Free tickets needed for Dunn inauguration

Guests from around the state and nation will join with the WMU community to celebrate the inauguration Monday, March 24, of Dr. John M. Dunn as the University’s eighth president.

The ceremony, set for 4 p.m. in Miller Auditorium, will formally install Dunn as president, a position he assumed last July following a nationwide search led by the chair of the WMU Board of Trustees, Kenneth Miller. Miller will preside over the ceremony, which will include remarks by Dunn as well as brief comments by a number of University officials and guests.

The inauguration is open to the public, but those planning to attend must secure a complimentary ticket from Miller Auditorium by calling 387-2300.

The event will begin with a formal academic procession that will include WMU faculty, staff and administrators as well as invited guests from a number of institutions. Political and business leaders from around the state, county and city also will be in attendance.

Prior to coming to WMU, Dunn served as interim chancellor at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Before accepting that appointment, he held the position of provost and vice chancellor at SIUC. Dunn’s career also has included academic leadership positions at the University of Utah and Oregon State University.

An educator for more than 30 years, he is internationally known for his research and writing about the long-term health of individuals with disabilities. Dunn is the author of more than 50 professional papers and book chapters. He also is president this year of the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

WMU Day at the state Capitol to highlight programs, people

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of WMU are organizing a first-of-its-kind display of pride and achievement at the Michigan Capitol during a daylong event Wednesday, May 28.

Members of the WMU community are planning to meet with lawmakers and have displays, simulations and performances on the front lawn of the capitol in Lansing. Organizers of WMU Day at the Capitol say the purpose of the event is to engage legislators and policymakers on the importance of WMU and the contributions the University makes in providing an educated workforce and advancing the state’s economic development.

Grant available for faculty to explore heading study-abroad programs

Generous funding for WMU faculty interested in gaining first-hand experience of what it’s like to develop and lead a short-term, summer study abroad program is being offered through a new grant provided by the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Wednesday, March 19, is the deadline to apply for this faculty discovery grant, which offsets the cost of participating in one of 17 summer 2008 study abroad programs led by WMU faculty. Up to 75 percent of expenses will be covered for eligible participating faculty members.

Some of the programs from which faculty members may choose are specific to a major while others offer classes in a range of disciplines. The programs run from two to six weeks, offer varying levels of academic credit and are conducted in some of the world’s most interesting destinations, including Alexandria, Egypt; Beijing; Sao Paulo, Brazil; London; Prague, Czech Republic; Quebec; and Tokyo.

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Around Campus

Public mock trial demo tonight
W MU’s mock trial team is taking its case to the public at 6:30 tonight in the Bernhard Center’s Brown and Gold Room, offering a free public presentation in preparation for taking part in national competition this weekend. The team finished fourth during its regional tournament and will be competing at the national level Friday through Sunday, March 14-16, in Waukegan, Ill.

 Francophone films and Sunday
Two internationally known filmmakers are taking part in W MU’s seventh annual Francophone Film Festival, which is running through Sunday, March 16, in the Little Theatre.

Quebec director Maryanne Zéhil will present her film, “From My Window, Without a Home,” at 7 p.m. Friday and 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Haitian filmmaker and screenwriter Arnold Antonin will present his film, “Does the President Have AIDS?” at 4 p.m. Saturday and 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Go to www.wmich.edu/wug for ticket prices and a complete list of events.

International Festival slated
The 19th annual International Festival will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 16, in the East Ballroom of W MU’s Bernhard Center. The event is a global open house that showcases the cuisine, dances and fashions of 15 international student groups at the University. Admission is free, and food is sold for a nominal fee.

Panel to discuss political civility
The perceived lack of civility in the current political debate will be the subject of a panel discussion at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, in 105-107 Bernhard Center. Presented by the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, the panel will include politicians, political scientists and members of the news media.

Senior Prom now in 20th year
The campus community and area residents will be able to relive prom night for the 20th consecutive year during the annual Senior Prom from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, March 20, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. The semi-formal event is a fun-filled nostalgic evening that brings hundreds of senior citizens together with W MU students, faculty and staff for a night of Big Band music and swing and ballroom dancing. Admission is free.

Economics lecture goes global
Joseph P. Joyce, professor of economics at Wellesley College will speak on “Global Justice: An Economist’s Perspec- tive” from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, in 3508 Knauss. The talk is a Werner Sichel Economics Lecture-Seminar Series presentation.

WMU’s Webmasters invited to monthly meetings
WMU’s Webmasters’ User Group is open to all permanent, temporary, contract and student employees who have design and/or publishing responsibilities related to a University Web site.

The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next gathering is slated for 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, in the Stewart Clock Tower conference room. WUG was created in 1999 to offer collegial support and promote Web publishing at the University. It hosts a Web site that includes a full range of online Web design and publishing resources as well as a mailing list through which members can pose questions and share information.

Interested Web workers may join the list by sending an e-mail to oit-web@wmich.edu that includes their name, department and the URLs for the W MU Web site(s) for which they are responsible. Go to www.wmich.edu/wug for more information.

Reception set for Weese
T eri L. Weese, information technology project lead, will be recognized for her years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, March 21, in the Oaklands.

Health professional updates book
Barbara Hemphill-Pearson, a retired occupational therapy faculty member, has edited a second edition of her widely used text, "Assessments in Occupational Therapy: Mental Health: An Integrative Approach." The 544-page book was released by SLACK Inc. in November.

It is a compilation of mental health assessment that are used in practice and taught in occupational therapy clinics and academic programs. The book provides information that can be used to scrutinize evaluation procedures and practices while providing a sound foundation for a holistic, integrated approach to client assessment.

Hemphill-Pearson retired in 1999 after 18 years at W MU. She is serving on the editorial board of the Occupational Therapy in Mental Health journal and in 2005, earned a Doctor of Ministry degree. She continues to write, and teaches courses in spirituality to occupational therapy students online and in the classroom as well as to mental health practitioners at senior centers and retirement homes.

EUP dean elected to national post
Durrell Johnson, dean of Extended University Programs, was recently elected to a three-year term on the Leadership and Management Commission of the University Continuing Education Association. The UCEA is the foremost national organization promoting the development of continuing and professional education.

Johnson came to W MU in 2000 as a doctoral student, already having held staff posts at Grand Valley State University and the universities of Notre Dame and Central Florida. After completing his doctorate, he was named director of W MU-Lansing and a year later also took over as director of W MU-Battle Creek. He was appointed EUP dean in 2006 following a stint as the division’s associate dean.

Fulbright takes professor to Egypt
Katherine Joslin, English, recently returned from a university in Egypt, where she has been teaching and acting as a curriculum advisor through the U.S. Fulbright senior specialist program. Joslin is a former director of W MU’s American Studies Program and an authority on social reformer and peace activist Jane Addams. She was at Minotouy University, lecturing to undergraduate and graduate students in American civilization and literature and comparative literature.

While in Egypt, Joslin also attended American studies seminars as well as consulted with faculty who would like to develop an American studies graduate certificate at Minotouy. In addition, she conducted a needs assessment of that school’s American literature curriculum and advised faculty on methods for enhancing the content of their American literature and culture courses, and gave a lecture on Addams at Minotour University.
Miller, Martin elected to lead WMU Board of Trustees

Kenneth V. Miller of Kalamazoo and William J. Martin of Battle Creek, Mich., have been elected to serve for 2008 as chair and vice chair, respectively, of the WMU Board of Trustees.

The election took place at the annual meeting of the trustees, which this year was held Feb. 15. All officers serve one-year terms. Miller replaces Dan Pero of Dimondale, Mich., who will remain on the board, while Martin replaces Miller as vice chair. Both men were appointed trustees in 2002.

Miller is vice president and chief operating officer of Haviroco, a Kalamazoo investment management firm, which he has co-owned since 1983. He also is owner of the Renaissance Restaurant Group, which owns and operates several restaurants in southwest Michigan, and is a former director of the WMU Foundation.

Martin, also an alumnus, is chief executive officer of the Michigan Association of Realtors as well as a former state representative, Michigan lottery commissioner and Michigan Department of Corrections director.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 40, 50, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during March:

35 Years — Rodney Wade, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.
30 Years — Carol L. Farrance, residence life; Michael P. McDonnell, University Libraries; and Michele C. McLaughlin, Registrar’s Office.
25 Years — Janice VanDerkley, associate vice president for business and finance.
20 Years — John M. Barney, physical plant-maintenance services; Willie J. Harrell, physical plant-maintenance services; Hans J. Knussel, physical plant-maintenance services; Yvonne R. Rumery, information technology; Richard A. Santman, physical plant-maintenance services; and Barney Stockwell, physical plant-maintenance services.
15 Years — Mary L. Brooks, geography; Dale A. Hagens, physical plant-utilities; David A. Locke, physical plant-maintenance services; Donna C. Mearing, Center for Academic Support; Dawn M. Nelson, grants and contracts; William G. Rantz, College of Aviation; Laura Rietkerk, student financial aid and scholarships; and Andrea B. Smith, teaching, learning and student financial aid and scholarships.
10 Years — Cristina L. Barons, information technology; Ken A. Fisher, physical plant-landscape services; Jeffrey Johnson, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Terry L. Karwoski, intercollegiate athletics; Syncrete Mathews, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Bethlyn Sanders, English; Sally J. Vliem, Bronson School of Nursing; Lisa J. M. Walker, Career and Student Employment Services; and Stacy L. Weber, Center for Disability Services.
5 Years — Christine Christoph, dining services-valley #1; Brenda J. Kuleima, dining services-valley #1; Terrie L. Lewsheld, dining services-valley #1; Luana L. Page, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Mary Jo Ward, Human Resources; and Sherif Yehia, civil and construction engineering.

Dunn joins students in taking the plunge for Special Olympics

WMU students came through Feb. 23, raising some $7,000 for Special Olympics during an icy effort that had participants wading into Coldworth Pond for the University’s first Polar Plunge. The fundraiser, organized by the Western Student Association and Special Olympics Michigan, brought in more than twice its $3,000 goal.

Top photo — President John M. Dunn issued a challenge to WSA and colleague students to this out-of-print book in the classroom and for research anywhere. Financial support came from the history department’s Burnham MacMillan Endowment and the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research and Teaching Awards program.

Obituary

Ruth J. Chapman, a former WMU Dining Services staff member, died March 1. She was 83. Chapman, a Kalamazoo-area resident for most of her life, came to WMU in 1979. She was a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Chapman retired in 1990 after more than 10 years of service to the University.

Elaine A. Albert, emerita in English, died Dec. 17 in Kalamazoo. She was 98. Albert came to WMU in 1964 as a part-time instructor and was appointed assistant professor of English six months later. She taught courses in children’s literature, writing and the English language. She did some of her teaching in Marshall and Muskegon, Mich., through what was then the Division of Continuing Education. Albert retired in 1979 after 24 years of service to the University.

Ollin J. Drennan, a former WMU faculty member and administrator, died Feb. 12 in Kirksville, Mo. He was 82. Drennan served from 1971 to 1975 as dean of the College of General Studies. He left the University in 1976 to accept the Rieger Black Distinguished Professor of Physics and Natural Science Chair at Northeast Missouri State University, where he completed his teaching career in 1993.

Drennan came to WMU in 1964 as associate professor of physics. He was appointed associate professor and science area chair one year later, then appointed professor in 1967.

Clayton A. Holaday, emeritus in English and a former administrator, died Feb. 14 in Kalamazoo. He was 89. Holaday came to WMU in 1956 as assistant professor of English and was promoted to professor in 1964.

In addition to his faculty appointment in the Department of English, he served as director of scholarships and student loans from 1963 to 1968.

Holaday retired in 1980 after 24 years of service to the University.
Tech machine, public discussion focus on race as social, not genetic distinction

WMU is hosting a unique technological experience that allows participants to visualize themselves with the facial characteristics of people of different races.

The Human Race Machine, a booth similar to an instant photo booth, takes a person’s picture and digitally enhances it to show how faces look when taking on the characteristics of any of six different races—African, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic, Middle Eastern and Native American.

The Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations is making the machine available to the public in 107 Bernhard Center today from noon to 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 9 p.m.; Friday, March 14, from noon to 1:30 p.m.; and Monday, March 17, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The public also is invited to a free session from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday in 212 Bernhard Center that will include the showing of an excerpt from “Race: The Power of an Illusion” and a discussion focusing on educational programming, after which participants will have an opportunity to use the Human Race Machine.


Two chances left to attend concerts by top vocal jazz artists

WMU’s “Vocal Jazz Week” runs through Saturday, March 15, with two more great public events still to take place in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Curtis Stigers with special guest Tri-Fi will perform at 8:15 p.m. Friday, March 14, and the University’s award-winning Gold Company will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

Tickets for these Dalton events may be purchased by calling 387-4689 or at the door.

The concerts are part of what Gold Company director Stephen Zeegere calls “Vocal Jazz Week.” The week runs through Saturday. It includes special performances, in addition to numerous activities associated with the Gold Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival, which is in its 28th year and brings high school ensembles from several states to campus.

Faculty grant — continued from page 1

Stephen Malcolm, biological sciences, leads one of the programs in which faculty members may participate under the faculty grant: Biology in Belize.

“Traveling with an existing course allows faculty members to become acquainted with experiential learning in a new place and dispel anxieties that might exist about the logistics of leading and mentoring students abroad,” Malcolm says. “It’s also a great way to generate ideas about new courses and new possibilities for existing courses or programs.”

Go to http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/1082/453 to learn about eligibility requirements or apply for a faculty grant for summer study abroad.

On Campus with Erika Carr

Erika Carr is changing the lives of hundreds of Michigan youths.

As director of the GEAR-UP/College Day Program in the Division of Multicultural Affairs, Carr and her regular staff of two professional and 10 student employees are acquainting 1,600 eighth and ninth graders from 10 schools in six districts with the benefits of college—regardless of where they choose to enroll.

The initiative she oversees merged last year with the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs federal grant program. As a result, WMU and Michigan’s other public colleges and universities are now assisting a total of 77 individual schools in 38 lower-income districts across the state.

“We focus on helping middle and high school students discover first hand the potential of higher education and on preparing them to enter and succeed in college,” Carr says. “We start working with the students in the seventh and eighth grade and stay with them until they graduate from high school.”

The WMU GEAR-UP/College Day Program includes campus visits for each student at least once each year, and opportunities for them to learn about career options through such hands-on activities as Saturday career exploration conferences and four-day intensive summer institutes. Carr and her staff also have started providing academic monitoring for the students upon request.

“The best part of my job is seeing students get excited about going to college or inspired about a career they never saw themselves in,” Carr says. “The summer institutes are my favorite part. They’re especially rewarding—the students get a lot out of it, and I get to spend quality time with them.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology from WMU in 1999, Carr decided to go into higher education administration. She started a master’s program, landed a professional staff position as coordinator of the McNair Scholar Program, and in 2004 was named GEAR-UP/College Day director.

Carr lives in Kalamazoo with her husband, Steven, whom she met at WMU as an undergraduate. Not one to let the grass grow under her feet, she picked up a doctorate from WMU in December, is well into earning her private pilot license, and has taken up running in earnest, completing her first marathon last fall.

Capitol day — continued from page 1

WMU is the first university to have a front-lawn capitol presence for such a broad spectrum of programs and groups, including those from its main Kalamazoo campus and its eight branch campuses across the state.

Transportation to and from Kalamazoo and box lunches will be available for those who register to attend. A Web site with more details and an opportunity to register online will be available by the end of March.

For more information, contact Donna Marks at donna.marks@wmich.edu or 387-2072.