Up East Campus" event

June also signals the beginning of mentoring and common-read activities for faculty and students involved in the First-Year Seminar. WMU's two-credit-hour transition course for freshmen who sign up to be part of the overall FYE initiative will participate in a "Clean Up East Campus" event from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 12, on the grounds of historic East Campus.

All volunteers will be given gloves and tools, as well as bags for yard waste and debris collected during the event. Volunteers should check in near the East Hall main entrance overlooking downtown Kalamazoo. For more details, call Jon Andrews in the Office of the President at 387-2351.

Children’s Place opens enrollment

The WMU Children’s Place Learning Center is accepting summer enrollment for children age 15 months to 12 years. Competitive hourly and weekly rates are available to WMU students, faculty and staff members and the general public.

In partnership with the College of Education, Children’s Place provides individualized child-initiated learning appropriate for each child's stage of development. For more information, contact Kathy Mohney at 387-4277 or visit www.wmich.edu/childrensplace.

Department seeking donations

A new resource, recreation and study room in Rood Hall is being created for mathematicians and statistics students. Donations are needed before school resumes in the fall and may be dropped off or picked up. Items being sought include two large area rugs; two sofas; a coffee table; two arm chairs; bulletin/post-it boards; bookcases; books and resource materials, preferably related to math; and chess and other table-top games. To make a donation, contact Amy Hopp at 387-4511.

Dates set for FYE programs

First-Year Experience Programs is gearing up for the 2007-08 academic year (see related “Now he’s here” story on page 2). New Student Orientation will include 12 two-day sessions held between Monday, June 4, and Friday, June 29.

June also signals the beginning of mentoring and common-read activities for faculty and students involved in the First-Year Seminar. WMU’s two-credit-hour transition course for freshmen who sign up to be part of the overall FYE initiative.

Meanwhile, Fall Welcome, the optional follow-up comprehensive transition program for incoming students, will take place Aug. 27 through 31.

Search is Dunn—WMU selects eighth president

John M. Dunn has been named WMU’s eighth president and will take office July 1. Dunn, interim chancellor of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, was selected by unanimous vote of the WMU Board of Trustees at the board’s April 27 meeting. His appointment follows a nationwide search that began last fall and involved many key University constituencies and the public. Dunn will replace Diether H. Haenicke, WMU president emeritus, who has served as interim president since August.

“Dr. Dunn is the right choice at the right time to lead Western Michigan University,” said Dan Pero, chair of the WMU Board of Trustees. “He is energetic and experienced. He has earned a reputation as a consensus builder, and he is committed to making the student experience at WMU the best in Michigan and the country.”

Dunn, who was named Southern Illinois’ interim chancellor in November 2006, had previously served as provost and vice chancellor there since 2002. He says his interest in the WMU position was piqued by the similarities between WMU and SIU, a research university with more than 21,000 students, an extensive portfolio of grants and contracts, a number of major research centers, and a historical background as a state teachers college.

“I am particularly impressed with WMU’s continuing commitment to quality in its undergraduate and graduate programs. From my years at research universities, I know that the benefit of educating students in a research environment adds immeasurably to their university experience,” Dunn said. “...During the interview process, I was struck by the sentiments shared with me by those who participated—faculty, staff and students. Their presence, questions and obvious pride in WMU helped me make my decision.”

School of Art named in honor of alumna, donor Gwen Frostic

A famous artist and alumna who became WMU’s most generous benefactor has had a University unit named after her. The WMU School of Art is now named the Gwen Frostic School of Art. The WMU Board of Trustees approved the naming at its meeting on April 27.

Frostic was a celebrated Michigan artist, whose lifelong love affair with her alma mater culminated in her bequest of a gift of $13 million to WMU, the largest single gift in the school’s history.

One of WMU’s most accomplished alumni, she died on April 25, 2001, the day before her 95th birthday. Widely known since the 1950s for her block print art, Frostic lived in Benzie, Mich., where she operated Presscraft Papers’ Gwen Frostic Prints of Benzie, a Michigan landmark.

Frostic’s gift was for the unrestricted use of the University, leaving its allocation to the discretion of the president. In keeping with Frostic’s creative and artistic bent, the University has channeled much of the gift to foster artistic pursuits, including the English Department’s Gwen Frostic Reading Series, School of Art facilities and student scholarships in art and creative writing. Funds also go to business scholarships and three Gwen Frostic Medallion Scholarships, which are awarded to incoming freshman and each valued at $40,000 over four years.

Vast majority of WMU graduates remain in Michigan

WMU graduates have staying power.

“In addition to persevering and earning their degrees, the vast majority of our students remain in Michigan after graduation,” says Lynn Kelly-Albertson, executive director of Career and Student Employment Services.

“We graduated 2,900 students April 28. If past history repeats itself, more than 2,300 of them will stay here and contribute to the state’s economy. This speaks volumes about Michigan’s attractiveness as well as the caliber, commitment and enthusiasm of our alumni.”

According to WMU’s most recent full-year survey findings, 89 percent of the University’s graduating seniors and recent alumni reported in 2006 that they either had jobs or would be pursuing graduate-level work within three months. Ninety percent of the respondents...
Campus members invited to First-Year Experience kickoff

Starting next month, thousands of prospective and admitted students will be visiting the Western Michigan University campus, many with their parents.

The First-Year Experience Programs office will gear up for these visitors by holding a spirited gathering for faculty and staff that will be held Remarks by Interim-President Ernest H. Harner. The gathering is slated for 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, in the Bernhard Center’s South Ballroom. There will be door prizes, and punch will be provided.

The event will support the University community in rallying around this year’s incoming students, as well as kick off the third year of WMU’s comprehensive First-Year Experience Programs. FYE, which encompasses New Student Orientation, Fall Welcome and the First-Year Seminar, was introduced in 2005 to make the transition to college easier for incoming students and help them have a successful first year.

The FYE Kickoff will give faculty and staff a chance to become more familiar with FYE as well as its various components and to learn more about the areas where they can contribute the most.

“We hope faculty and staff at all levels will be able to attend our FYE kickoff. We want to exchange information with those on the front lines and share the excitement this time of year,” says Tonya Woolfolk-Barnes, FYE director.

For more information about FYE and its various components, visit www.wmich.edu/fye or call 387-2167 and talk with Woolfolk-Barnes; Salatara Willis, New Student Orientation coordinator; Adrienne Fraaza, Fall Welcome coordinator; or Maleeka Love, First-Year Seminar coordinator.

Make A Difference annual award candidates announced

Seventeen staff members are in the running for 2006-07 Make a Difference annual awards, which carry a $1,000 prize.

The candidates, all recipients of this year’s fall and spring semiannual awards through the WMU Make a Difference program, are now eligible to be considered for one of this staff recognition program’s four annual awards.

The “final four” will be announced in June.

The selection committee will review any new information submitted for the 17 candidates, as well as their previously submitted semiannual nomination materials. Those wishing to provide additional supporting information may do so through May 31.

Details are available online at www.wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Physics, gender issues spotlighted

Nora Berrah, physics, co-chaired a workshop at the American Center for Physics in College Park, Md., May 6-9, spearheading an effort by the nation’s top research labs double the number of women engaged in physics research and teaching. The workshop was sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science. It ended with a major press event summarizing the attendees’ work and recommendations for moving forward.

In addition, Berrah was interviewed May 4 by the National Public Radio show “Marketplace.” An internationally renowned physics researcher, she was featured in a segment titled “A gender gap in physics classrooms.” More details about the workshop are available online at www.aps.org/programs/women/workshops. To listen to Berrah’s NPR interview, visit http://marketplace.publicradio.org/.

Tennis coach true champion

Betsy Kuhle, women’s tennis head coach, has been named Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year for the sixth time in her career. Kuhle is celebrating her 25th year with the tennis team, making her WMU’s longest-tenured coach in any sport. This year, the Broncos won their fourth MAC Tournament Championship and will appear in round one of the NCAA Division I Tournament Championship tomorrow in Evanston, Ill.

With Kuhle at the helm, the women’s tennis program has achieved a 98 percent graduation rate as well as produced 27 Academic All-MAC, 16 MAC Players of the Year, four MAC Freshmen of the Year and 28 All-MAC players. She also has guided the Broncos to third place or higher finishes in the MAC every other year, three undefeated seasons and three successive MAC titles—10 overall.

Prof shares expertise in Germany

Frederick MacDonald, social work, will be teaching and conducting workshops this summer at the University of Applied Sciences in Coburg, Germany. He has been a guest professor there since 2000, focusing on family systems theory, family therapy, practice evaluation and social welfare.

MacDonald has been instrumental in developing the Alice Salomon School of Social Work in Berlin as well as the master’s program in clinical social work at Coburg. A WMU faculty member since 1986, his interests include team-building, interpersonal practice, rural health and Native American issues. MacDonald is the managing editor of the Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare.
Board of Trustees approves administrative appointments

Among the administrative appointments University trustees approved during their April 27 meeting were the promotion of Cheryl P. Roland to executive director of university relations, effective April 27, and the naming of Ann A. Tyler as chair of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, effective July 1. An associate professor, Roland is the head of the Office of University Relations and principal spokesperson for WMU. She came to the University in 1987 and has been serving as interim head of university relations for the past year.

Tyler comes to WMU from the School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she is a professor of speech pathology and audiology and has served on the faculty since 1989.

Now best time to sign up for popular faculty, staff wellness options

If spring has you thinking about becoming more healthy, now would be a great time to sign up for the second year of the “Western Wellness, Improving On A Good Thing” program or to activate your Student Recreation Center membership.

“Western Wellness” ended its first year in March with the following results for its participating faculty and staff: 172 lowered their cholesterol levels, 150 lowered their blood pressure, 110 reduced their percentage of body fat, 108 improved their overall fitness habits and 96 drank their waistlines.

WMU hired Kalamazoo-based Holyn and Associates Health Promotion Consultants to run “Western Wellness.” At present, there are 575 slots for next year’s program. A handful of slots are vacant, and it is hoped that another 500 openings can be added in the fall. For more information, visit www.holynhcpc.com on the Web.

Those looking for another convenient way of maintaining a healthy lifestyle need look no further than the Student Recreation Center. Benefits-eligible faculty and non-bargaining staff who activate their SRC membership soon, will get nearly a full year’s membership, valued at $225, and pay nothing more than the taxes on that amount.

Yearly memberships start at the beginning of each semester or session you join. Given that the Summer I Session began May 7, signing up now will give you the most bang for your buck. Memberships may be activated from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in the SRC office. The membership form and contract also are available online. For more information, visit www.src.wmich.edu or call Cindy at 387-3115.

FROM THE HEART—WMU has sent a book of condolences with some 700 entries to the Virginia Tech campus community. Quickly mobilizing in support of its sister institution, pages for the book were made available in the Bernhard Center between April 17 and 19. WMU students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as area residents, were invited to express condolences for the tragic loss of life and suffering stemming from the April 16 shootings on the Virginia school’s campus.

The signed pages were organized and bound into a book by Sue Green, Bernhard Center. (Photo by Cheryl P. Roland)

Obituaries

Carrie Ann (Jordan) Hensley, who for more than 17 years worked for University Libraries, died April 5. She was 58.

Hensley began working as a temporary employee for University Libraries in September 1989. She assumed her full-time staff appointment as supervisor of circulation and reserves in January 1991, soon becoming coordinator of access services in June of that year and continuing in that position until her death.

The Chicago native completed her GED after being honorably discharged from the U.S. Army. She attended WMU, where she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees. She worked in library services for more than 25 years at several locations in Kalamazoo, including WMU.

E.W. “Fred” Schaeberle, professor emeritus of accounting, died April 29 in Portage, Mich. He was 81.

Schaeberle served in the U.S. Army in World War II and came to Kalamazoo in 1965 to work for WMU. He was on the accountancy faculty for more than 30 years, retiring in 1995. He was a member of the American Accounting Association, Internal Auditors Association and Beta Alpha Phi.

A visitation with family members was held May 2, and a private family service will take place at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation or the WMU Department of Accountancy.

Carol F. Sheffer, associate professor emeritus and chair of educational leadership, research and technology, died April 14 in Pembridge, Ohio, after a lengthy illness. She was 75.

Sheffer came to WMU in 1974 and was appointed chairperson of what was then the Department of Educational Leadership in 1979. She retired from WMU in 1986 to care for her mother and other elderly relatives. While in retirement, she was an adjunct professor at Bowling Green State University for five years and lectured as well as taught classes for students and teachers throughout northwest Ohio.

A celebration of her life will be held May 12 at her family’s farm near Woodville, Ohio. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Northwest Ohio or Otterbein Portage Retirement Community.
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Search is Dunn

Dunn may be a new face on campus, but she is a familiar name. Dunn, once a student at WMU, has been revisiting old friends and making new ones.

Dunn's five-year agreement calls for an annual salary of $345,000 and a deferred compensation plan equal to $50,000 annually. He and his wife, Linda, are the parents of three adult children who live around the nation.

In an April 30 statement to the University community as president-elect, Dunn praised Haenicke for his excellent leadership of the University during its administrative transition and said he looks forward to future interactions and counsel with Haenicke.

“Over this past weekend, Linda and I began the process of getting to know you and learning about this wonderful University community,” the statement also said. “We were touched and delighted by the welcome so many of you expressed, and we are anxious to move here and begin our work with you as partners helping to move this great University forward.”

Visit www.wmich.edu/news for complete stories about Dunn and the presidential search process as well as the full text of Dunn’s statement to the WMU community.

WMU graduates remain in Michigan

planning to continue their educations said they would do so at Michigan schools.

“The percentage of respondents who reported finding work in Michigan in 2005-06 was 80 percent or higher for most of our academic colleges,” Kelly-Albertson says.

At 92 percent, arts and sciences graduates reported the highest rate of in-state employment. They were followed by graduates in education at 85 percent, business at 83 percent, health and human services at 81 percent, and fine arts at 77 percent.

Engineering alumni were in high demand at home and across the country. Even so, Kelly-Albertson points out, 63 percent of WMU-educated engineers reported accepting jobs in Michigan. As was expected, Kelly-Albertson says, students from the University’s College of Aviation primarily found jobs out of state.

“Many good employment opportunities remain in Michigan, and our students are not only seeking them, they’re getting hired,” says Interim President Diether H. Haenicke.

“We turn out talented, hard-working professionals who have long been known for being able to hit the ground running.”

Haenicke notes that many of the University’s undergraduate programs require or recommend an internship or co-op experience as part of their degrees.

“Our students have numerous opportunities to gain practical experience, and our campus culture promotes the skills, values and work ethic employers are looking for,” he adds. “This allows our students to be immediately productive and begin making their mark on the state’s economy.”

WMU launches ‘mini GI Bill’

U.S. military veterans leaving active duty will get a financial break to enroll in college, thanks to a WMU tuition assistance program that will support new or returning students who are veterans.

The Returning Veterans Tuition Assistance Program initiated by WMU trustees helps veterans from across the country by allowing them to enroll and begin college course work while they wait for their Veterans Administration benefits to begin. After an initial semester of tuition assistance, enrollees will pay in-state tuition rates.

Mark Delorey, financial aid and scholarships, says recently discharged students often are ready to begin their studies but can’t cover both tuition and living expenses because their VA benefits haven’t begun or haven’t been in place long enough.

“This creates a cash flow problem, and they have difficulties paying their first-semester bill,” Delorey says. “That’s a significant burden on returning veterans and one that is just not necessary.”

Spring luncheon reservations due

Reservations are due tomorrow for the Spring Awards Luncheon for professional support and administrative professional staff. The event is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 18, in the Bernhard Center’s North Ballroom. Interim President Diether H. Haenicke will be the featured guest. Details and a reservation form are available online at www.wmich.edu/psso.