Scholarship bringing scores of Dominicans to WMU

An open-ended agreement signed Jan. 23 is bringing scores of students from the Dominican Republic to WMU.

The agreement formalizes a relationship that began Jan. 7 at the start of the spring semester, when 60 undergraduate Dominican students enrolled at WMU in anticipation that the pact would be signed and they would receive full-tide scholarships from their government.

A delegation of University representatives led by President John M. Dunn traveled to the Dominican Republic for the signing ceremony. Lligia Amada Melo de Cardona, secretary of state for higher education, science and technology, signed the pact on behalf of the Caribbean nation.

“"This is a significant partnership with a country that has made a nationwide commitment to higher education," Dunn says. "Our program mix, our Midwest location and our focus on student success and service fit the needs the Dominican Republic has identified for its next generation of leaders. We're looking forward to a strong relationship that will grow over the next several years.""

Accompanying Dunn to the Dominican Republic were Juan M. Tavares, senior international student admissions counselor and a key architect of the WMU-D.R. scholarship agreement, and Donald G. McCloud, dean of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, which spearheads the University’s internationalization efforts.

While in the Dominican Republic, members of the campus delegation met with government officials, WMU alumni and parents of currently enrolled students. They also conferred with the chief executive officers of several large American companies that do business in the country and plan to hire many of the Dominican scholarship students once they graduate.

The WMU-D.R. agreement is based on an ongoing initiative called the Dominican Scholars Program, which was launched in 1996 by Dominican President Leonel Fernandez Reyna. Fernandez attended grade school in New York. He aims to help some 10,000 of his classmates study in the United States.

Students compiling 100 University points of pride

The Western Student Association, WMU’s student government, is compiling “100 Points of Pride” about the University and is seeking submissions, primarily from students.

A selection committee of nine students will review all submissions and will weigh each based on a variety of criteria, including prominence or uniqueness to the University and number of different people submitting a particular point of pride. Points may be from any period in WMU history. Additional criteria can be found on the submission Web page.

The final pride list will be announced at the March 26 WSA Senate meeting and will be available online in WMU News and through a variety of other print and electronic media.

Go to www.wsa.wmich.edu/100 to submit points of pride. Submissions may be made through Tuesday, Feb. 12.
Michigan college recruitment consortium launches jobs portal

Doctors and health-care workers, editors, lawyers, chefs, computer programmers, police officers, postal clerks and professors are all among the wide array of jobs the Michigan Higher Education Recruitment Consortium has gathered in a new central Michigan college jobs portal.

The new Web site at www.michiganherc.org opens with more than 1,200 job postings at 24 Michigan colleges and universities, including WMU, although the number of jobs is expected to increase.

Michigan college recruitment consortium launches jobs portal

Program looks at self-injurers

The campus community is invited to attend a research presentation on “The Cyber Worlds of Self-Injurers: Deviant Communities, Relationships and Selves” at 2 p.m. today in the Fetzer Center’s Patric Auditorium. The program is being presented by Patricia Adler, professor of sociology at the University of Colorado, and Peter Adler, professor of sociology and criminology at the University of Denver.

Production tackles timely issue

University Theatre will tackle one of the deepest conflicts in contemporary culture with its first production of the spring, Feb. 7-23. Compiled by local playwright and guest director Stephanie Sandberg, “Seven Passages: The Stories of Gay Christians,” tells the true stories of more than 100 gay and lesbian residents living in southwest Michigan. All shows take place in York Arena Theatre at the WMU Gilmore Theatre Complex and will be followed by audience commentary and discussion.

Gold Company celebrates 30th

Miller Auditorium will be buzzing Saturday, Feb. 9, when WMU’s internationally known jazz ensemble presents “The Best of Gold Company: The 30th Anniversary Show” at 2 and 8 p.m. Directed by Stephen Zegree, Gold Company will perform the songs that made them famous and take audience members on a ride through three decades of music and humor. This special performance also will bring 30 years of Gold Company alumni together for one phenomenal finale.

Motivational event scheduled

Andres Lara, a noted motivational speaker, will present a talk and workshop on “How to Move Forward When You Feel Like Quitting” from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, in 209 Bernhard Center. The program, which is free and open to the public, will explore topics such as staying motivated during difficult times, turning setbacks into comebacks, gaining and maintaining momentum, and turning the impossible into the possible.

Israel to talk on Mideast conflict

A visiting professor from Israel will speak on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, in the Fetzer Center. Presenting the free and open lecture will be Neve Gordon of Ben-Gurion University. Gordon, an Israeli and U.S. citizen, is the former executive director of Physicians for Human Rights in Israel.

Gordon also will speak at 2 p.m. in 3502 Knauss on “Humans Rights Non-Government Organization Work in Theory and Practice” and at 3:30 p.m. in 3301 Friedmann on “From Colonization to Separation: Making Sense of Israel’s Occupation.” Both of these events are free and open to the public.

Two educators pen new book

Two faculty members, with extended contracts beyond the normal retirement age, have written a new book that focuses on self-efficacy, an essential component of motivation. The book, “Building Confidence in Adolescents: Key Elements That Enhance Proficiency,” was penned by Lauren Freedman, department chair, and Karen Thomas, professor.

Freedman also serves as advisor for education programs at WMU-Battle Creek. Thomas also serves as director of the McNemar Reading Center and Clinic and as education programs advisor at WMU-Southwest.

Three honored for achievement

Two music professors and one former music faculty member were honored at the American Music Therapy Association’s 2007 conference this past November in Louisville, Ky. Brian Wilson and Mary Scovell, who left WMU in 1995, received the AMTA Lifetime Achievement Award while David S. Smith received the association’s Award of Merit.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is the AMTA’s most prestigious honor. It recognizes a lifetime of commitment and dedication to the profession of music therapy and is bestowed by the AMTA Board of Directors on individuals to signify their having a primary role in the establishment and continued growth of the profession. The merit award honors AMTA members who have contributed to the development of the profession in a unique and remarkable way.

During a national conference event, Wilson was recognized for his 39 years of contributions as a music therapy clinician and educator, as well as his service as director of WMU’s Music Therapy Program, a position he has held since 1975. He is a past AMTA president and received the association’s Distinguished Service Award in 2002. Smith, who is graduate advisor of the music education program, was recognized for his leadership as the AMTA’s first president and his efforts in guiding the organization through a challenging formative time.

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Technology expo dovetails with Microcomputer Sales opening

Microcomputer Sales at WMU marks the opening of its new Bernhard Center location by bringing in a barrage of the latest computer technology and related programs.

The University community is invited to check out a new wave of computers and gadgets at the Microcomputer Sales Grand Opening and TechNOWlogy Expo Thursday and Friday, Feb. 21-22.

The expo runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday in WMU’s Textbook Alley, located on the lower level of the Bernhard Center.

The event will showcase the latest technology products from Dell, Apple, Fujitsu, Lenovo, Toshiba and others, and industry leaders will present seminars on how to use their new equipment in the classroom. Prizes will be given away both days, and include two LG 26-inch flat-screen LCD TVs, a Dell All-in-One printer, iTunes gift cards, WMU Bookstore bucks and more.

Staff nominations due Feb. 28

Nominations for the spring round of WMU’s semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Thursday, Feb. 28.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards that go to non-faculty employees who provide exceptional services to the University.

Up to 15 people every fall and spring may receive semiannual awards. Those selected also receive a certificate and a $250 prize and are recognized at a special reception. They may win the award more than once, but are limited to one award per academic year.

Each year’s semiannual award winners are eligible to receive one of four annual Make a Difference awards, which include a $1,000 prize.

More information and nomination forms are available at www.wmich.edu/makeadifference year round. Nominations may be submitted by e-mail to make-a-difference@wmich.edu or through campus mail to Mail Stop Code 5217.

Grant helps students learn about federal jobs, internships

The Partnership for Public Service announced Jan. 25 that WMU will receive one of five Call to Serve grants to help launch a nationwide public education campaign on campus.

The campaign, called Making the Difference, will carry an important message to WMU students about government service: It’s not just making a living, it’s making the difference!

Four additional schools were named recipients of the $3,000 Call to Serve grants. They are Brown University; California State University, Sacramento; the University at Albany, State University of New York; and Washington University in St. Louis.

The Making the Difference campaign is the culmination of two years of research the Partnership has conducted during the Call to Serve Recruitment Initiative, a congressionally funded project with the Office of Personnel Management to identify cost-effective and sustainable ways to promote federal service on campuses. The Call to Serve network consists of more than 600 schools and 74 federal agencies.

Making the Difference resources for WMU students include: a Web site (www.makingthedifference.org) that features an interactive internship directory; the Red, White and Blue Library of guide books on topics ranging from student loan repayment to navigating the security clearance process; and monthly “hot job” and “cool internship” listings.

There are a wide range of options open to the University for sponsoring activities on campus. They include federal career fairs for students, Find and Apply workshops, career services staff training on how to best promote federal job opportunities, and networking opportunities for faculty and federal agency representatives. In addition, WMU has access to the Annenberg Speakers Bureau that brings young federal workers in to talk directly with students.

Ross reception scheduled

Howard Ross, a public safety lieutenant, will be honored for 34 years of service to WMU during a retirement reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Obituary

Leon Edward “Bus” Burgoyne, a WMU staff member for 12 years, died Jan. 27 at Lakeland Regional Hospital in St. Joseph, Mich. He was 91.

Burgoyne came to WMU in 1970 as an assistant in University Placement Services and was named assistant director of career planning and placement the following year. He was promoted to associate director of educational placement in 1975, and retired from this position in 1982.
On Campus with Janet Rice

Janet Rice has a lot of hungry mouths to feed.

A utility food worker in the residence hall system, Rice dishes up her specialities for the Davis Dining Service. As many as 500 students use the dining hall during each meal period.

Rice is assigned to the stir fry line, which is geared toward vegetarians, but has been filling in on the salad line for the past year. The two posts add up to considerable slicing and dicing—some students really like their vegetables, plus, there's much more to WMU's salad bar than mixed greens and jell-O.

"I love both jobs, but you don't get to see as many people on the salad line," Rice says. "We have a few vegetarians and we get to know them a bit."

Rice's busiest days are Mondays and Fridays, when she does a lot of preparation work for the week as well as the weekend.

Many people don't realize that Davis, like all but three University dining halls, doesn't offer a full menu on Saturdays and Sundays. So, Rice and her co-workers help prepare the continental breakfast, modified salad bar, soup and sandwiches it does offer on weekends.

Rice, who previously worked at Draper, Valley I and Valley II, came to WMU in 1991 after both she and her ex-husband put in applications. During the summer, when fewer students are on campus, she's assigned to one of the year-round food operations or areas such as custodial, landscaping and maintenance services.

"It's nice to get a break and do something different, but you miss the kids and are always ready to come back to the dining hall," she says. "This is my home. I'm comfortable here. We have a really good crew; everyone gets along and we have a lot in common."

Before joining WMU's staff, Rice was a security guard, then the assistant supervisor of a kitchen at a nursing home. She grew up in Plainwell, Mich., and has one daughter. She enjoys reading, camping, biking and hiking; stays active in her church, and attends Bible study two days a week. She also likes to pamper her love bird, who she admits is "spoiled rotten."

Scientist to discuss Mars

A veteran of numerous unmanned missions to Mars will discuss "The Mars Exploration Rover Mission" during a talk at 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, in 1104 Rood.

Presenting the talk will be Raymond E. Arvidson of Washington University in St. Louis. Arvidson will address Mars' geology as it relates to the evidence of water and implications for habitability and life on the Red Planet.

He is deputy principal investigator for imaging and spectroscopy experiments on the 2003 Mars Exploration Rover mission.

"Sending students here is all about improving the economy for years to come. U.S.-educated students bring new skills and new ideas into the work force."

McCloud says WMU's new partnership with the Dominican Republic grew out of connections made last year after Tavares recruited six undergraduate Dominican students, and some of their parents accompanied them to campus in August.

"The parents were so taken with the Haenicke Institute's orientation program for international students that they thought some of their country's national scholarship students should come here too. They told their government that, and a draft agreement was set up," McCloud explains.

Need-based financial assistance available for study abroad

The Haenicke Institute for Global Education has announced a new need-based scholarship program for WMU students participating in summer study abroad programs taught by WMU faculty.

Recipients of study abroad scholarships through WMU are required to assist study abroad staff in promoting study abroad to WMU students upon returning home.

Promotional activities may include class presentations, talking to students at the Study Abroad Fair, or participating in special events.

Recipients are also required to submit an article for the Study Abroad Web site upon returning to WMU.

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Plans called for the scholarship-agreement to be in place at the start of this semester, but the pact took a little longer than expected to execute. Now that it has been finalized, WMU officials predict that 30 to 60 more undergraduates will enroll this coming fall.

As many as 200 D.R. students, including many graduate students, could be enrolling annually within a few years.

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Dominican agreement continued from page 1

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