Homecoming to rock campus, Kalamazoo

WMU is treating the University community and public to a host of exciting activities during this week’s Homecoming celebration, Monday through Sunday, Sept. 29-Oct. 5. Among the activities slated are a 5K and 1K run/walk, the wild and wacky Western Games, and a variety of shows, concerts and athletic competitions.

The highpoint of the 2008 Homecoming celebration, which revolves around the theme “Rock on Western,” will be the football game at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, against the Ohio University Bobcats.

Students will help celebrate Homecoming by staging two annual public events Friday, Oct. 3. The Western Games will take place at noon at the Intramural Soccer Fields by the Goldsworth Valley Apartments while the soap box derby will begin at 3 p.m. on Gilkison Avenue near the Smedley Health Center.

Hundreds of University and community members will kick off Saturday’s activities by enjoying the annual Campus Classic race/walk, either as participants, volunteers or spectators. Many Bronco alumni, fans and friends will rev up for the Homecoming football game.

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Still time to register for annual Campus Classic

The Homecoming Campus Classic race/walk is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, and those wishing to take part in the Saturday, Oct. 4, event as volunteers or participants can still register to join the fun.

From 4 to 8 p.m., racers and walkers may pick up their packets or register tonight at Gazelle Sports in downtown Kalamazoo or Friday, Oct. 3, in 105 Bernhard Center. Registration also will be open from 2 to 8:30 a.m., just prior to the event, in 105 Bernhard Center.

Volunteers may register online until noon Friday and in person until 7:30 a.m. on event day. Volunteers will be treated to a light breakfast in the morning and brunch after the Campus Classic.

Go to www.wmich.edu/race to register or obtain more information.

Three receive 2008 Distinguished Alumni awards

A prominent teacher-entrepreneur, researcher and businessman have been selected by the WMU Alumni Association to receive its most prestigious honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The award was established in 1963 to recognize graduates of WMU who have achieved a high level of success in their professions. The 2008 recipients will be recognized at a reception and dinner Friday, Oct. 3.

They are: Richard Koehn, president and chief executive officer of Sentry Animal Care Inc. in Salt Lake City, Nick Triantafillopoulos, director of polymer innovation for the Akron Technology Center of OMNOVA Solutions Inc.; and Charles Valluzzo, CEO of McDonald’s of Baton Rouge, La.

Koehn heads Sentry Animal Care, a start-up company devoted to delivering cutting-edge animal care products. He earned a bachelor’s degree from WMU in 1963 and a doctorate from Arizona State University in 1967, then went on to teach at the University of Kansas for three years.

Triantafillopoulos is an internationally recognized expert in coating process technologies and rheology. He earned a bachelor’s degree in physics from the University of Athens in 1979 and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in paper science and engineering from WMU in 1981 and 1985, respectively.

Valluzzo is one of McDonald’s largest franchise holders, overseeing 53 stores as CEO of McDonald’s of Baton Rouge. He graduated from WMU in 1962 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing.
Distinguished Faculty Scholar nominations due in January

Nominations are due Jan. 23 for the 2009 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. Up to three recipients will be selected.

The recipients will be honored at a future presentation at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, on the 10th floor of Sprout Tower. Her presentation, titled “Living Between Languages: A Conversation and Bilingual Reading with Hiromi Ito,” is free and open to the public.

Obama documentary to be screened

Award-winning filmmaker and WMU alumnus Bob Hercules will present his latest creative presentation of the current administration running/distinguished.html

Go to www.wmich.edu/research/fund-
ing/distinguished.html for details and contact information.

Tech, public policy focus of talk

The United States is the most technologically sophisticated society that has ever existed, but this also means it’s the most technologically dependent, according to a visiting scholar who will be speaking at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in D-109 of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Building.

William Wolf, AT&T Professor of Computer Science at the University of Virginia, will explore the wonders and engineering concepts he thinks people should know during his free, public presentation on “Responsible Citizenship in a Technological Democracy.”

Around Campus

Today is Business Career Day

More than 110 organizations will arrange on campus today for Business Career Day, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Bernhard Center and is open to the public. Placement and managed by Alpha Kappa Psi and the WMU Career Center at the Haworth College of Business, it is designed for WMU students, alumni and members of the public interested in business careers. The fair is expected to attract more than 2,000 job seekers.

National paper meeting slated

The Paper Technology Foundation is holding its 49th annual meeting today in the Ferhat Center. The event is expected to attract high-ranking paper industry executives from across the country.

Japanese writer visiting campus

Hiromi Ito, one of the foremost writers of contemporary Japan, will give a presentation at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, on the 10th floor of Sprout Tower. Her presentation, titled “Living Between Languages: A Conversation and Bilingual Reading with Hiromi Ito,” is free and open to the public.

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Geologist selected as fellow of GSA

Alan Kehew, geosciences, has been selected a fellow of the prestigious Geological Society of America in recognition of his work on glacial geology and the glacial events that helped shape the northern Great Plains. Kehew will be recognized for his contribution to science at the GSA annual meeting Saturday, Oct. 4, in Houston.

The citation also mentions his work in groundwater and environmental geology, which has been a major focus of his work at WMU and in his textbook, “Geology for Engineers and Environmental Scientists” and “Applied Chemical Hydrogeology.”


Professor wins award for publications

Jubin Zhang, health, physical education and recreation, has received the G. Lawrence Rarick Research Award for his distinguished record of publications in refereed journals of national and international significance.

The award was presented at the 2008 Annual Summer Conference of the National Consortium for Physical Education and Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities held in Reston, Va. To be nominated, individuals must be recognized as a research scholar in the area of physical education and recreation for individuals with disabilities. Zhang, a faculty member since 1997, was presented with the award in acknowledgement of his publications being systematically directed toward specific questions that helped advance knowledge in physical education and recreation for individuals with disabilities.
Study and Work Abroad Fair expands global horizons

The University's 2008 Study and Work Abroad Fair will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in the Bernhard Center's South Ballroom.

The free event will allow students and members of the campus and local communities to learn how they can earn academic credit while studying and working abroad.

Some of the summer programs that will be described are open to mature high school students as well as adults who are interested in travel and learning but are not attending college. Also, nearly all types of student financial aid may be applied toward study abroad programs, including money received through the Kalamazoo Promise and Michigan Education Trust funds.

The fair is being sponsored by the Haenicke Institute for Global Education and includes several new features this year. Among them are:
- Expanded opportunities for overseas internships due to broader collaboration with WMU's Career and Student Employment Services.
- Presentation of three informational sessions, Study Abroad 101 for High School Students from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Intern Abroad for Academic Credit from 5 to 6 p.m., and the Study Abroad 101 panel discussion from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with financial aid staff members and students who have previously studied abroad.
- Implementation of a high school outreach plan, through which juniors and seniors in the local area have been formally invited to the fair.
- Prize giveaways sponsored by STA Travel as well as a free pop and slice of pizza, while supplies last.

WMU staff members will be on hand to answer questions about financial aid, health and other issues. Attendees also will have the chance to speak with WMU students who have studied and worked abroad, WMU professors who coordinate programs and courses around the globe, and representatives from non-WMU organizations touring more than 100 study and work programs conducted worldwide.

For more information, go to www.wmich.edu/studyabroad or contact Joe Milostan, WMU study abroad outreach coordinator, at study-abroad@wmich.edu or 387-5890.

Service—October

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during October.

40 Years—George R. Kohrtman, information technology.
35 Years—Klazina A. Welch, industrial and manufacturing engineering.
30 Years—Mitchell P. Beare, Bernhard Center.
25 Years—Joyce Lynn P. Fooy, intercollegiate athletics; Nancy L. Kiblitz, dining services; Valley #1; Willie T. Murray, multicultural affairs; Robert R. Van Dyke, dining services; Lonnie Wesseling, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; and Shirley D. Bishop, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.
20 Years—George D. Broomell, information technology; Juanaita Snell, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; James A. Visser, School of Public Affairs and Administration; Janice S. Weaver, cash operations; and Arnita Williams, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.
15 Years—Jacqueline R. Angel, Sindecuse Health Center; Joanne L. Barretta, education field placement; Thomas W. Norton, chemistry; and Arthur J. Smith, information technology.
10 Years—Catherine B. Hennessy, information technology-telecommunications, and Ann M. Trevino, dining services.

Five Years—Rayne S. Aaron, Children's Place, and Muralidhar K. Ghantasala, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

TowerPinkster gift supports WMU sustainability efforts

A leading West Michigan firm is creating a new endowed scholarship that will support WMU students who want to pursue careers in environmental sustainability.

TowerPinkster, an architecture and engineering firm recently created the TowerPinkster Endowed Scholarship for mechanical and electrical engineering majors.

When fully funded, it is anticipated that at least one scholarship will be awarded annually to a full-time junior or senior enrolled in one of the majors and expressing an interest in environmental design and building. As part of the new scholarship arrangement, recipients of this award will be designated "TowerPinkster Scholars" and be given an opportunity to apply for an internship with TowerPinkster.

The creation of a scholarship for students in environmental design and building fits well with TowerPinkster's reputation as a leader in sustainable initiatives and also serves as a new pride point in WMU's ongoing efforts to support environmental and energy alternatives.

Last year, TowerPinkster's downtown Kalamazoo office at 242 E. Michigan Ave. became the first facility in southwest Michigan to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification.

Last spring, WMU received the 2008 Environmental Award from the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce in recognition of three important initiatives: implementing sustainable design practices in new campus buildings, committing to major storm water management improvements throughout the main campus in Kalamazoo and developing a centralized energy usage control system.

Obituaries

Henrietta "Yetta" Ackerson, a retired WMU staff member, died Sept. 10 in Kalamazoo. She was 84.

Ackerson came to the University in 1959. At the time of her retirement in 1986, she was the coordinator for the Administrative Work Center in the Office of the President.

Paul A. Robbert, emeritus in art, died Sept. 22, in Holland, Mich. He was 80.

Robbert came to the University in 1957 as an instructor and retired in 1998 as a professor. He served as acting chair of the Department of Art in 1972-73 and also established the papermaking curriculum. He taught graphics, papermaking, printmaking, drawing and painting.

An acclaimed artist both nationally and internationally, Robbert exhibited widely in the United States and abroad.

Robbert was a founding member of the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center. A celebration of his life will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5, at the center, located in the Park Trades Center, 326 W. Kalamazoo Ave., Suite 102.

An exhibition of his work will be on display at the center during the Art Hop on Friday, Oct. 3, and will continue through Oct. 31.

Robert Schler, emeritus in mathematics and statistics, died Sept. 13. He was 79.

Schler came to the University in 1959 as an instructor and retired in 1992 as an associate professor.

Nellie L. Stell, a retired WMU staff member, died Sept. 16, in Kalamazoo. She was 78.

Stell came to the University in 1972. At the time of her retirement in 1993, she was an administrative assistant in the educational leadership area of the College of Education.
Walker Institute offers groundbreaking conference

The tremendous diversity of peoples and cultural traditions in Michigan will be examined in depth during a groundbreaking statewide conference Thursday and Friday, Oct. 9-10, in the Fetzer Center.

“The Peoples Conference: Ethnic and Racial Diversity in Michigan” is open to the public and being sponsored by WMU’s Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations.

The WMU community is encouraged to register for the full two days, one day or a half-day at a cost of $125, $70 or $35, respectively. Registration is continuing through both days of the event. Ethnic and racial groups to be highlighted include: African Americans, Arabs, Asian Americans, Chaldeans, Cornish, Dutch, Hungarians, Jews, Latvians, Mexican Americans and other Latinos, and Scots.

In addition, break-out sessions will allow attendees to interact with panelists in lively discussions of a variety of topics. Go to www.wmich.edu/walkerinstitute to register online, download the conference brochure or learn more about the featured speakers.

WMU schedules fall influenza, meningitis vaccination clinics

The WMU community may be vaccinated against influenza and meningitis at five clinics this fall as well as at the Sindecuse Health Center during nursing walk-in hours.

The clinics are open to WMU students; faculty and staff members and their eligible dependents; and retirees and emeriti. They will take place Monday, Oct. 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the College of Health and Human Services Building; Thursday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the College of Aviation campus at the W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, Mich.; Wednesday, Oct. 15, (special accommodations for retirees and emeritis), from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the third floor of the Sindecuse Health Center; Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in rooms 157-159 Bernhard Center; and Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the indoor tennis court area of Student Recreation Center during the WMU Health and Wellness Expo.

Arrangements have been made to fund the full cost of flu vaccinations administered by the Sindecuse Health Center to employees, and their eligible dependents, covered by WMU’s Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan PPO insurance plan. For complete details, including costs for non-covered vaccinations and non-covered WMU community members, go online to www.sindecuse.com or call 387-3287.