Nursing school wins local award

The Bronson School of Nursing will receive a 2008 Kalamazoo Communities In Schools Champ Award during an awards luncheon Friday, June 20, in the Kalamazoo Public Library. The award recognizes the school as a KCIS partner that provides quality service to students and possesses a true collaborative spirit.

This community collaboration, active since 2004, is carried out by nursing students in their junior year as part of their pediatric rotation. The students present activities related to health promotion, disease prevention and minor illness management over a five-week period in local elementary schools. In some cases, they request and receive grants to fund materials and other aspects of the activities they provide.

Western News to go on hiatus

Today’s Western News is the last issue for the summer. Western News will resume its regular publication schedule after the start of the fall semester. During the hiatus, faculty and staff can keep up with campus happenings by visiting WMU News at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

WMU releases Kalamazoo Promise findings

Preliminary findings from a study of the Kalamazoo Promise’s impact on the local school system have been released by the Evaluation Center.

The first round of findings are detailed in three working papers that have been posted at www.wmich.edu/evalctr/promise on the center’s Web site. The papers, titled “The Kalamazoo Promise as a Catalyst for Change in an Urban School District,” “Response from Community Groups” and “Key Findings from the 2007 Survey of High School Students,” give a preliminary assessment of the celebrated scholarship program’s impact on schools and the community at large.

The purpose of the evaluation, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, “is to determine whether the Kalamazoo Promise, through its transformative effect on the education culture within the school district, improves the progress of students through their K-12 experience and better prepares them for entering a postsecondary education program.”

Many of the key findings are still pending and will be released later in the summer. But initial results show the scholarship program, which was announced in November 2005 and provides four years of tuition and fees at any public college or university in Michigan for students who have attended Kalamazoo Public Schools, is having an impact on students, schools and the community.

The 2007 survey of high school students shows the vast majority plan to use the scholarship. Perhaps most telling, more than three-quarters of the students said they wish to use the Promise to enroll in a community college or university. Nearly a third reported the existence of the Promise has motivated them to attend school more often. A third also said they are now working harder in school due to the Promise.

Almost half of the students said they think the Promise has led to teachers having higher expectations, while only 34 percent reported the promise had not changed their education goals and plans.

“These are promising results, but it is important to note that these are self-reported data on short-term outcomes,” says Gary Miron, Evaluation Center research associate and director of the Promise evaluation. “Hard data on intermediate and long-term outcomes will be critical to determine the actual impact of the Promise on the public school system.”

Interviews with a diverse array of key informants from the community show the Promise is also having an impact on community groups that support students and families. Changes among community organizations prompted by the Promise include increased support for students through new programming, such as tutoring or through expanding existing programs serving children, and an influx of tutors and mentors across different community organizations.
Around Campus

Free jazz concerts scheduled

The fifth annual Steve Zegree Vocal Jazz Camp will bring participants from around the world to campus Sunday through Friday, June 22-27. It will conclude with a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Camp participants also will perform nightly in downtown Kalamazoo from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Union Cabaret and Grill, 125 S. Kalamazoo Mall. There is no cover charge and no reservations are necessary.

TB focus of Uzbekistan visitors

Public health professionals from Uzbekistan will visit the College of Health and Human Services Monday, June 23, to tour the WMU Bronson School of Nursing and meet with Amy B. Curtis, interdisciplinary health sciences.

Curtis has served as an epidemiologic intelligence officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where her work focused on investigating tuberculosis outbreaks and evaluation and surveillance of health-care related diseases.

Doctoral researchers to present

The public is invited to see the research contributions being made by doctoral students when the Ph.D. Program in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences hosts the 2008 Interdisciplinary Doctoral Research Conference from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, July 18, in the College of Health and Human Services Building.

University Theatre gets rare performance opportunity in Canterbury

A groundbreaking drama about gay Christians, performed last season by the University Theatre, has attracted international attention and an invitation for the original cast to present the work in England at a gathering of Anglican clergy Wednesday through Monday, July 16-Aug. 4.

WMU’s recently sold-out production, “Seven Passages: The Stories of Gay Christians,” will be performed at the Lambeth Conference, which convenes once every 10 years in Canterbury, England.

Led by the archbishop of Canterbury, the three-week summit brings together archbishops and diocesan, assistant and suffragan bishops from around the globe to consider issues facing the church and pass resolutions on the church’s governance, its ministry and liturgy, and its engagement in the world.

WMU students will move the timely issues of gender and sexuality to center stage when they perform in conjunction with related conference discussions. The theatre production is one of just 30 events chosen for inclusion in the conference schedule.

WMU awards prestigious Gründer Prize to Vanderbilt scholar

A Vanderbilt University scholar has been awarded WMU’s prestigious Gründer Prize for his book “John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in 14th Century Italy.”

The prize was awarded to William Caferro, an associate professor of history at Vanderbilt, during the 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies held May 8-11 on campus.

Caferro’s work chronicles the remarkable life and career of the most notorious mercenary soldier of the 14th century. Hawkwood gained his greatest fame and fortune as a commander-for-hire in the internecine wars all along the Italian peninsula. A man known for being clever and daring, he was the most feared mercenary in Renaissance Italy.

Clinician named national fellow

Sandra Olista, speech pathology and audiology, has been elected a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The designation is one of the field’s highest honors and a testament to Olista’s accomplishments at WMU on behalf of her department, its clientele and professionals throughout Michigan.

Olista, a master clinical faculty specialist, has been at WMU since 1991. She has expertise in the areas of neuro-physiological disorders, language, communication disorders of the aged, and augmentative and alternative communication.

ASHA is the professional, scientific and credentialing association for more than 130,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language and hearing scientists.

Counselor wins national honor

Alan J. Hovestadt, counselor education and counseling psychology, has received a 2008 Presidential Award from the American Counseling Association. It was bestowed in recognition of his more than three decades of service as a counselor educator, mentor and advocate for inter-professional collaboration.

The honor, presented during ACA’s 2008 conference in March, is part of the association’s national awards program for recognizing achievements of counselors who have distinguished themselves professionally as well as through service to others.

Hovestadt came to WMU in 1985 as chair of his department. He is a fellow and former president of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and chairs the Michigan Board of Marriage and Family Therapy State Licensing Board.

Emerita named top volunteer

Linda Law, emeritus in health, physical education and recreation, was recognized by Special Olympics Michigan as the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for Kalamazoo County during a May 28 event in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Each year, directors from SOMI’s 36 local area programs recognize one volunteer who goes above and beyond to help athletes develop physically, emotionally and socially.

Law, who’s been involved with Special Olympics for 10 years, was cited for recruiting additional volunteers and successfully coordinating Area 16’s 2008 Unified Bowling Program as well as volunteering in the same capacity next year.

She retired this past year as an associate professor after 31 1/2 years of service at WMU and was named the Alumni “W” Club Woman of the Year in 2005.
Trustees approve retirements of eight faculty, staff members

The retirements of four faculty members and four staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its June 13 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of two faculty members.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with facultyemeritus status. Their names, units, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are:

William “Arnis” Johnston, English, who also is being granted the title of chair emeritus in English, 40 years, effective June 30; Gwendolyn Nagle, theatre, 18-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2009; Janet I. Pisaneschi, speech pathology and audiology, who has been taking a year’s annual leave and also is being granted the title of dean emerita of health and human services, 19 years, effective June 30; and Judith J. Sadler, nursing, 10-1/2 years, effective April 28, 2009.

The three staff members retiring are: Willard E. Breur, physical plant-logistical services, 32 years, effective June 30; William D. Cochran, physical plant-maintenance services, 30-1/2 years, effective June 30; Margo A. Kellogg, development, 23 years, effective Aug. 31; and Daniel Tinkler, physical plant-power plant, 22-1/2 years, effective Sept. 30.

The faculty members resigning are: Anthony Calucci, dance, effective Aug. 10, and Laura B. Citrin, sociology, effective Aug. 29.

Golfers, non-golfers to gather for second WMU team-building event

Two campus organizations are organizing their second campuswide golf outing and dinner program, continuing an event they began this past summer to foster camaraderie at the University.

The Administrative Professional Association and Academic Technology and Instructional Services has planned the nine-hole golf outing starting at 2:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15. The registration deadline is noon Friday, Aug. 1, and participation is limited to the first 72 golfers who register.

Anyone affiliated with WMU, and their guests, may play in or volunteer to help out at the event, which is being held at the Prairies, 5303 W. Main St., Kalamazoo (next to the National City Bank).

The golf outing is designed to introduce WMU colleagues to one another and build as well as strengthen personal and professional relationships. It will include an awards program and dinner. Volunteers are primarily needed to assist with participant check-in and judging and may register as a double or as a single. Volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend. They will play in groups of four and may register as a double or as a single.

The faculty members resigning are: Anthony Calucci, dance, effective Aug. 10, and Laura B. Citrin, sociology, effective Aug. 29.

The event will have a scramble format and shotgun start. Inexperienced as well as experienced golfers are encouraged to grab a colleague and participate.

The cost for participants who register by the deadline is $15 per person and includes nine holes of golf with a cart, gratuity, prizes and dinner. Participants must bring their own clubs. They will play in groups of four and may register as a double or as a single. Volunteers are primarily needed to assist with participant check-in and judging and the longest drive contests for men and women.

Go to www.atis.wmich.edu/golf for registration and other event details.

Exchange

For rent—Relaxing lakeside getaway 12 miles west of Kalamazoo. Sit on your own pier while watching fish, contemplating wildlife and watching sunsets over a beautiful lake. Facility couple going on leave, immediately available. $1,200 per month plus utilities. E-mail middlebrooks@wmich.edu.

For rent—Comfortable home with pool to share in nice neighborhood. Owner takes a year’s annual leave and will be honored at a luncheon scheduled for Thursday, July 17. The 2007-08 award recipients are: Laurie Foster, scheduling coordinator in the Registrar’s Office; Patrick Lem, carpenter in physical plant-utilities/remodeling services; Melinda Lockett, academic advisor for the College of Health and Human Services; and Surangi Pradhan, employer relations coordinator and recruiter in Career and Student Employment Services.

This prestigious award is reserved for WMU’s most outstanding staff employees—who those who reach far beyond their assigned responsibilities to give generously and creatively of their time and talents, making the University an even finer place to work and study.

Make a Difference is a campuswide recognition program for staff members. The program features a semiannual award that is bestowed during two separate award periods each academic year and an annual award that is bestowed to each year’s top four semiannual recipients.

Go to www.wmich.edu/makeadifference for more information.

It’s SRC membership sign-up time

Benefits-eligible faculty and nonbargaining staff members may activate their Student Recreation Center membership now and pay nothing more than the taxes on this $225 benefit.

Summer II session begins on June 25, and the new annual membership will run through June 24, 2009.

Members may use the SRC from Sunday through Saturday, anytime the building is open. They are encouraged to bring their families during specific hours and together maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Activating membership is easy. Just go to the Web site at www.src.wmich.edu and click Membership. Print the form, fax it to 387-3766 and membership will be processed immediately.

For more information or to arrange to have an in-office presentation about the SRC and the benefits of becoming a member, call Cindy VanderWoude at 387-3115.
Newly tenured faculty

The faculty members approved for tenure are listed as follows by their current academic rank.

• The associate professor receiving tenure is: Tianshu Liu, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.
• Assistant professors receiving tenure are: Jon R. Adams, English; Heather Addison, communication; Omar Anguslan, finance and commercial law; Bradford Dennis, University Libraries; Charles R. Henderson, physics; Sarah Hill, anthropology; Phillip Johnson, counselor education and counseling psychology; James J. Kiddle, chemistry; Ok-Kyong Kim, mathematics; Mahendra S. Lawoti, political science; Robert J. Lenee, educational leadership, research and technology; Kathryn Lewis-Ginebaugh, University Counseling and Testing Center; Mark Liermann, theater; Nancy B. Munsberger, teaching, learning and educational studies; Michael Millar, Spanish; Mustafa Mushty, foreign languages; Debasti Mukherjee, economics; Lori A. Muse, management; Jon-Seok Oh, civil and construction engineering; Sue Poppink, educational leadership, research and technology; Pablo M. Pantrana, Spanish; Shaila Rao, special education and literacy studies; Sybil Rhodes, political science; Wuwei Shen, computer science; Mary J. Baskas, nursing; Cheryl L. Bauman-Brown, theater; Michael C. Beaus, Spanish; and Joni Jones, nursing.
• Faculty specialist IIs receiving tenure are: Martin Grant, avatar; Loren Heun, statistics; Kathleen Onderlinde, biological sciences; and Judy G. Palmer, teaching, learning and educational studies.

Newly promoted faculty

The faculty members approved for promotions are as follows:

• Promoted to associate professor are: Richard Adams, music; Jon R. Adams, English; Terri L. Beyer, history; Sandra L. Borden, communication; Jon A. Brandao, history; Cat L. Crotchett, art; Leigh A. Ford, communication; Thomas W. Gorczyca, physics; Joyce Hauptmann, political science; Norman W. Hawker, finance and commercial law; Margaret Joyce, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; David N. Karowe, biological sciences; Joan Kimmel, economics; Kirk T. Korista, physics; Cindy L. Linn, biological sciences; Yulan Liu, health, physical education and recreation; Matthew S. Mingus, public affairs and administration; Timothy B. Palmer, management; John S. Petrowsky, mathematics; Dewei Qi, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Silvia Rossbach, biological sciences; Nancy M. Schullery, business information systems; Jana K. Schulman, English; J. Michael Tarn, business information systems; Robert E. Vann, Spanish; Delores D. Vellom, University Counseling and Testing Center; Wilson J. Warren, history; Susan Weninger, social work; and Steven M. Wolsfanger, music.
• Promoted to an associate professor are: Jon R. Adams, English; Heather Addison, communication; Omar Anguslan, finance and commercial law; Bradford W. Dennis, University Libraries; Charles R. Henderson, physics; Sarah Hill, anthropology; Phillip Johnson, counselor education and counseling psychology; James J. Kiddle, chemistry; Ok-Kyong Kim, mathematics; Mahendra S. Lawoti, political science; Robert J. Lenee, educational leadership, research and technology; Kathryn Lewis-Ginebaugh, University Counseling and Testing Center; Mark Liermann, theater; Nancy B. Munsberger, teaching, learning and educational studies; Michael Millar, Spanish; Mustafa Mushty, foreign languages; Debasti Mukherjee, economics; Lori A. Muse, management; Jon-Seok Oh, civil and construction engineering; Pablo M. Pantrana-Perez, Spanish; Sue Poppink, educational leadership, research and technology; Shaila Rao, special education and literacy studies; Sybil D. Rhodes, political science; Wuwei Shen, computer science; R. Paul Vellom, teaching, learning and educational studies; Karen S. Vocke, English; Kevin J. Wanner, comparative religion; Donna M. Weinreich, social work; Michael Whang, University Libraries; Peter Welhouser, political science; and Takashi Yoshida, history.
• Promoted to an associate professor are: Jon R. Adams, English; Heather Addison, communication; Omar Anguslan, finance and commercial law; Bradford W. Dennis, University Libraries; Charles R. Henderson, physics; Sarah Hill, anthropology; Phillip Johnson, counselor education and counseling psychology; James J. Kiddle, chemistry; Ok-Kyong Kim, mathematics; Mahendra S. Lawoti, political science; Robert J. Lenee, educational leadership, research and technology; Kathryn Lewis-Ginebaugh, University Counseling and Testing Center; Mark Liermann, theater; Nancy B. Munsberger, teaching, learning and educational studies; Michael Millar, Spanish; Mustafa Mushty, foreign languages; Debasti Mukherjee, economics; Lori A. Muse, management; Jon-Seok Oh, civil and construction engineering; Pablo M. Pantrana-Perez, Spanish; Sue Poppink, educational leadership, research and technology; Shaila Rao, special education and literacy studies; Sybil D. Rhodes, political science; Wuwei Shen, computer science; R. Paul Vellom, teaching, learning and educational studies; Karen S. Vocke, English; Kevin J. Wanner, comparative religion; Donna M. Weinreich, social work; Michael Whang, University Libraries; Peter W. Welhouser, political science; and Takashi Yoshida, history.

On Campus with Lori Groh

Not many jobs allow you to go shopping every day. Lori Groh, a buyer in the purchasing office, has one of them.

Groh joined what is now Logistical Services in 1979 and has been with the unit ever since. She began working at the dock in freight, postal and delivery, then served as a secretary in maintenance stores, payroll clerk in freight, postal and delivery, and secretary in purchasing.

In 1994, Groh became a buyer in purchasing. The job includes some budget-related work, but primarily involves writing requests for proposals to obtain goods and services, evaluating bids, and issuing purchase orders and vendor contracts.

“There’s a lot of follow up—before, during and after a proposal is written. But the biggest challenge is making sure that bids are comparing apples to apples and everyone has followed the proper procedures, so awards go to the lowest bidder or can be justified if they don’t,” Groh says.

“The best advice I can give the WMU community is to communicate with purchasing before buying, not after the fact. We want a lot of vendors, and can help you get the good products at the right prices. We can also get price quotes and help you navigate the paperwork.”

Over the years, Groh has brought just about everything a major university needs, from routine fare like office furniture to more unusual items like cadavers for use by College of Health and Human Services classes.

“It’s the variety that keeps the job interesting. The products and business policies are always changing,” she says. “The best part is meeting new people and making new friendships. I work with people across campus, and I really do have a WMU family of friends.”

Groh lives in her hometown of Galesburg with her husband, John, a WMU alumnus. She has one son who is attending WMU and another son who will soon transfer here.

In her spare time, Groh enjoys collecting giraffes as well as lighthouses, in addition to crocheting, scrap booking, reading, swimming, walking, camping and traveling. She hopes to do a lot more of the latter after she retires.