Overmyer Sr., a retired staff member, died Jan. 23 in Kalamazoo. He was 89.

Overmyer was a public safety officer for almost 20 years, coming to WMU in 1967 and retiring in 1986.

On Campus with Kirk Sundling



REBEL WITH A CAUSE
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

As WMU's online presence has grown, so has Kirk Sundling's career at the University.

A staff member since 2008, Sundling recently assumed the Extended University Programs position of assistant director of online education.

Online Education works with approximately 40 academic departments to support the development and delivery of online and hybrid courses and programs, ranging from general education courses to complete degree and certificate programs.

"As the assistant director, I'm responsible for maintaining day-to-day operations," Sundling says. "We coordinate course listings with departments, facilitate registration, and develop processes and systems to proactively meet departmental and student needs."

In addition, Sundling and other EUP staff members frequently provide training and information sessions to departments and instructors on the services EUP offers and the support processes in place to ensure high-quality online teaching and learning experiences.

"I'm kind of a poster boy for what EUP provides because I was a nontraditional student," he says. "I had my own lawn-service business and was going to cut grass for a living."

Instead, the Manistee, Mich., resident earned a business degree at West Shore Community College through Davenport University, which set him on a career path that led WSCC in 2006 to make him the youngest recipient of its distinguished alumni award. He became a marketing director, then a director of youth, family and volunteer ministries.

"I was working with people of all ages and dealing with issues from birth to death. I felt I needed to hone my counseling skills, so I started WMU's master's program in counseling education" Sundling says. "I was taking night classes at the regional site in Traverse City and commuting three hours round trip from Manistee while working full time."

To eliminate the commute and help pay for school, he got a job in Kalamazoo and finished the degree here, serving EUP as a grad assistant along the way. Upon graduating, EUP hired him to manage its distance education classrooms. He was soon assigned additional duties in Online Education and this January, was promoted to his current post.

"If there's not a university near them, online courses are often the best option for people with families and full-time jobs and students with part-time jobs," Sundling says. "The nontraditional student is becoming the traditional student, and we're here to serve them."

Sundling chairs the Administrative Professional Association Events Committee and participates in WMU's wellness programs, working out at least for an hour six days a week. He owns a 1500 Kawasaki Vulcan and also is a member of a motorcycle touring club.

WMUK names Gordon Bolar general manager; hires underwriting manager

The University's public radio station, WMUK 102.1 FM, has a new general manager and underwriting manager.

Gordon Bolar, WMUK's development director, took the station's helm, effective Feb. 1. He replaces Floyd Pientka, who retired

Jan. 31 after 11 years as general manager and 26 years at the University. WMUK also hired Anders Dahlberg Jan. 3 to fill the vacant position of underwriting manager.

Bolar brings 16 years of public broadcasting experience to his new role, along with



Bolar

25 years of management experience in the not-for-profit sector.

Bolar had been WMUK's development director since 2006. He joined the station after serving for eight years as development director at the Kalamazoo Institute

of Arts and public radio and TV stations in Grand Rapids, Mich., and Anchorage, Alaska.

Dahlberg is coming to WMUK from part-time posts at WMU and Kalamazoo College.

Still time to help WMU win organ donor challenge



WMU is competing with 18 other colleges and universities in Michigan in a contest to see which school can get the most people to sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry by Thursday, Feb. 24.

Led by the Student Nurses Association, this is WMU's seventh year competing in the event. The University registered about 72 people in last year's challenge.

Anyone who wishes to give the gift of life while supporting WMU in the University Challenge can visit www.gifttolifemichigan.org/go/school and register to become an organ donor. Select the "school/college" option when asked where you heard about organ donation, then choose "Western Michigan University" from the drop-down menu.

Creating artificial nose is nothing to sneeze at

The development of a very sensitive artificial nose that can be used to detect a variety of substances at extremely low levels will be the subject of a talk Tuesday, Feb. 15, by one of WMU's Visiting Scholars.

Kenneth S. Suslick, a renowned chemistry and materials science and engineering professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will speak at 4 p.m. in 1720 Chemistry Building. Suslick will

discuss "The Optoelectronic Nose: An Adventure of Molecular Recognition" during the free talk, as well as present a seminar for students, faculty and staff.

Suslick helped make the artificial nose, an apparatus that has been used to detect small amounts of toxic industrial chemicals. It has also been used to discriminate subtle differences in beverages and many other common substances.

Renewed effort to boost STEM

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nity College; Macomb Community College; Muskegon Community College; Washtenaw Community College; and Wayne County Community College District.

During Phase I, alliance scholars engaged in opportunities such as a pre-first-year program to prepare for rigorous curricula as incoming freshmen, undergraduate research assistantships, and internships and cooperative education experiences.

Phase II will continue those activities, in addition to building collaborations with the new community college members of the alliance.