



Western NEWS

For and about WMU faculty and staff

OCTOBER 19, 2006
volume 33, number 4

Memorial planned for Bernhard

Ramona Bernhard, WMU's first lady for 11 years, died Oct. 13 in Kalamazoo at age



Bernhard

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 387-6005 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 further, 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 Bertman, chemistry and co-director of Bronco Biodiesel. "This is an effort that's complementary, not competitive with other biodiesel produc-

continued on page 4



GREASING THE WHEELS—(Top photo) Steven Bertman should have been relaxing Oct. 14, savoring his recent gubernatorial appointment to the new Michigan Renewable Fuels Commission. Instead, he and other WMU faculty members were doing demonstrations at the National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Odyssey hosted by Kalamazoo Valley Community College. (Bottom photo) During a break in the odyssey activities, Bronco Biodiesel co-directors, from left, Sarah Hill, John Miller and Bertman show off how some of their handiwork will be used. (Photos by Cheryl P. Roland)

Two research projects funded by defense appropriations bill

Legislation signed into law by President George Bush includes \$2.3 million in funding for two WMU research initiatives that will lead to improved military vehicle designs and the development of tiny sensors capable of alerting troops to the presence of toxins.

Inclusion of the WMU projects in the U.S. Department of Defense 2007 Appropriations Bill was announced earlier this month by U.S. Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow.

The defense bill includes a \$1.3 million award for research that will focus on the development of small, lightweight sensors capable of rapid detection and measurement of toxins and a rapid display of light alerts that can immediately warn users of danger. The nanosensor project is under the direction of Subra Muralidharan, chemistry and

continued on page 4

Recruitment, retention plan outlined for Faculty Senate

Academic affairs has embraced the recruitment and retention recommendations shared with the campus community by consultants from SimpsonScarborough Sept. 22, and the recommendations will form the base for strategic planning at both the university and college levels, Provost Janet Pisaneschi told the Faculty Senate Oct. 12.

At the meeting, Pisaneschi shared a planning document based on the theme "Building a Culture of Student Success." The document outlines a process through which the University can meet the goals that have been articulated by Interim President Diether H. Haenicke. Those goals include: retaining 85 percent of the fall 2006 freshmen; increasing the yield rate for admitted freshmen and transfer students to 40 percent and 67 percent, respectively; increasing the number of new graduate students and new

continued on page 4

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 public 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 director 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

Zulaikho Usmanova, 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.

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

Families headed to Kalamazoo

Many students' families and friends will call campus home during the annual Family Festival 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 Wednesdays II program sponsored by the Emeriti Council from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the Heinig 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."

Bosco leads technology summit

James Bosco, WMU's coordinator for the "Kalamazoo Promise" initiative, played a key leadership role at "Global Summit 2006: Technology Connected Futures" Oct. 17 through 19 in Sydney, Australia. His position paper, "Tools, Culture and Education: Past-Present-Future" set the focus for the entire summit. In addition, Bosco moderated a number of sessions and received top speaker billing alongside Robert Cailliau, co-developer of the World Wide Web.



Bosco

Bosco came to WMU in 1965 and retired in 2004 as professor of educational studies and director of external technology affairs for the College of Education. This past March, he agreed to an initial two-year term as the University's Kalamazoo Promise coordinator. He remains active in state and national educational reform and technology efforts.

Football group honors Mathews

The All American Football Foundation presented its 2005-06 Outstanding Faculty Athletic Representative Award to Gary Mathews, professor and interim director of the School of Social Work. Mathews was honored Sept. 28 at a black tie dinner at the Chicago Athletic Club. He completed a three-year term in June as chair of the WMU Athletic Board and faculty athletic representative.



Mathews

A faculty member since 1976, Mathews has served on a broad range of campus committees and been a longtime advocate of campus wellness initiatives. He was president of the WMU AAUP chapter twice and earned the University's Distinguished Service Award in 2003. His long list of scholarly credits includes dozens of peer-reviewed or juried publications and service as managing editor of the *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*.

McGrew moves up in chess ranks

Tim McGrew, professor and chair of philosophy, finished this year's prestigious Michigan State Open Chess Championship in a three-way tie for first place. McGrew played brilliant chess during the open competition, overcoming some National Senior Chess Masters.

McGrew joined the faculty in 1995 and primarily researches epistemology, the history and the philosophy of science, and the philosophy of religion. He also has expertise as a chess commentator and in computer simulation of human intelligence. McGrew gained international fame in 1997 when he spotted a move during the Kasparov/Deep Blue chess tournament that would have forced a draw instead of Kasparov's defeat by IBM's Deep Blue computer.



McGrew

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.



EDITOR: Cheryl P. Roland. ISSUE EDITOR: Jeanne Baron.

CONTRIBUTORS: Jeanne Baron, Thomas A. Myers and Mark E. Schwerin. GRAPHIC DESIGN: Tammy M. Boneburg.

WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Western News*, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Fall publication dates are Sept. 7 and 21; Oct. 5 and 19; Nov. 2, 16 and 30; and Dec. 7. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail (cheryl.roland@wmich.edu).

WMU is an equal opportunity/employer/affirmative action institution.

Endowed business chair, three professorships named

The Haworth College of Business has established the National City Corp. Endowed Chair in Finance and Commercial Law. **Ajay Samant**, professor and chair of finance and commercial law, has been named to the new post.



Samant

In addition to the endowed chair, the college has announced three FCL professorships. The faculty members filling these posts are **Timothy Scheu**, the William Magel Professorship in Real Estate; **Judith Swisher**, the State Farm Professorship in Financial Services; and **Devrim Yaman**, the Robert J. Bobb Professorship in Finance and Commercial Law.



Obituary

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 taught biology 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 2000 after 12 years of service to the University.



Snyder

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

management services and retired in 1988. He was born and raised in Kalamazoo, graduating from the University's State High School in 1945, when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

In retirement, Stephenson was an active volunteer for Meals on Wheels, the Kalamazoo Air Zoo and the WMU retirees prescription drug program. He also was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, where he was an elder.

Peter G. Renstrom, whose obituary was previously published, will be honored by family, friends, colleagues and students at a memorial service beginning at noon Saturday, Oct. 28, in Kanley Chapel. A reception at the Oaklands will follow the service.

Human Resources

Health insurance elections

Open enrollment for health insurance began Oct. 16 and continues until 5 p.m. Oct. 30, 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 also is available at www.wmich.edu/hr.

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. FSAs offer 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/hror 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 387-3669. Applications are accepted for posted jobs only and must be submitted by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included on each posting.

Exchange

For sale—Westside duplex in quiet neighborhood. Owner-occupied unit: 2 bedroom, 2 bath, new kitchen and bathroom, deck, and single-car attached garage. Second unit: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, unattached double garage. Both units: individual laundry rooms with washers/dryers. Electric updated, newer roof. Willing to discuss all reasonable offers, financing. Kalamazoo Promise qualified. Call 353-6527.

FLYING HIGH—Interim President Diether H. Haenicke, far right; Portage Mayor Peter Strazdas, WMU director of maintenance services; and Kalamazoo Mayor Hannah McKinney gathered Oct. 11 on Westnedge Avenue where the two communities meet to raise the WMU flag and salute the University's contributions to the local area. The three hoisted one of nearly 1,000 flags going up around the communities as a visual representation of WMU's links to both cities. (Photo by Cheryl P. Roland)



Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during October.

30 Years—Marian L. Rosser, family and consumer sciences; Caroline L. Smith, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Thomas J. Sopjes, physical plant-maintenance services; and Baiba Z. Stepe, auxiliary enterprises.

25 Years—Stephanie Boris, University Libraries; Virginia Bowlby, admissions; Patricia A. Harvey, payroll; Gregg McChesney, physical plant-landscape services; David S. Prentice, physical plant-power plant; Thomas W. Sauber, physical plant-landscape services; Richard K. Schaper, human resources; and Kimberly L. Smith, admissions.

20 Years—Melanie L. Chapin-Lechner, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Lauretta R. Eisenbach, anthropology; Edward Kluk, information technology; Leonard J. Peirce, information technology; Mark T. Robinson, Valley #2 Dining Service; Terri Ann Stoken, physical plant-landscape services; Gracie VanderKamp, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Chad Wheeler, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Patricia M. Willis,

Davis Dining Service; and Linda J. Young-Woolf, physical plant-landscape services.

15 Years—Susan L. Wade, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Christine J. Wesseling, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; and Derrick Williams, Burnham Dining Service.

10 Years—Jodi Houseman, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Kay Lewis, catering; Chad Stec, student affairs information services; Amy Sue Stonerock, registrar's office; and Anne M. Wagner, accounts payable.

5 Years—Lynnette K. Abbate, Sindecuse Health Center; Dennis L. Forsythe, physical plant-maintenance services; William A. Green, Sindecuse Health Center; Kerrie Griffin, marketing; Eliana Lopez-Grez, University Libraries; Holly D. Mathews, Lee Honors College; Raymond L. Novess, physical plant-utilities; Randy W. Ott, residence life; Wayne H. Pushie, physical plant-maintenance services; Carol Reid, Center for Academic Support Programs; James Lee Tripp, physical plant-utilities; Salatha T. Willis, First-Year Experience Programs; and Lori Ann Yelton, Sindecuse Health Center.

On Campus with Laura Darrah



SUPPORTING THE HOME FRONT
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

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



Archer

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

tion. 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.