Medieval Congress starts today

Some 3,000 scholars will be on campus today through Sunday, May 8-11, for the 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies. The event will feature more than 2,000 presentations of scholarly papers, panel discussions, roundtables, workshops and performances.

This year’s special activities include a gaming workshop with old and new games, readers’ theater performances of Middle English texts, three popular film showings, an art exhibition, and a medieval-to-Cajun contemporary concert of French song and dance music. Go to www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress for details and tickets.

Business college opens Career Center

The Haworth College of Business opened its new $2.6 million Career Center with a formal ceremony April 25 in Schneider Hall, which houses the college.

The center was built entirely with private funds and will cater to the needs of both employers and WMU business students. It has been designed to offer WMU business students and those trying to recruit them the kind of resources commonly found in the nation’s leading business schools, says David Shields, dean of the Haworth College of Business.

“This center is really all about jobs and developing the kind of long-term relationships with employers that will serve both them and our students,” Shields says.

“Our college is fortunate to have the kind of support from alumni that has made it possible to quickly make this very real need a reality. Our alumni and supporters wanted a state-of-the-art facility for our students, so it’s appropriate to have one of our students formally open the center.”

Corporate leaders from around West Michigan and the nation gathered for the grand opening, which included brief remarks by WMU President John M. Dunn as well as a ribbon cutting by Shannon Lapsey of Saline, Mich., a junior sales and business marketing major and member of the business college’s Student Leadership Advisory Board.

Also in attendance were several senior leaders of that advisory board, many of whom have helped fund the Career Center.

Friday is deadline to register for WMU Day at the Capitol

Faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the University have until tomorrow, May 9, to register online for WMU Day at the Capitol and receive free WMU T-shirts, box lunches and optional bus transportation between Kalamazoo and Lansing.

After May 9, anyone who has not registered at www.wmich.edu/wmulay and is still interested in participating will be placed on a waiting list.

WMU Day at the Capitol is a first-of-its kind event that will be held on the front lawn of the Michigan Capitol from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, to showcase the University’s programs and people and highlight the institution’s contributions as a valuable research institution in the state. Members of the WMU community also are planning to meet with legislators.

The day’s highlights include an appearance by Robo Bronco, a six-foot tall walking, talking and singing chrome robotic horse who will be demonstrating the University’s engineering expertise. Other engineering successes, such as WMU’s Sunseeker solar car, will be on display, along with the University’s national award-winning chainless bicycle.

The day also will feature a noon flyover by two Cessna SR-20 planes from WMU’s aviation fleet, with a replica of the plane available for viewing; a demonstration of Bronco Biodiesel; and other research projects and interactive displays.

For more details, visit www.wmich.edu/wmulay or contact Donna Marks at donna.marks@wmich.edu or 387-2072.

For and about WMU faculty and staff
Around Campus

Lunch reservations due May 9

The annual Awards and Spring Luncheon sponsored by the Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 16, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. Reservations are due tomorrow. More information and a registration form are posted on the APA and PSSO Web sites.

Haenicke featured speaker

President Emeritus Diether H. Haenicke will present “After 20 Years at WMU: Memories and Hopes” to Emeriti Council members and friends from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, in the Henic Emeriti Lounge on the second floor of Walwood Hall’s east wing. The council’s next event will be an August Break-Fest the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 6. Contact Mary Cordier for more information.

Annual Poker Walk scheduled

The fifth annual Poker Walk for faculty, staff and graduate assistants will be held Tuesday, May 20. Create a team or walk individually around a 1.5 mile course and confer cards that may entice you a great prize. The registration deadline is Tuesday. May 13. Check-in is from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center’s indoor tennis courts. Go to www.src.wmich.edu to register.

Emeriti art focus of exhibition

An exhibit showcasing the artwork of two retiring faculty members is continuing through Friday, Aug. 1, in the Richmond Center’s Monroe-Brown Gallery. Focus: Three One-Person Exhibitions” features the work of Joseph De Luca and Paul Robbert, emeriti in art. The show’s third featured artist is Richard Koenig, who is currently on the Kalamazoo College faculty.

First-Year Experience Programs slates faculty, staff kickoff event

First-Year Experience Programs will kick off its 20th year with a spirited faculty and staff gathering at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, in 210 Bernhard Center.

The event will include a roll out of the 2008 schedules for the New Student Orientation, Fall Welcome and First-Year Seminar programs. It familiarizes faculty and staff members with FYE Programs and the ways they can contribute to this multifaceted recruitment and retention initiative.

Thousands of prospective and admitted students, and many of their parents, visit the campus during June, July and August for everything from sports and band camps to week-long orientation programs for select groups of admitted students.

By attending the FYE Programs kickoff event, faculty and staff members can exchange information with those on the front lines, gain information they can pass on to inquiring visitors and rev up for another exciting academic year. For more information, call 387-2167.

View the current issue of Western News.

College recognizes teachers

The Lee Honors College graduation ceremonies April 17 included recognition of four faculty members.

Selected for the Honors Faculty Fellows Awards were Katha Fuller, interim co-director of the holistic health program in the College of Health and Human Services, and two College of Arts and Sciences faculty members, Harold Glasser, history and environmental studies, and Rand H. Johnson, foreign languages.

In addition, Margaret J. Hamilton, the assistant director for student services in the College of Fine Arts’ School of Music, was presented with the Honors College Distinguished Service Award.

The fellow honor was initiated four years ago to recognize WMU faculty members who have made significant contributions to the honors college over the years. The contributions are usually in the form of dedication to teaching honors students, but also include mentoring students when they apply for scholarships or work to complete their honors theses.

Haenicke to be honored May 15

WMU President Emeritus Diether H. Haenicke will be honored for his significant contributions to professional communication in Southwest Michigan at an awards banquet Thursday, May 15, in the Fetzer Center.

InterCom, a Kalamazoo-based association of professional communicators, will present Haenicke with the 10th annual Tony Griffin Golden Word Award at the banquet.

Haenicke, a distinguished professor at WMU, served as the university’s president from 1985 to 1998, and also served one year as interim president in 2006-07. Shortly after retiring from this vocation, he began writing a weekly popular column in the Kalamazoo Gazette, which he continues to write today. The award he will be receiving is named for the late Anthony E. “Tony” Griffin, a former news director of WMUK-FM and 25-year WMU employee as well as a founding member of InterCom.

Social worker named fellow

Donna M. Weinreich, social work, was one of just seven gerontologists named Associate of Gerontology in Higher Education fellows for 2007-08.

The honor recognizes achievement in the areas of teaching, research and scholarship at AGHE-member institutions.

Fellow status is granted only to individuals demonstrating a record of excellence beyond routine teaching and recognizes outstanding leadership in gerontological/geriatric education by established scholars and educators.

The AGHE is a membership organization of colleges and universities that offer education, training and research programs in the field of aging. It has more than 280 institutional members throughout the United States, Canada and abroad.
Board of Trustees accepts retirements of 10 faculty, staff members

The retirements of two faculty members and eight staff members were accepted May 2 by the WMU Board of Trustees. The board also accepted the resignations of three faculty members.

Both of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are:

- DeWayne Anderson, chair and professor of teaching, learning and educational studies, 21 years, effective Aug. 31, and Gary E. Bigelow, associate professor of Spanish, 30-1/2 years, effective Dec. 15.

The staff members retiring are: Judith A. Garrison, coordinator of interlibrary loan in University Libraries, 31 years, effective May 4; Sue H. Green, coordinator of Bernhard Center programming, 39-1/2 years, effective May 4; Alice F. Krepel, custodian in physical plant-building, custodial and support services, 14-1/2 years, effective June 30; Jack H. Roach, electrician in physical plant-maintenance services, 35-1/2 years, effective April 30; Ronald Stewart, women's basketball head coach, 11 years, effective April 30; Jan G. Tiderington, academic advisor for the College of Arts and Sciences, 14 years, effective July 17; Barbara M. Vilenski, administrative assistant in paper engineering and imaging, 30 years, effective June 30; and Patricia M. Willis, head salad maker in dining services-Davis, 21-1/2 years, effective March 31.

The faculty members resigning, all from the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies, are: James E. Carr, professor, effective Aug. 15; Linda A. LeBlanc, associate professor, effective Dec. 31; and Tina Mason-Hall, faculty specialist 1-lia, effective July 18.

Stanley Suterko, a leader in the developing blind orientation and mobility curricula around the globe, died April 9. He was 87. Suterko came to WMU in 1961 to help establish what is now the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies. He retired in 1984 as professor emeritus of blind rehabilitation.

The World War II veteran began his professional career at the Hines V.A. Hospital in Illinois, where he was instrumental in creating the first orientation and mobility program for blinded veterans and led a team that devised many innovative long cane techniques.

While at WMU, Suterko helped refine and advance the orientation and mobility Obituaries

Supporting materials sought for 2008's top staff members

Ten WMU staff members are in the running for 2008 Make a Difference annual awards, which carry a $1,000 prize. The candidates, all recipients of 2007-08 fall and spring semiannual awards through the University's Make a Difference program, are now eligible to be considered for one of the four annual awards bestowed by this peer-to-peer staff recognition program.

The deadline for WMU community members to submit information in support of their selections is Saturday, May 31.

The candidates for this year’s annual award are:

- Fall semiannual awardees—Laurel Foster, scheduling coordinator in the Registrar’s Office; Michelle Hruka, office coordinator in the Department of English; Allan Kern, accelerator engineer in the Department of Physics; Patrick Lem, remodeling services carpenter in physical plant-utilities; Melinda Lockett, academic advisor in the College of Health and Human Services; and Surangi Pradhan, employer relations manager in Career and Student Employment Services.

- Spring semiannual awardees—Gerald Ditto, financial services specialist in the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships; Betty Merrifield, Valley II second cook in WMU Dining Services; Arthur Smith, technician/specialist in the Office of Information Technology; and Margaret Watson, lead classroom technology consultant in the Office of Information Technology.

Go to www.wmich.edu/makeadifference for submission details.
Students on three sports teams rank among nation’s top scholars

Three WMU athletic teams are among Division I teams nationwide recently honored by the NCAA for posting Academic Progress Rates in the top 12 percent for their respective sports. A total of only 192 Division I institutions had one or more teams on the top APR list, and all three WMU teams are being honored for the second consecutive season.

The WMU teams honored were baseball, coached by Randy Ford; gymnastics, coached by Terry Karwowski; and volleyball, coached by Colleen Munson. They were among those honored April 25 with public recognition awards for their latest APR scores. The public recognition awards are part of the broad Division I academic reform effort.

WMU was one of just two programs in the Mid-American Conference to have three teams make the list, sharing that honor with Bowling Green State University. Among Michigan public universities, WMU was second to the University of Michigan, which had four teams honored, and ahead of Michigan State University, which had only two teams recognized.

Historic baseball venue getting privately funded upgrade

Thanks to a $1 million challenge gift from a Chicago equity investor, WMU baseball fans will settle into a comfortably renovated stadium at historic Hyames Field when they gather to watch the first pitch of the 2009 season.

Robert J. Bobb, chief executive officer of Cardinal Growth L.P. and a 1969 WMU alumnus, has committed $1 million to a planned $2 million renovation of the field’s baseball stadium as a challenge gift.

University officials already have raised $600,000 toward the challenge and plan a successful conclusion to the campaign, with fund-raising efforts continuing until the $2 million goal is met. To date, a total of 192 Division I institutions had one or more teams on the top APR list, and all three WMU teams are being honored for the second consecutive season.

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