Volunteers needed for goalball event
Some 30 volunteers are needed to help stage the 2011 John Bakos Memorial Goalball Tournament Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 26-27. No previous knowledge of goalball is necessary.

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

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

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

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

The course costs $40 for WMU students and faculty and staff members and $45 for community members. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. Call (269) 387-1261 to register. Visit www.wmich.edu/healthcenter for more details.

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

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

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

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

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

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Around campus and beyond

Black History Month event slated
The contributions of African-American patriots will be the focus of an event from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, in 158 Bernhard Center being held in conjunction with Black History Month. Vietnam veterans Glenn Charles and Buddy Hannah will share their experiences during a talk covering their service and how the military impacted their lives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Top of the week

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

• The talk on “Changes and Challenges in Consumer Banking” by former American Bankers Association chairman Arthur C. Johnson will now take place at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, in Schneider Hall’s Brown Auditorium. Those planning to attend the talk should register no later than Monday, Feb. 14, with Shawna Cassada at cassada@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6599.

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

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

Bundy named to state council
Penny D. Bundy, admissions director, has been appointed to serve on the statewide council associated with the ACT college entrance exam. Membership on the council puts Bundy in a leadership role relative to ACT issues in Michigan. She started her three-year term this month.

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

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

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

Culled from six previous collections, “Scorpio Rising” is the culmination of Katrovas’s 35-year career. His early poems reflect a harrowing childhood on the highways of America as his parents fled the FBI, while his later works meditate upon his own African-American identity and raise bicultural, bilingual daughters.

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

NSF division selects chemist as fellow
Sherrine O. Obare, chemistry, has received an American Competitiveness and Innovation Fellowship from the National Science Foundation’s Division of Materials Research.

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

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

ACI fellows are selected from among a group of recent NSF awardees whose proposals have already risen to the top via peer review and research funding. The selection criteria also includes a demonstrated effort to broaden the participation in scientific research by women, members of under-represented minority groups and persons with disabilities.
New aviation program takes off next fall

The latest training initiative for future air-traffic controllers is scheduled to take flight this fall at the College of Aviation. The college is home to the third-largest aviation program in the country and is based at the W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, Mich. It will be admitting a limited number of students into its new air-traffic control program for the 2011-12 academic year.

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

WMU was asked to join the FAA’s Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative network last April, making it one of 36 schools in the nation to offer ATCTI training—the only one in Michigan. Launched in 1996, the FAA, ATCTI aims to help recruit candidates for terminal and air-traffic controller positions.

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

To ensure students’ future success, WMU is integrating the ATCTI training with its existing four-year aviation programs. This will give WMU ATCTI program graduates the opportunity to follow multiple career paths without returning to the classroom.

Tom Thimes, manager of aviation recruitment and outreach, says WMU plans to focus on training controller-to-work in towers, control ground movement and handle local traffic, but also to offer specialized courses so students get experience in all facets of air-traffic control.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the federal government employs about 9,000 of all air-traffic controllers. In March 2009, the average yearly salary of U.S. air-traffic controllers was $109,000.

International Space Station focus of Engineers Week talk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved were a professional development leave effective spring 2011 for Kristin Stylivan, history, and 33 sabbatical leaves for 2011-1. Sabbatical leaves went to: JoAnn L. Arkin, marketing; Nora Berrah, physics; Maria Bondza, University Libraries; Kuanchin Chen, business information systems; Sue F. Ellis, Christian, communication; Janet L. Coryell, history; Cat L. Crotchett, art; Sime Curkovic, management; Janet L. Coryell, history; Cat L. Crotchett, art; Sime Curkovic, management; Anthony Ellis, English; Robert Wall Emerson, blindness and low vision studies; Olivia Gabor-Perice, foreign languages; Richard A. Gerhon, communication; Debra Lindstrom Hazel, occupational therapy; Michelle Komini, geosciences; Ashlyn K. Lindstrom Hazel, occupational therapy; Sime Curkovic, management; Janet L. Coryell, history; Cat L. Crotchett, art; and retiring in 1986.

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ment leave effective spring 2011 for Kristin Stylivan, history, and 33 sabbatical leaves for 2011-1. Sabbatical leaves went to: JoAnn L. Arkin, marketing; Nora Berrah, physics; Maria Bondza, University Libraries; Kuanchin Chen, business information systems; Sue F. Ellis, Christian, communication; Janet L. Coryell, history; Cat L. Crotchett, art; Sime Curkovic, management; Anthony Ellis, English; Robert Wall Emerson, blindness and low vision studies; Olivia Gabor-Perice, foreign languages; Richard A. Gerhon, communication; Debra Lindstrom Hazel, occupational therapy; Michelle Komini, geosciences; Ashlyn K. Kuester, political science; David Kuzbko, foreign languages; David Lemberg, geography; William W. Liou, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Lisa Minneci, English; Mustafa K. Mirzeler, English; Judy L. Moonen, music; Mustafa Mughay, foreign languages; Debbari Mukherjee, economics; Amy Naugle, psychology; John S. Petrovic, mathematics; Kapsong Ro, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Silvia Rossbach, biological sciences; Jana K. Schulman, engineering; Roger Y. Tang, anthropology; John A. Tanis, physics; Laura R. Van Zoest, mathematics; Maarten Vonhof, biological sciences; Delores D. Wallcott, University Counseling and Testing Center, and Alan H. Wussmaa, physics.

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

30 Years—Lewis D. Hamilton, Development Office.
25 Years—Douglas T. Alick, information technology; Carol J. Black, financial aid and scholarships; and Russell P. Northey, Facilities Management-power plant.
20 Years—Linda D. Baird, Development Office; Jeffrey M. Carr, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Doris E. Evans, Development Office; Jan M. Prange, Facilities Management-landscape services; and Alice Wheeler, Dining-Services-Burnham.
15 Years—Scott Austin, College of Aviation; Betsy Drummer, Haworth College of Business; Christopher D. Jackson, biological sciences; Darrell D. Junkins, Facilities Management-landscape services; and Kim Stevens, Extended University Programs- Traverse City.
Five Years—Katherine Lawton Bates, student activities and leadership programs; Denise J. Bowen, physician assistant; Scott Garrison, University Libraries; Lynn A. Mohney, Auxiliary Enterprises; Teresa J. Williams, institutional research; and Valerie A. Young, WMU Bookstore.

New economy to be discussed

Thought leaders helping to move Michi-
gan forward will discuss “The New Econo-
my” from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, February 17, in the Fertzer Center. The event costs $30 and requires registration by Wednesday, Feb. 16. Visit http://hosted.verticalresponse.

534273/456aa36dd2 to register or obtain more information.

Obituaries

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

A renowned scholar, Ellin joined the WMU faculty in 1962 and retired in 2004 after some 41 years of service, but continued teaching after his retirement. He served as department chair and took on numerous other leadership roles while at the University.

A memorial service and interment at Mountain Home Cemetery will be arranged in about a month by Harper Funeral Home in Kalamazoo. Memorial contributions may be made to Temple B’Nai Israel or the Fontana Society of Kalamazoo.

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

A well-known social and cultural historian of migration, Faires joined the WMU faculty in 2000 and had a dual appointment in gender and women’s studies. She chaired the Canadian Studies Initiative for eight years and retired Dec. 12 after 10-1/2 years of service.

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

Joel Kyle Turner McMere, a retired staff member, died Nov. 22 in Kalamazoo. She was 84.

McMere came to WMU in 1966 and retired in 1985 after 17 years of service. She was a secretary in the business and finance area.

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

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

Joseph Shalom Ellin

Ellin

Nora H. Faires

Faires

Visit http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/534273/456aa36dd2 to register or obtain more information.

534273/456aa36dd2 to register or obtain more information.

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

534273/456aa36dd2 to register or obtain more information.
Still time to help WMU win organ donor challenge

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

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

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

Creating artificial nose is nothing to sneeze at

The development of a very sensitive artificial nose that can be used to detect a variety of substances at extremely low levels will be the subject of a talk Tuesday, Feb. 15, by Gordon Bolar, WMUK’s development director, at the station’s helm, effective Feb. 1. He replaces Floyd Pietrka, who retired Jan. 31 after 11 years as general manager and 26 years at the University. WMUK also hired Anders Dahlberg Jan. 3 to fill the vacant position of underwriting manager.

Bolar brings 16 years of public broadcasting experience to his new role, along with a degree in communication from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from the University of Michigan. He owns a 1500 Kawasaki Vulcan and also is a member of a motorcycle touring club.

As WMU’s online presence has grown, so has Kirk Sundling’s career at the University. A staff member since 2008, Sundling recently assumed the Extended University Programs position of assistant director of online education.

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

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

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

“Creating artificial nose is nothing to sneeze at” is adapted from an article by Jeanne Baron in Western News on Feb. 10, 2011.