



Western NEWS

For and about WMU faculty and staff

MARCH 29, 2007
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Haenicke schedules office hours

Interim President Diether H. Haenicke has set open office hours for 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 5, in his office on the third floor of the Seibert Administration building to give members of the University community the opportunity to drop by and discuss issues of interest. Anyone wishing to make a 10-minute appointment to speak with the president should contact Jon Andrews at jon.andrews@wmich.edu. Appointments also may be made by calling the Office of the President at 387-2351.

Western News to skip a week

Only one more issue of *Western News* will be published this spring. The last issue of the semester will come out on Thursday, April 12. *Western News* will resume its regular publication schedule on Thursday, May 10. During the hiatus, faculty and staff can keep up with everything happening around campus by visiting the WMU News Web site at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

WMU meets United Way goal

It has taken record time, but WMU has reached its 2006 United Way Campaign goal of \$215,000, reports Lynn Kelly-Albertson, Career and Student Employment Services. The final tally included nearly \$30,000 from emeriti and retirees as well as the first record of a student donating in the campuswide campaign. The bulk of the donations came from current employees, with slightly more than \$186,000 pledged.



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Relay for Life event starts soon

The annual Relay for Life, a 24-hour walk-a-thon benefiting the American Cancer Society, will be held noon Friday through noon Saturday, April 13-14, at Kanley Track. Goals for this year's event include having 60 or more teams participate and raising \$63,000.

The event draws participants and support from WMU students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as members of the local community. To register a team, join an existing team or make a contribution, visit the Relay for Life of WMU Web site at www.acsevents.org/relay/mi/wmu.

This year's event will include a variety of entertainment. There also will be a Survivor Ceremony Friday evening, April 13, at the track. To sign up for the ceremony, e-mail WMU Colleges Against Cancer at cac_wmu@yahoo.com. Contributions to the American Cancer Society may be made online through Relay for Life of WMU Web site or mailed, along with checks payable to the American Cancer Society, to Relay for Life of WMU, American Cancer Society, 5110 S. Sprinkle Rd., Portage MI 49002-2050.

Startup outgrows Innovation Center space

A Kalamazoo life science startup founded by former Pharmacia scientists has outgrown its space in the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center and will build its own new facility at WMU's Business Technology and Research Park.

Groundbreaking for the new home of Kalexsyn Inc. took place March 27 at the BTR Park, with guests from around the state in attendance. The Kalexsyn site is a three-acre parcel located at the southeast corner of the park next to Thermo-Fisher Scientific, formerly Richard-Allen Scientific.

Kalexsyn, a contract medicinal chemistry firm working in the pharmaceutical industry, was founded in 2003 by Chief Executive Officer David Zimmerman and Robert Gadwood. The two Pharmacia scientists chose to stay in Kalamazoo when their division was moved.

Working in partnership with Rockford Development of Grand Rapids, the firm will build a 20,000-square-foot building with room for expansion on a new cul-de-sac at the BTR Park. The move will allow the young firm to expand its staff of 15 chemists to about 32 and should lead to increased possibilities for student internships and faculty collaborations.



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WMU leaders take appropriations funding battle to Capitol

The campaign against separate funding for Michigan's public universities continued in Lansing March 21, with WMU Provost Janet I. Pisaneschi joining presidents and vice presidents from other Michigan universities to make their case to legislators and Lt. Gov. John Cherry.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's budget proposal would permanently separate the funding for Michigan's three largest universities from that of Michigan's 12 other public universities. The move is being promoted by Michigan State University, Wayne State University and the University of Michigan, which say they deserve more state support because of the economic impact they wield as a result of the scope of their research.

Nine of the 12 other public universities have formed TEAM—The Education Alliance for Michigan—to fight the idea. U of M's Dearborn and Flint campuses along with Northern Michigan University have declined to participate. The TEAM position is that Michigan's strength is in having all 15 public universities valued for the work they do for Michigan's future and to oppose any effort that would lead to a two-tier funding system.

On March 21, participating presidents and vice presidents from the other campuses met at the state capitol for a day of media interviews and visits to legislative leaders to ask for support to defeat the proposal. After a late morning meeting with the lieutenant governor, the group held a press briefing and was joined by phone by more of the state's university leaders.

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StoryCorps oral history project signing up Kalamazoo-area residents

Local residents began signing up Thursday, March 22, to be interviewed by StoryCorps, a national oral history project hosted here in April by WMU's public radio station WMUK.

The StoryCorps MobileBooth, a refitted AirStream trailer, will be parked at the east end of Bronson Park April



The National Public Radio oral history booth will be set up soon in Kalamazoo's Bronson Park. (Photo courtesy of NPR)

5 to 28 to capture interviews, portions of which will be broadcast on WMUK and possibly on National Public Radio. People interested in telling their stories should register for an appointment by visiting the project's Web site at www.storycorps.net or by calling (800) 850-4406. The StoryCorps MobileBooth will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

A trained StoryCorps facilitator will guide the interview and handle all of the technical aspects involved in recording the personal histories. At the end of a 40-minute session,

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Around Campus

Election discussion tonight

David Rohde from Duke University will discuss the implications of November's midterm elections during the 2006-07 Samuel I. Clark Lecture at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium.

New business speaker tapped

Due to an emergency, a new speaker has been lined up for the Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series talk at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Schneider. Jack A. Gregory, the managing director for Global Professional Services at Moody's KMV, is the new speaker.

Nobel winner to speak Friday

Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu Tum will present a free, public talk on "Healing Communities Torn by Racism and Violence" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 30, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. Menchu is the featured guest at the fifth Annual Great Lakes PeaceJam Youth Conference Saturday and Sunday, March 31-April 1, at WMU.

Mead film festival this weekend

WMU is hosting the Margaret Mead Traveling Film and Video Festival, the nation's longest-running showcase for international documentaries, Friday and Saturday, March 30-31, in the Little Theatre. For details, visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news and click on "Events."

Rehm visit postponed till fall

The free talk by National Public Radio star Diane Rehm planned for April 2 has been postponed until Tuesday, Sept. 25.

Literary scholar visiting campus

Peter Manning from Stony Brook University, a Romanticism scholar and Byron and Wordsworth expert, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, on Sprau Tower's 10th floor as part of the English department's Scholarly Speaker Series.

Japanese series slates lectures

Tamotsu Shinotsuka, consul general of Japan for Michigan and Ohio, will be one of two speakers on campus this month as part of the Soga Lecture Series.

Shinotsuka will address "United States-Japan Relations and East Asia" at 5 p.m. Monday, April 9, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium.

On Wednesday, April 11, Susan Long, professor of anthropology at John Carroll University, will lecture on "End of Life Decisions and Japanese Culture" at 2 p.m. in 3301 Friedmann.

Emeriti Council meets April 11

The Emeriti Council's April program, "Hindus in Kalamazoo?," will be presented by Nancy Falk, emerita in comparative religion at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, in the Heinig Emeriti Lounge on the second floor of Walwood Hall. This slide-illustrated talk will introduce attendees to several local Hindu communities.

Nursing home care examined

There will be a showing of the PBS documentary "Almost Home," followed by a panel discussion, starting at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, in 4010 of the College of Health and Human Services building. Those planning to attend should call 387-7260. For film details, visit www.almosthomedoc.org.

Artist gets Fulbright grant

Jeffrey Bucker Abshear, art, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to study printing, binding and papermaking, and will leave in May for a four-month residency at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice, Italy. Abshear will be focusing his research on fine letterpress production.

During his stay, he will examine historical and contemporary handmade books, visit with printmakers and book artists, build collective relationships, and tour typesetting facilities, private presses and bookbinding and papermaking companies.

Abshear has been an instructor since 1996. He earned a graduate degree in printmaking and painting from WMU and also teaches at the Interlochen Center for the Arts. He is founder and president of the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center. His work has been shown in scores of individual and group exhibits.

Writer wins regional award

Elena Adkins, Writing Center, has tied for selection as the 2007 East Central Writing Centers Association Outstanding Tutor of the Year award. The



Adkins

honor recognizes innovative approaches to tutoring, the quality of work accomplished with writers and the articulation of a tutoring philosophy.

Adkins, a master's in English education student from Battle Creek, Mich., has been tutoring for the Writing Center for the past five years, first as an undergraduate student and now as a graduate assistant.

In her nomination, Adkins was praised as being the Writing Center's best tutor. She was cited for her knowledge about writing, patient and supportive demeanor, and teaching effectiveness as well as for being a leader within the center, organizing tutor group presentations at professional conferences and mentoring new tutors.

Math prof helps crack puzzle

Annegret Paul, mathematics, is part of an 18-member international team that recently solved one of the toughest problems



Paul

in mathematics. After four years of intensive collaboration, Paul and her fellow mathematicians and computer scientists successfully mapped a 120-year-old puzzle by mapping a theoretical object known as "Lie

(pronounced Lee) group E8."

The team was convened by the American Institute of Mathematics in Palo Alto, Calif., and the National Science Foundation is funding the Atlas of Lie Groups Project. Lie groups were invented by a 19th-century mathematician to express the symmetry of three-dimensional objects such as spheres and cylinders. E8 is the most sophisticated Lie group with 248 dimensions, and it was long considered impossible to solve.

Mapping E8 is a "stepping stone," says Paul, who came to WMU in 1999, and could lead to discoveries in mathematics, physics and other fields and new technology.

Register by April 15 to attend Medieval Congress for free

Area residents are encouraged to register for the Medieval Congress.

As in years past, congress registration is free for Kalamazoo residents, as long as they register by April 15. A \$25 late fee is assessed after April 15.

May 10 through 13, thousands interested



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WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced every Monday on the human resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/job.htm and the Applicant Information Service phone line at 387-3669. Applications are accepted for posted jobs only and must be submitted by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included on each posting.



Phoning initiative helps increase spring semester enrollment

Telephone conversations with prospective international students in their native languages have helped net a 100-percent increase in the number of new overseas students who enrolled at WMU this spring compared to last year.

Rebecca Solomon, International Services and Student Affairs, says the telephone recruitment initiative began at the start of the 2006-07 academic year, and 121 new students were enrolled this spring, double the spring 2006 enrollment of 60 students.

"This is the highest enrollment of new international students for spring that we've seen in the last seven years," Solomon says.

Under the recruitment initiative, ISSA hired six enrolled international students to make personal phone calls to selected prospective students from other countries. The prospects were a mix of students who had never applied to WMU and students

who already had been accepted to the University.

ISSA's Juan Tavares, initiative coordinator, says the personal chats offer a way to encourage the students to consider enrolling at WMU or its Career English Language Center for International Students.

"It's great to hear the students speaking in their native languages to a prospect," Tavares says, "and the prospective students are excited to hear from current WMU students."

The six student recruiters are in the process of calling some 3,000 prospective interna-



Student recruiters and WMU staff members have come calling. (Photo by Shannon Hill)

tional students who could begin attending WMU in fall 2007.

The recruiters are Naamini Mngangwone of Tanzania, Hashim Alsharif of Saudi Arabia, Nithin Kolencherry of India, Tieng Lau of Malaysia, Jinhui Liu of China and Kaori Nakamoto of Japan.

WMU enrolls more than 1,000 international students from some 80 countries. The top-five countries typically sending students to the University, in descending order, are: India, Japan, Malaysia, China and Canada.

Service

30 Years—Carolyn E. Cardwell, counselor education and counseling psychology; Margie P. Johnson, dining services-Valley #2; and Carol A. Morris-Mier, College of Education.

25 Years—Jean E. Bowsky-Verschhoff, Bernhard Center; Robert L. Campbell, student financial aid and scholarships; Linda Law, health, physical education and recreation; Vernon Payne, Division of Student Affairs; and Daniel Tinkler, physical plant-power plant.

20 Years—Timothy J. Bowers, physical plant-landscape services; Nancy E. Cretsinger, Office of the Provost; Charlene Renner, University Libraries; Joanne K. VandenBerg, Extended University Programs; and Camela S. Vossen, public safety.

15 Years—Shelley S. Grant, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Beverly J. Houseman, physical plant-landscape services; and Dorothy Williams, public safety.

10 Years—Suzanne V. Beals, Development Office; Michael F. DeBlecourt, Fetzer Center; Mary J. Devenney, Unified Clinics; Joyann L. Gosa, WMU Bookstore; Rob Pennock, Miller Auditorium; and Kristi L. Schutter, university budgets.

5 Years—Daniel J. Chapo, payroll; Erik Conover, information technology; Patricia Hollahan, Medieval Institute; and Janet M. Marcuse, Miller Auditorium.

'Respecting Differences' program focuses on Native Peoples

Native American peoples and cultures will be the focus of this year's annual "Respecting Differences" program. The 2007 presentation, "Indigenous PC: Political Correctness or Plain Courtesy," will take place at 1:30 p.m. Monday, April 16, and 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 17, in Kalamazoo's Chenery Auditorium, 714 S. Westnedge Ave.

The free program is part of the "Respecting Differences" lecture series, a communitywide collaboration to heighten awareness of diversity issues in the workplace. The series is sponsored by WMU and several other area institutions.

Making this year's presentation will be Suzan Shown Harjo, president and executive director of the Morning Star Institute, a national Native rights organization founded in 1984.

WMU faculty and staff members are encouraged to attend Harjo's presentation. A postcard-sized "ticket" for the program will be sent through campus mail the week of April 1. Although the program is free, faculty and staff should bring their tickets to the event. For more information, call WMU's Felicia Crawford at 387-3635.



Spring Finals Finish takes on new look, seeks volunteers



Campus and community volunteers will be helping WMU students get through their final exams during the 11th annual Finals Finish from 6 to 11 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, in the Student Recreation Center.

In past academic years, Finals Finish was a two-day affair held only in conjunction with spring final exams. Now, it has become a one-day affair during both fall and spring exams.

The free event allows students to use the SRC as a late night study and recreation area. Volunteers are again needed to sign up to work a two-hour block of time from 6 to 8 p.m. or 8 to 10 p.m. To volunteer, visit the Web site at www.finalsfinish.wmich.edu or contact Sue Oole at sue.oole@wmich.edu or 387-3233.

Obituaries

Ralph Clark Chandler, a retired professor of public affairs and political science and a former director of the School of Public Affairs and Administration, died March 17. He was 73.



Chandler

Chandler, who came to WMU in 1976 and retired in 2000, was well-known around campus and in the community. His career included more than 30 years of teaching experience in the areas of constitutional law, civil rights, the political process and race relations, and he was recognized for his efforts to promote public understanding of the U.S. Constitution.

He received numerous honors from WMU

and local and state organizations, including a Teaching Excellence Award from the WMU Alumni Association and recognition from the State Bar of Michigan for contributions toward furthering the understanding of the justice system and the rights of citizens.

Chandler wrote more than 100 articles and wrote or co-wrote more than 23 books, including several volumes of "The Constitutional Law Dictionary."

Arthur Snapper, retired professor of psychology, died Saturday, March 12. He was 72.

Snapper was a psychology faculty member from 1971 to 1984. He was instrumental in the training of numerous department alumni as well as actively involved in laboratory research on basic principles of behavior and behavioral pharmacology.

The Milwaukee native also was an innovator in the development of computer programming for operant research and made significant contributions to the behavior analysis field.

He and a colleague were widely known for developing a new notational language called Superskred that was used by some 100 laboratories worldwide.

Snapper was a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and co-founded the Association for Behavior Analysis in 1974. He received several National Institute of Mental Health grants, including a Career Research Scientist Award.

He also was founder and CEO of State Systems Inc., a computer software, interfacing and consulting business, from 1973 to 1995, when he fully retired.

On Campus with John Winchell



ROOTED IN THE PAST
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Every work day, John Winchell rifles through history.

As archives curator in WMU Archives and Regional History Collections, Winchell preserves information about the University—it's records, history and scholarship—and properly disposes of the reams of materials his unit receives.

"Some people don't realize that the archives are separate from the regional history collections," he says. "The archives only deal with WMU. The regional collections are part of the state depository system and contain historical materials from 12 southwest Michigan counties."

In addition to hiring and supervising student employees, Winchell does his regular rotation on the combined unit's reference desk, so he's well versed in both of its areas. But his focus is on the archives, which are primarily composed of photos, publications, policy-related information, correspondence, annual reports, and minutes, including those of WMU-sanctioned student organizations.

Winchell explains that University guidelines dictate which materials will be preserved and for how long. Roughly 60 percent of what's received will eventually be shredded, he says, but the remaining 40 percent tells WMU's unbroken story.

"I really like working with the patrons who come in, whether they're from the University or the community," Winchell says. "I enjoy helping them with their research. People come in from across campus and all over southwest Michigan. It provides a lot of interaction as well as variety."

He says the biggest challenge is moving from a paper to an electronic world. "I'll sometimes stare at a CD and wonder, 'Will we have the software and hardware to read this in 10 or 15 years?'"

Winchell came to WMU in 1986 as a master's student in history and earned his degree in 1989. He was hired full time as night supervisor for the Education Library in 1990, then moved to his current post in 2000.

He says he enjoys spending his free time with his wife, Kathy, a WMU alumna, and his son and daughter, Colin and Emma. "I play a little softball in the summers," he notes, "but my kids' activities are my activities right now."

StoryCorps project continued from page 1

participants walk away with a CD recording of the interview, and with their permission, a copy of the CD is sent to the Library of Congress for preservation.



The StoryCorps MobileBooth provides a quiet and comfortable place for guests to record their oral histories. (Photo courtesy of National Public Radio)

In addition, StoryCorps shares interview excerpts every Friday during NPR's "Morning Edition."

StoryCorps is a creation of Sound Portraits Productions, an independent production company based in New York City. Modeled after the Works Progress Administration of the 1930s, the national project aims to instruct and inspire people to record each others' stories in sound.

Like the WPA's Federal Writers' Project, the oral histories gathered by StoryCorps will be stored at the Library of Congress. Unlike the WPA, StoryCorps is inviting people to interview one another rather than employ writers to collect these stories.

Producer David Isay started the project in 2003, opening a soundproof "StoryBooth" in New York's Grand Central Station. In 2005, the project hit the road for its first national tour with two custom-built "MobileBooth" trailers. Within a decade, Isay hopes to travel around the country collecting the stories of more than 250,000 Americans.

Startup outgrows space continued from page 1

Bob Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach and point person for BTR Park development, says the Kalexsyn announcement could signal the next wave of life science development in the community.

"This is what we were always after," Miller says. "The private sector, individuals, the state, the city, the county and WMU all invested in the park and in the Innovation Center with this in mind. We wanted a place where companies could get started, grow to the point at which they can pay taxes and boost the local economy, and move into larger quarters. Now we can bring in more companies and start the process again."

WMU leaders continue battle continued from page 1

"This is a move that is ultimately unwise, an approach that will be fateful and, once taken, a step that would be irrevocable," WMU President Diether H. Haenicke told the gathering by phone.

Pisaneschi told assembled reporters that ultimately, in addition to inequitable funding, the move could force greater differentiation of mission among public universities.

"Currently, we make strategic decisions based on our mission and what we perceive as our value to the state," she said. "Disparate funding and treatment might force us to reconsider whether we can continue programs and services that are part of our mission and of great value to Michigan."

IN THE ZOME—David Richter (far right), mathematics, created a large Zome model March 24. In what he characterized as a Zome "barn raising," Richter assembled a team in the Lee Honors College to build a physical structure that represents an arrangement of 120 identical objects in four-dimensional space. While the geometric design Richter used has existed for about 150 years, it was the first time a Zome or any other three-dimensional model has been completed from this particular design. The word Zome is a fusion of the words zone and dome. The underlying geometry of Zome is based on a system of 31 families, called zones, of mutually parallel lines. The word dome comes from the fact that the Zome was originally designed in the 1960s as a building framework by an architect. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

