Dear friends:

The past few months have been a time of great significance for our hometown of Kalamazoo. Our university community has been in the thick of the action, and in all of my years in education, I've never experienced a town/gown relationship that is so vital and has such potential.

In November, the Kalamazoo Promise was unveiled. This extraordinary gift, which guarantees college tuition for graduates of the local public school system, has received worldwide attention. WMU faculty, staff and students have always had a strong relationship with the Kalamazoo Public Schools, but now our efforts campuswide are intensifying. As part of the larger community, we see it as our responsibility to share whatever resources and expertise we can to help every child in the community prepare to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. We are working closely with the Kalamazoo schools to coordinate our efforts and determine how best we can make a difference.

In December, we were delighted to announce that the WMU Foundation would purchase a state-of-the-art Pfizer Inc. research facility in Kalamazoo. The building will become our new downtown science center and will provide much-needed research space for our faculty as well as commercial lease space that will enhance Kalamazoo's growing presence in the life sciences industry. What's more, Pfizer agreed to sell the building for a fraction of what it would cost the University to construct such a facility. You can read about the development on page 10 of this issue.

Both developments are illustrative of the kind of cooperation and synergy that is building both a stronger university and a more vibrant community. Expect to hear more in the future about both initiatives.

Warmest regards,

Judith I. Bailey
President
2. One man's treasure

Anthropologist Michael Nassaney has made a career of exploring history by uncovering everyday items previous generations have left behind.

Cover images courtesy of Michael Nassaney

12. The pressure to succeed

Two WMU engineers team up with Haworth Inc. to build a chair that offers pressure in all the right places.

20. Going the distance

Enrollment manager John Beacon leaves little to chance. He's making recruitment and retention the business of the entire WMU community.

16. College news

24. Campus places

26. Classnotes/Obituaries
One man's treasure

Everyday items once considered trash open a door to the past

Dr. Michael Nassaney considers himself a public garbage sleuth of sorts.

For years now, communities around the state have called on him to help solve their historic and archeological mysteries. And Nassaney solves those mysteries by poking around for the discarded remnants of civilization—from prehistoric hunters and gatherers to French soldiers and fur traders.

“All the stuff we find is really just trash,” says Nassaney, a WMU professor of anthropology. “It’s the questions you ask about it that make it interesting.”

Nassaney has applied his passion for the archeological record at a variety of sites. He has uncovered fire pits used by ancient hunters and gatherers in the Mississippi River Valley. He’s pieced together clues about a community of escaped slaves at an Underground Railroad stop in Southwest Michigan. And he’s picked through the remnants of a 19th century Massachusetts cutlery factory, looking for clues about work life during the Industrial Revolution.

The common theme in Nassaney’s work is that it’s all public archeology. That is, the work answers questions posed by communities and stimulates public interest with displays, demonstrations and educational programs. Public archeology promotes the preservation of community resources—often using public money.

“It used to be that archeology was based on questions asked by the archeologists,” reflects Nassaney. “The kind of work I do involves questions that come to me from communities. These are issues that are important to them.”
The discovery of Fort St. Joseph

The Southwest Michigan community of Niles is among the latest to approach Nassaney with questions. Members of a non-profit community group approached him in 1997. Their conundrum? Where were the remains of Fort St. Joseph, the 18th-century trading post and garrison occupied by the French, British and Spanish?

Located along the St. Joseph River, the fort was one of the Great Lakes region's most important frontier outposts. Historians and residents knew that it had been a hub of commercial, military and religious activity for colonists and Native Americans from 1691 to 1781. The fort was abandoned. Its largely wooden structures crumbled, were forgotten and, eventually, lost.

When a group of historical re-enactors called Support the Fort asked Nassaney to look for the fort, he said sure. How hard could it be to find a major trading post?

"What we didn't know is that people had been looking for the fort for 100 years," says Nassaney. He also didn't know that there were no maps showing the location of the outpost, or even outlining the layout of the settlement.

But still, Nassaney and his team were game.

In 1998, the intrepid professor took a team of students from WMU's Archeological Field School (see sidebar on page 5) to the banks of the St. Joseph River. They talked with locals, examined historical documents and made an educated guess about where the fort might be. They dug a few test pits.

"To tell you the truth, I wasn't even sure we'd ever find the fort," recalls Nassaney. "We started digging just systematically enough to rule out that location."

Then a local came by with some artifacts he'd found a few hundred yards from where the team was working. "Have you looked over there?" the man asked, pointing closer to the river.

They hadn't, but they did. In the first test pit in the new location, they found 18th-century glass beads. Another revealed gun parts and flints, along with stones that looked like they were part of a foundation.

A hand-wrought nail that appeared to have been made by a blacksmith was the clincher for Nassaney. "A nail like that had to be pre-1800," says Nassaney. "When I saw it, I knew we were there."

After just three weeks in the field, Fort St. Joseph was found.

A community partnership

In the spirit of that local resident who steered the WMU archeologists to the site, community groups in the area have rallied to support the project. The city of Niles has provided equipment and supplies. The Fort St. Joseph Museum has offered up documents, technical expertise and marketing assistance. And most

Continued on page 4
Continued from page 3

important, the Support the Fort group funded the water drainage.

The water, that is, that soaked the excavation area just below the surface. When the St. Joseph River was dammed in the late 19th century and again in the 20th century, the water table rose at the fort site, drenching the artifacts. In what Nassaney called “an engineering marvel,” the team hired a firm to pump water out of a 2,200-square-meter area and back into the river.

It was 2002 before the dewatering equipment was installed and Nassaney could return to the fort. Since then, workers have dug nearly 20 test pits, each a meter or two wide and about a meter deep. The excavation area has continued to yield artifacts, including animal bones, awls, scissors, pins used for embroidery, tools of all kinds, musket balls and gun parts, and an unmistakable stone fireplace.

“The range of goods is really remarkable,” notes Nassaney. “It’s like a catalog of objects required for everyday life.”

Between the artifacts and written records, Nassaney and his team are starting to piece together the details of life at the fort. Between 50 and 60 people lived there, they believe. There was likely a main encampment surrounded by a wooden gate, but many of the traders lived outside the gates with their families. The French, in particular, established good relations with the natives, often repairing their guns. Many French men married Native American women.

There’s still much to learn, however. Nassaney and his team have excavated only 3 percent of what they believe to be the entire area of the fort. They’re not even sure if they’re inside or outside the encampment walls.

“Look at it this way: They’ve been digging at Fort Michilimackinac for 45 years, and there’s still more to find,” he says of the similar French trading post in Macinaw City, Mich.

Undoubtedly, uncovering the entirety of the fort will consume the remainder of Nassaney’s career.

The road ahead

The fate of the fort is largely an issue of dollars and cents. Outside funding to date has totaled about $30,000 for the project. That’s been enough to get a decent peek at the site, but not enough to really dig in like Nassaney hopes to.

The archeology team has been applying for outside funding for the past several years, looking for the right match. Nassaney knows the work is interesting and important, and he feels they’re getting close to some major dollars. A decision in June from the National Endowment for the Humanities could bring nearly $400,000 to the project.

“If we don’t get the funding we’re looking for, we’ll continue to operate at a lower level and keep up with the kind of work we’ve been doing,” says Nassaney. “But this site deserves a national and international spotlight.”

Provided full funding is found, Nassaney would recruit a paid excavation staff that would work all summer, in addition to the students and community volunteers who spend seven weeks at the site each year. With the right resources, the University would also hire another full-time researcher to join Nassaney on the project.
The fort's advisory committee is also recommending an interpretive center where visitors could learn about life in the 18th century and see firsthand how history is pieced together from the ground up. That center would also include a research and teaching hub where WMU students could take up residence and all manner of scholars, from archeologists and anthropologists to historians and geologists, could study the St. Joseph River Valley.

Nassaney also envisions the fort as a major tourist attraction.

"Fort Michilimackinac attracts about 80,000 paying visitors every summer," says Nassaney. "And what Niles has that northern Michigan doesn't, is 10 million people living within 100 miles."

With major funding and the accompanying resources, Nassaney thinks the fort could become a major attraction for prospective students, boosting the national profile of WMU's archeology program.

"We can say, look at this big, interesting site we're exploring," he predicts. "We can tell them there are going to be major discoveries here that will answer lots of interesting questions."

Until that big funding break comes, however, Nassaney and his team will continue to simply chip at the edges of the fort.

"I'm optimistic, though," he says with a nod. "It's coming. We're close."
Ethics center celebrates 20th anniversary

An informal reception and panel discussion in November marked the 20th anniversary of the University's Center for the Study of Ethics in Society.

For 20 years, the center has brought together people from across campus and the Kalamazoo-area community interested in teaching and studying ethics. Ongoing projects include the center's lecture series, research ethics education for WMU faculty and graduate students, and sponsorship of WMU's Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl team.

The nine panelists for the anniversary program included Dr. Shirley Bach, center associate director; Dr. Sandra Borden and Dr. Michael Pritchard, center co-directors; and Dr. Diether Haenicke, WMU president emeritus. They reflected on the purpose of an interdisciplinary ethics center.

Web technology used to teach dance class

WMU is part of an innovative, two-university initiative that has tapped new Internet technology to teach a dance class.

WMU has teamed up with Case Western Reserve University to teach a dance kinesiology class via Internet2, a consortium of more than 200 U.S. universities working in partnership with industry and government to develop advanced network applications and technologies, accelerating the creation of tomorrow's Internet.

The WMU initiative is led by Jane Baas, associate professor of dance and a graduate of Case's dance program. She is teaching kinesiological analysis to graduate students at her alma mater using WMU's videoconference facility in Kohrman Hall. It is believed to be the only project of its kind, say those involved in creating it.

"Even though there are some schools, notably the huge state schools with large technology budgets, that do use Internet2 for dance and in some cases dance education, I am not aware of any institutional collaboration like ours that uses Internet2 for teaching a regularly scheduled class," says Gary Galbraith, artistic director for the Mather Dance Center and associate professor of dance at Case Western Reserve University.

The use of Internet2 is becoming more widespread in educational settings, says Galbraith, who made a presentation on the new project last year at the National Association of Schools of Dance. But he says there is very little use of Internet2 in dance at institutions of higher education.

Baas has become an authority on dance kinesiology and conditioning, having learned from one of the experts in the field, Sally Fitt. In 1990, Fitt was brought to WMU to teach a three-week intensive course for graduating students. Baas sat in on the course, then traveled to the University of Utah on sabbatical and shadowed Fitt. She has been teaching kinesiology classes and conducting research in the field ever since.

The new Internet2 course lets her share that expertise with Case students.

WMU joins Michigan's Core Technology Alliance

WMU has become the newest member of a consortium working to enhance life sciences research and product development across Michigan.

The Core Technology Alliance officially welcomed WMU into its ranks in September, after encouraging the University to apply for membership. WMU's membership in the CTA means its Biological Imaging Center and Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center will be added to the alliance's roster of core technology facilities.

By providing access to such advanced technologies, the CTA is serving as a catalyst for the development of life sciences and biotechnology research. It makes its technology facilities available to Michigan researchers affiliated with universities, private research institutes and biotechnology or pharmaceutical firms.

With the support of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., the CTA was founded in 1999 by four members of Michigan's Tri-Technology Corridor: Michigan's three other research universities—Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University—and the Van Andel Research Institute in Grand Rapids.

WMU President Judith I. Bailey notes that being invited to join the CTA is another example of the University's growing stature as one of Michigan's four research institutions.

"We were approached to join," Bailey says. "The invitation is recognition of our unique strengths as a research university and a valued partner in the research fabric of Michigan. We're honored to be a member."
Aviation college getting top-flight Cirrus aircraft for training

In a move University officials say will put its aviation education program head and shoulders above the competition, WMU's College of Aviation will retire its existing single-engine training fleet and replace it with 30 Cirrus SR20 and SR22 aircraft.

WMU and Minnesota-based Cirrus Design Corp. have entered a 10-year lease agreement that calls for the state-of-the-art aircraft to be replaced every two years, giving the University continued access to the latest advances in safety, avionics and performance. The first aircraft arrived at the college's W.K. Kellogg Airport facility in Battle Creek, Mich., in October. Transition from the college's current use of Cessna 172s to the new aircraft will be completed by this summer.

"This is by far the best airplane for WMU's needs," says Capt. Rick Maloney, dean of the College of Aviation. "With these aircraft, we will meet or exceed the training standards of the commercial aviation industry, and we'll be able to provide the best possible learning outcomes for our students. They'll learn to fly in the most sophisticated aircraft used by any collegiate program in the nation."

Maloney points to the advanced avionics in the Cirrus SR20s and SR22s and a cockpit configuration that is similar to and shares technology with airliners used in the commercial aviation industry. That technology includes such features as Flight Director autopilot, Garmin GPS, advanced glass display screens and advanced electrical systems.

"The transfer of knowledge with this plane is absolutely astounding," Maloney says, pointing out that pilots trained on the Cirrus will be able to make a quick transition to the aircraft used by the commercial industry.

Maloney says the college spent more than a year investigating the potential of making such a move. His three goals were to increase the safety level of the college's flight program, create a learning environment that would provide easy transfer of knowledge to the industry and secure an agreement that would not increase costs for the college's students.

"With this agreement between the college and Cirrus, we're meeting all three goals," Maloney says. "These are aircraft with important safety features, and because we'll be receiving new planes every two years, our students will always be working with the latest developments in aviation technology."

The Cirrus SR20 and SR22 are low-wing, fixed-landing-gear aircraft that seat four and are being delivered to WMU with the following features:

- Skywatch, a product of L-3 Communications Co. of Grand Rapids, Mich., which is an aircraft-based traffic and collision avoidance system that monitors the transponders from nearby aircraft, shows their positions on a cockpit display, and issues a visual and audible warning if a collision is imminent.
- The Cirrus Airframe Parachute System, which is designed to lower the entire aircraft to the ground in an emergency when other landing alternatives have been exhausted.
- An enhanced ground proximity warning system, known as TAWS, which incorporates the latest technology, including GPS, to give the pilot a clear picture of the terrain below and on the horizon anywhere in the world.
2006

OCTOBER
6 & 7  Elton John & Tim Rice's AIDA
26   Break! The Urban Funk Spectacular
27   Capitol Steps

NOVEMBER
3–5   STOMP
9    East Village Opera Company
10   Frogz
25   Vienna Boys Choir: Christmas in Vienna

DECEMBER
9    KSO Pops @ Miller Presents:
     Sandi Patty’s Yuletide Celebration
10   A Christmas Carol

2007

JANUARY
16–21  One Man Star Wars Trilogy
       Performed at Shaw Theatre inside the
       Gilmore Theatre Complex
28   Moscow Festival Ballet: Cinderella

FEBRUARY
2    Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
     Jim Vincent, Artistic Director
10   Gold Company
13–15  Hairspray
24   Leahy

MARCH
16–18  Chicago

APRIL
13   CIRQUE DREAMS Jungle Fantasy
Grant helps area teachers provide ‘authentic’ history lessons for students

The University's Department of History has received its second Teaching American History Grant of nearly $1 million to help Michigan teachers improve U.S. history instruction in southwestern Michigan.

“This is a big grant, and we're one of only a handful of institutions in the nation to have received it more than once,” says Dr. Wilson Warren, WMU associate professor of history. “It's truly a mark of distinction for the University.”

The three-year grant is part of the "Teaching American History Initiative" developed by West Virginia Sen. Robert Byrd and administered by the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of the initiative, which is in its fifth year, is to improve the teaching of U.S. history at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

WMU's first Teaching American History Grant, a three-year, $986,000 award received in 2003, targets high school instruction while this year's grant totals $993,000 over three years and targets middle school instruction. The University won both grants in partnership with KRESA—the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency—and several Michigan public history institutions.

Warren, who is directing both grant projects, says they support summer institutes for area teachers taught by WMU history faculty as well as public history partners from the community. About 100 high school teachers will have participated in the institutes when the first grant project concludes this summer. Another 75 middle school teachers are slated to participate in the three institutes that will be funded under the more recent grant.

Each summer, 25 to 30 teachers are selected to attend the institutes, which are open to teachers interested in improving their American history instruction. However, Warren notes that with the new teacher qualification standards that require teachers to be "highly qualified" under the No Child Left Behind Act, emphasis is placed on enrolling teachers who are either working on their certification in history or who have recently started teaching history.

Teachers attending the institutes receive "authentic" historical training.

“This teaching method engages students in learning by involving them in hands-on activities that focus on actual artifacts from the historical time periods being taught rather than on more traditional teaching methods such as lectures or worksheets,” Warren explains.

“Too often, students see history as a catalog of facts without much relevance. Authentic learning allows them to see connections and develop critical thinking skills. They're able to discover things for themselves—just like in science class when they go into the laboratory and perform experiments.”

Haas gift funds dance artist residencies

The nation's top dancers, choreographers and others highly skilled in the field of modern dance will be coming to WMU in the future, thanks to the generosity of a Mendon, Mich., businessman.

The Elaine Hamilton Haas Distinguished Modern Dance Artist-Scholar Residency is being established through a gift from Carroll J. Haas Sr. in honor of his wife, Elaine, a former dancer and teacher. Funding from the endowment will be used to support short-term residencies, bringing outstanding leaders in the field of modern dance to WMU and Kalamazoo. The artist-scholars will include renowned choreographers, artistic directors, modern dance performers, dance authors and critics.

Elaine Hamilton Haas herself was an accomplished dancer while attending the University of Michigan, appearing frequently in collegiate productions before obtaining her degree. Born in Plymouth, Mich., in 1914, dancing was always a big part of her life, says her husband, Carroll.

Hamilton graduated from Michigan in 1939 with a degree in elementary education. She met her husband—not surprisingly—at a dance. After he returned from military service during World War II, they married in 1944 and moved to Mendon, her husband's hometown, where they raised six children. Though she never danced professionally after college, dance remained important to her.

Carroll Haas, an entrepreneurial manufacturer of injection-molded plastics and fittings, started and sold several manufacturing plants in Michigan, Florida, California, Kentucky, Ohio and Georgia. He says he is happy to start yet another enterprise that will pay dividends for many years: a dance endowment in his wife's honor. Now in her 90s and battling Alzheimer's disease, Elaine Haas has set aside her dancing shoes, but her passion for dance will live on.

"She liked dancing so much and did it so well," her husband says. "I thought it would be nice to do something in her honor along those lines."
WMU Foundation to purchase Pfizer research facility
A state-of-the-art Pfizer Inc. research facility in downtown Kalamazoo will soon become a site for the University to expand its research portfolio and a magnet to attract additional private-sector development in the life sciences.

Building 126, on East Lovell Street in downtown Kalamazoo, will be purchased by the WMU Foundation for $3.8 million. The foundation, which receives private donor funds on behalf of the University, will make the facility available to the University to provide much-needed room for WMU scientists and a site where life science firms can lease research space.

Built by the Upjohn Co. in 1964, the 160,000-square-foot building currently houses unused laboratory space, maintenance and other offices, and a compound library in the process of being relocated to other Pfizer research sites. The building underwent a $35 million upgrade, completed in 2002. Pfizer will continue to use the facility through 2006.

“Pfizer and WMU share a vision as champions of innovation and biomedical research. This agreement solidifies that partnership to the benefit of students, scientists, patients and the community,” said Antoon Brusselmans, vice president for Pfizer Global Manufacturing in the Midwest and chairman of the company’s Kalamazoo Site Leadership Team.

Acquisition of the building by the foundation will allow the University to provide needed research room for its scientists and student research assistants as well as a site that can be used to enhance WMU’s efforts with the Kalamazoo community to expand the area’s growing presence as a center for biosciences commercialization and innovation. The facility will be used purely for research and will not include classroom space.

“This is an agreement that will pay dividends to the University and the community for years to come,” said WMU President Judith I. Bailey.

“Building 126 has been newly renovated specifically for the most sophisticated levels of biomedical research, and it is rare for any university’s researchers to have use of laboratory space of this caliber. We would not be able to construct even a fraction of the space at the price for which Pfizer has generously agreed to transfer this to the WMU Foundation.”

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WMU second on Intel list of top wireless campuses
The University ranks second in the nation in the use of wireless computing technology on campus, according to results of Intel’s second annual survey of campus computing released last fall.

Intel released its 2005 list of the 100 “Most Unwired College Campuses” based on several factors, including percentage of the campus covered by wireless technology, number of undergraduate students, number of computers and the campus computer-to-student ratio.

WMU moved up from eighth place in the 2004 survey, knocking Purdue University out of the No. 2 slot. Ball State University nabbed the top spot, while the University of Akron, Dartmouth College and Carnegie Mellon University filled out the remainder of the top-five slots in that order. WMU is the only Michigan university in the list’s top 10 and one of only three Michigan schools in the top 50.
Two earn named professor designations, stipends for professional work

School reform expert Dr. Jianping Shen is WMU's new John E. Sandberg Professor of Education, while internationally known jazz educator Stephen Zegree has been named the Bobby McFerrin Professor of Jazz at WMU.

The announcements were made by President Judith I. Bailey in September during her annual State of the University address. She named Shen and Zegree the recipients of two endowed professorships created last year to honor faculty members for their dedication and commitment to academic excellence and the well-being of students.

Shen, professor of teaching, learning and leadership and a faculty member since 1996, was lauded for his record of successfully leading or serving as a member on 35 doctoral committees over the past 10 years. During that same time period, he published 45 refereed articles. He also was selected as guest editor for six national journal publications, and he is the author of the 2005 book "School Principals: A successful grant writer, Shen has garnered three recent awards from the Wallace Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education totaling more than $4.25 million.

Shen's designation is named for a longtime dean of the College of Education, who served from 1971 to 1984. Sandberg retired in 1985 and now lives in Florida. Under his leadership, WMU established a doctoral program in educational leadership in Guam, and the college earned full accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Zegree, professor of music and a WMU faculty member since 1978, is a conductor, composer, pianist and arranger as well as the driving force behind WMU's Gold Company. Zegree has brought the student ensemble to New York City's Lincoln Center, and enjoyed repeat invitations to the International Association of Jazz Educators conferences and the prestigious French Polyfollia Festival. Under Zegree's leadership, the group has won more than 40 DownBeat awards. Widely sought as a conductor, clinician and adjudicator, Zegree has conducted around the globe and been the featured clinician in choral events across the nation.

The professorship is named for Zegree's friend and colleague Bobby McFerrin, a 10-time Grammy Award winner who is an ardent supporter of music education. McFerrin visited WMU earlier last year to appear with Gold Company and has praised both Zegree and the caliber of the students he mentors.

Named professors at WMU receive an annual stipend of at least $12,500 for the first three years following their appointments. The stipend is derived from the earnings of an endowment from private donations put at the discretion of the president. Up to one-half of the stipend may be used to augment the faculty member's salary. The balance is to be used for expenditures on appropriate professional endeavors.

Author J.D. Dolan garners NEA fellowship to practice craft

A WMU award-winning author will have more time to practice his craft, thanks to a $20,000 award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

J.D. Dolan, associate professor of English and author of the critically acclaimed memoir "Phoenix: A Brother's Life," is one of 50 recipients of the NEA's 2006 Literature Fellowships in Prose. The fellowships are the endowment's "most direct investment in American creativity, encouraging the production of new work and allowing writers the time and means to write."

The agency received more than 900 applicants for the fellowships. Each of the 50 recipients is awarded the same amount, which comes essentially without strings attached.

Dolan plans to continue working on a screenplay based on the life of extraordinary pocket billiards champion Ralph Greenleaf. Greenleaf was world pocket billiard champion for most of the period from 1919 to 1937 and is regarded by many as the greatest pool player of all time, with his disciples including pool champion and "how-to" author Willie Mosconi. But Greenleaf was also a raging alcoholic. During his reign as champion, he disappeared for years at a time and was living on the streets, continually drunk and presumed dead.

"There's hardly anything written about him," Dolan says. "There are some very old newspaper articles, a few magazine articles, but not much else."

Dolan is collaborating on the project with an old friend and fellow writer, Mark Kamine, who is currently the assistant unit production manager on the hit HBO series "The Sopranos."
The pressure to succeed

Two engineers teamed up with one of the world’s leading office furniture makers to determine once and for all if symmetry is all it’s cracked up to be. Their answer may be coming soon to an office chair near you.

Data compiled by two Western Michigan University researchers, a leap of faith and a commitment to make form follow science to improve comfort have led to a revolutionary new chair design from Haworth Inc. that is raking in design awards and setting sales records.

In the months since its introduction, Haworth’s revolutionary Zody office chair has been hailed by furniture designers, physical therapy professionals and industrial design specialists. The chair utilizes an asymmetrical lumbar support system, allowing the user to increase support to both sides of the lower back independently. That development is based on research the firm contracted to engineers in WMU’s Human Performance Institute.

“Form follows science” is the theme of Haworth’s marketing campaign for the new product, and company officials say the underlying WMU research has been a revelation likely to shift the way future products are developed. The product is the first chair ever endorsed by the American Physical Therapy Association and the first Haworth product developed by combining design and research.

“The research has fundamentally changed the way we look at new design development,” says Richard Haworth, chairman of the board of Haworth Inc. and a longtime WMU supporter. “The response to Zody has shown we can use science to help us design smart, beautiful and affordable products that better fit our customers’ needs for comfort and support.”

Zody closed its first six months of life with its newest trophy, the 2005 Good Design Award. Presented by the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design, the award recognizes new and innovative product concepts. Zody was selected from hundreds of international entries—ranging from an airplane to a paper clip. The design competition, founded in 1950, is one of the oldest worldwide.

Originally introduced at Chicago’s NeoCon in June 2005, the chair captured a Silver Best of NeoCon award at that event, which is the U.S. furniture industry’s biggest trade event of the year. Zody later earned a Gold Product Award at NeoCon Canada IDEX and a Gold Cradle to Cradle Product Certification from McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry. The award lauds the chair’s sustainable characteristics.
Research assistant adjusts one of 35 separate pressure points on test chair in a WMU lab.

‘Get paid to sit’

For WMU’s Dr. Tycho Fredericks and Dr. Steven Butt, both faculty members in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, the awards and praise from Haworth officials are validation of findings they amassed in a two-year study that could change the paradigm for designing seating to meet the comfort needs of customers. Under contract with Haworth, the team conducted research based on lengthy sessions with more than 160 subjects from all walks of life. For months, research subjects recruited from across the Kalamazoo community followed “Get Paid to Sit” signs directing them to a lab in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

For each individual, research teams directed by the pair collected more than one billion data points. The basic research tool is an office task chair outfitted with 35 separate lumbar support pressure points. Test subjects were given the opportunity to incrementally increase and decrease the support at each point to their own comfort level over a three-to-four hour initial test session and then asked to return days later to undergo the same process. The data for each subject was compiled to generate a pressure map showing optimum lumbar support for that individual.

Early in their research, after just 20 test subjects had completed the cycle, Fredericks and Butt noted the initial data was showing a strong asymmetrical trend. They went back to Haworth officials with preliminary data challenging the way literally all office chairs are traditionally designed. They found that most subjects, when allowed to tailor lumbar support, wanted more pressure on one side or the other. A full 70 percent

Continued on page 14
opted for asymmetrical lower back support to maximize comfort, with one in four choosing twice as much pressure on one side as on the other. By contrast, most chairs are designed to provide symmetrical pressure to the lower back.

"We found that when we gave people the opportunity to self-select lower back support, they selected asymmetrical support," Fredericks says. "While chairs are symmetrical, people are simply not."

Leap of faith pays off
Based on that initial information, Haworth took a giant leap of faith, Fredericks says, and the company switched the direction of the chair currently in design. Haworth now has a patent pending on the asymmetrical lumbar support mechanism developed for the new chair, which became Zody.

The WMU pair got its first inkling of the chair's success while they were en route to last summer's NeoCon event in Chicago. Midway through the drive, they learned by phone that the chair had won a Silver Best of NeoCon award for design. Fredericks and Butt arrived at the show two hours later and strolled up to the Zody exhibit. Haworth sales staff, mistaking the pair for average NeoCon customers, launched into a description of the new science behind the design.

"Haworth sales staff from all over the country had been briefed on the research that had gone into the chair," Butt says. "Once they found out Zody had won the award they wove that into their information as well. That basically happened as we were completing our drive to Chicago, and by the time we got there, it was one focus of the sales pitch."

The WMU research for Haworth is continuing. The researchers are looking at the high rate of asymmetry, but have yet to determine the reasons behind it. They ruled out handedness and eye dominance early in their research. In the future, they predict, their work may lead to seating that can be even more precisely tailored.

"We're really looking at comfort as it relates to biomechanic variables," says Fredericks.

That's the formula that's already paying off, with one Canadian reviewer calling Zody "a seriously comfortable experience."
Western Michigan University and Extended University Programs announce the creation of the Office of Lifelong Learning and Education—OLLE—to provide individuals pursuing personal and professional goals an even wider selection of educational options at the University.

OLLE will focus on providing:

- High-quality certificate programs, credit and non-credit workshops, professional seminars, and Continuing Education Units approved by the State of Michigan and WMU.
- Conference development, planning and management services.
- Academic advising to a selected group of adult learners returning to the University to complete their baccalaureate degree.

Visit eup.wmich.edu/olle for more information and updates.

Office of Lifelong Learning and Education
1276 Ellsworth Hall
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Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5280
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wmu-programs@wmich.edu
College of Health and Human Services
Center aims to curb children's exposure to violence

The University's Children's Trauma Assessment Center has been awarded a $420,000, two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to help build strategies to curb children's exposure to violence.

The grant was made under the Office of Justice Programs' Safe Start Promising Approaches for Children Exposed to Violence program.

The center, operated by the College of Health and Human Services, will use the funds to implement effective intervention strategies designed to curb children's exposure to violence and help families by using existing alliances among community groups such as law enforcement, mental health practitioners, child welfare organizations and domestic violence victim advocates and providers.

Under the leadership of Dr. Jim Henry, associate professor of social work and the center's director, and Connie Black-Pond, the center's clinical director, the facility will provide a School Intervention Project through Head Start, for children ages 3 to 6.

College of Arts and Sciences
Communication professor in Latvia on Fulbright

A WMU professor has won a Fulbright scholarship to teach and lecture in Latvia.

Dr. Michael Kent, assistant professor of communication, has been in the Baltic nation since February, spending four months at the University of Latvia in Riga.

Kent is teaching three classes, and he also is conducting research, working on a public relations writing textbook, and conducting interviews with scholars and public relations professionals.

“Receiving a Fulbright Award is a great honor,” Kent says. “Many of the people who've been on Fulbrights have said that the experience changed their lives. I'm hoping for an equally rewarding experience.”

Kent has traveled extensively and lectured in Eastern Europe. In 2001, he spent six weeks traveling across the region, visiting Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary and lecturing in Sarajevo. Last year, Kent taught a graduate course in the Czech Republic and spent three weeks there.

College of Aviation
Sky Broncos head for national competition again

The college's precision flight team, the Sky Broncos, captured the National Intercollegiate Flying Association's Region III title in October and is headed to national competition in May.

The 15-member WMU team finished with 305 points. Kent State University finished second with a total of 132 points, and Ohio University came in third with 101 points. The competition was held at the Sky Broncos' home field in Battle Creek, Mich.

The regional win, WMU's 14th in 15 years, secures a berth for the WMU team at NIFA's national championship, which is slated for May 8-13 at Ohio State University. The Sky Broncos have snagged top-three finishes in national competition for 14 consecutive years.

“This was a phenomenal representation of who we are as a college and what we do,” said Sky Bronco Head Coach James Whittles of the win.

College of Fine Arts
Merrion serves on international fine arts board

Dr. Margaret Merrion, dean of the College of Fine Arts, has been elected to the board of directors of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans.

Merrion, whose three-year term began in October, has previously served on the board and was the council's president from 1998 to 2000. The council is a professional organization that provides leadership in arts education and serves as a forum for the advancement of the highest standards in the profession.

As dean of the college since 2000, Merrion has initiated a number of efforts designed to involve the college in the community and vice versa, and she actively promotes the “College of Distinction” and its mission of “elevating the human condition through the arts.”
College of Education
Three educators win WMU alumni teaching awards

Three outstanding teachers from Kalamazoo received a special award last fall from the College of Education Alumni Society in acknowledgement of their achievements in the classroom.

The three are recipients of the 2005 Golden Apple Award, an honor bestowed annually on exemplary alumni of the college. The honorees are: Dr. Josephine Barry-Davis, WMU assistant professor of teaching, learning and leadership; Dr. W. Craig Misner, superintendent of the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency; and Dr. A.L. "Mike" Sebaly, WMU professor emeritus of education and professional development.

- Barry-Davis was singled out for being a dedicated and creative educator and mentor to WMU students.
- Misner was acknowledged for his innovative work and decisive action to improve education through such initiatives as the KRESA Leadership Institute.
- Sebaly was extolled for the impact he has had on both students and the community during a long and distinguished career.

Haworth College of Business
Whirlpool supports BBA offering at WMU-Southwest

Whirlpool Corp. employees and others interested in pursuing careers in business have a new opportunity for advancement in the Berrien County area, thanks to an addition to the bachelor's degree offerings at WMU-Southwest.

Area residents will be able to earn a bachelor's degree in business close to home, beginning this year. The initiative is the outcome of a partnership between WMU, Lake Michigan College and Whirlpool, through which Whirlpool employees take the first half of the business administration curriculum at LMC, then, after earning an LMC associate's degree, continue at WMU to earn a bachelor of business administration degree.

The BBA program at WMU-Southwest, which will have a management focus, will be the third complete bachelor's degree program offered in the area by WMU. The Whirlpool commitment and anticipated employee participation will provide a base for building a strong program that is open to other area residents as well. WMU-Southwest is located on LMC's Napier Avenue campus.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
Professional group lauds engineering management programs at both graduate and undergraduate levels

For the second year in a row, WMU's graduate and undergraduate programs in engineering management have been singled out as being among the nation's best by the American Society for Engineering Management.

WMU's master's program in engineering management, last year named as one of the top three such programs in the nation, was first runner-up in ASEM's Founders Award competition this year, effectively giving the WMU program a national second-place ranking.

Meanwhile, the WMU undergraduate program in engineering management technology again earned an ASEM top-five designation. WMU is the only school with top-ranked programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Announcements of the placings were made at ASEM's fall 2005 annual meeting.

This year, graduate-level honors went to Old Dominion University, and for the first time, ASEM evaluators remarked on the closeness of the decision and named WMU's program as runner-up for the award.

At the undergraduate level, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point earned top honors, while WMU, the University of the Pacific, the University of Missouri-Rolla and Stevens Institute of Technology were top contenders.
Geographical research center will make explorers' work available on Internet

A multimillion-dollar private gift to WMU has resulted in the creation of a one-of-a-kind center for the study of geographic change on the University's main campus.

The new Upjohn Center, which was opened with an Oct. 10 ceremony, is housed in Welborn Hall, located at the west entrance to the WMU campus.

The Upjohn Center will make WMU a central resource for preserving the work of past explorers and scientists and for combining their discoveries with the technical capabilities of today's researchers. The facility, the only one of its kind in the world, will use the latest technology to preserve and create enhanced digital versions of maps and aerial photography from around the nation.

Edwin E. and Mary U. Meader of Kalamazoo contributed $4 million to establish the W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change, named to honor Mary Meader's grandfather, a pharmaceutical pioneer who began his company in Kalamazoo more than a century ago. The new center, which was formally opened with an Oct. 10 ceremony, is housed in Welborn Hall, located at the west entrance to the WMU campus.

Dickason says the center already has attracted the interest of researchers at the University of Texas-Austin and the University of Wisconsin, and he expects to work in partnership with both institutions. He also has been in contact with the U.S. Library of Congress, which is the world's largest repository of maps.

The new Upjohn Center will offer several unique advantages to researchers and the public. Foremost will be unlimited access via the Web. At the same time that maps and aerial photographs are being preserved in digital form, they will be electronically catalogued and cross-referenced, making it possible for the first time to easily search for desired materials.

The center will include an e-store, which will offer high-resolution copies of aerial photographs and maps, as well as reference books at a nominal cost. It also will be physically open to the public with a lobby-museum area that features multimedia programs and displays, including some of Mary Meader's landmark aerial photography of South America and Africa.

In 1937, Mary Meader, just 21 at the time, embarked with her then-husband, Richard U. Light, on an unprecedented fly-over of Africa. During the journey, Meader took many of the first-ever aerial photographs of the continent. The historic significance of the flight has been recognized by, among others, the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

Mary Meader's work as an explorer will be recognized this spring when the American Geographical Society's Fliers' and Explorers' Globe comes to Kalamazoo so that Meader may add her signature to those of 70 "early heros of exploration and aviation." Other signers include Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Sir Edmond Hillary and the Apollo 13 astronauts.
Award-winning exhibit “Shared Waters,” honors cultural heritage of lakes

An award-winning exhibit chronicling the historical connection in the Great Lakes between the French and Native Americans was on display at the University’s Waldo Library for six months this fall and winter.

“Shared Waters: Natives and French Newcomers on the Great Lakes,” officially opened with ceremonies Sept. 9, which included presentation by eminent historical geographer Dr. Conrad Heidenreich, professor emeritus in geography at York University in Toronto.

“Shared Waters” traced the story of Native-French interactions in southwest Michigan during the 17th and 18th centuries. It featured 27 thematic panels, display cases of religious medals, tools and clothing and a birch-bark canoe. With a rich blend of images, interpretive text and artifacts—some recovered by WMU faculty and students—“Shared Waters” was designed to illuminate a complex, diverse and evolving cultural heritage with aesthetic and narrative power. The exhibit was originally conceived and designed by faculty members of the WMU Department of History. Artifacts collected by WMU faculty and students were uncovered at Fort St. Joseph, an 18th century mission and French fur trading post in Niles, Mich.

“Shared Waters” received the 2004 Great Lakes Cultural Center Best Exhibit Award. It was made available to WMU by special arrangement with the Fort Miami Heritage Society in St. Joseph, Mich., where it initially was on display. The exhibit at WMU was mounted through the joint sponsorship of the University Libraries and Canadian Studies program.

April 2005 grad heads to England as winner of prestigious 2006-07 Gates Cambridge Scholarship

A recent WMU graduate is one of 100 students worldwide to win a 2006-07 Gates Cambridge Scholarship, one of the world’s most prestigious awards in higher education.

Tristan Brown of Franklin, Mich., is one of just 40 U.S. students and the first from WMU to be selected for the honor. The U.S. recipients include students from such schools as Harvard, Princeton and Yale universities; the U.S. Naval and Military academies; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and the University of California.

Brown, who completed an environmental studies major and a broad-based student planned major, earned his bachelor’s degree in April 2005. He was a member of the University’s Lee Honors College as an undergraduate and this coming fall will start graduate school at Cambridge, where he plans to pursue a master of philosophy degree in environmental policy with a concentration in law and economics.

“I think it’s safe to say that the Gates Cambridge Scholarship is the Cambridge counterpart to the Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford,” notes Dr. John Martell, assistant dean emeritus of the Lee Honors College and the person who wrote Brown’s recommendation for the award.

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship is an international scholarship program that was established in 2000 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation of Seattle, Wash., through a $210 million donation to the University of Cambridge.

The scholarship is awarded based on the applicants’ intellectual ability, leadership capacity and desire to use their knowledge to contribute to society.

While at WMU, Brown earned some of the University’s and the nation’s highest academic honors as well as conducted several research projects and participated in numerous political and volunteer activities.

In 2005, Brown was named to USA Today’s All-USA College Academic Team, the members of which represent the nation’s most outstanding students. He also represented the Environmental Studies Program as a WMU Presidential Scholar, the University’s highest academic honor for an undergraduate.

The preceding year, he was selected to receive the Morris K. Udall Undergraduate Scholarship for environmental studies and became WMU’s first Lloyd Meeds Policy Fellow, an honor that included a paid internship in Washington, D.C., at the top national law firm of Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds LLP.

Brown accumulated an impressive research record for a WMU undergraduate. He engaged in five funded projects, on topics ranging from toxic pollutants absorbed by underwater bacteria to the environment of the Kuala Lumpur region of Malaysia.
Going the distance

Looking back on their college days, most readers of the WMU Magazine will remember a time when enrollment was handled by an admissions director and staffers who traveled the state visiting high schools and concentrating on assembling the next freshman class.

Today, enrollment management is an institutionwide approach to the tasks of both recruiting talented students and keeping students moving toward graduation.

At WMU, that effort is overseen by John Beacon, vice provost for enrollment management, who has been on the job for just over a year. A veteran administrator with more than 35 years of experience, he came to WMU from the University of Maine, where he helped build a 60 percent increase in new student enrollment. He’s supported physical changes, like a new campus visitors’ center, designed to make the campus a more welcoming place, and he’s at work changing the campus’ approach to building its student body.

The WMU Magazine’s Cheryl Roland sat down with Beacon recently to explore the concept of an enrollment manager and to pose questions about its long-term impact on the University.
Q. First of all, give us a Cliff Notes version of what enrollment management is and what areas of the University it includes?

A. In the early 1960s, children of World War II veterans started arriving in large numbers at the doors and front gates of colleges and universities, where there was little space to accommodate those numbers. Directors of admissions were gatekeepers, and it was a crisis management period all the way through the early '70s. Then, as quickly as it began, the baby boom numbers dropped off, and directors of admissions were no longer just gatekeepers, but they were actually looking at ways to recruit good students.

Enrollment management is about marketing. It really gets into trying to figure out why students do what they do, what kinds of decisions they make and why they make those decisions. And it's really as much about retaining students as it is about recruiting them. It does encompass admissions, of course, but it also encompasses records and financial aid and can include the career center and general advising, and other areas as well. It is really a campuswide mindset. Probably the thing I like the most about the job is it really involves dealing with the student from the first time you meet them in a high school until they cross the stage at graduation. Then you can shake their hand again and feel a great sense of pride and accomplishment.

Q. So the focus in enrollment management is on all students rather than just new students?

A. Absolutely. And it's about not losing those students. The sad thing in public education today is that we lose nearly one in four students by the end of their first year. In public education, only about 50 percent of students graduate in four, five or six years. So the work is not just about how many students you can recruit. Actually, the work becomes easier for the admissions side of the house if you can do a better job of retaining students.

Q. Let's start with new students. How do you find students for whom WMU is the perfect match?

A. The thing I have learned over time is that as much as we'd like to think that students choose us for the right reasons in our minds—the academic programs, the quality of the services—very often, that's not the reason students choose schools. It has more to do with the fit. Does the student find that this institution is welcoming and inviting? And that's why coming to campus is such a critical part of the decision-making process. The key to our work today is direct mailings, very personal, direct contact with students, getting them to come to campus and then "courting" them after their visits.

My job is to provide the answers to questions that students and families have in terms of the decision-making process. If I'm doing my job well, the number of students enrolling will take care of itself. I'm focused on giving students a good experience when they're visiting campus, providing them exposure to faculty, and talking to them about

Continued on page 22
Continued from page 21

our service as well as giving them good information in our recruitment materials and on our Web site.

Q. Once a student makes an intelligent decision and applies to WMU, what's next?

A. I've always said that I'm never convinced that a student is really going to come to this institution until I see mom and dad pulling away from the residence hall after they've dropped him or her off. Staying in touch with students in the spring after they've been accepted is important, and summer orientation is critical to our "yield." Many families are still shopping during that period. They may go to orientation at more than one school and they may base their final decision on which one gave them the courses and the support they wanted.

For the best academic students, it gets very competitive, because oftentimes what they've learned to do is try to negotiate better scholarships. You might give a full tuition scholarship and still have a parent call you to describe a better offer from the institution down the road and ask what we're going to do to match that. My position has always been that I'm not going to negotiate when we've made our offer.

Q. Okay, let's talk about the competition then. How closely do you have to keep an eye on what that institution down the road is up to?

A. I never think about the competition. I don't concern myself with what the competition is doing, because I'm aggressive in my initiatives and recruiting approaches, and if I'm doing my job well, the rest will take care of itself. I don't consider the competition in my strategies. If somebody wants to go to another institution, they should go, because they probably won't be happy here if they must be talked into attending.

Q. So you're not a gatekeeper so much as a matchmaker. Tell me how you retain students once they get here. How do you make sure that match is a lasting one?

A. Let's go back to that '60s model for a moment. I can remember a college president who greeted me as a new student on the day I moved in to the residence hall. He said, "Look to your right and look to your left. The day you graduate, neither of them will be there." He wasn't saying those students wouldn't be there because they'd just decide to leave. He was saying they wouldn't be there for academic reasons. They would be weeded out. That's not the case today, and that's the most important difference between enrollment management and admissions. I tell this story to students and families at orientation. I then tell them, "We admitted you because you have the potential to complete a degree at this university. It's our job to help you achieve that goal."
One of the keys to retention is student interaction with the faculty. Many students decide to stay or leave an institution because of their interaction with the faculty. And customer services are important. Even in my earliest presentations here, I referred to students as customers and that got some comments. The faculty is sometimes unhappy when I call students customers, and yet, the fact of the matter is these people are buying an expensive product. We have to have a customer mindset—and I use the word “customer” in the most respectful way because I think we can never lose sight of the fact that these students are what we’re all about.

**Q. Are there roles for alumni and friends of the institution in an enrollment management program?**

**A.** They’re already playing a critical role because they’re our best representatives. Last fall, in cooperation with the WMU Alumni Association, we used several alumni who volunteered their services to attend regional college fair programs out of state in places we couldn’t reasonably expect to go. For example, we set the Minneapolis/St. Paul area as a place where we should be doing some exploring. So we spent the money to be able to go to a national fair there, but we didn’t send an admission representative. We recruited a couple of enthusiastic active alumni who attended that event for us. We did that and will continue that in a couple of other large areas as well, and we’re going to see how that impacts the response in those areas in the coming years.

It’s one thing to recruit students in the fall, but one of the mistakes many colleges make is that they assume if students apply, they’re going to come, so faculty and administrators don’t communicate with them again until they are invited to summer orientation. The critical period of time is what I call the “yield” period. That’s in the spring, an important time for staying in students’ faces. We’re identifying key alumni across the country and we’re teaming them up, by region and by major, with admitted students from those same areas. The alumni role is critical to our success in attracting students to WMU.

**Q. Look ahead—ten years down the road—and tell me how you see this all playing out. Will the University have hit an ideal size?**

**A.** Well I think the numbers will seek level ground. If we’re all doing our jobs right, enrollment will take care of itself. I’m a marathon runner so I don’t give up. That’s really the key to success. A distance runner just never quits. I’m not in it for the short haul. I’m in this with a commitment to help grow the University to its full potential in terms of programs and services. This is a wonderful place to be, and we need to convey that to the public and potential students in everything we say and do. ■
The Little Theatre, a completely renovated Art Deco-style jewel at the corner of Oakland Drive and Oliver Street, serves as a home away from home to campus and Kalamazoo-area film buffs. They flock to the site to view the art, alternative and international film offerings sponsored by the University Film Series and the Kalamazoo Film Society.

Built in 1942, the theatre served as the venue for WMU theatrical and musical presentations until Shaw Theatre was completed in 1967 and the Dalton Center opened in 1982. For more than a decade after that, the building housed University custodial offices. Then, in 1997, the theatre was restored in a $900,000 renovation effort funded by such private donors as the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, as well as the Kalamazoo Film Society and the state of Michigan. The renovation included the addition of surround sound; a large, seamless screen; and video projection equipment. Two etched-glass doors that were designed by WMU art students also were added to complement glass panels designed by 1940-era Western art students when the theatre was first built.

Detroit-area students named Archer Scholars for 2005-06 academic year

Eleven WMU students were among 20 Michigan students who shared $100,000 in scholarships awarded by the Dennis W. Archer Foundation for the 2005-06 academic year.

The 2005 Archer Scholars were recognized during the foundation’s third annual awards reception held in September at Detroit’s famed Roostertail restaurant. The foundation’s goals for the program are to support needy college students, principally Detroit high school graduates, so they are able to thrive in college without having to work excessive hours. The scholarships are awarded to students attending WMU and Wayne State University, both alma maters of Dennis Archer, former mayor of Detroit, past president of the American Bar Association and a current member of the WMU Board of Trustees.

Nine WMU students received scholarships of $5,000 each, and two WMU students who graduated in December each received $2,500. This year’s awards bring the total of scholarship assistance awarded by the foundation since 2001 to $265,000.

Through a permanent endowment, the foundation makes contributions to scholarships for WSU and WMU students majoring primarily in areas dedicated to public service. The foundation also tries to make an award each year to Archer’s high school alma mater in Cassopolis, Mich.

“The endowment is more than two-thirds of the way to reaching our goal of funding 25 scholars each year,” says Ronald E. Hall Sr., ’65, president of the Archer Foundation and chief executive officer of Bridgewater Interiors. “Each Archer Scholar’s success story will inspire other youths to achieve their dream of a college education.”
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Don’t hesitate to contact us when you have news to share in our classnotes or obituary sections. For classnotes, make sure to include your name (first, middle, last, maiden), address, degree(s), year(s) graduated and phone number. We will publish your photo as space permits.

Write: Classnotes/Obituaries WMU Magazine 1903 West Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo MI 49008-5403
Fax: (269) 387-8770
E-mail: dev-alumnote@wmich.edu

---1937 to 1974---

Lila Thaler, BS ’37, TC ’37, has written a book titled “I Remember,” a narrative that documents her life in Lowell, MI.

Wayne “Twig” Tervilliger, BS ’50, is retiring after a 57-year career in baseball. He led the Fort Worth Cats to first place in the independent Central League and was named the league’s 2005 Manager of the Year.

- Herb Moyer, BS ’53, a former Michigan education superintendent, recently received an award from the National Association of State Boards of Education for his outstanding service to public education.
- Otto Laabs, BS ’58, MA ’64, a retired business education teacher, was honored at Saranac (MI) High School’s halftime festivities for his 47 years of teaching and 35 years of coaching. He continues to coach boys’ golf.
- Dennis Archer, BS ’65, will head Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm’s 2006 re-election campaign.
- John Colburn, BM ’65, is the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services station manager at Sigonella Naval Air Station in Sicily, Italy.
- Nancy (Clark) Colburn, MS ’65, is the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services assistant station manager in Vincenza, Italy.
- Norman Barlow, BA ’66, celebrated the 50-year anniversary of his business, Barlow Florist in Hastings, MI.
- Don Julian, BS ’67, is the owner of Julian Development Co., a home builder, in Kansas City.
- William Kimball, BBA ’67, has been named regional president of the Michigan Leadership Institute, a private corporation that provides leadership services for intermediate school districts, K-12 schools, colleges and other local public-sector organizations interested in developing or seeking outstanding leaders at the executive, middle and entry levels.
- Donald L. Barniske, BA ’69, was featured in an Imperial Valley Press newspaper article for providing free eye care and eyeglasses for Hurricane Katrina victims. He is an optometrist in Brawley, CA.
- Howard H. Heimke, BBA ’69, has retired after 25 years as chief personnel officer at Alpena (MI) General Hospital.
- Lee Kyko, BS ’69, a seventh-grade social studies teacher at Harper Woods (MI) Middle School, was recently chosen as teacher of the week. She was one of 15 teachers statewide selected for the U.S.-Europe Alliance in Teaching Program.
- Liz Miller, BA ’69, MA ’72, former head softball coach at the University of Notre Dame, was inducted into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame at the organization’s yearly coaches clinic in Orlando, FL.
- Wayne Rizer, BS ’69, was featured in the Saginaw News for his 30 years of carving stone sundials. He is an engineer at Eaton Corp. in Galesburg, MI.
- James C. Foresman, BA ’70, is the head of the Health Care Law Group of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone’s new office in Saginaw (MI) Township.
- Lawrence Holen, BS ’70, is an orthopedic surgeon at Marlette (MI) Community Hospital.
- Madeline Milidonis-Fritz, BS ’70, MA ’74, has retired after 20 years of teaching art at North Oakland and South Maple elementary schools in the Gaylord (MI) Community School district.
- Martha J. Orloff, BS ’70, MA ’72, has retired after 25 years of teaching at Texas A&M University’s Department of Health and Kinesiology.
- James A. Ruckstaeter, BBA ’70, has been appointed chief credit officer of PrivateBancorp Inc., which provides personalized financial services and is based in Chicago.
- Vinod Thomas, BA ’70, MA ’71, has been appointed director of operations evaluation at World Bank Group in Washington, DC.
- Paul Phifer, BS ’71, MA ’75, is director of the Grand Rapids (MI) Community College Career Resource and Assessment Center.
- Michael Thiele, BBA ’71, has been appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm as judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court in Genesee County, MI.
- John Van Ochten, BBA ’71, has been named executive vice president of Euclid Industries, a manufacturer of truck, trailer and bus parts in Bay County, MI.
- Peter McPherson, MBA ’72, has been named president of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

---1975 to 1989---

Barbara Perrin, BS ’75, won a top award during the annual National Quilting Association show in the summer of 2005.

Karen Pohja, BS ’75, an education consultant for the State of Michigan, was the guest speaker at the Barry County Chamber of Commerce Business, Industry and Education luncheon held this past September.

Denise Bell, BS ’76, is the assistant principal at Carman-Ainsworth Middle School, in Flint, MI.

Robert E.L. Wright, BA ’76, an attorney-mediator in the Grand Rapids, MI, office of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone PLC, has been elected to a three-year term on the governing council of the State Bar of Michigan Alternative Dispute Resolution Section.

Antonio R. Flores, MA ’77, was awarded the 2005 Hispanic Magazine Achievement Award for his dedication to education.

Deborah Rockman, BS ’77, is a professor of art at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, MI.

Joy Richmond, BS ’72, teaches drawing classes at the Allegan (MI) Area Arts Center.

Janet M. Thompson, BBA ’72, has been named one of the 100 Leading Women in the Auto Industry by Automotive News. She is vice president of marketing at Nissan North America Inc.

Peggy Yates, BA ’72, is the superintendent of the Fenton (MI) School District.

Diana Sieger, BA ’73, MSW ’78, is the president of the Grand Rapids (MI) Community Foundation.

James Szappan, BS ’73, is assistant principal at Chesaning (MI) Middle School.

Dan Arbour, BBA ’74, is president and chief executive officer of National Archive Publishing Co., which publishes scholarly research material via periodical and microfilms, and is based in Ann Arbor, MI.

- Terry M. Faulk, MBA ’74, has been named to the board of trustees of The Hadley School for the Blind, one of the largest worldwide educators of blind and visually impaired people, offering distance education courses free of charge. He is executive vice president of global human resources for Kraft Foods Inc.

Kit Lane, MS ’74, was a guest speaker at the Holland (MI) Genealogical Society. Her topic was “My Grandpa’s Toothache and Other Tales from the Civil War.”

Greg Moody, BS ’74, is critic-at-large at CBS4 television in Denver.

Larry T. Stephens, BBA ’74, has joined the accounting firm of Yeo & Yeo in their Lansing, MI, office as a manager.
Mark Morrison. BS ’88, is the owner of IDV Solutions, a business intelligence enterprise that helps corporations, universities and governments put large amounts of data into maps, charts and graphs, based in Grand Ledge, MI.

Karen Bittner, BSM ’89, a certified physician assistant, has joined the family practice of Dr. Darrell Cunningham and Sara Cook in Stanton, MI.

• Peggy Boyce, MA ’89, a teacher at West Ottawa High School and part-time instructor at Grand Valley State University, has built an artistic grandfather custom clock that was auctioned at the Howard Miller Library to benefit the library's endowment fund.

Christine K. (Walker) Urish. BS ’89, MS ’93, is an associate professor of occupational therapy at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA.

—1990 to 2000—

Heather Ballien. MA ’90, is the principal at St. Charles (MI) High School.

Bob Brown. BS ’90, has retired from teaching agricultural science at Hopkins (MI) Public Schools.

Robert A. Dubault. MBA ’90, a partner at Warner Norcross & Judd LLP in Grand Rapids, MI, has been named chairman of the firm’s employment and labor law group.

Todd Jager. MA ’90, is the athletic trainer at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI.

James K. Lint. BSE ’90, is senior application engineer for FBE Associates Inc., a computer software company that designs and constructs manholes, in Bay City, MI.

Rogene M. Eichler West. BS ’90, a senior research scientist for computational sciences and mathematics at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, has received a $2.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science to develop multiscale math tools.

David Craft. PhD ’91, associate professor of mathematics at Muskingum College in New Concord, OH, was awarded the William Oxlery Thompson Award for Excellence in Teaching.

David Kauzlarić. MA ’91, PhD ’94, a professor and chairman of sociology and criminal justice studies at Southern Illinois University, was awarded the Great Teacher Award for 2005.

Mary H. Morris. BBA ’91, is the owner of Green for Good LLC, an online shop that features green, organic and eco-friendly products.

Aaron Tyler. BS ’91, is the new owner of the Cherokee Restaurant in Muskegon, MI.

Terisa Brown. BS ’92, MA ’00, is director of student services for Lakeshore Public Schools in Stevensville, MI.

John P. Dinegan. MA ’92, is assistant professor of exercise science at Ripon (WI) College.

James Epipito. MPA ’92, is the chief executive officer of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

• Kevin A. Kelly. MPA ’92, has been named executive director of the Michigan State Medical Society, which represents more than 14,500 Michigan physicians, with headquarters in East Lansing.

Miles McMahon. BS ’92, is the owner of Theatre of the Imagination, a performing arts group for children in Overland Park, KS.

Patrick Smith. MA ’92, is superintendent of Marquette (MI) Public Schools.

• Janelle Wilson. MA ’92, PhD ’95, is the author of a new book titled, “Nostalgia: Sanctuary of Meaning,” published by Bucknell University Press. She is a professor of sociology and anthropology at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Jason Epipito. MPA ’93, is the new city manager of Ionia, MI.

Thomas H. Funk. BS ’93, is the resident manager of the Michigan Audubon Otis Sanctuary in Hastings, MI.

• Aaron M. Girson. BS ’93, has been appointed executive vice president of the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation in Indianapolis.

Tracie Gizzi. BS ’93, teaches ninth grade global studies at Churchill High School in Livonia, MI.

Julia Koestner. MA ’93, a certified nurse practitioner specializing in gynecology and women’s health, has joined the staff of Lakeview Medical Center in Paw Paw, MI.

Stephen Lynch. BA ’93, has been cast in the lead role of the Broadway musical version of “The Wedding Singer,” which opened in April.

Robert G. Ranes. BBA ’93, MBA ’02, has been promoted to assistant vice president of branch banking at Hastings (MI) City Bank.

Greg Buchner. BBA ’94, is the new pastor at Rosebush United Methodist Church in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

John J. Bursch. BM ’94, a partner with Warner Norcross & Judd LLP in Grand Rapids, MI, was recently appointed the publications chairman for the American Bar Association’s Council of Appellate Lawyers.

Jeff Clark. BS ’94, is the Schoolcraft (MI) Middle School football coach.

Sheri Holmen. BS ’94, MS ’95, is a cancer researcher at the VanAndel Research Institute in Grand Rapids, MI.

Myron Lewis. MSW ’94, recently presented a couples communication seminar at Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey, MI, based on his book “Making Right Turns in Your Relationship.”

Scott W. Shipp. BBA ’94, has been named manager of the north side branch of KeyBank in Elyria, IN.
Alumnus participates in Liberia’s historic 2005 election
Politics is in his blood, whether overseas or on the American campaign trail

Alumnus Jason C. Roe witnessed history in the making during October 2005 when he served as an international election observer in Liberia and watched as voters elected Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first woman president of an African nation.

Roe, who also was involved with the 2001 Bulgarian parliamentary elections and the 2003 Nigerian presidential election, says the 11-day experience was a positive one.

"The United States has no better friend in West Africa than Liberia, and our historical ties are significant," he says. "Liberians very fondly think of America as their big brother in spite of our obviously complicated history."

Liberia was founded in 1847 by freed American slaves and has suffered from coup d'etats, wars and human rights atrocities since Samuel Doe seized power in 1980 and established a military government.

The country's immediate past president, rebel leader Charles Taylor, overthrew Doe and was elected president in 1997, but abuses and fighting among factions continued. Then in mid-2003, the United Nations indicted Taylor for war crimes and shortly thereafter, he acquiesced to pressure from the United States and various African leaders that he resign.

The recent political turmoil has left Liberia's three million inhabitants with a miniscule economy, an 80 percent unemployment rate, and barely any electricity or running water. Still, Roe says, they were able to conduct a free election in 2005 with minimal fraud by building in such safeguards as observers, matching photos on voter registration cards with photos on file at polling stations and validating ballots on-site with stamps prior to votes being cast.

"We can't even so much as ask for an I.D. at the polling location," Roe says of American elections. "How can a war-torn, third-world country run an election with all of these mechanisms to ensure the legitimacy of the outcome and we can't?"

Roe, who is chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Tom Feeney of Florida, is no stranger to overseas politics. In 2003, he led a political party assessment for the International Republican Institute in Iraq, compiling the first comprehensive data on the parties emerging there after the fall of Saddam Hussein. He supervised some 20 Iraqis and interviewed more than 100 political parties, from Hezbollah to the Communist Party.

A Michigan native, Roe majored in public administration and minored in economics at WMU, earning his bachelor's degree in 1993. His career has included stints as chief of staff to the U.S. under secretary of commerce for intellectual property, communications director for former U.S. Rep. Nick Smith of Michigan and executive director of the San Diego County Republican Party. He also has worked on several state-level campaigns as well as national campaigns for political heavyweights such as President George W Bush, former Majority Leader Tom DeLay and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

In 2005, The Hill newspaper named Roe one of the "35 Under 35" most effective staffers on Capitol Hill and in 2002, Campaigns and Elections magazine named him one of the "Rising Stars of Politics."
David Wingard, MSW ’94, has been promoted to behavioral health program director at Catholic Social Services in Muskegon County, MI.

Michael Irvin, BBA ’95, is vice president, special assets manager at Monroe (MI) Bank & Trust.

Amy M. Ochander, BA ’95, is the social studies department chairwoman and student union advisor for H.H. Dow High School in Midland, MI.

Bradley Perkins, MA ’95, is the principal at Bunker Middle School in Muskegon, MI.

Royce Robertson, BS ’95, is assistant professor of education and technology at Plymouth (NH) State University.

Judith Snow, MA ’95, is the author of a new book titled “How It Feels To Have A Gay or Lesbian Parent,” published by Haworth Press Inc. She is a psychotherapist in private practice in Grand Rapids, MI.

Mike Spahr, MA ’96, is the principal at Byron Center (MI) West Middle School.

Lisa Sutterfield, MPA ’95, is the assistant city manager of Grand Haven, MI.

Wendy Hedrick, MA ’96, is a professor of English at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI.

Rian Birchmeier, BBA ’97, is real estate sales associate for Century 21 Halseid Inc. in Flint, MI.

Elizabeth Bourgeois, BA ’97, an assistant professor of theatre at the University of Michigan-Flint, is co-author of a play titled “Flint, MI: Michael & Me,” which premiered in New York last summer.

Karen Charles, MSW ’97, is a social worker for Banner Health Plans in Arizona.

Lucinda Charles, MA ’97, is principal at Hamilton Elementary School in Kentwood, MI.

Rob Ginnman, BBA ’97, has joined his family business, Ginnman Tree Company Inc., in Muskegon, MI.

Jonathan Johnson, PhD ’97, is the director of the master of fine arts program at the Inland Northwest Center for Writers, part of Eastern Washington University in Spokane.

Derek Kroeger, BA ’97, teaches government and economics at Frankenmuth (MI) High School.

Amber Mackenzie, BA ’97, is assistant vice president for advancement at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, MI.

Davin Ojala, BS ’97, is project consultant at Soil and Material Engineers Inc. in Plymouth, MI.

Gary Franks, BM ’98, is the band director at Webberville (MI) Community Schools.

• Jamie Martinez, BA ’98, a recruiter in the human resources department at Fifth Third Bank in Grand Rapids, MI, has been selected as WMU’s 2004-05 Recruit of the Year.

Mary Brodbeck, MFA ’99, recently exhibited her woodblock prints, Views of Lake Superior, at Pine Tree Gallery in Ironwood, MI.

Katie B. Eaton, BS ’99, MA ’01, is an audiologist with Battle Creek (MI) Hearing Services at the Brockside Medical Center.

Angela K. Stanton, BS ’99, a captain in the U.S. Air Force has been named Hidden Hero for Community Service at Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt, Germany.

Jennifer (Uphaus) Village, BBA ’99, has been promoted to manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Darren DeFrais, PhD ’00, is the author of a novel titled “Salt Palace,” published by New Issues Press.

Sara Duthler, BA ’00, is the elementary special education teacher at Saugatuck (MI) Public Schools.

Mark Frederick, MA ’00, is assistant director of the Career Center at Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

Dana Harville, BA ’00, was recently promoted to public relations manager at Domino’s Pizza in Ann Arbor, MI.

Tim Lester, BA ’00, is the head football coach at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, IN.

Matthew J. Workman, BBA ’00, MBA ’01, is the director of development at Manhattan Concert Productions in New York.

—2001 to 2005—

Jennifer Bullinger, BA ’01, has opened REVOLUTIONS, a dance studio in Spring Lake, MI.

Daniel Bursch, BBA ’01, is associate director of admissions and recruiting for the part-time master of business administration degree program at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.

• Jessica A. Green, BA ’01, is the principal at St. Helen Catholic School in Saginaw, MI.

• Lindley A. Johnson, BSW ’01, is an occupational therapist at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Dave Nadolski, BA ’01, is a speech instructor at Jackson (MI) Community College.

Kimberly Sapkowski, MA ’01, is the watershed administrative assistant for Cannon (MI) Township.

Dennis Shannon, BA ’01, is the varsity hockey coach at Port Huron (MI) High School.

Paul Stockert III, BBA ’01, has joined McCraken, Walsh & DeLaVain, a Chicago-based law firm with a practice concentrating in real estate tax law.

Victoria E. Griebel, BA ’02, has joined the law firm of Danna McKitrick in Clayton, MO, as an associate attorney in the firm’s litigation department and works in family law and other civil litigation areas.

Kristi Krafft, BBA ’02, MSA ’03, has earned her certified public accountant license and has been promoted to senior accountant at Yeo & Yeo in Saginaw, MI.

• Wallace Rutkowski, BBA ’02, is an executive recruiter for the banking and financial services industry with Angott Search Group, based in Rochester Hills, MI.

Wendy Ulrich, BBA ’02, MSA ’03, has recently earned her certified public accountant license. She is employed at Plante & Moran in its Traverse City, MI office.

Justin Amthor, BS ’03, first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, recently received his Naval Aviator Wings during a ceremony at the Whiting Naval Air Station near Pensacola, FL.

Sarah Ball, BFA ’03, performed the lead role in “A Nutcracker Christmas” at the Emerald City Theatre in Chicago.

Heather Jacch, BBA ’03, is the director of development and community relations at the Cass County (MI) Council on Aging.

Rachel Moran, BBA ’03, has joined the mortgage lending staff of National City Bank in Whitehall, MI.

Kylie Conklin, BS ’04, teaches kindergarten through second grade at Leonidas (MI) Elementary School.

Dawn Heuschele, MDA ’04, has been named a 2005-06 Presidential Management Fellow. She works for the U.S. Trade Commission in Washington, D.C.

Chad Hillenbrand, BSE ’04, is an engineer at Otterweller Co., based in Fort Wayne, IN.

Matthew Kelly, BBA ’04, has joined the assurance staff at Plante & Moran in its Kalamazoo office.

Martin D. Ketting, BA ’04, performed in the one-act play, “The Dumb Walker,” this past summer in Saginaw, MI.

Daniel Lotz, BS ’04, a second lieutenant in the Army National Guard, graduated from Ranger School at Fort Benning in Columbus, GA.

Amber Wilde, BA ’04, received a scholarship from the Hastings (MI) Lions Club to continue her education at WMU in teaching children with visual impairments.

Merry-Noel Chamberlain, MA ’05, who teaches the visually impaired in the Des Moines (IA) School District, was recently honored as an outstanding teacher. She was also named the 2005 Distinguished Educator of Blind Children by the National Federation of the Blind in Louisville, KY.

John Cowan, BA ’05, is an eighth grade math and social studies teacher at Potslsey (MI) Middle School.

• Kelly Getman-Dissette, MA ’05, is a community development educator for Michigan State University Extension in Van Buren County. She will serve as secretary to the county planning commission, act as liaison for housing programs and the Kal-Haven Trail, and provide leadership for the county’s farmland preservation program.

Kara Mumford, BS ’05, is a kindergarten teacher at Sunset Vista Elementary School in Glenlake, AZ.

Jason Surian, MA ’05, is the assistant principal at Delton (MI) Kellogg Elementary School.

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Charles R. Hulbert, BA '48, Sept. 19, 2005, in Portage, MI
Donald Izenbaard, TC '48, Oct. 23, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Mary I. (Bigelow) Ruddiman, BA '48, Sept. 20, 2005, in Ocean Springs, MS
Richard Kik, BA '49, Sept. 20, 2005, in Richland, MI
Robert A. Darrah, BS '50, April 22, 2005, in Elyria, OH
William C. Roberts, BA '50, Nov. 26, 2005, in Anaheim, CA
Ralph L. Secinaro, BS '50, May 24, 2004, in Oceanside, CA
John H. Nelson, BS '51, Nov. 2, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Marjorie E. Peterson, BA '51, Oct. 22, 2005, in Cooper Township, MI
Leonard A. White, BS '51, Aug. 9, 2005, in Niles, MI
Karl W. Jackson, BA '52, Feb. 15, 2004, in Holland, MI
Rosemary (Thiede) Lay, BS '52, Feb. 10, 2005, in El Dorado, KS
Lewis W. Kaminga, BA '53, Sept. 15, 2005, in Tampa, FL
John A. Schaefer, BBA '53, Nov. 9, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Lyle H. Dornan, BBA '54, Aug. 10, 2005, in Grand Rapids, MI
Doris A. (Cline) McKenzie, BS '54, Sept. 23, 2005, in Jenison, MI
Therese M. (Wynn) Beehler, BS '55, Oct. 25, 2005, in Grand Rapids, MI
Marion (Pendell) Ott, BA '55, Aug. 10, 2005, in Grand Rapids, MI
P.T. Pope, BA '55, May 1, 2005, in Rocky River, OH
Edwin C. Retzke, BBA '55, Nov. 9, 2004, in Colonia, MI
Schuyler T. Banum, BS '56, MA '61, Sept. 1, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Denise R. Kuhn, BBA '56, Oct. 2, 2005, in Rockford, MI
Donald L. Lightfoot, BBA '56, Aug. 12, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Wesley J. Nedervelt, BBA '56, Oct. 20, 2005, in Montgomery, AL
Dale A. Thompson, BS '56, MA '64, July 16, 2005, in Golden, CO
Larmom E. Abbott, BS '57, Aug. 22, 2005, in Homestead, FL
Neil K. Hoag, BS '58, MA '63, Sept. 16, 2005, in South Haven, MI
Ronald L. Kirshman, BBA '58, MBA '66, Nov. 17, 2005, in Kalamazoo
George R. Kowalczyk, BS '58, Sept. 12, 2005, in Aiken, SC
Helen T. Canady, BA '59, Jan. 3, 2005, in Detroit
Michael J. Feichtenbinder, BBA '59, Aug. 6, 2005, in Grand Rapids, MI
Arthur J. Bergman, BS '60, Sept. 27, 2005, in Gobles, MI
Harry R. Krajewski, BBA '60, July 31, 2005, in Grand Blanc, MI
Audrey J. Trumbull, BM '60, June 8, 2005, in Fairbanks, AK
John F. Eicher, BBA '61, June 7, 2005, in Jackson, MI
J.W. Hunt, MA '61, May 12, 2005, in Portage, MI
Louis D. Straubel, MA '61, Oct. 22, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Tom L. Schrock, BA '62, MA '68, Sept. 15, 2005, in LaGrange, IN
Carl G. Leestma, BS '63, Sept. 28, 2005, in Zeeland, MI
Robert C. Nower, BS '63, June 25, 2005, in Modesto, CA
Dewey H. Bitney, BS '64, July 13, 2005, in Lake Saint Louis, MO
Judith P. (Patten) Newcombe, BS '64, Concord, NH
Gordon M. Nichols, BA '64, MA '70, Oct. 3, 2005, in Thehman, MN
Terry L. Redmak, BBA '64, March 28, 2004, in New Buffalo, MI
Kathleen P. (Morrison) Corstange, BA '65, MA '75, Nov. 28, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Alice C. Gieseler, BS '65, Nov. 11, 2005, in Grand Rapids, MI
Judy A. (Romine) Hallock, BS '65, MA '71, Sept. 9, 2005, in Green Valley, AZ
Audrey S. (Johnson) Harrison, TC '65, Oct. 6, 2005, in Plymouth, MI
Jacqueline H. (Thompson) Larson, BS '65, Feb. 26, 2005, in Grand Rapids, MI
Lucille Nyenhuis, BS '65, Sept. 7, 2005, in Hudsonville, MI
Gladys L. Rein, BA '65, Nov. 3, 2005, in Grand Rapids, MI
Thomas A. Smith, BA '65, Feb. 7, 2005, in Scotts, MI
Susan K. Wissink, BA '65, May 8, 2004, in Walled Lake, MI
Sarah E. (Nobles) Parsons, BA '66, Aug. 19, 2005, in Plainwell, MI
Elinor J. (Haskell) Thomas, BS '66, May 8, 2005, in Sebring, FL
Michael J. Bortak, BS '67, April 6, 2005, in Nettcon, NJ
Joyce D. Kennedy, MA '67, Sept. 27, 2005, in Denison, MI
Carla A. VanWormer, BA '67, MA '74, Nov. 12, 2005, in Grand Rapids, MI
Ronald W. Bramble, BA '68, Oct. 28, 2005, in Kalamazoo
June M. Diehl, MA '68, Sept. 5, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Ronald D. Carr, BS '69, April 28, 2005, in Waterford, MI
Vivi A. Germain, BS '69, MSw '84, April 26, 2005, in Bethel, MO
Josephine R. Klink, BS '69, May 12, 2004, in Flint, MI
Lily R. Leatz, BBA '69, MA '75, July 14, 2005, in St. Joseph, MI
Charles H. Roach, MA '69, Apr. 23, 2005, in Tucson, AZ
Dawn (Gamble) Athearn, BS '70, MA '75, May 30, 2005, in Comstock Park, MI
Marcia A. Bogema, BA '70, MA '72, Sept. 16, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Fraser B. Jones, MBA '70, Oct. 23, 2005, in Bangor, MI
Esther J. Davis, BS '71, Oct. 8, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Charyl A. Frounfeiter, MLS '71, Dec. 6, 2004, in Burton, MI
Judith A. Koster, BA '71, Sept. 19, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Juliana Sokolowski, MA '71, July 5, 2004, in Hamson, MI
Lawrence G. Dorothy, BA '72, MA '78, Nov. 7, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Good night, Miss Emily

With a Cingular commercial taking television viewers around the nation on a nostalgic look back at the weekly closing of the popular 1970s show, "The Waltons," the WMU community has focused on bidding its own farewell to alumna Mary Jackson, the actress who played Miss Emily Baldwin on the series.

Jackson, a character actress with a list of credits that includes dozens of roles in movies and the most popular television shows of the late-20th century, died Dec. 10 at her home in Hollywood. She was 95.

Best known for her role as one of the "recipe-making" Baldwin sisters on "The Waltons," she enjoyed success on the stage, screen and in such popular television shows as "Family Ties," "The Rockford Files," "Columbo," "The Fugitive" and "Hill Street Blues." Her screen roles included "Friendly Persuasion," "Parenthood" and "Airport," in which she played Sister Felice.

Jackson was a 1932 graduate of WMU and the 1976 winner of a Distinguished Alumni Award. She often voiced her gratitude to her mentor, the late Laura Eudora Welty's "The Ponder Heart." She was back again in 1985 to perform in a series of benefit performances of "Foxfire" to raise funds to augment the R.E. and Mary Jackson Scholarship, which she established to aid WMU theatre students.

"If I've done anything in the theatre, and I have as a character actress and not a star, it's been because of Miss Shaw," Jackson said in a 1985 interview. "Any good, creative work I ever did stems back to her and to those days over at the Playhouse on Oakland Drive."

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Kerrill O'Connell, BA '72, MA '76, April 2, 2005, in Muskegon, MI
Rebecca A. Thomas, BA '74, MA '89, Nov. 3, 2005, in Gobles, MI
Dennis O. Johnson, BS '75, Sept. 5, 2005, in Gobles, MI
Larry Swarvar, BS '76, May 30, 2005, in McKinney, TX
Andrew T. Gerrits, BS '76, Aug. 6, 2005, in Fort Lauderdale, FL
Steven B. Buchanan, BBA '77, Aug. 27, 2005, in Carefree, AZ
Karen K. Clausen, BA '77, March 16, 2004, in Anderson, IN
Doris H. (Messing) Comer, MA '77, Dec. 30, 2004, in West Bloomfield, MI
L.G. Bail, BA '78, Feb. 25, 2005, in Madison Heights, MI
Charles P. Mountjoy, BS '78, Nov. 23, 2005, in Omaha, NE
Jean E. (Hansen) Casault, MA '79, July 20, 2005, in Sturgis, MI
Eileen Daly, BSM '79, April 13, 2005, in Belton, MO
Steven H. Leach, BBA '79, Sept. 19, 2005, in Grand Rapids, MI
Elma V. Wilson, BS '79, MA '81, Aug. 8, 2005, in Lake Odessa, MI
Michael A. Drake, BS '80, Aug. 12, 2005, in Stow, OH
Christopher A. Fasan, BBA '80, Feb. 20, 2005, in Manistee, MI
Nancy (Benson) Flynn, BBA '80, Aug. 7, 2005, in Wildwood, MO
Thomas M. Bollin, BBA '81, May 18, 2005, in Millford, MI
William L. Veldt, BS '81, Oct. 21, 2005, in Tippecanoe, IN
Jon M. Ahmadi, BBA '82, Oct. 24, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Michael E. Wiccek, BA '82, Aug. 9, 2004, in Garden City, MI
Gregory M. Busch, BBA '83, Oct. 26, 2005, in Portage, MI
Dana M. (Davis) Perry, BS '85, MA '93, April 27, 2004, in Battle Creek, MI
Brian K. Kutscher, BBA '86, Oct. 18, 2005, in Tampa, FL
Thomas R. Bay, BS '87, MSW '90, Oct. 31, 2005, in Delton, MI
Jennifer Johnson, BS '89, Aug. 19, 2005, in Vancouver, British Columbia
Laura M. Eshelman, BS '90, Sept. 16, 2005, in Holland, MI
Theodore R. Pettengill, BS '90, July 18, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Angela D. (Jones) Wiseley, MSW '94, Dec. 27, 2005, in Macon, GA
Vickie S. Nimmo, MSW '96, Aug. 13, 2005, in Coldwater, MI
Gary E. Thomas, BA '02, Nov. 15, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Jill M. Stohon, BS '05, Aug. 16, 2005, in Rose City, MI

Faculty

James R. Bliss, associate professor emeritus in finance and commercial law, March 17, 2005, in Scotts Valley, CA
Helen M. Brown, associate professor emerita in dance, Aug. 23, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Henry J. Beukema, professor emeritus in engineering graphics, Nov. 23, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Charles R. "Rusty" Dannison, adjunct faculty member in Extended University Programs, Sept. 6, 2005, in Alto, MI
Reginald A. Gammon, professor emeritus in art, Nov. 3, 2005, in Albuquerque, NM
Thomas C. Slaughter, associate professor emeritus in health, physical education and recreation, Oct. 19, 2005, in Kalamazoo
Library proves point by ‘going downhill’ the fastest
Dwight B. Waldo Library is not your father’s college library, but boy does it have resources.

That’s the message staffers in WMU’s main library are sharing these days, as they take every opportunity to show what they can do to both students on campus and their colleagues around the nation. In fact, they took on a raft of student organizations last fall in the Soapbox Derby, a 30-year homecoming weekend tradition.

What’s more, they won.

“We figured we’d be no match for engineering students, who usually dominate the winner’s circle,” says Brad Dennis, assistant professor and education librarian. “We did have some practical expertise in spouses, friends and students—and an entire arsenal of library resources at our command.”

Waldo Library may house medieval manuscripts, a world-class poetry collection and loads of academic journals, but students also will encounter staffers with knowledge of plastics manipulation and death-ray gun designs from the science fiction collections.

Armed with that kind of knowledge, entering the derby was viewed as a fun event to bring staff, faculty, administrators and students together quickly. But it has taken on a life of its own since the library’s Plexiglas racer placed second in its 2003 debut and came in third last year.

The 2005 race entry sported a Hawaiian design in keeping with the homecoming theme “Around the World in Seven Days.” Librarians say they hope their win draws attention on campus to the library’s most recent addition—a Hawaiian kiosk that serves Maui Wowi coffee and smoothies.

WMU puts wireless technology to work to streamline campus maintenance

Wireless technology on campus is not only keeping WMU students and professors connected online, it’s turning the business of campus maintenance into a high-tech, paperless model of efficiency.

Handheld digital devices were standard issue in the 1980s version of “Star Trek” and now they’re basic equipment for most of the University’s maintenance services staff.

By adding such devices to the traditional maintenance tools staffers carry, WMU is in the forefront of a technical revolution. Its use of the devices is not only improving accuracy, efficiency and customer satisfaction across campus, but also serving as a model for universities around the country.

“This system is a tremendous success story, and we’re one of only three U.S. universities doing it,” says Peter Strazdas, director of the WMU Physical Plant’s maintenance services division. “Budgets are tight and taxpayers want us to be more efficient. Using technology to increase efficiency is all part of the new way of doing business. We’re working smarter and accomplishing more.”

Strazdas began phasing in the equipment in 2004. The devices, called digital maintenance assistants or DMAs by WMU’s Physical Plant workers, have been customized to mesh with the University’s existing maintenance software and databases. The maintenance services division collaborated with Tulane University to get its paperless initiative off the ground. The two forward-thinking schools support wireless computing campuswide as well as use the same maintenance software package.

“We both wanted to see how we could get DMA technology up and running, so we partnered to overcome the unique technical hurdles of customizing our maintenance software and working out the bugs,” Strazdas says. “Now we’re sharing what we’ve learned with our peer institutions.”

Three-quarters of the University’s 100 skilled trades people will ultimately be trained to use DMAs to respond to the more than 45,000 work orders they address each year. Simplified billings, easier administrative reporting, and streamlined inventory tracking and customer satisfaction monitoring can all be accomplished more quickly and efficiently with the devices.
Whether you're celebrating coming to Western, graduating or remembering the days that were... we have that special something just for you!

www.wmich.edu/magazine
The summit of Tanzania's Mt. Kilimanjaro was photographed by Kalamazoo's Mary Meader during her landmark aerial tour of Africa in the late 1930s. The image is now part of the collection housed at WMU's Upjohn Institute for the Study of Geographical Change. (See related story on page 18.)