The campus community is invited to attend a free get-acquainted event put in Homecoming.

The University's public radio service, WMUK-FM, is trying something different during its fall fundraising campaign: reducing on-air pledge drive hours by 50 percent during pledge week. The move is part of the station's fall "Short Drive" fundraising campaign. WMUK is encouraging listeners to donate prior to the beginning of on-air pledging, which starts at 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, and has a $200,000 goal. Donations may be made online at www.wmuk.org or with the pledge packet that came in the mail.

The Western Student Association will hold an open forum with President John M. Dunn Tuesday, Oct. 9, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Bernhard Center's West Ballroom. All University students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend. They join a list of 41 distinguished alumni and fellow faculty and staff members who have received the accolade since it was established in 1980. The WSA slates open forum with Dunn

Several current faculty members writing in support of his nomination said that they had reached out to ask him to consider running for the award. They joined a number of campuswide awards. Slated to be honored are this year's recipients of WMU's Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Emerging Scholar, Distinguished Teaching and Distinguished Service Awards.

Several current faculty members writing in support of his nomination said that they had reached out to ask him to consider running for the award. They joined a number of campuswide awards. Slated to be honored are this year's recipients of WMU's Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Emerging Scholar, Distinguished Teaching and Distinguished Service Awards.
Distinguished Faculty Scholar nominations due in January

The Distinguished Faculty Scholar Committee is seeking nominations for the 2007-08 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. The deadline for nominations is Saturday, Jan. 26.

Up to three awards may be made each year. Those selected will be honored in several ways, as well as receive a $2,000 honorarium and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008-533, every other week during the fall and spring semesters

For more information, contact Ernst A. Breisach, history, at ebreisach@wmich.global or 344-1734.

Correction

It was incorrectly reported in the Sept. 20 Western News that Valerie Ott has resigned. It was incorrectly reported in the Sept. 20 Western News that Valerie Ott has resigned.

Documentary keeps Borish busy

Linda Borish, history and women's and gender studies, has been traveling overseas and across the nation to screen and show her film "Jewish Women in America: Settlement Houses to the Olympics."

Borish served as executive producer and historian for the documentary, which was directed and produced by award-winning, Chicago-based filmmaker Shuli Eshel.

Another presentation and screening is set for Sunday, Oct. 14, at the St. John Heinitz History Center in Pittsburgh and the Raush Jewish Archives. The film also has been selected for upcoming film festivals, including the Jewish Eye-World Jewish Film Festival Nov. 14 to 21 in Beer Sheva, Israel; Palm Desert Jewish Film Festival, also in November; and International Jewish Film Festival in Hawaii in February.

Film features Angles commentary

Jeffrey Angles, foreign languages, is featured in the audio commentary of the digital release of a classic Japanese movie that is part of a prestigious collection of new releases of classic international films.

Angles provides the voice-over commentary to the Criterion Collection's release of Kenji Mizoguchi's film "Sansho the Bailiff," a moving tale of a mother separated from her children and sold into slavery in medieval Japan. His commentary is featured throughout the more than two-hour film, a feat that required an enormous amount of preparation. He also contributed to an 80-page booklet included in the box set with the film.

Angles, head of the Japanese program and associate director of the Michieki Song Japan Center, was picked for the project after producers heard him on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" in 2006 talking about a book he co-edited.

Targowski heads national group

Andrew Targowski, business information systems, was elected in June to a three-year term as president of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations.

ISSCS members are academics and independent scholars interested in the history of world cultures and related global issues. The society is affiliated with comparative studies programs worldwide and believes complex, civilization-related problems need diverse, multidisciplinary analyses.

It fosters internationalism through annual meetings and publications. In 2009, WMU will host the World Congress on "One More Chance for Civilization," which is being organized by the ISSCS and WMU's Haeincke Institute for Global Education.

Edited by Cheryl R. Eckland, Associate Editor: Jerome Baron

CONTRIBUTORS: Ines R. Hernandez, Daniele Mohorini, Thomas A. Myers and Mark E. Schewein. GRAPHIC DESIGN: Tammy L. Boraburg

WMU is an equal opportunity/informative action employer committed to diversity. For people with disabilities, WMU provides reasonable accommodation in its programs and activities. To request accommodation, please contact Accessibility Services at (269) 387-8422 or scott@wmich.edu.
New tool helps WMU students track their degree progress

Undergraduate students now have a powerful tool to track their academic progress toward graduation.

The Progress to Degree system enables students and advisors to generate electronic reports that evaluate a student’s academic history against the requirements of a selected undergraduate degree program.

“Students can choose to run an evaluation for their chosen major or for another major or minor,” says Registrar Barbara McKinney. “They can run a limitless number of what-if possibilities, and the results are generated almost instantaneously.

“Progress to Degree, which has been in development since 2006, is not a response to WMU’s new Western Edge commitment to eligible students, but it will be a valuable aid in fulfilling the Western Edge goal of meeting graduation requirements on schedule.”

Students can access the tool in GoWMU, the University’s secure intranet portal, under Progress to Degree. The new tool will support the advising process, reducing time spent on record keeping and increasing time spent on planning. To maximize the effectiveness of advising appointment time, students are encouraged to run a Progress to Degree analysis and review the results before meeting with an academic advisor.

“Progress to Degree is a resource to side, academic advising or the graduation audit process,” says McKinney. “All students must still file for an audit to apply for graduation. All degree requirements will be verified by graduation auditors, and students will be notified of the results.”

Progress to Degree is available for undergraduate students who entered WMU since fall 2004, for whom academic records and applicable degree requirements are available in the system. The tool is expected to be available for graduate students in 2008.

WMU launches this year’s United Way campaign; schedules campus rally for Oct. 17

WMU officially kicked off its 2007 United Way campus campaign Oct. 1 with a goal of $215,000.

The funds will support the Greater Kalamazoo United Way’s $11.1 million overall target. The campus community is encouraged to step up again this year to make a difference in fulfilling the Western Edge goal of meeting graduation requirements on schedule.

We definitely have power now, so ‘Beam’ me up

WMU will formally name its power plant after Robert M. Beam during a brief public ceremony at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12.

A reception will immediately follow in 4010 College of Health and Human Services Building.

Beam headed the University’s business and physical plant operations for some 21 years. He retired in June, after 42 years of service to the University.

The decision to name the power plant in his honor was announced at a retirement event held during his final days at WMU.

Beam is credited with being a key player in modernizing and upgrading the power plant after the University acquired it in 1994 from the state-owned Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital.

The naming ceremony will take place at the power plant, which is located off Stadium Drive between Oliver and Howard streets. Those wishing to attend the event may enter the grounds using the plant drive directly off Stadium Drive.

A $500 gift certificate will be announced at the event, which will be followed by a reception featuring a light meal.

“We definitely have power now, so ‘Beam’ me up,” says Vice President Emeritus Bob Beam, chair of the campus campaign. “Its agency partners work tirelessly to better the lives of people right here in our community—our neighbors, friends, coworkers and sometimes our own family members.”

Pros talk turkey to students

Some 100 students will be displaying their good taste by attending the 10th annual Etiquette Dinner from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18, in the Fetter Center. It imparts broad and better information about proper business etiquette in mealtime situations.

Students must register to attend the dinner, which costs $10 and is open to juniors, seniors and graduate students. Seating is limited. To register, call Career and Student Employment Services at 387-2745 or visit its office in Ellsworth.

For sale—House on Lorraine Avenue in Winchell neighborhood, between Parkview and main campuses. Three bedrooms, one bath, fenced back yard, screened back porch. New roof, wood and interior paint. $109,900, home warranty offered.

For sell—2001 Buick Park Avenue. Fully equipped. High mileage, but in good shape, being sold through personal mechanic. $5,500. Call Ron at 345-7690.

For sale—2007 United Way Rally to thank everyone who has already given and provide more information for those interested in giving. The “7th Inning Stretch” will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.

Pros talk turkey to students

Some 100 students will be displaying their good taste by attending the 10th annual Etiquette Dinner from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18, in the Fetter Center. It imparts broad and better information about proper business etiquette in mealtime situations.

Students must register to attend the dinner, which costs $10 and is open to juniors, seniors and graduate students. Seating is limited. To register, call Career and Student Employment Services at 387-2745 or visit its office in Ellsworth.
On Campus with Shirley Vernia

Thousands of students have transferred to WMU over the years, and many of them have touched base with Shirley Vernia along the way.

Vernia, a credit evaluator in the Office of Admissions, works with academic departments across campus to determine what courses taken at other schools will transfer to WMU.

“Sometimes I get questions about credit cards,” she jokes. “That was especially true when Western first came out with the Bronco Card.”

In reality, her duties include collecting transcripts from transfer students, logging the information into the University’s student information system, and compiling individual reports on whether and how the students’ course work will count once they enroll here. In addition, Vernia fields calls from students across the country who are contemplating taking a class elsewhere and want to know whether it will transfer to WMU.

“The biggest challenge is getting everyone’s credit evaluation done when they need it,” she says. “A lot of things hinge on the evaluation, such as when you’ll get your financial aid, when you can register for classes and whether you need to take a prerequisite class.”

Vernia, a former cosmetologist, joined the admissions office staff in 1982. She began as an application processor, then moved to the credit evaluation area or academic auditing, as it used to be called.

“I’ve been here 25 years and I’ve been in this office from Day 1. I’ve never found a job I liked better,” she says. “I like the people here and the students. And I enjoy helping people out. It’s really a good feeling when you get students what they need or can tell them they’re admitted.”

In her spare time, Vernia enjoys reading, watching TV and doing a variety of craft projects. She also collects teapots and salt and pepper shakers at home.

Back at the office, though, she keeps her collection of bats, Dracula figures and other Halloween items.

Vernia and her husband Duane, who worked for a time in the WMU Barber Shop, live in Kalamazoo. They have three daughters and 10 grandchildren.

Dybek honored continued from page 1

use the MacArthur award to tackle projects he has had planned for some time.

“The vast majority of writers cannot support themselves with writing alone,” he notes. “Everyone has two jobs...As banal as it sounds, I’ll use this award to buy time and spend it on projects I’ve wanted to pursue.”

MacArthur Fellows are selected by anonymous members of a 12-person selection committee who delve deeply into the work of nominees who demonstrate exceptional creativity and promise.

Other recipients of this year’s fellowships include a biomedical scientist, a blues musician, a forensic anthropologist, an inventor, a medieval historian and a spider silk biologist.

“As a group, this new class of fellows takes one’s breath away,” says Daniel J. Socolow, director of the MacArthur Fellows Program.

“As individuals, each is an original...”

Distinguished Alumni winners continued from page 1

joined the WMU faculty because of Benson.

“John taught us to become dedicated educators, scholars and leaders through his encouragement, patience, trust and foremost, his passion and enthusiasm for our profession,” one such faculty member wrote. “He set expectations high and inspired us to meet them by his own example.”

Also mentioned by nominees were Benson’s legendary advocacy for all graduate students, special generosity toward international students and channeling of his passion for world travel into creating first-rate study abroad experiences for WMU students.

Pennock, who had a career as a financial officer with a number of private-sector firms, came to the University in 1997 as Miller Auditorium’s business manager. He left to serve in the same role in WMU’s College of Aviation, but returned in 2004 as associate director.

Nominators lauded Pennock for his ability to “do it all,” from assisting other units in his division with his business acumen to serving as an advisor to student groups and a mentor to individual students.

“He faces every challenge with enthusiasm and believes there is nothing that can’t be solved with a little ingenuity, team work and a dose of humor,” wrote one colleague. “...His dedication to the University and the offices he works for is unmatched.”

Other colleagues praised Pennock for his role in helping Miller meet success as it takes on more and more complex programming and scheduling challenges.

Service award winners continued from page 1

joined the WMU faculty because of Benson.

“John taught us to become dedicated educators, scholars and leaders through his encouragement, patience, trust and foremost, his passion and enthusiasm for our profession,” one such faculty member wrote. “He set expectations high and inspired us to meet them by his own example.”

Also mentioned by nominees were Benson’s legendary advocacy for all graduate students, special generosity toward international students and channeling of his passion for world travel into creating first-rate study abroad experiences for WMU students.

Pennock, who had a career as a financial officer with a number of private-sector firms, came to the University in 1997 as Miller Auditorium’s business manager. He left to serve in the same role in WMU’s College of Aviation, but returned in 2004 as associate director.

Nominators lauded Pennock for his ability to “do it all,” from assisting other units in his division with his business acumen to serving as an advisor to student groups and a mentor to individual students.

“He faces every challenge with enthusiasm and believes there is nothing that can’t be solved with a little ingenuity, team work and a dose of humor,” wrote one colleague. “...His dedication to the University and the offices he works for is unmatched.”

Other colleagues praised Pennock for his role in helping Miller meet success as it takes on more and more complex programming and scheduling challenges.

Campus members kick up their heels for Homecoming

The University will be treating the campus community to a week of exciting activities during its 2007 Homecoming celebration Monday through Saturday, Oct. 15-21.

The high-point of the celebration will be the Homecoming football game Oct. 20.

Among the many activities open to the public during the week-long festivities will be a 5K and 1K run/walk; the student-sponsored Skit Night, Western Games and Soap Box Derby; the Alumni Association PepFest; and the National Pan-Hellenic Council March Down.

For more information about Homecoming activities, including cost and registration details, visit www.wmich.edu/homecoming and click on the links for “Student Events,” “Alumni Events” and “Campus Events.”

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

(Photo by Jeanne Baron)