WMU Day waiting list now in force
Registration for the second WMU Day at the Capitol ended with 851 students, faculty, staff and friends of the University signing up. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, on the front lawn of the state Capitol in Lansing.

WMU Day will feature interactive and hands-on exhibits and musical performances showcasing the talents and success of WMU students, faculty and staff.

Those who registered to receive free transportation to and from Lansing as well as a free lunch but can’t attend are asked to contact Donna Mark at donna.mark@wmich.edu or 387-2072 to cancel their registrations. There is a growing waiting list of people who would like to take their place.

Event will affect campus traffic today
Road closures will re-route traffic from Waldo Stadium through downtown Kalamazoo today for the Girls on the Run Balance 5K run/walk. The detours will be in place prior to the start of the race at 6:30 p.m. and remain until 8 p.m. Nearly 2,000 girls will traverse 3.1 miles during the event, which starts and ends at the stadium.

Roadways being affected are: (lane closures) South Burdick, Vine, Rose and Lovell streets and (road closures) I-296, Stadium Drive between Howard Street and South, Oakland Drive between Howard and Oliver Street, Westnedge Avenue between Michigan Avenue and Vine, Park Street between Crosstown Parkway and Vine, and South Burdick between Michigan and Lovell.

Advisory board members sought
WMU’s Writing Center is seeking faculty and staff to serve on its advisory board. Board members will offer commentary on Writing Center policies and practices as well as outreach and program assessment efforts. Contact Kim Ballard at kim.ballard@wmich.edu or 387-4446 for details.

Trustees meeting slated for June 4
The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Thursday, June 4. Details and key agenda items will be posted online at www.wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date.

Commercialization grants presented
The recipients of WMU’s 2009 Technology Development Fund grants were announced in the spring issue of Inquir’y. Awarded grants were: Richard Spates, psychology, $19,000; Adam Milewski, geosciences, $14,500; and Ali-al Faqha, computer science, $11,000.

Go to www.wmich.edu/research/technologytransfer for information about the fund, policies and practices as well as outreach and program assessment efforts. Contact Kim Ballard at kim.ballard@wmich.edu or 387-4446 for details.

Strazdas to head revamped facilities structure
Strazdas has played a lead role over the past dozen years in streamlining the University’s energy management and operating procedures as well as in enhancing the use of technology.

WMU, University of Malta to launch new program
WMU and the University of Malta are preparing to launch a collaborative degree program that will tap the resources of both institutions to provide a master’s level criminology program to be taught at that Mediterranean nation’s flagship university.

WMU President John M. Dunn and University of Malta Rector Juanito Camilleri met May 5 at WMU to sign a memorandum of understanding outlining a new dual Master of Arts in Criminology, Law and Public Policy. The collaboration is designed as a novel international and interdisciplinary venture—a dual master’s degree program based on contributions from two universities, one in North America and the other in the Mediterranean region of the European Union.

“Now we’ll be working to make this agreement come to life,” said Dunn during the signing ceremony. “We’ll take what’s on paper and make it a reality. This will be a world-class opportunity for students at both institutions ready to take advantage of a program that will give them a unique set of credentials.”

The partnership is an opportunity for both schools to create a research and instructional environment based on differing cultural perspectives. It also will provide rigorous criminological training at the graduate level that will increase WMU’s international engagement.

Engineering student first confirmed H1N1 virus case
An engineering student who traveled over the semester break has been confirmed to have the 2009 North American H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu.

The student fell ill May 13 and stopped attending class. He went to the Sindecuse Health Center to seek treatment May 15 and was tested for the virus by health center staff. The Michigan Department of Community Health confirmed his test was positive late May 18, and communicated the results immediately to the Sindecuse medical director. The confirmation brings to four, the number of known H1N1 cases in Kalamazoo.

After being treated at Sindecuse, the student recovered from typical flu symptoms at home in an off-campus Kalamazoo apartment and is now symptom free. Early May 19, WMU President John M. Dunn sent a message to members of the campus community, and WMU officials began to alert instructors and students enrolled in class with the infected student to be vigilant for any signs of flu.

The symptoms of H1N1 flu virus are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported continued on page 4

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Around Campus

Commercialization workshops set
Two programs remain in a three-part series of training workshops being held in the Fetzer Center that are designed for faculty and staff members wanting to learn about commercializing their research. The series began May 19 and is being sponsored by Biotechnology Business Consultants in Ann Arbor, Mich., and WMU's Office of the Vice President for Research and Office of Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization.

Attendees should come with their questions and will have the opportunity to schedule one-on-one appointments with each of the presenters in the afternoon following the training. Registration is required for the final two programs, which will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on back-to-back Tuesdays.

In addition to Commercialization: Michigan-based Life Sciences on May 26 in free and will explore commercialization options for early-stage life science companies.

"Government Accounting and Grants Management" on June 2 costs $50 and is designed for those unfamiliar with the accounting and management requirements associated with receiving federal dollars. To register, go to www.biocentric.com/training_schedules.html or call Kris Bergman at (734) 930-9741.

Wellness Wednesday event slated
The next Wellness Wednesday Workshop is titled "Strength & Stability" and will take place from 12:05 to 12:55 p.m. May 27 in 3014 Student Recreation Center. Preregistrations are required and may be made by calling 387-3543.

Entrepreneurship is subject of talk
A local entrepreneur will be the featured speaker in a presentation Friday, May 29, as part of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series at WMU. Amy Knapp will discuss the inspiration, creation, and success of her new business, Amy Knapp's Family Organzier, in a talk titled "Advantages of Operating a Small Business During Difficult Economic Times."

Her presentation begins at 8 a.m. in the Dean's Conference Room in Schneider Hall. The event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and is free and open to the public. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 387-5070.

Retirement reception scheduled
A retirement reception honoring Becky Roberts, millwright/maintenance mechanic in physical plant-maintenance services, for her 24-1/2 years of service to the University will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, May 29, in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Center.

Sports staffer wins writing award
Matthew D. Holmes, intercollegiate athletics, has been named the recipient of an inaugural award presented by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and United States Tennis Writers Association. Holmes, associate director of athletic media relations, took first place in the ITA/USTWA Sports Information Directors Writing Competition for a women's tennis-related story. Holmes came to WMU in 2005 after two years with ESPN Radio in Indianapolis. He was promoted to his current position in 2007 and is close to completing a master's degree in sport management at WMU.

Academic advisor earns state honor
Marilyn S. Kritzman, faculty specialist in the School of Communication, has received the 2008 Outstanding Academic Advisor-Primary Role Award from the Michigan Academic Advising Association.

Kritzman received the honor during the association's annual state conference May 11 for her "extraordinary dedication" to her students and colleagues as well as to the academic advising field. The association is an organization of college and university professionals concerned with the structural, personal, and career or vocational advising needs of students in Michigan.

A 1987 alumna of WMU's master's program in communication, Kritzman was appointed to her current position in 2002 to coordinate undergraduate advising and internships for the communication school.

Kritzman came to WMU in 1982 as a residence hall director and in 1991 was promoted to assistant manager of facilities for the Office of Residence Life. She was a special assistant to administrators in student affairs from 1999 to 2002.

Prof's projects aid war-torn Liberia
Susan Weinger, social work, is heading a project called "Micro Enterprise-Macro Impact in Liberia" to help citizens of the war-torn West African nation start small businesses that rent or create wedding dresses. Never mind when one Liberian begins a business, the profits support an extended family.

She and the student group she's collaborating with are seeking donations of good-quality, used and new wedding dresses, as well as wedding dress fabric, veils, beaded appliqué, lace and sewing machines.

Weinger has been to Liberia, serving as a consultant to a rehabilitation center. She also has sent used computers to the country, and two Internet-related stories have been developed as a result. Her direct contacts there help ensure the goods will go the appropriate people. To learn more, e-mail elegant.liberia@gmail.com or call 344-0760.

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WMU has named a high-profile faculty member to serve as associate vice president for research, effective May 18.

Paula D. Kohler, special education and literacy studies, brings a wealth of funded research experience to the position, as well as a background in business administration, educational leadership, vocational education and special education. In her new role, Kohler will be responsible for the Office of the Vice President for Research until WMU completes its national search for an administrator to head the office. She also will continue working on her own research, which focuses on identifying and analyzing students’ post-school outcomes and effective secondary education practices, understanding effects of career development on post-school outcomes, and identifying and evaluating strategies for implementing and sustaining research-based practices.

Kohler replaces Leonard C. Ginsberg, who will be returning to the faculty after a brief sabbatical. Ginsberg was appointed associate vice president in 2004 and began overseeing the entire unit in mid-2005, when its vice president left to take over as executive director of WMU’s Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center.

Archaeology camp signup begun

WMU archaeologists are making history come alive at the site of Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Mich., with camp offerings in July for middle school students, educators and other interested adults.

Signup is under way for three summer camps that will offer hands-on training and learning at the premier public archaeology program in the Midwest.

Teachers can earn Continuing Education Unit credit as certified by the State Board of Education or graduate credits for their participation.

Camps include: an adult non-credit program July 13-17, a program for junior high school students in grades six through nine July 20-24, and a program for educators, including teachers, principals, librarians and aides, July 27-31.

The field school will take place near Niles, Mich. Each five-day program will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Availability is limited to 10 students each week, and a $125 fee is charged.

Scholarships, Continuing Education Certificates and credit hours are available. The review of applications will begin June 8, and candidates will be notified of their acceptance by June 15 or until the program is filled.

Go to forstjosephmuseum.org for complete details or to apply.

WMU gets $500,000 from state Braille transcribing fund

A celebration that began Jan. 4 with an observance of the 200th anniversary of Louis Braille’s birth in 1809, continues with a $500,000 gift to WMU from the Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund.

The gift to the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies will be used to establish the Francelia Williams Wonders Endowment. The gift will provide at least one scholarship annually to qualified, full-time students who are majoring in blindness and low vision studies in the College of Health and Human Services. The endowment will benefit both students and the people with vision problems they serve, as have previous contributions from the fund.

The Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund is a non-profit, Braille-translating organization based in the Cotton Correctional Facility at the State Prison of Southern Michigan in Jackson, Mich. The fund, which translates textbooks, manuals and other documents into Braille, began in 1962 as a volunteer effort by a few prisoners and now involves 40 inmates who train in complex Braille transcription and other technologies. The fund offers affordable, quality Braille to companies and school districts throughout the country and specializes in transcribing “hard-to-do” Braille, such as math, science, geography, spelling and social studies.

In 2005, the fund donated $36,600 to the department to purchase 11 new Braille computers, and in 2003, the fund gave WMU $160,000 for scholarship support, which was distributed as a series of $8,000 awards to educate students in the teaching of Braille.

Obituary

William E. “Wally” Post, a staff member and longtime instructor, died May 12 in Kalamazoo.

Post, a full-time database specialist in the Development Office since 2005, had taught part-time in the Department of Sociology since 1993.

He also ran his own market and social science research company, worked part-time for the WJSchroer Co. in Battle Creek, Mich., and did computer consulting for the sociology department from 1995 to 2005.

Post earned an associate degree from Glen Oaks Community College in 1992, and bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WMU in 1991 and 1995, respectively. He also had completed all but his dissertation for a doctoral degree in sociology from WMU.
Strazdas has been a WMU employee since 1980. Before assuming his present duties at the Physical Plant in 1994, he was an engineering technology faculty member and later a construction administrator. For several years, he chaired the Michigan Construction Safety Standards Commission, which he served on by gubernatorial appointment, and since 2004, he has served as president of the Michigan Higher Education Facility Officers Association.

"There are many dedicated people in the new integrated department, and I look forward to working with these professionals to manage our facility resources very carefully. We take our facility stewardship seriously, and our entire team will work together to improve efficiencies and customer service."

Strazdas has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration. He is a licensed building contractor, a licensed master electrician in commercial electrical work, a licensed master plumber, and a licensed master air conditioning and refrigeration contractor. In addition, he has a general contractor's license.

Engineering student first confirmed H1N1 case continued from page 1

Researcher says any student, staff or faculty member with flu symptoms should immediately isolate themselves from others and stay home. If flu symptoms become severe enough to seek treatment, they should visit Sindecuse or their family doctor.

Sindecuse recommends that those who are not feeling well or who have been exposed to someone with flu symptoms wash their hands frequently, stay home if they are sick, and avoid close contact with others if they have flu symptoms.

VanRiper clinic uges employees to get their hearing screened

Nearchou was laid off in 2004, but rehired in 2005 and assigned a few months later to remodeling services. Given the state of the national economy, he's maintaining a 40-hour work week. And he's indoors during the winter.

"Western Michigan University has been a part of my entire working career," Nearchou says. "There are many dedicated people in the new integrated department, and I look forward to working with these professionals to manage our facility resources very carefully. We take our facility stewardship seriously, and our entire team will work together to improve efficiencies and customer service."

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