Startup outgrows Innovation Center space

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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.

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 Kanesy 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.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

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 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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Marking a new chapter in the company’s history, Kalexsyn Inc. will move into 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.

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.

StoryCorps Mobile Booth, a reconditioned AirStream trailer, will be parked at the east end of Bronson Park April 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.org or by calling (701) 850-4406. The StoryCorps Mobile Booth 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,
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 KVM, 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 Peace Jam 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.

**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 to attend Medieval Congress for free. This year’s congress, the 43rd, is free for Kalamazoo residents, as long as they register by April 15.

**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.

**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 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.

**Jobs**
Current job opportunities at WMU are announced every Monday on the human resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/jobs.htm and the Applicant Information Service voice 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.

**Math prof helps crack puzzle**
Annette Paul, mathematics, is part of an 18-member international team that recently solved one of the toughest problems 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.”

**Artist gets Fulbright grant**
Jeffrey Backer Abshear, art, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to study printmaking 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 typecasting 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.
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 1,000 prospective international students who could begin attending WMU in fall 2007.

The recruiters are Naamini Mnangwone of Tanzania, Hashim Alsharif of Saudi Arabia, Nithin Kolencherry of India, Tieng Lau of Malaysia, Jinhui Liu of China and Kaoi 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.

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 SCA as a late night study and recreation area. Volunteers 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 w mich edu or contact Sue Oole at sue oole@wmich ed u 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, 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 Supersked 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.
Every work day, John Winchell riles 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."

**Startup outgrows space**

Bob Millet, WMU associate vice president for community outreach and point person for BTR Park development, says the Kalesyvion announcement could signal the next wave of life science development in the community. "This is what we were always after," Millet 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**

"This is a move that is ultimately unwise, an approach that will be futile and, once taken, a step that would be irrevocable," WMU President Dether 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."