Annual diversity program slated

All WMU faculty and staff are encouraged to attend the 10th annual “Respecting Differences” program, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 15-16, in Cheney Auditorium. This year’s program is titled “Beyond the Nine to Five.” It will feature Michael Fowlin, an actor and doctor of clinical psychology. Performances are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, and 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 16.

Kids camp accepting reservations

The University’s Children’s Place Learning Center is accepting reservations for Campus Kids Summer Theme Camp. Children up to age 9 who have completed kindergarten may enroll. Each week from June 16 to Aug. 29 will feature a different theme with special-interest topics. Children may be enrolled for the entire summer, or for just one or two weeks. For more details go to www.wmich.edu/childrensplace/campuskids.html.

Open learning briefing planned

An informational session on open learning courses will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, April 11, for faculty, deans, directors and department heads. A free lunch will be provided. Open learning courses are self-paced, instructor-facilitated undergraduate online courses that allow students to select a start date independent of semester calendars. Go to http://atis.wmich.edu/OpenLearning to RSVP.

Survey seeks input on new signs

A one-question survey is allowing WMU community members to help select the design for new signs that will be installed along what is commonly referred to as the ring, which is a collection of perimeter roads circling most of the West Campus. The survey takes less than a minute to complete and will be available through April 25. Actual samples of signs with complete and will be available through West Campus.

Western News finished for spring

This is the last issue of Western News for the spring semester. Western News will resume its regular publication schedule Thursday, May 8 after the start of the Summer I Session. The publication dates for the rest of Summer I are May 22 and June 5 and 19.

WMU first in state to become part of higher ed accountability effort

WMU has become the first university in Michigan and one of the first in the nation to launch a Web-based tool aimed at providing prospective students and their families a consistent and comprehensive look at critical data that will help them make institutional comparisons.

The Voluntary System of Accountability is a joint project of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Participating colleges and universities will post their data using a template called the VSA College Portrait. The template ensures that the data have a consistent look for all participating institutions.

WMU’s College Portrait went live on April 3, with a link to the information prominently placed on the WMU home page. The University has been designated as an “Early Adopter” of the VSA and has been authorized to add that designation to its site.

“This is one way we signal our commitment to make sure the families and students we serve have access to good information to use when they make their college choices,” says WMU President John M. Dunn, who said he has wanted the University to be an early adopter since he first learned the template was close to completion.

“Much of this is information that was already available, but sometimes difficult to find. The College Portrait provides more geographical origin of students; retention rates; cost of attendance and detail on financial aid packages; number of degrees awarded and most popular areas of study; details on faculty credentials and makeup as well as class size; information on campus safety and student housing; and the most current information on student satisfaction and perceptions.

The College Portrait template was finalized last fall after a two-year development and testing process. It was made available for all participating institutions through use of a common Web reporting format. Such data have a consistent view of all four candidates’ vitae.

Provost finalists ID’ed, to make on-campus presentations

Four final candidates have been identified for the post of provost and vice president for academic affairs—the University’s second-highest position.

Each will make a public presentation and meet with a range of campus groups during formal visits set for the weeks of April 14 and 21. A detailed schedule with times, days and locations of the candidates’ presentations will be available soon on the provost search Web site.

The candidates are:

• Susan L. Carlson, associate provost for faculty advancement and diversity at Iowa State University.
• Robert Felner, dean, Distinguished University Scholar and professor in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisville.
• Timothy J. Green, dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering at WMU; and
• Jeffrey P. Koep, Dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Go to www.wmich.edu/provostsearch to view of all four candidates’ vitae.
Aviation slates open house

The College of Aviation will hold an open house for students across West Michigan from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, in the Aviation Education Building at the college's headquarters at the W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, Mich.

Prospective students may register for the event by going online to www.wmich.edu/aviation/house.php or by calling the college's Welcome Center at 964-6375.

Career fair set for teachers

The 20th annual Education Career Fair will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, April 14, in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. A record-breaking 160 school districts from Michigan and 13 other states will participate. Go to www.broneojobs.wmich.edu and click on the “Career Fairs” section for more information.

WMU to host ‘Big’s’ rally

Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Greater Kalamazoo will hold its “Thinking Big for 50 Years at... The Big Rally 2008” from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 19, in University Arena. The event will feature free food, activities and prizes for all ages. Green Bay Packers wide receiver Greg Jennings will be a special guest.

The organization would like to hear from former Bigs, Littles and others who have helped impact the lives of so many southwest Michigan children over the past 50 years. Contact Jodi Victor at jodivictor@bbbsmi.org or 382-6802 to relay your story.
Astronaut to keynote state hall of fame ceremony for College of Aviation

The College of Aviation will be inducted Saturday, April 19, into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame, which is housed at Kalamazoo's Air Zoo.

Held at the Air Zoo, the ceremony will include a keynote address by astronaut Jack Lousma and presentation of the hall of fame's 2008 Spirit of Flight Award to the College of Aviation. This annual award recognizes outstanding achievements made by aviation or space organizations.

WMU's aviation program is being honored for its more than 60-year history of striving "to establish and maintain state-of-the-art, world-class professional aviation programs that are among the best in the world."

Also during the ceremony, five individuals will be inducted for their contributions to aviation. These honorees are: Norman Appold, a World War II B-24 pilot and retired Lockheed executive; Richard Macon, a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen during World War II; John Sager, a Naval officer in charge of flight testing who invented high-altitude oxygen masks and equipment; George Skurla, a retired Grumman Aircraft president who supervised the final assembly and pre-launch check for the Apollo Lunar Module; and artist Philip Handelman, whose aviation photos have graced U.S. postage stamps and who advocated for the legislative effort resulting in last year's award of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen.

WMU's College of Aviation has educated aviation professionals since 1939 and offers complete academic degree programs leading to a bachelor's degree in three areas—aviation flight science, aviation management and maintenance technology. The college enrolls some 800 students and is home to the Sky Broncos, a precision flight team that has been among the top three in national competition for 14 consecutive years.

Grant applications due soon

The deadline for submitting applications for WMU's next round of Faculty Assessment Grants is Tuesday, April 15. The maximum level of the award is $5,000 each, and up to $30,000 in grants is awarded each year.

The Faculty Assessment Grants Program provides resources for conducting student-learning outcomes research. Submitted projects must lead to activities or program improvements that are directly related to student learning or achievement.

Go to www.wmich.edu/poapa/uac for more information.

WMU wins regional chamber's environmental award

During a special community awards program March 19, the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce recognized WMU for its commitment to supporting environmental and energy alternatives. WMU was selected for the 2008 Environmental Award by the chamber's Environmental Advisory Committee in recognition of the University's efforts to implement sustainable design practices in its new buildings, its commitment to major storm water management improvements throughout its Kalamazoo campus and the University's development of a centralized energy usage control system.

Specifically, the University was lauded for using guidelines developed by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—known as LEED principles—in construction of its Health and Human Services Building, Chemistry Building and Richmond Center for Visual Arts, as well as in its just completed renovation of Brown Hall.

Also cited were centralized energy management for the entire Kalamazoo campus and the University's storm water management work and alliance with the Portage-Arcadia Creek Watershed Steering Committee.

Tibet uprising talk scheduled

Thomas Kostro, a longtime observer of China's interaction with its western minority regions, will provide his perspective on the recent Tibetan uprising and resulting Chinese crackdown in a talk at 12:30 p.m. Monday, April 14, in 3301 Friedmann.

Policies Web site back online

The University is in the process of restructuring its campuswide policies Web site at www.wmich.edu/policies.

To date, policies related to closure, nondiscrimination and smoking have been updated as necessary and reposted.

Members of the campus community should note that the Smoke Free Policy has been revised, and now states, among other changes, that "smoking is not permitted within 25 feet of all building entrances, air intakes and operable windows."

Obituary

Stanley K. Derby, emeritus in physics, died March 29. He was 87.

Derby joined the faculty in 1955 and retired with emeritus status in 1984. He developed teaching and research programs at the University in the then-emerging fields of spectroscopy, lasers and holography and received the WMU Alumni Association's Teaching Excellence Award in 1978.

Alyce Lorraine Smith, emeritus coordinator of student services in health, physical education and recreation, died Nov. 8, 2007; it was recently learned. She was 77.

Smith came to WMU in 1968 and retired in 1990 after 22 years of service. Keenly interested in helping students, she served informally as a mentor to some, a shoulder to cry on for others and a problem solver for many.
New Web site offers Bronco license plate information

Do you think that “WMUROX!” Want to tell the world you’re an “’08ALUM” of WMU?

Bronco fans have a new Web site that serves as a one-stop shop for information about how to add a WMU touch to their car by ordering a Michigan license plate with the University’s Bronco logo.

With a visit to www.wmich.edu/wmuplates, members of the WMU community can get complete information on how to order a Bronco plate through Michigan’s University License Plate Program.

The site details initial and recurring costs for a Bronco plate, how much WMU receives for each plate ordered and how to order a personalized Bronco plate. It also includes a downloadable form that can be used to purchase a plate by fax or mail, and a link to a site where you can check availability of personalized messages.

WMU first in state

A plan to replace federal taxes with a national retail sales tax and a tax on incomes above $1 million is the topic of a lecture at WMU.

Schneider to by Christopher Korth, finance and commercial law.

A plan to replace federal taxes with a national retail sales tax and a tax on incomes above $1 million is the topic of a lecture at WMU.

A plan to replace federal taxes with a national retail sales tax and a tax on incomes above $1 million is the topic of a lecture at WMU.

Weight Watchers meetings set

The free event lets students relax and stay focused on doing well on their semester-end work. Activities are being held in the Lee Honors College Building, WalkO Library and other venues, but most will take place in the Student Recreation Center.

The center is extending its hours and offering study rooms, a computer lab, and open recreation facilities as well as snacks, entertainment, games and giveaways.

To go to www.finalsfinish.wmich.edu to volunteer or obtain a schedule of Finals Finish activities.

Finals Finish details available

To find the WMU College Portrait, go to the WMU Web site at www.wmich.edu and look for the VSA College Portrait icon in the lower left corner.

To find the WMU College Portrait, go to the WMU Web site at www.wmich.edu and look for the VSA College Portrait icon in the lower left corner.

Finals Finish details available

To find the WMU College Portrait, go to the WMU Web site at www.wmich.edu and look for the VSA College Portrait icon in the lower left corner.

Finals Finish details available

To find the WMU College Portrait, go to the WMU Web site at www.wmich.edu and look for the VSA College Portrait icon in the lower left corner.

Finals Finish details available

To find the WMU College Portrait, go to the WMU Web site at www.wmich.edu and look for the VSA College Portrait icon in the lower left corner.

Finals Finish details available

To find the WMU College Portrait, go to the WMU Web site at www.wmich.edu and look for the VSA College Portrait icon in the lower left corner.