Memorial planned for Bernhard

Ramona Bernhard, WMU’s first lady for 11 years, died Oct. 13 in Kalamazoo at age 86. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, in the Bernhard Center, which is named in honor of the late John T. Bernhard, Ramona’s husband for 62 years and WMU’s fourth president.

The family has suggested memorial donations be made to the WMU College of Fine Arts and the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League. For more information about Bernhard’s life and accomplishments, visit the WMU News Web site at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

Trustees meeting set for Friday

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet Friday, Oct. 20, in 157 Bernhard Center. The board’s formal public session will be held at 10:30 a.m. Items on the agenda include a resolution regarding the presidential search, recommendations for honorary degree recipients, property agreements, and the policy on student criminal background checks and drug testing.

Reception marks Haenicke’s return

Faculty and staff are reminded that there will be a welcome back reception for Interim President Diether H. Haenicke from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. For more information, call 387-2360.

Holiday parade helpers needed

Staff, faculty and students are invited to promote WMU by supporting the University’s entry in the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade Saturday, Nov. 4. Volunteers are needed to decorate a float and/or participate in the 1-mile-long parade. Donations are being accepted, as are candy canes and suggestions for items carrying the WMU logo that can be handed out during the parade.

The float will be assembled Nov. 1 and 2 in the logistical services building. To get times and other details, or to volunteer or donate, call Carrie Soule at 387-6025 or Dori LaChance at 387-4309.

Flu clinic coming up on Nov. 9

Campuswide meningitis and influenza vaccination clinics have been scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, in 157, 158 and 159 Bernhard Center and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, in the College of Health and Human Services building. Injectable influenza, FluMist and meningitis vaccinations will be available. For more information, including costs, call the Sindecuse Health Center at 387-3287.

Bronco Biodiesel to fuel Kalamazoo buses

Kalamazoo citizens could breathe cleaner air, ride more efficient public transit and see their tax dollars stretched farther, as city buses begin using a WMU fuel product generated from one of the least-used sources of biodiesel—waste grease from restaurants.

The City of Kalamazoo announced Oct. 13 it will begin piloting Bronco Biodiesel in Metro Transit busses. Bronco Biodiesel is the brainchild of a group of WMU faculty members, who secured development funds earlier this year through the President’s Innovation Fund. They will produce as much as 100,000 gallons of the product by recycling restaurant trap grease through a facility at the Kalamazoo Wastewater Reclamation Plant. Bronco Biodiesel is hoping to be in full production by spring.

The move could make Kalamazoo the first community in the continental United States to use trap grease as a fuel source and could establish a model for alternative energy use and university/community cooperation that other cities can emulate. The city expects to begin using the fuel in about a quarter of its 20-bus fleet early in 2007.

“This is a model of biodiesel production that could be exported to any municipality,” says Steve Berman, chemistry and co-director of Bronco Biodiesel. “This is an effort that’s complementary, not competitive with other biodiesel produc-
Around Campus

Events aimed at ballot initiative

The pros and cons of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, a proposed amendment to the state constitution, will be debated during a debate forum at 7:30 p.m. tonight in 242 Bernhard Center.

The campus community is invited to a talk on the same initiative at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center given by the directors of the University of Michigan’s Center for the Education of Women.

Sichel lectures all about time

The economic implications of how Americans spend their time is the theme of the 2006-07 Werner Sichel Lecture Series. The series kicks off at 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, in 3508 of Knauss with a presentation on “The Economics of Time Use.”

Scholar looks at gender issues

Zulakha Umanova, a visiting Fulbright Scholar from Khujand University in Khujand, Tajikistan, will speak on “Gender Issues in Central Asia” at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, in the Brown and Gold Room of the Bernhard Center. The talk will address the function of gender in Islam.

Tech endorsement offered

Fall sessions for the Academic eTeaching Endorsement Program will take place from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday from Oct. 24 through Dec. 5 in 3310 Sangren. A few more faculty members can be accommodated in the fall sessions.

Make a Difference Award nominations for staff due Oct. 31

Nominations for the fall round of WMU’s semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Tuesday Oct. 31, 2006.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards that go to non-faculty employees who provide exceptional services to the University.

Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected receive a certificate and a $250 prize and are recognized at a special reception. They may win the award more than once, but are limited to one award per academic year. Annual Make a Difference awards include a $1,000 prize that goes to each year’s four most outstanding semiannual award winners. More information and nomination forms are available online at www.wmich.edu/makeadifference. Nominations also may be submitted by e-mail to Make-A-Difference@wmich.edu or campus mail to Mail Stop Code 5216.

The e-teaching program is being offered through Academic Technology and Instructional Services. For details or to register, contact Timmy Douglas at (269) 387-0257 or by e-mail, t.douglas@wmich.edu.

Families headed to Kalamazoo

Many students’ families and friends will call campus home during the annual Family Weekend from Friday through Sunday, Oct. 27-29. The event honors the commitment parents and guardians show to WMU and their students and lets family members of all ages get a taste of university life.

Students set for Halloween

The annual student Haunted Hall will be staged from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27-28, in Eldridge/FOX Hall. Food and money collected during the Haunted Hall will be donated to charity. There will be a free Kids Section open from 6 to 9 p.m. during the event.

Emeriti Council slates speaker

Monica Nahm will be the featured speaker at the Wednesday II program sponsored by the Emeriti Council from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the Heining Emeriti Lounge on the second floor of Walwood Hall’s west wing. Nahm will share some of the discoveries she made and surprises she encountered while conducting research for the book “Saga of the Italian Peninsula: People and Places.”

Make-A-Difference@wmich.edu
Steve T. Czuhajewski died Sept. 2 in Kalamazoo. He was 85.
Czuhajewski was born in Illinois and was a maintenance worker at WMU, retiring in 1982.
A World War II veteran, Czuhajewski served in the U.S. Army as a radio operator in the European Theatre. He was a member and past commander of the American Legion and instrumental in starting the American Legion Nursing Scholarship.

Elaine M. Hurst died Sept. 1 in Kalamazoo. She was 86.
Hurst was a librarian at WMU from 1954 to 1966 and moved to Nazareth College in Kalamazoo in 1966 for the last 19 years of her career.
The St. Joseph, Mich., native earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from WMU in 1942, and later returned to the University to complete a master's degree in chemistry. She earned a doctoral degree in botany from Michigan State University in 1965.

Richard D. Snyder died Sept. 25. He was 74.
Snyder came to WMU in 1988 as director of Miller Auditorium and was responsible for all of the facility's operations and programming. He retired in 2002 after 12 years of service to the University.
Previously, he had been a theatre planning and promotions consultant as well as the head or day-to-day director of performance facilities in New York, Minnesota and Iowa. Earlier in his career, he taught at Indiana University and was a high school music teacher in Indiana and Ohio.
Snyder earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio State University and a doctoral degree from Indiana University.
There will be a celebration of Snyder's life at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, in Miller Auditorium followed by a reception on the Grand Tier Lobby. The WMU community is invited to attend.

James M. Stephenson died Sept. 26. He was 79.
Stephenson joined WMU as director of support services in 1969 and left in 1975, returned in 1988 and retired in 2000 after 12 years of service as director of flexible spending account changes
Employees who wish to participate in a Flexible Spending Account in 2007 must enroll or re-enroll during open enrollment, Oct. 16 through 30. FSA offers an opportunity to use tax-free dollars to pay for qualified medical expenses not covered by insurance, or for dependent care expenses.

New participants and current participants who wish to continue their plans in 2007 must submit an enrollment form to human resources by 5 p.m., Oct. 30. This form is part of the Guide to BASIC Flex, available at www.wmich.edu/hr or in the human resources office, 1300 Seibert Administration Building.

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 387-3600. Applications are accepted for posted jobs only and must be submitted by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included on each posting.

Exchange

Human Resources
Health insurance elections
Open enrollment for health insurance begins Oct. 16 and continues until 5 p.m., Oct. 10, for American Association of University Professors faculty members; non-bargaining, Michigan State Employee's Association and Police Officer's Association employees; and WMU retirees.

During open enrollment, employees and retirees have the option of adding eligible dependents to their health insurance. Open enrollment health insurance elections are effective Jan. 1, 2007.
Detailed open enrollment information was mailed to home addresses of employees and retirees on Oct. 10. This information is also available at www.wmich.edu/hr.

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Exchange
On Campus with Laura Darrah

Laura Darrah doesn’t just feel at home on campus, she also makes the campus homey for some 5,000 students each year.

As an assistant director of the Office of Residence Life, Darrah helps keep WMU’s 13 residence halls and their myriad academic and social programs running smoothly. One of her primary functions is creating, maintaining and growing the University’s living/learning environments within the residence hall system.

Additionally, Darrah has been coordinating the Parents Association for three years; supervises four hall directors; oversees residence life’s marketing, publicity and Web initiatives; and handles a host of “odds and ends” and phone inquiries.

“You have to know a lot, but knowledge translates into providing service,” she says. “There’s an increased emphasis on service. I’m very excited for what the future holds—the whole campus is moving forward and in a more personable way.”

Darrah came to WMU from Virginia Tech in 2003 with nine years of housing experience in higher education. A Missouri native, she previously held student and professional posts in Wisconsin, Alaska and Oklahoma. But she says she was ready to settle in for a lengthy stay immediately after interviewing at WMU.

“The people I met were wonderful and now, I have colleagues throughout campus. I really feel like I have a family here,” she says. “I get to create and do new things and to work with staff and students on programs that promote personal growth and learning. It’s all about something bigger than yourself.”

The Portage resident adds that she also likes the ever-changing nature of her job and working with students, parents and the University community.

“Someone told me if you turn your hobby into your career, you’re happy forever,” she says. “I did, and I am. I enjoy what I do and the impact I can make.”

A newly licensed foster mom, Darrah provides short-term respite care for foster families and hopes to adopt a foster child within the next few years. In the meantime, she’s raising two cats and enjoying perfecting her gardening, woodworking and photography skills.

Faculty Senate continued from page 1

international students; and rebuilding enrollment in Extended University Programs.

“Those goals must be incorporated into the broader programmatic plans and strategies developed by each college,” Pisaneschi said. “The basic premise of our planning is that the colleges and the Office of Enrollment Management will be pivotal in achieving those goals.”

As part of the plan, Pisaneschi announced the launch this week of a short-term or interim campaign that will focus on recruitment in all student classifications, enrollment growth in targeted programs and retention of students through the use of creative strategies at the college level. That campaign, due to kick off Oct. 20, will be led by a coordinator to whom academic units will submit retention plans.

Pisaneschi also called for implementation of a University Enrollment Management Plan to be developed by a broadly representative planning committee, as outlined in the SimpsonScarborough recommendations. She said that committee will begin meeting this week and will submit a draft enrollment plan by Nov. 30.

Tackling broader academic planning issues, Pisaneschi also urged colleges and departments to revisit the reports that grew out of last year’s Graduate Program Review.

“Many of the recommendations that came from the self-studies and the reports of the deans and faculty review teams are relevant to our current goals,” she noted. “A lot of work went into the process and those reports, and we need to revisit those recommendations.”

Pisaneschi said all decisions about ending or suspending programs made by the president and the Board of Trustees in July 2006 remain in effect. New degree programs or significant reorganizations suggested by the program review, if deemed appropriate by the college, must go through the University Curriculum Review process.

Archer Foundation awards $100,000 in scholarships

The Dennis W. Archer Foundation has awarded $100,000 in scholarships for the 2006-07 academic year.

Half of that amount went to 11 students from Detroit attending WMU and the other half to 10 students from Detroit attending Wayne State University.

This brings the total to 75 awards and $365,000 over the past six years since the Archer Foundation began contributing to scholarships, principally for Detroit students attending WMU and WSU and majoring primarily in areas dedicated to public service. Archer, formerly mayor of Detroit, received a bachelor’s degree from WMU in 1965 and an honorary doctor of laws degree in 1987. He currently serves on the WMU Board of Trustees.

Defense grants continued from page 1

director of the Nanotechnology Research and Computation Center.

Muralidharan’s nanosensors will be small enough that they could be embedded in uniform fabric and even the paint on military vehicles.

Another $1 million award for WMU’s Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation—known as CAViDS—will be used to develop applied research simulation capability that will lead to improved reliability and performance for military ground vehicles. The center, which is part of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, was launched last year in partnership with the automotive industry. It is under the direction of William Liou, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

CAViDS will develop simulations that allow engineers to test vehicles quickly and assess such important issues as the impact of adding more protective armor.

Biodiesel continued from page 1

Biodiesel. We’re using trap grease, a source for fuel currently not being used. Right now, those are BTUs down the drain—literally.”

Project co-director Sarah Hill, anthropology, says brewing biodiesel from such waste could have a positive effect on city sewer and water rates, by preventing costly maintenance and clean-up problems. John Miller, chemistry and the third project co-director, adds that the city/University partnership will put Kalamazoo ahead of the game in building a sustainable urban environment.