



Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

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Two CAS dean presentations changed

Last-minute changes have been made to the presentation schedule for two of the four arts and sciences dean candidates. Susan R. Stapleton will make her presentation at 4:30 p.m. today in 2028 Brown. James H. Hageman will make his presentation at 4 p.m. Monday, March 29, in 1028 Brown.

Faculty e-learning survey announced

WMU is evaluating its Learning Management System, generically known as e-learning, with the possibility of changing to a new licensed product.

As part of the process, all faculty members are asked to go to www.wmich.edu/elearning/surveys and complete a short online survey.

The actual product the University uses is Blackboard Learning Systems: Vista Enterprise, commonly called Blackboard Vista, WebCT or WebCT Vista. Vista Enterprise is being phased out and merged with a new product, making this an appropriate time to re-evaluate WMU's e-learning platform.

Student responsibility events slated

An event today and one tomorrow, Friday, March 26, will help WMU students become more involved with their education. Both events will feature Art Keene, professor of anthropology and founder of the Citizens Scholars Program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Keene will present a public lecture at 3:30 p.m. today in 1121 Welborn on "Radical Service Learning: Students Taking Responsibility for Their Own Education." Friday, he will have a dialogue with students on "Citizen Scholarship" at 10 a.m., also in 1121 Welborn. Keene's visit is being sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and the Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations.

April 1 deadline for grant applications

Faculty members are invited to submit applications for the International Education Faculty Development Fund. The deadline is Thursday, April 1, and this grant cycle is for international projects that will be undertaken in the next 12 months. Send questions to michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu. Visit <http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/1485/99> for application details.

Visiting scholar funding available

Applications for funding through the 2010-11 Visiting Scholars and Artists Program are due by April 9. During the past 50 years, the program has supported more than 600 visits representing some 70 disciplines.

Visit www.wmich.edu/provost/VSAP for instructions and contact information. Programs with broad appeal across disciplines will receive added consideration. Awards typically range up to \$1,000 and will be announced by the end of April.

Med school accreditation process begun

The national accreditation process is under way for a new medical school proposed by WMU and its two community hospital partners, Bronson Health Care and Borgess Health.

A formal letter of intent has been filed with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, which is the accrediting body for medical schools operating in the United States. WMU now appears on the LCME accreditation Web site as one of the "institutions with developing medical education programs that have applied for preliminary accreditation by the LCME." WMU is one of seven institutions listed with "applicant school" status.

To earn applicant school status, an institution must pay a \$25,000 application fee to the LCME to begin the process of applying for preliminary accreditation; and the LCME and its Canadian counterpart must determine that the school meets the basic eligibility requirements to apply for accreditation. As schools progress through the accreditation process and successfully meet LCME requirements, they move first to "candidate status" and finally to "preliminary accreditation status," at which time student recruitment can begin.

In January, representatives of Borgess, Bronson and WMU traveled to Chicago for the initial meeting with the LCME to begin the accreditation process.

Movie partially shot at WMU getting good reviews

"Cherry," an independent film shot in Kalamazoo during late 2008 had its world premier March 12 at the South by Southwest 2010 Film Festival in Austin, Texas.

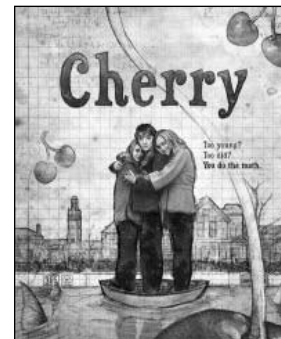
The film by Matthew and Jeffrey Fine brings WMU's main campus and Kalamazoo College's campus into sharp focus as the idyllic and traditional setting for the lead character to launch a college career.

The film's Austin debut quickly garnered attention from those on hand to review the independent films being showcased.

The bulk of filming for "Cherry" occurred during four weeks in late 2008. Filmmakers used the two campuses as the setting for the feature-length movie about a college freshman coming of age at an Ivy League university.

Originally interested in filming on WMU's engineering campus, the production crew ended up using a number of additional settings, including Vandercook, the Richmond Center for Visual Arts, Gabel Natatorium and Fountain Plaza. In addition, a full complement of movie production staff

took up residence in an unoccupied wing of Eldridge/Fox for 10 weeks while they planned and shot the film.



"We were attracted to Michigan because of the new tax incentives offered to filmmakers," said screenwriter and director Jeffrey Fine.

"Kalamazoo College and Western Michigan University provided the perfect combination of picture postcard-looks and high-tech facilities that our script required."

The Fine brothers are working with officials from both campuses to bring the film to Kalamazoo for a Michigan premier this spring. A trailer for the production can be seen at www.cherrythemovie.com.

Walker Institute announces citywide discussion series to address health, educational, economic disparities

Kalamazoo residents will have several opportunities in the coming months to explore how they can work together to become a more inclusive and equitable community.

A new discussion series called Kalamazoo Matters is being launched so community members can converse about how to help children from every neighborhood have a similar chance to remain healthy, become well educated and eventually be employed in good jobs.

Series activities will be free and open to the public. They will kick off Thursday, April 1, with three events that focus on the question: "How Can Kalamazoo Become a Healthier Community?"

Kalamazoo Matters is being sponsored by WMU's Lewis Walker Institute for the Study

of Race and Ethnic Relations in collaboration with the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership at Kalamazoo College. After the kickoff, the series will continue in fall 2010.

The April 1 conversation will begin with a breakfast meeting from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the Transformations Spirituality Center, 3427 Gull Road. It will feature Brian Smedley, a nationally recognized expert on racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care, discussing the "Place Matters" initiative that he administers with funding from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Smedley, vice president and director of the Health Policy Institute at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in

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Around Campus

Waldo Library gets new collection

An opening ceremony for the new Chinese Instruction and Research Collection being established within Waldo Library, which will serve as the home for several thousand English and Chinese language books and instructional materials, is planned for 5 p.m. Thursday, April 8, in the Edwin and Mary Meader Room.

A broad spectrum of those pedagogical materials for Chinese language instruction and books introducing Chinese culture will be on display at a three-day exhibition set for Thursday through Saturday, April 8-10, at Waldo. Visit www.wmich.edu/confucius for complete details about breakout sessions and other exhibition-related events.

WMU hosting annual competitions

WMU will host the 2010 American Society of Civil Engineers North-Central Regional concrete canoe and steel bridge competitions Friday through Sunday, March 26-28. The competitions are being held in conjunction with the regional ASCE's annual conference, which is taking place at the engineering complex on the Parkview Campus.

The bridge contest will be held at Parkview while the concrete canoe races

will be held at Ramona Park in Portage, Mich. Eleven universities from Michigan and Ohio will be competing. Visit the ASCE student chapter at www.rso.wmich.edu/asce for more information.

WMU to host its first HR Games

For the first time since its inception, WMU's Haworth College of Business will act as host of the HR Games, a statewide competition for human resources students. This year's event will take place Saturday, March 27, in Schneider. Teams of students will participate in Jeopardy-style matches.

The annual event provides a fast-moving day of student competition and food, fun and prizes designed to test students' knowledge of the human resources field. A total of nine colleges and universities will compete, including WMU and Eastern and Central Michigan universities.

Disney to recruit student interns

The Walt Disney Co. will be on campus at noon and at 6 p.m. Monday, March 29, in 157 Bernhard Center to recruit interns for its Disney College Program. The program offers a paid fall semester internship at the Disney World amusement park near Orlando, Fla., or the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Calif.

Enrollment period opens for Campus Kids program

Faculty and staff as well as students and the general public are invited to enroll children in the 2010 Campus Kids Summer Program offered by WMU's Children's Place Learning Center.

The program will run from June 14 to Sept. 2, and each week will feature a different theme. It is open to children who have completed kindergarten, up to age nine.

Parents may sign up their children by the week, or for the entire summer. Enrollment is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Learning center hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Special childcare arrangements are available before the

June 14 summer program start date, and regular learning programs are available for children age 18 months to 5 years.

To register or obtain more information, visit www.wmich.edu/childrensplace or call 387-2277.

Liou presentation slated

WMU's 2009-10 Distinguished Faculty Scholar, William W. Lou, will make a public presentation at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium.

Liou, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, will lecture on "Predicting the Perfect Storms: The Evolution of Complex Calculations."

Exchange

For Sale—Beautiful park model in South Haven's Depot RV Park. Inexpensive to own, two bedrooms, living room, family room, loft and decks. Park has a pool; is easy walk to beaches and downtown. \$68,000. Call 323-3198.

For Rent—Fully-furnished Lake Michigan beachfront condo in South Haven. Condo sleeps four to five and is within walking distance to downtown. Heated pool on site. \$1,050/week. Call 323-3198.

Jobs

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

State's top flight instructor named



Bunday

Robert Bunday, aviation, was recently recognized for "significant contributions to aviation safety" by industry sponsors and the Federal Aviation Administration during a statewide General Aviation Awards Program.

The awards annually recognize outstanding individuals in the fields of avionics, flight instruction and maintenance, highlighting those who promote aviation safety, education and professionalism.

A former professional pilot, Bunday received Michigan's Flight Instructor of the Year award. He has been a program manager in the College of Aviation for five years. He taught flying to British Airways, Aer Lingus and Emirates airlines cadets as senior instructor in the college's former international pilot training initiative.

Professor earns association award



Glista

The Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association will present an Honors of the Association award to Sandra Glista, speech pathology and audiology, during an awards luncheon Friday in Kalamazoo.

The award is MSHA's highest honor. It recognizes sustained, outstanding accomplishments in the profession of speech, language and hearing and is conveyed to those who actively demonstrate their expertise through ongoing service that directly benefits MSHA and the field as a whole and has a significant impact on people with communication impairments.

Glista, a faculty member since 1993, has more than 30 years in the profession as a clinician, teacher and professor.

Campus Compact honors WMU duo



Palmer

Timothy Palmer, management, and Colleen Smith-Slosberg, Lee Honors College, in February received the Michigan Campus Compact Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award.

The prestigious annual honor is the highest MCC bestows on faculty and staff in the state. In part, it recognizes the WMU duo for a service-learning course for business students that Slosberg and Palmer jointly created.

Slosberg, a reverend who came to WMU and United Campus Ministry in 1988, has been teaching part time in the honors college since 2003. She has developed leadership and service-learning courses at WMU and Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Palmer teaches the Strategic Business Solutions class and was inspired by Slosberg to convert his class into a service-learning offering. His students choose from a variety of options, including Habitat for Humanity and shelter work in Chicago and Detroit.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Kalamazoogoogle seeks community support

WMU's hometown is competing to attract a Google infrastructure investment that could lure new businesses to the area and serve as the ultimate high-tech recruiting tool for top researchers and students.

Kalamazoo and the Michigan municipalities of Portage as well as Kalamazoo and Oshtemo townships mounted a single bid to become the site of a Google fiber-optic installation that will be used to test an ultra-high-speed broadband network. The community project has been dubbed Kalamazoogoogle.

Community leaders must respond to Google's Request for Information by tomorrow, March 26, to stay in the running against other cities around the nation. Winners will get a fiber-optic network capable of providing Internet access to at least 50,000 homes and businesses—access that is up to 200 times faster than what is now available.

Citizen involvement is a critical part

of the mix, says Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell, and area residents and organizations can help by nominating Kalamazoo as a Google test site and contributing to the support materials being gathered.

To nominate Kalamazoo, go to www.google.com/appserve/fiberrfi/public/options and fill out a brief Google nomination form or e-mail kzoogooglefiber@kalamazoo-city.org to volunteer or get more information about Kalamazoo's initiative.

A Facebook group, Google Fiber in Kalamazoo, also has been set up, at which artistic residents are being encouraged to post videos in support of the city's bid.

"We'd love to have videos from individuals or organizations who can tell their story about what Google Fiber might do for them," Hopewell said of that effort. "We want people to really think and dream about how they could use such a high-speed connection."

Can newspapers survive?

Can an educated society be sustained solely by digitization?

That question will be addressed Saturday, March 27, during "The Conference on the Future of Newspapers." The event, which is open to the public, begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Fetzer Center and will end about 4 p.m.

Attendees may register on site. Members of the WMU community may attend for free and pay a separate \$15 fee for lunch. The \$20 fee for other attendees includes the cost of lunch.

"This conference is probably the first of its kind in the nation," says Andrew Targowski, business information systems and conference chairman. "We hope it will serve as a model for similar forums at other universities and colleges in other states."

Read the story posted at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/03/075.shtml for conference details.

Campus blood drives set

Spring blood drives have been scheduled on the Western Michigan University campus starting Friday, April 2, in honor of National Volunteer Week, April 18-24.

The week celebrates the nation's giving spirit, which the American Red Cross hopes will be put into practice locally by people rolling up their sleeves and donating blood or becoming a Red Cross volunteer.

Four blood drives will be held:

- Friday, April 2—10:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., main floor classroom, Richmond Center for Visual Arts.
- Friday, April 2—11 a.m. to 4 p.m., fountain area study lounge, Health and Human Services Building.
- Wednesday, April 7—11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Bernhard Center Ballroom.
- April 9—10:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., East Study Lounge (E-130), Engineering and Applied Sciences Building.

To schedule an appointment to donate, visit redcrossblood.org or call (800) RED CROSS.

Wellness champs help co-workers maintain good health

Tamara Bergman, engineering and applied sciences, is one of the University's Western Wellness Champions—employees who inform other WMU employees about the resources available on campus to help them take charge of their health, improve energy levels and meet wellness goals.

Why would Bergman, a single mom with three active children, take on an unpaid position as a Western Wellness Champion?

"I had such a positive experience with my One-to-One wellness coach at a time when I really needed support, and I like to help others," she says. "My children are my greatest motivation when it comes to having a healthy lifestyle. When I'm physically active, I have more energy and enthusiasm to share with them and others."

Bergman tries to do a quick workout at West Hills during lunch most weekdays. "It gets me through the rest of the day and makes me feel good about myself," she says.

She is a former cheerleader and a gym teacher wannabe, who is excited about her new role as a Western Wellness Champion. "It's not too time consuming, and it gives me a chance to meet others at our site and help them find ways to make health and wellness a priority. Being healthy is easier when it's a group effort."

To learn more about becoming a Western Wellness Champion, contact Danna Downing, Western Wellness One-to-One coordinator at ddowning@holtynhpc.com or 779-5453.



Bergman (Photo by Danna Downing)

Obituaries



Eskro

George M. Eskro, Career and Student Employment Services, died suddenly March 13 in Mattawan, Mich. He was 49.

Eskro joined WMU's Office of Residence Life staff in 1986 as a residence hall director and moved to Career and Student Employment Services in 1999. He had been serving as associate director of student development until his appointment earlier this month as director.

Memorial contributions may be made by check to the College Educational Fund (write: Alysha, Caitlin and Hannah Eskro on the memo line) that has been set up for Eskro's daughters. Checks may be dropped off at any National City Bank branch or mailed to National City Bank, P.O. Box 218, Delton, MI 49046-0218.

Cecilia A. Isbell, a retired staff member, died March 6 in Kalamazoo. She was 93.

Isbell came to WMU in 1976 and retired from the University's Dining Services staff

in 1986. She had been a Kalamazoo-area resident since 1963 and was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.



Sebaly

Avis L. Sebaly, emeritus in education and professional development, died March 11 in Kalamazoo. He was 95.

Sebaly, also known as "A.L." and as "Mike," came to WMU in 1945 and retired in 1985 after 39-1/2 years of service to the University. He was known throughout Michigan and nationally for his efforts to improve teacher standards and professional development.

A lifelong volunteer, Sebaly was honored many times for his community service, as well as named by the WMU Alumni Association as WMU's most "popular professor of education" in 2003.

A remembrance service will be held 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 22, in the Kiva of Friendship Village of Kalamazoo. Memorial contributions may be made through WMU's Development Office to either the

Sebaly Scholarship for theatre or education students, or to the Life Enhancement Department or Employee Scholarship Fund at Friendship Village of Kalamazoo.



Stevens

Marie L. Stevens, dean emerita of students, will be honored during a memorial service at 2 p.m. Friday, May 14, in the Gilmore Alumni House, 1219 Short Road in Kalamazoo.

Stevens died March 7.

Details about her extensive service to students and Kalamazoo are available in WMU News at www.wmich.edu/news by clicking the Obituaries link.

Peter VanDenBerg, a retired staff member, died March 15 in Kalamazoo. He was 79.

VandenBerg worked as a carpenter for more than 40 years. He was employed at WMU for 12 of those years, coming to the University in 1981 and retiring in 1993.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Second Christian Reformed Church, Kalamazoo Gospel Mission or Alamo Nursing Home.

On Campus with Janice Weaver



VARIETY ADDS SPICE
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

After 22 years in Dining Services, Janice Weaver has worked in every dining hall kitchen except one and done just about every non-management job possible.

Weaver came to the University in 1987 as a temporary Dining Services employee and became a permanent staff member the following year. Since then, she's worked in several campus cafes and been a cook, baker, salad maker and stock person.

In her current post as a level 3 utility person at Draper, she takes care of the stock room, cooks in the kitchen, helps with cleanup, and fills in for people on leave from the cafes in the buildings for engineering and health and human services.

She also is part of the Draper staff who do preparation work for all five campus cafes. Plus, she makes sure that those prepared foods, as well as drinks, napkins and other needed supplies from the Draper stock room are delivered to the cafes.

"The hardest part of my job is the heavy lifting," Weaver says. "Stocking 175 cases of pop is a lot of repetitive lifting. Our students definitely get to help me with that."

Weaver was a police dispatcher in Nebraska before moving back to Michigan in 1986 with her late husband, Bernie Cowgill. Bernie landed a job at WMU and encouraged her to apply at the University, as well.

"We're hardworking and dedicated to providing quality services on a daily basis," Weaver says of Dining Services employees. "We've worked very hard to be there for the students and provide good meals."

Weaver notes that she worked with some wonderful people early on who showed her the ropes and became good friends with them. Many of those friends are retired now, and she'll be joining them April 30. She'll also be joining her second husband, Don, who retired from WMU's landscaping services four years ago.

The two live in Portage, Mich., and have five grown children. After retirement, Weaver plans to spend time visiting her grandchildren, traveling, crocheting, cross-stitching, sewing and trying her hand at quilting. In addition, she's planning to do some mission work in the United States with Don, who is a member of the Wesley Foundation board and chairs a United Way committee. They're investigating what type of mission work will be a good fit for them as a couple.

HR launches retirement seminar series

Human Resources will be offering four retirement-related programs in a 2010 seminar series being called Putting it Together. The programs will be conducted by Sanford Advisory Services, which provides administrative and consulting services for the WMU retirement plan to all employees.

Each seminar will focus on one aspect of retirement planning. All four will take place in the Bernhard Center and be presented at 9 a.m. and again at 4 p.m. to accommodate differing schedules. Employees may attend all of the seminars or any individual seminar.

The first program will be held Thursday, April 8, and is titled "Protecting Your Assets in a Volatile Market." It will explain asset allocation and diversification. Next up will be "Estate Planning for the Middle Class" Tuesday, May 18. This seminar will cover estate planning issues such as wills, trusts, powers of attorney and patient advocates.

The remaining programs have both been scheduled for this coming fall.

"Strategies to Maximize Social Security Benefits" is set for Wednesday, Sept. 22, and will deal with survivor benefits, taxation and other Social Security Issues. "Retirement Withdrawals and Tax Planning" is set for Thursday, Oct. 28, and will deal with taking distributions at retirement and their tax implications.

In order to prepare handouts, reservations are required. Reminder notices will be sent. For more information or to register, call Sanford Advisory Services at 488-6900. Questions should be directed to Richard Schaper, Human Resources, by phone or e-mail. Visit www.sanfordfinancialservices.com/wmu_participants for information about Sanford.

Bates to be feted next month

The Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation's Alumni Honor Academy is set for noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 17, in the Fetzer Center. Among those being honored is Halbert Bates, Haworth College of Business.

To reserve a place at the event, which costs \$15, contact Muncelle Pientaka by Monday, April 12, at muncelle.pientaka@wmich.edu or 387-2688.

Event touts life sciences careers

WMU has scheduled its 2010 Life Sciences Opportunities Day for 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, in the Bernhard Center's Brown and Gold Room.

Representatives from several Southwest Michigan companies will be on hand to describe science career paths, answer questions and accept resumes for summer jobs as well as internships.

Although open to the general public, the event is a learning and networking opportunity rather than a traditional job fair.

Kalamazoo matters

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Washington, D.C., will draw upon national as well as Kalamazoo data to discuss health disparities in the city and practical strategies to address them.

Reservations are required and will be accepted until seats are filled. To make a reservation, contact Tanya Bellamy in the Walker Institute at tanya.bellamy@wmich.edu or 387-2141.

The day's final events will be in the Fetzer Center. Reservations are not required.

First up will be the showing of two videos from the Public Broadcasting Service TV series, "Unnatural Causes." "In Sickness and in Wealth" at 11:30 a.m. in Putney Auditorium will cover how social factors affect health. "Not Just a Paycheck" at 12:30 p.m. in Kirsch Auditorium will cover unemployment's adverse health effects by examining what happened in one West Michigan community when a manufacturing plant closed.

For the last event, Smedley will lecture on "Building Stronger Communities for Better Health: Moving from Science to Practice" at 1 p.m. After the presentation, he will lead a discussion of community strategies to eliminate health disparities.

Retirement reception

Jeanne Bloemsma, health, physical education and recreation, will be recognized for her 28 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. today in the Oaklands.