Timely brown-bag talks scheduled

Greg Rosine, senior vice president for advancement and legislative affairs, will talk about the recently launched marketing campaign Monday, Nov. 5, in 157 Bernhard Center. Additionally, Keith Hearst, interim vice provost for enrollment management, will speak about the Western Edge Tuesday, Nov. 13, in 106 Bernhard Center.

Both programs will take place at noon and are being sponsored by the Administrative Professional Association. Those attending may bring their lunches to the presentations.

PSSO holding poinsettia sale

The Professional Support Staff Organization is sponsoring its annual poinsettia sale and accepting orders through Wednesday, Nov. 21. An order form is available online at www.wmich.edu/pssso.

Poinsettias are $9 each and available in red, white, pink, marbled, jingle bells and Monet. Payment must accompany all orders (make checks payable to PSSO).

Orders may be picked up between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 22, in 105 Bernhard Center. Email orders will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Nov. 22.

Send completed order forms with payment by campus mail to Celeste Glascock, Hu Resources, mail stop 5217. For more information, email celeste.glascock@wmich.edu.

Trustees approve labor contract; keep Sangren rehab high priority

During its Oct. 12 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees OK’ed a three-year labor contract with the University’s 15 power plant employees, who are represented by the Michigan State Employees Association.

The agreement provides for a 1 percent across-the-board pay increase in each year of the contract. It also brings power plant workers under the same health care plan as other University employees and improves certain leave-related benefits.

In other action, trustees agreed to leave Sangren at the top of its list of building priorities and again made renovating the 44-year-old instructional facility the project for which it is seeking state funding. Michigan requires universities to submit one request for capital outlay funding each year.

WMU rounds third base in United Way campaign

WMU is three-quarters of the way to its $215,000 goal with about two weeks left in the 2007 United Way campaign.

An October pep rally called “7th Inning Stretch” helped to push the total gifts and pledges past the $150,000 mark.

WMU’s president and first lady, John M. Dunn and Linda Dunn, hosted the event. Many others, including WMU’s Board of Trustees; WMU President John M. Dunn; and Andrew Bowne, executive director of college advancement for Grand Rapids Community College, WMU’s third largest source of transfer students.

Announced in July, the Western Edge is a strategic plan that promotes student success.

Dunn gives State of the University address

“Western Michigan University is strong and vibrant,” declared President John M. Dunn in his first State of the University address during the annual Academic Convocation Oct. 25.

Dunn went on to recognize the University’s excellence, strengths and people; share his developing vision for WMU; and address opportunities and challenges. The complete text of the president’s speech is posted online at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2007/10/075.

Western Edge to be focus of campus, community forum

The potential impact of WMU’s new Western Edge initiative will be examined in a public forum set for Thursday, Nov. 8.

The event, which will be held at 3 p.m. in the Fetzer Center, is titled “Sharpening the Edge, WMU’s Strategy for the Future.” It will feature a panel composed of state Sen. Tom George; Dan Pero, chair of the WMU Board of Trustees; WMU President John M. Dunn; and Andrew Bowne, executive director of college advancement for Grand Rapids Community College, WMU’s third largest source of transfer students.

Announced in July, the Western Edge is a strategic plan that promotes student success.

The initiative also includes a retention scholarship for qualifying second-year students, enhanced advising, and a freeze in room-and-board costs for up to four years for residence hall students.

During the forum, Dunn will elaborate on his first State of the University address delivered Oct. 25. Dunn stressed in his remarks that WMU is seeking to be WMU’s Mary Meader Professor of Comparative Religion.

The conversation included an awards ceremony recognizing this year’s winners of the Emerging Scholar, Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Distinguished Service and Distinguished Teaching awards. In addition, Dunn announced during his address that one of the 2007 Emerging Scholars, Stephen Covell, was selected by Interim President Diether H. Haenicke to be WMU’s Mary Meader Professor of Comparative Religion.

It gives students who enter into a graduation compact with the University a chance to complete their degrees in the shortest time their programs allow.

WMU is one of the 2007 Emerging Scholars.

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Dunn continued on page 4

Western Michigan University

Western Edge

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WMU’s president and first lady, John M. and Linda Dunn, hosted the event. Many of this year’s faculty and staff campaign volunteers took part in the festivities.

Those planning to donate during the official campaign period should complete and return their pledge cards by Tuesday, Nov. 13—the last day of the campaign.

In anticipation that WMU will reach its goal by then, a victory celebration has been planned for 3 to 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, in the President’s Dining Room in the Bernhard Center. The campus community is invited to attend the event, which will include a raffle for those who turned in their pledge cards by Nov. 13.
Around Campus

Final football luncheon slated

Monday, Nov. 5, is the last chance for football fans to lunch with Coach Bill Cubit and hear about the upcoming home contest. The lunch, slated for noon in the Stayer Center, will take place prior to the Central Michigan University game. The cost is $10 per person, payable at the door. Reservations are not required.

Counseling expert to speak

Cheryl Holcombe-McCoy, a nationally known expert in school counseling from the University of Maryland at College Park, will present a free public talk from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, in 208 and 209 Bernhard Center. Holcombe will speak on the frequently cited achievement gap in the United States and the social justice goal of helping professionals combat educational disparities.

Talk to address excessive force

Charles Dix, a former Florida police officer, will address “Excessive Force and Police Department Culture” during the upcoming Criminal Justice Student Association meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, in the Bernhard Center’s Brown and Gold Room. Dix pleaded guilty to willfully using excessive force in a 2004 incident involving the use of a stun gun on a citizen. There will be an open discussion and question-and-answer session after the free presentation.

NCAs peer-review team concluding recertification site visit

The University’s bid for recertification by the National Collegiate Athletic Association moved forward this week with a visit from a four-member peer-review team made up of educators from around the nation. The team’s visit began Oct. 30 and runs through today.

The recertification and self-study process, which occurs on a 10-year cycle, is meant to ensure the University is in compliance with the NCAA’s commitment to integrity in intercollegiate athletics. WMU’s recertification initiative has been under way since summer 2006 and is led by Eileen Evans, vice provost for institutional effectiveness.

The recertification team is accompanied by two NCAA officials and is spending its time on campus conducting interviews with a number of students as well as faculty and staff members.

Its goal is to verify that the information presented in the University’s report is an accurate reflection of the operation of WMU’s athletic programs and that the information was gathered in a process that involved campuswide participation.

Exchange

For sale or lease—Well-kept, two-story condo near WMU. Many updates. Convenient with one bedroom, tile floor in kitchen and large closets. Sliding door to enclosed patio with outdoor lighting. Reserved parking. Call 342-8362.

For rent/services provided—Cheapest heated storage for cars, boats, RVs and more. Call 998-3822. Rooms for rent and house加热ed storage for cars, boats, RVs and more. Call 998-3822. Rooms for rent and house sitting. Call 998-1349.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Designer wins national awards

Sheri Harper, remodeling services, picked up four major awards in the Association of University Interior Designers’ annual design competition in September. Harper took first place in the “Renovation $50,000 to $150,000” category for a project that enhanced the Human Resources office. The project also earned “Best of Show” in the same category.

In the “Renovation Under $50,000” category, Harper brought home a second-place award for improving Dunbar’s Media Studio “C” and a third-place award for improving the College of Arts and Sciences’ Dean’s Lobby. In 2005, she captured a Best of Show honor in the “new construction” division for her work on the WMU-Southwest campus facility.

Catering team takes top prizes

The WMU Catering staff and Executive Chef Nick Petruska were recognized during the March of Dimes Signature Chef’s Auction Oct. 24 in Kalamazoo’s Radisson Plaza Hotel. The event featured 16 local chefs and area restaurants providing samples of their culinary specialties and donating other items for a live auction to support the March of Dimes in its mission to improve infant health.

The WMU Catering team received a first-place prize for best display and also took second place in the best dessert category. Petruska and the team prepared some of their finest signature crepes desserts with a host of unique fillings as well as gourmet sorbets and additional special presentations.

Petruska has participated in the chef’s auction for three years. His 2007 team was composed of caterers and area student staff. Visit www.wmich.edu/catering/awards for more information about the event.

Staffer lauded for getting involved

Leonard Seawood, director of WMU-Southwest, was prominently featured in the October cover story for the Cooperative Edge Magazine. In “The Men Who Came Out of the Storm,” Seawood and barber shop owner Clarence Farlin were pictured on the cover and praised in the text for helping to revitalize Benton Harbor, Mich. The two are key figures in supporting the $450 million Harbor Shores Golf Club project planned by Jack Nicklaus. They also have worked diligently to bring business, government and community leaders together and helped found the Band of Brethren in Christ organization.

Annual faculty, staff giving campaign gets under way for 2007

WMU will officially kick off its 2007-08 faculty and staff giving campaign today. The goal of “We Are Western: The 2007-08 Faculty/Staff Campaign for WMU” is to realize a 50 percent increase in the number of faculty and staff who donate to the University this fiscal year. The drive has the potential to benefit the entire institution because donations from faculty and students are used to support the University’s mission and students.

Beals says increasing participation in the faculty and staff campaign is important because many donors and prospective students view it as a gauge of how well WMU employees support the University’s mission and students. In addition, he notes that WMU employs many of its alumni, and alumni employees who participate in the faculty and staff campaign are counted toward the alumni participation totals that U.S. News and World Report uses as part of its criteria for ranking colleges and universities.

Steve Macomber, staff chair for the “We Are Western” campaign, adds that he and many others have a more personal reason for giving back to the University.

“I often get asked why I give to WMU,” says Macomber, a maintenance services technician who has been a WMU employee for nine years. “The most compelling reason is that my employment and association with WMU has made a significant difference in my life as well as the lives of my family members. Through giving, I can help others in a similar and positive way. Giving is also a way to establish a stronger connection with the University.”

Beals says numerous WMU faculty and staff already regularly support specific travel abroad programs, research activities, internships and other initiatives that strengthen the overall University community. She reports that last fiscal year in fact, 97 percent of the funds raised through the faculty and staff campaign were restricted to particular colleges and programs.

“It’s wonderful to know that when our faculty and staff see the funding needs within their departments or other departments on campus, they’re ready to step up and financially support them,” Beals says. “Providing that kind of support creates many opportunities for our students that they would not otherwise have.”

Information regarding “We Are Western” will be sent soon to employees through campus mail as e-mail. Gifts that count toward this year’s campaign may be made through the WMU Foundation’s secure online site at www.wmich.edu/founda
tion/gift. All faculty and staff contributions received through June 30, 2008, will be recognized as gifts to “We Are Western.”

Health and Wellness Fair open to campus community

WMU will hold its 2007 Health and Wellness Fair for students, faculty, staff, retirees and emeriti from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7, in the Student Recreation Center.

This free event strengthens the health of the WMU community by increasing awareness about and use of programs, organizations and resources available on and off campus. Some 50 exhibitors from WMU and the greater Kalamazoo area will be at the fair to answer questions and provide information about health- and wellness-related services, including those that impact financial health.

The fair will cover topics such as nutrition, exercise, back care, diabetes and saving for retirement. Healthy food samples will be available, and attendees will be able to experience acupuncture and chair-massage demonstrations. An influenza and meningitis vaccination clinic also will be part of the fair.

Free parking will be available in Lot 13 near the recreation center and Parking Structure #1 by Ellsworth.

For more information, visit www.src.wmich.edu/healthwellnessfair.html or contact Amy Seth, director of University Recreation, at amy.seth@wmich.edu or 387-3759.

University community shows pride at homecoming race

WMU students took the top finishes in this year’s Campus Classic 5K race, including the top female and male winners. WMU students comprised more than one-third of the participants—393 out of a total of 1,108 runners—in the 1K and 5K races held during the annual homecoming event. They also volunteered in droves, with about 110 of the event’s 500 volunteers being students. Patricia Morilla, Spanish, says student participation in the race has steadily grown during the four years her department has recruited teams. This year, the department entered three teams, named the Turtles (Tortugas, Turtles), each with five students, faculty and alumni. Started in 1999, the Campus Classic is annually one of the four largest events on campus.

The event, which is run in a straight line from the recreation center to parking area number 13 near the recreation center, returned this year to the 5K race and an estimated 3,250 spectators at the event Oct. 20, total attendance topped 1,500. WMU faculty and staff accounted for 48 of the runners and walkers in slightly over the years. For some employees, like Shannon Landis, Office of the President, the race is a family affair and an annual tradition.

Complete race results are available online at www.wmich.edu/race. (Photo by Mike Larka)

Obituaries

Roger R. Urich, emeritus in engineering technology, died Oct. 21, 2007, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Mich. He was 71.

Urich joined the WMU faculty as an assistant professor of metallurgy and metal casting in 1967 and retired as an associate professor in 1992. During his career, he served as industrial engineering advisor and coordinator of engineering cooperative education. He also was active in several professional associations and served a term as chair of the West Michigan Chapter of the American Society for Metals.

Prior to joining WMU, Urich worked in industry in such roles as company technical director, metallurgical laboratory supervisor and metallurgist. The Ishpeming, Mich., native served in the U.S. Air Force for four years during the late 1950s. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Michigan Technological University in 1961 and 1964, respectively.

Roger L. Wallace, emeritus in management, died Oct. 19, 2007, at his home in Kalamazoo. He was 85.

Wallace joined the WMU faculty as an instructor in 1966 and retired as a professor in 1986. He served as chair of the Department of Management from 1973 to 1975, received a WMU Alumni Association Professor of the Year Excellence Award in 1981, and served on more than 30 different committees and councils.

A leading expert on cost reduction sharing plans, Wallace was in demand as a consultant, speaker and presenter while his scholarly work appeared in a variety of books and journals. He also served on such professional associations as the Academy of International Business and Academy of Management and was active in numerous local organizations, co-founding the Kal

This year’s event, a number that has been increasing slightly over the years. For some employees, like Shannon Landis, Office of the President, the race is a family affair and an annual tradition. Complete race results are available online at www.wmich.edu/race. (Photo by Mike Larka)
State of the University address continued from page 1

Dunn said it revolves around growing the number of students; the WMU community’s pride in the University; WMU’s reputation as a model of shared governance, civil discourse and inclusive behavior on campus; support for research and scholarships; and WMU’s commitment to making student success the center of each and every action employees take.

As for opportunities and challenges, Dunn noted that WMU needs to be stronger, more resilient, more adaptable and more agile to face a changing environment. He said it also needs to focus on activities such as working within the realities of Michigan’s economy while reinforcing its role as an essential element in the state’s strategic planning; friend raising and fund raising, given that primary funding no longer comes from the state; growing the research enterprise; and sharing with others the accomplishments of WMU faculty, staff and students. “We have a strong, well-deserved reputation now. Our focus must be on finding ways to enhance that reputation,” he said. “Each of you will play an important role in doing so...You make the difference with the story that you tell and the internal pride that you demonstrate.”

Growth is the right path for WMU, Dunn said in closing. “Every action we take to secure growth in our enrollment, in our reputation, in research and in private partnerships is an investment in securing our future...This University’s future is in our hands.”

WMU partnering to bring national race exhibit to Kalamazoo

Race as a sociological phenomenon rather than a biological fact is explored in a new national touring exhibit coming to Kalamazoo in fall 2010. WMU and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, part of Kalamazoo Valley Community College, are collaborating to bring “RACE: Are We So Different?” for four months to the museum.

This will be one of the biggest exhibits to come to Kalamazoo in some time, and planning is already under way. WMU and KVCC are seeking campus and communitywide involvement in planning programming to precede, coincide with, and possibly last beyond the exhibit’s visit.

The exhibit is designed to help stimulate a national dialogue about race. It explores three themes: the everyday experience of race, the contemporary science that is challenging common ideas about race and the history of this idea in the United States. Visit www.understandingrace.org or www.wmich.edu/cas for more information.

On Campus with Margaret Watson

“...a good feeling when you provide the help people need,” says Margaret Watson, classroom technical consultant lead in the Office of Information Technology. “When a faculty member is standing in front of 200 students and the technology doesn’t work, you can relate and don’t mind rushing off to help.”

As a member of the Classroom Technology Support team, Watson’s primary responsibility is to make sure that the 63 technology carts on WMU’s main campus are functioning properly. The system allows the University to put sophisticated classroom technology like document cameras for overhead projection on carts that include many of the latest teaching technologies.

As added services, Watson developed the original instruction manuals for each cart and provides one-on-one training for teachers at their convenience in the specific rooms where they’ll be using the carts. She also makes sure the technology is installed correctly and monitors it from her Dunbar office. “I can monitor all the carts from here on my computer and trouble-shoot problems by phone,” Watson says. “I know when someone pushes the ‘panic’ button, and go immediately to their classroom.”

Watson says more carts are put into service as additional faculty members choose to employ them and more classroom buildings are constructed or renovated.

“There were about 135 faculty members using the cart system last year and about 700 are using it this year,” she says, noting that WMU is a higher education leader in incorporating this technology.

Watson earned a Master of Library Science degree from WMU and joined the staff in 1981. She was manager of the student-centered multimedia lab before assuming her current post in 2004. She is an active WMU volunteer and was on the team that started Finals Finish as well as served for several years on the Presidential Spirit Committee.

An Ostentino resident and avid golfer, Watson enjoys applying her penchant for hands-on technical work in her daily life. She rebuilt a 1978 Triumph Spitfire sports car and worked with her father to build her own home.

The forum is being sponsored by the Emeriti Council and Western Association of Retired Faculty. The panel discussion included a question-and-answer session with the audience of Retired Faculty. The panel discussion focused on the changing public expectations of changes to faculty and student interaction, four-year degree and to the belief in the power of education to transform lives.”

In terms of his vision for the University, George is expected to describe how the Western Edge fits into the state’s higher education goals, and Bowne will comment on what it will mean to students who move from a community college into the University setting in pursuit of a four-year degree.

Other topics to be covered include changes to faculty and student interaction, and the changing public expectations of public universities.

The forum is being sponsored by the Emeriti Council and Western Association of Retired Faculty. The panel discussion will allow ample opportunity for questions from those in attendance.