Summer commencement date set
Summer commencement exercises will be held Saturday, June 30, in Miller Auditorium. Visit the Web site at www.wmich.edu/commencement for information about the two ceremonies scheduled.

Reception slated for Haenicke
The University community is invited to a “re-retirement” reception for Interim President Diether H. Haenicke and first lady Carol Haenicke from 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, June 29, on the grounds of the Oaklands. In case of inclement weather, the reception will take place in the Bernhard Center’s North Ballroom. Supervisors are encouraged to arrange schedules so that everyone wishing to attend the event may do so.

Board of Trustees to meet July 13
New proposals for tuition and other budget matters are expected to be discussed by the WMU Board of Trustees at its next meeting Friday, July 13. Meetings are usually held in 157-159 of the Bernhard Center. Details about the time and agenda will be posted online at www.wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting day.

Western News to go on hiatus
Today’s issue of Western News is the last issue that will be published during the Summer I and II sessions. Western News will resume its regular publication schedule Sept. 6, after the start of the fall semester. During the publication’s hiatus, members of the University community can keep up with everything happening around campus by visiting the WMU News home page at www.wmich.edu/news.

Coffee shop open in Bronco Mall
Beaner’s Coffee has opened with full beverage service in temporary accommodations in the Bernhard Center’s Bronco Mall. Hours for the newest mall store are weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The permanent home for Beaner’s is under construction directly behind the temporary spot and will open with full service, including pastries, later this summer.

Collaboration saves campus bus service
WMU students will continue to enjoy the same level of bus service they’ve had in recent years, thanks to a new public-private partnership hammered out in late May.

“Despite near 90-degree heat, dozens of international students from some 10 nations joined Interim President Diether H. Haenicke for a picnic June 15 at the Gilmore House. Haenicke, decked out in Bavarian attire, chatted with many attendees, including, from left, Huilin Lee of Malaysia, Marina Shatran of the Ukraine and Israel, and War Nguyen of Vietnam. With the end of his second presidency fast approaching, Haenicke revived a campus tradition he began during his first 13 years at the helm—inviting international students to attend a picnic with the president and wear the traditional clothing of their home nations. (Photo by John Jacko)

Haenicke revives colorfully attired picnic for international students
Despite near 90-degree heat, dozens of international students from some 10 nations joined Interim President Diether H. Haenicke for a picnic June 15 at the Gilmore House. Haenicke, decked out in Bavarian attire, chatted with many attendees, including, from left, Huilin Lee of Malaysia, Marina Shatran of the Ukraine and Israel, and War Nguyen of Vietnam. With the end of his second presidency fast approaching, Haenicke revived a campus tradition he began during his first 13 years at the helm—inviting international students to attend a picnic with the president and wear the traditional clothing of their home nations. (Photo by John Jacko)

Michigan educators honor longtime WMU administrator
Provost Janet L. Pisaneschi is the 2007 recipient of the Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award from Michigan’s American Council on Education Michigan Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education.

During a June 12 awards ceremony in Lansing, Mich., Pisaneschi became only the sixth Michigan woman to receive the coveted annual award created to “recognize women who have distinguished themselves by providing outstanding leadership to women in their institutions, in their profession and in society at large.”

Pisaneschi served for 17 years as dean of WMU’s College of Health and Human Services before agreeing to serve for a year in her current post. She will retire at the end of this month. Pisaneschi was lauded for the role she played in leading the health and human services college to national recognition for the quality of its program; for leading the creation of WMU’s Unified Clinics, which serve the West Michigan community; and creating WMU’s Bronson School of Nursing. She was also praised for recruiting other strong women to serve in leadership roles, and for her own distinctive leadership style.
Performance space named for former theatre chair

The Multiform Theatre in the Gilmore Theatre Complex has been designated the “D. Terry Williams Theatre,” marking Williams’ many contributions to both the WMU and Kalamazoo communities. The new name, as well as the privately funded D. Terry Williams Endowment for Theatre Student Enrichment, was announced during a May celebration of William’s 25-year career at WMU. Williams joined the theatre department in 1982 as chair and held this post until returning to the faculty in 2004. He oversaw the department during its rise to the ranks of America’s top undergraduate training programs and the dramatic enhancement of its reputation in theatre circles around the world. In addition, the unit Williams led for so long has now been selected for the American College Theatre Festival’s regional competition more times than any other university in Michigan.

Off-campus and distance learning units recombined

Two units that primarily serve off-campus students are being reunited into a single administrative unit, effective immediately. The Extended University Programs division, which oversees courses offered at eight branch campuses around Michigan, and Academic Technology and Instructional Services, which offers online courses, have been realigned, with ATIS brought under the EUP administrative structure.

The two academic units were united prior to 2005. Bringing them together again is expected to create a more seamless and cohesive organizational structure that will enhance the University’s ability to serve audiences away from the Kalamazoo campus.

Craig Kaml, ATIS director since 2002, will continue to lead online efforts and will report to Daren Johnson, EUP dean.


doctoral fellowships awarded

Four doctoral students have been named recipients of Dissertation Completion Fellowships for the 2007-08 academic year.

The Graduate College announced the fellowships in May.

The four award recipients, along with their departments and faculty advisor, are:

- Travis Bruce, history, Larry Simon advisor
- Arus Harutyunyan, a native of Armenia, political science, Emily Hauptmann advisor
- Yuchun Lin, chemistry, Yirong Mo advisor
- Nathanael O’Reilly, English, Gwen Hall, where there used to flourish a small garden. The group, which has adapted the garden, rebuilt a portion of the North Hall patio, removed wild vegetation, mulched and cleaned the flower beds, and split and planted perennials. Their labors have transformed the entrance to East Hall, where there used to flourish a small garden dedicated to Lothoin Buge, director of teacher education from 1938 to 1948.

(Photos by John Lacko)


desktop section

Four of WMU’s departments are embarking on a project, “Keeping Up With Tradition,” to refurbish the Centennial Garden in front of North Hall. This garden is being rejuvenated by some 60 volunteers, including faculty, staff and students from the Departments of English, History, Social Sciences and Business Administration.

The group is expected to create a more seamless and cohesive organizational structure that will enhance the University’s ability to serve audiences away from the Kalamazoo campus.

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(Photos by John Lacko)
Four staff members earn annual Make a Difference awards

Four exceptional employees have received WMU’s annual Make a Difference award, which comes with a $1,000 prize.

In addition to the cash prize, the four will receive framed certificates and be honored at a July 25 luncheon.

The 2007 award recipients are: Luann Bigelow, accountancy; Frances Buell, physical plant-landscape services; Laura Ciccantell, Academic Support Center; and Margaret Springer, College of Health and Human Services.

The Make a Difference awards recognize WMU’s most outstanding staff employees—those whom reach far beyond their assigned responsibilities to give generously and creatively of their time and talents, making the University an even finer place to work and study.

Make a Difference is a campuswide recognition program for staff members. Up to 15 semiannual award winners are selected each fall and spring. Each year’s top four annual award winners are chosen from among that year’s semiannual winners.

More information about the Make a Difference award program is available online at www.wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Board of Trustees accepts retirements, resignations of numerous faculty, staff members

The retirements of six faculty members and nine staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its June 7 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of six faculty members.

Five of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeriti status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Paul J. Eenigenburg, professor of mathematics, 39-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31, 2008; Diane B. Hamilton, professor of nursing, 14 years, effective May 1, 2008; Alan C. Isaak, professor of political science, 41-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2008; Dorothy M. Davis, administrative specialist in the Department of Marketing, 19 years, effective July 31; and Lindsey Willhite, assistant professor of foreign languages, 42-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2008.

The other faculty member retiring is S. Hossein Mousavinazhad, professor of electrical and computer engineering, 25 years, effective June 30.

The staff members retiring are: Janet S. Callahan, administrative specialist in the College of Health and Human Services, 30 years, effective July 2; Dorothy M. Davis, custodian in physical plant-building, custodial and support services, 14-1/2 years, effective May 31; Dale Eldred, manager of Bernhard Dining Services, 19 years, effective June 1; Kathleen Hamilton, office assistant in the Office of Admissions, 16-1/2 years, effective July 31; Sherry L. Lepird, office coordinator in the Department of Physician Assistant, 18 years, effective July 31; Rosemary Nichols, office coordinator in Academic Technology and Instructional Services, 19 years, effective June 30; Gail A. Orta, office coordinator in the Department of Marketing, 19 years, effective Sept. 30; Elaine C. Pongesser, finance assistant in Grants and Contracts, 19 years, effective May 31; and Judith A. Washburn, assistant baker in Davis Dining Service, 19 years, effective June 30.

The faculty members resigning are: Albertha M. Bee, instructor of nursing, effective April 8; Margaret Springer, accountancy; Frances Buell, physical plant-landscape services; Laura Ciccantell, Academic Support Center; and Margaret Springer, College of Health and Human Services.

Jobs

Job opportunities at WMU are announced every Monday on the human resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm and the applicant Information Service phone line at 387-3669. Applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Vocal jazz, dance artists visiting campus for major events

Two major artistic events are being held on campus this month.

The fourth annual Steve Zegree Vocal Jazz Camp will be held Sunday through Friday, June 24-29, and will feature free, public performances nightly on campus and in downtown Kalamazoo. Monday through Thursday, camp participants will appear on stage at the Union Cabaret and Grill, 125 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. Performances take place between 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. There is no cover charge and no reservations are necessary. The camp’s free closing concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

WMU also will host the ninth annual Corps de Ballet International Teacher Conference June 24-28. Notable participants will include a guest master teacher at the Juilliard School, an international dance writer, a digital media specialist and a composer and dance scholar. The conference will encompass a wide range of master classes, presentations, panel discussions and workshops dedicated to gaining perspective on the art of classical ballet in the 21st century. For more information, visit www.corps-de-ballet.org.

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Kim Smith applies herself at work. As an application processor in the Office of Admissions, Smith deals with dozens of details day in and day out.

“The best part of my job is that I get to talk to parents, students, high school counselors—a lot of different people,” Smith says. “It’s always fun to tell them, ‘Yes, you’ve been accepted.’ You can hear on the other end of the phone that they’re so excited about coming to Western.”

Before that day arrives though, Smith has to make sure the applicants she assists have submitted all the necessary materials and meet WMU’s entrance requirements. She also has to send out checklists, request transcripts and incorporate each student’s data into Banner, the student information system.

“By the end of the day, I’ve been staring at a computer screen so long I can’t see anymore.” Smith jokes. “The real challenge is in the fall, when tons of applications are coming in. We’re trying to get to all of the applications processed in a timely manner, and parents and students are calling to learn the status of them.”

Smith came to WMU in 1981 as a secretary in the housing office. She joined the Graduate College two years later and worked her way up to processing applications and conducting graduation audits.

When she moved to the admissions office in 1994, Smith was working part time while raising a daughter and two sons. Then three years ago, daughter Rachel applied to WMU and was accepted. Smith put in an application too, and landed her current post as a full-time undergraduate applications processor.

“Admissions is the first department people talk to, so I try to give callers good service,” she says, adding that her unit is a good place to work. “I supervise some student workers, and it’s neat that I’ve gotten to know them. We also have a great professional staff. We work hard, but we have a lot of fun.”

Smith lives in Scotts with her husband, Rob. She’s active in her church, enjoys gardening and camping, and “loves hanging out with friends and family.” That family connection includes her cousin, WMU staffester Gail Kurtz, who encouraged Smith to seek employment at WMU more than 25 years ago.

University trustees take action on variety of issues during last month’s board meeting

Members of the Board of Trustees acted on a range of items during their June 7 meeting, including various personnel items.

Trustees approved the appointments of Ajay Samant as associate dean of the Haworth College of Business, effective July 1, and Susan Caulfield as director of academic collective bargaining, effective July 1. Samant replaces David Bumie, who will be returning to the finance faculty. Caulfield replaces Jay Wood, who was tapped as interim chair of statistics, effective July 1.

The other chairs approved are: David Ede, comparative religion, effective Aug. 1; William S. Kern, economics, effective July 1; Timothy McGrew, philosophy, effective July 1; and Mercedes Tasende, Spanish, effective July 1. The board also OK’d Gary Mathews as interim director of social work, effective July 1, and David Cohon as director of music with tenure, effective July 1.

In addition, trustees approved a minor in Arabic as well as combined two existing math programs to create a Master of Science in Applied and Computational Mathematics. They also promoted and granted tenure, effective with the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year, to scores of faculty members. These scholars are listed in June stories posted online at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events/wordlinks/archive.

Exchange


For sale—21-year-old home on quiet street near campus. One and one-half stories, three bedrooms, two baths, granite/cherry throughout, highly energy efficient, Kalamazoo schools. $146,500. Call 345-7488 or (269) 353-0897.

For sale—Four-bedroom traditional home one mile west of campus. One and one-half baths, 1,560 sq. ft., two-car attached garage, solar heating panel, air conditioning, 2-year-old roof, new water heater. Large, beautifully landscaped back yard. One-family owned, well maintained, 42 years old. Near Arcadia school. Call 375-2569.