Diane Rehm visit postponed

The free talk by National Public Radio star Diane Rehm has been postponed until April 2 due to illness. The host of the popular talk program “The Diane Rehm Show” has been rescheduled to speak at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 2, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom.

Richmond Center slates shows

The School of Art has opened three major exhibitions in its newly completed James W. and Lois J. Richmond Center for Visual Arts, which will be formally dedicated and open for tours starting at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 12. The center’s inaugural exhibitions highlight the capabilities of this sophisticated new cultural center.

On display through March 24 in the DeVries Student Gallery are works in the “Annual School of Art Student Exhibitions.” The other shows through April 7. They are “Contemporary Prints from the University Art Collection” in the Netzorg/Kerr Gallery and “Distinguished Alumni from WMU’s School of Art” in the Albright Monteiro-Green Gallery. For more information, call the art school’s exhibitions office at 387-2455.

March event honors top seniors

WMU will recognize its 46 top senior students during the 27th annual Presidential Scholars Convocation Thursday, March 22, in the Fetzer Center. Each year, faculty members select the most outstanding seniors to represent their various academic units as a WMU Presidential Scholar, the highest academic award the University can bestow to an undergraduate.

The convocation, which is by invitation only, will include a program featuring President Emeritus and Interim President Diether H. Haenicke. Faculty Senate Vice President Emeritus Diether H. Haenicke. Faculty Senate Vice President John Jellies, biological sciences, will preside over the event.

Broncos set academic records

Basketball center Joe Reitz, a Fishers, Ind., junior with a 3.72 grade point average in finance, has been named to the ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America First Team and the Naismith Academic First Team. Reitz is WMU’s first men’s basketball player to be named to the First Team Academic All-America and only the seventh player in Mid-American Conference history picked for this squad.

In fall 2006, two student-athletes were named District IV Academic First and Third Team selections while seven others made MAC academic teams. Overall, Bronco student-athletes earned a composite 3.05 GPA for fall semester and 168 students made the Bronco Academic Honor Roll for attaining a fall GPA of 3.2 or better. The top team composite was recorded by women’s (3.56) and men’s (3.45) tennis, gymnastics (3.40) and volleyball (3.32).

Program connects alumni with prospective students

Instead of just receiving a letter notifying them of their accomplishment, some 9,000 of this year’s admitted students will also receive a postcard and personal congratulations from a WMU graduate.

More than 550 alumni are participating in the 2-year-old postcard campaign under the WMU Alumni Association’s Alumni Admissions Ambassador program.

To connect graduates with high school seniors who have been accepted to the University, the initiative uses colorful 5-by-7-inch postcards that feature collages of students, faculty and buildings. Along with the cards, which are provided by the Alumni Association, program participants are given names and addresses of admitted students, suggested messages and even stamps.

The ambassadors send postcards to about 10 admitted students each month from January through March.

Hardy Figueroa, Alumni Association, says the mailing initiative is part of a program established more than a decade ago that also recruits alumni volunteers to represent the University at four to five national college fairs that are selected by the Office of Admissions.

Alumni response to the expanded effort has been extremely positive, Figueroa adds, noting that such outreach is in line with the University’s efforts to recruit and retain students.

“Our volunteers...want to help the University in other ways, through time, energy and contributing to the University’s priorities,” Figueroa says.

President Haenicke pans higher education funding proposal

“ar bad idea whose time has come.”

That’s how President Diether H. Haenicke characterized part of the governor’s budget proposal that would permanently separate the funding for Michigan’s three largest universities from that of Michigan’s 12 other public universities.

Speaking at a hearing of the Michigan House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education March 2 at the University of Michigan-Flint, Haenicke was blunt in his assessment of how such a move would lead to greater funding disparities between the two groups of universities, ultimately damaging Michigan’s higher education system and hurting Michigan students.

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 their scale of research. The scheme, Haenicke said, was triggered by the state’s current economic woes, and a desire by some to carve up scarce resources. He urged the subcommittee to resist falling prey to “a bad idea.”

“It’s like driving a car into the future and deciding to maintain only the cylinders,” he told the panel. Such a move, he said, would jeopardize the state’s ability to increase its number of public universities.

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Army grant helps fund lab

WMU researchers are working with a $190,200 U.S. Army grant to create an environmental physiology laboratory that will be the only one of its kind in Michigan.

The grant is from the Department of Defense Army Research Office and is part of the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program.

Health, physical education and recreation faculty members have used the funding to buy and install diagnostic equipment and create a state-of-the-art lab in which the effects of heat and cold can be measured in combination with other variables, such as nicotine intake.

The environmental physiology lab is housed in the Student Recreation Center. Chris Cheatham, the grant’s principal investigator, is being assisted by Timothy Michael, co-principal investigator.
David Huffman, chemistry, has received two grants to fund research toward understanding the cellular acquisition of copper and how in-born defects of this process lead to a rare disease.

The National Science Foundation awarded Huffman $959,000 to conduct research on the molecular details of copper transport, while the Wilson Disease Association awarded him $30,000—the first grant awarded by the association—to help study the mutations of the protein that causes the rare Wilson Disease.

The five-year NSF grant was made through the NSF’s Faculty Early Career Development Program, known as the CAREER Program, which recognizes and supports the early career work of teachers-scholars who are expected to become the academic leaders of the 21st century. CAREER grants are among NSF’s most prestigious and competitive grants.

Huffman’s CAREER project, “Characterizing the Mechanism of Copper Exchange in Copper Transfer Proteins,” looks at how copper-transporting proteins interact with each other to make sure that copper reaches its correct target in the cell.

Huffman is working with a team of six graduate students, three undergraduates and one local high school student to explain the chemical details of copper transport and to understand how defects in this process can lead to Wilson Disease, a rare affliction occurring in only about 1 in 30,000 people.

Portions of the grant will be used to train local high school teachers to promote science careers to students, develop a career component within the University’s biochemistry curriculum and create partnerships with universities in Kenya to foster student training and faculty exchanges with WMU.

Before joining WMU’s faculty in 2001, Huffman spent seven years at Northwestern University conducting postdoctoral work in bioinorganic chemistry. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Bob Jones University, a master’s degree from Illinois State University and a doctoral degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**WMUK pledge week to start**

WMUK is encouraging listener support before and during its Spring 2007 Pledge Drive, which will begin Saturday morning, March 24, during “Weekend Edition.”

Gordon Bolz, station development director, says gifts made prior to the beginning of pledge drives account for 40-50 percent of the money raised in each campaign and allow the station to return to its regular programming sooner.

Pledges to help WMUK reach its spring fund-raising goal of $175,000 may be mailed or made online. The money raised will offset the cost of acquiring high-quality programs from National Public Radio and Public Radio International.

WMUK’s efforts to answer pledge calls during the drive will enlist the support of more than 90 volunteers. Those interested in volunteering can go to the volunteer section of the station’s Web site at www.wmuk.org.

**Exchange**

For rent—Rooms 10 minutes from WMU. Call 998-1349.

For more information on job opportunities at WMU, visit the WMU job board 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.

**Obituaries**

William A. Carlson, emeritus in counselor education and counseling psychology, died Feb. 14. He was 80.

Carlson, who was a recent resident of Roland Park Place retirement community in Baltimore, Md., served on WMU’s faculty for 25 years. He joined the University in 1966 as an associate professor for counseling and personnel, was promoted to professor in 1970 and retired with emeritus status in 1991.

A member of the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1944 to 1946, Carlson worked as a counseling and clinical psychologist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Danville, Ill., from 1961 through 1966.

For much of this time, he was head of the hospital’s psychiatric unit.

Carlson’s accomplishments include beginning studies at the C.G. Jung Institute in 1981 and remaining active there until the late 1990s. In addition, he was a past vice chairman of the Michigan Board of Psychology and designated one of its Master Lecturers in 1990.

During his time with the board and as a charter member of the American Psychological Association, he was instrumental in supporting ethical standards and developing counseling programs. He had 15 publications in various areas of psychology, was twice elected president of the Southwest Michigan Psychological Association and was named Western Michigan Psychological Association Psychologist of the Year in 1978.
Program connects alumni

“The mailing initiative cannot have a negative impact. At the very least, students are receiving a personal message from a proud alum telling them congratulations. At the very best, it can make them feel welcome and help enroll students.”

Future students who have received the cards in the past have appreciated the personal approach and contact, reports Paula Nahernak, a senior who has worked on the program for the past two years as a student intern.

“When freshmen are looking at going to college, they’re looking for something to help them fit in,” says Nahernak, who will graduate in August with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

“Western’s a good place to work. I’ve enjoyed the staff and students and the benefits here are unheard of compared to the private sector,” he says. “What keeps you young isn’t the food or cooking—it’s the people.”

Adduci helps oversee the total Davis Dining Service operation. His responsibilities range from planning the menu to snuff to supervising student workers and seeing to it that the cafeteria opens on time. He also does the paperwork associated with some of the food ordering and monitoring of food usage rates.

Like WMU’s other dining services managers, Adduci alternates his schedule so he gets a taste of all aspects of the dining hall. He works the 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. opening shift one week, then the 11 a.m. to 7:30 or 8 p.m. closing shift the next week.

“The 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. hours of operation and the variety of food choices are amazing compared to when I was going to school,” notes Adduci, who will turn 60 in August. “I love what I do, but getting up at four in the morning to drive the 30 miles from Decatur is a challenge now.”

Adduci, whose mother is a WMU alumna, has two children. When his daughter was born, he took five years off work to be “Mr. Mom” as well as to care for his invalid father. “Basically, I’m just a leisurely guy who enjoys my work and family,” Adduci says.