



Western NEWS

SEPTEMBER 21, 2006
volume 33, number 2

For and about WMU faculty and staff

Fall head count close to 25,000

The annual fall census shows WMU's total enrollment has declined 5.3 percent compared to last year, down from 26,239 students to 24,841.

Even so, the campus witnessed upturns of about 10 and 17 percent, respectively, in the number of students pursuing doctoral degrees and the overall number of new graduate students. This resulted in a slight increase of 0.7 percent in WMU's total on-campus population of graduate students.

The number of beginning freshmen has decreased by 227 students to 3,610, while the number of new transfer students has dipped by only 12. Meanwhile, the number of students enrolled in distance education classes rose dramatically, from 639 to 1,168 for an increase of nearly 83 percent.

First BTR Park Criterium slated

The Business Technology and Research Park will lend its high-tech atmosphere to a Saturday, Sept. 30, bicycling event that will be especially interesting for spectators.

The first BTR Park Criterium will be the main feature in the day-long event, which is being billed as "part block party, part high-tech cycling event." The day will begin with a free Family Fun Ride from 8 to 10 a.m. The criterium will begin at 10 a.m. and last until about 4:15 p.m.

Criteriums are bicycling's equivalent of the Indy 500—fast, exciting to watch and somewhat dangerous to race contestants. The BTR Criterium will include seven separate events for racers of different ages and genders, and a total of \$2,500 in prize money will be awarded. For details and registration information, go online to www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org/racing.

WMU garners Jobs Fund dollars

The Downtown Science Center and a project directed by Margaret Joyce, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, will receive nearly \$3 million from Michigan's new 21st Century Jobs Fund initiative. The initiative seeks to create jobs in the state's emerging technologies. Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced the program's inaugural awards Sept. 6 after a highly competitive selection process.

A number of this year's other 59 successful proposals involve projects that have strong WMU ties, including work being done by ProNAi Therapeutics, a company that has received funding from the University's Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center, and a Michigan State University nanotechnology project co-directed by WMU's Sherine Obare, chemistry.

University researchers hitting their stride

External funding for research soared by more than 26 percent in 2005-06, totaling nearly \$39 million for the fiscal year. Meanwhile, the number of inventions coming out of University labs hit an all-time high, nearly tripling in the same 12-month period.

"These increases are remarkable and show real determination and research prowess that are not deterred by the fact that we are seeing smaller amounts of funding available at both the federal and state levels," says Interim President Diether H. Haenicke. "Our faculty researchers and the staff members who support their work have managed to push our research enterprise to a level we once could only imagine. They have earned our admiration."

According to Leonard Ginsberg, interim vice president for research, total support for University research was \$38,972,614 for the 2005-06 year—an increase of more than 26 percent over the previous year's \$31.6 million total. Of the 2005-06 figure, \$18.5 million came from federal agencies.

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Faculty, staff invited to hear branding recommendations

A team from SimpsonScarborough, the national firm engaged by the University to assist with a WMU branding initiative, will present its first set of recommendations in a two-hour, all-campus event set for 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 22, in Shaw Theatre.

Firm principals Elizabeth Scarborough and C.T. Turner will share the results of a marketing analysis the team conducted in late August to identify immediate steps the University can take to address enrollment and retention issues. There will be ample time for questions and discussion

throughout the presentation.

"We need our complete focus to be on enrollment and retention," says Interim President Diether H. Haenicke. "This week's fall enrollment report is a reminder of the importance of these issues to this University's future. I urge faculty and staff from across the University to come and hear the observations and recommendation of these professionals, who spent three days on campus to review best practices and recommend improvements for us to consider."

According to Greg Rosine, WMU senior

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Celebration marks opening of Michitoshi Soga Japan Center

WMU officially marked this summer's opening of its Michitoshi Soga Japan Center with a celebration Sept. 8 in the Fetzer Center that included a reception and Japanese-style toasts.

The Soga center is designed to strengthen the University's Japan-related study, research and relationships as well as serve as a community resource. Many of WMU's Japanese alumni were instrumental in helping establish the facility, which is housed in the Haenicke Institute for Global Education and reflects the University's longstanding ties to Japan.

The center is named for Michitoshi Soga, professor emeritus of physics. Soga joined the faculty in 1968 and retired from teaching in 1993, then served nearly 10 years as an administrative officer for the Office of International Affairs.

He has worked tirelessly for decades to build the University's Japanese studies offerings, establish programs with Japanese universities and build a Japanese alumni network. Over the years, he and his wife, Ryoko, have played host to hundreds of Japanese students attending WMU and

Japanese businesspersons and academics visiting the western Michigan region.

"We are enormously pleased as a University to establish this center," Interim President Diether H. Haenicke said during his celebratory toast. "Dr. Soga is one of the most

respected scholars in his field at this institution. He is well-liked...and a most deserving man."

The other four speakers making toasts were Soga; Steven Covell, who also acted as master of ceremonies; Yoshiaki Ryu, professor and direc-

tor of International Education at Josai University in Saitama, Japan, who spoke on behalf of Japanese alumni; and Shun Fujishima, a 1971-1972 exchange student at WMU and now an executive at Sony Corp. in Kansas City, Mo., who represented the U.S. Japanese community.

During his toast, Fujishima recited a song he wrote about WMU that Japanese alumni could sing at gatherings to show their respect for Kalamazoo and the Sogas. The full text of "Kalamazoo in Our Heart" is posted on the Haenicke Institute Web site at: <http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/501/2/>.



M. Soga, R. Soga and Covell (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Around Campus

U.S. reps in town for dialogue

WMU will be the host site for a community forum tonight giving Arab-American and Muslim citizens an opportunity to communicate with federal government officials. The forum will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in 210 Bernhard Center.

Fielding questions will be a panel of representatives from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, FBI, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Transportation Security Administration.

Noon-hour discussions slated

Friday, Sept. 22, the WMU Peace Center will begin a series of discussions focusing on the relationship between human health and peace. The brown-bag discussions, along with some films on related topics, are slated for noon to 1 p.m. Fridays throughout the fall in 3267 College of Health and Human Services building.

Hispanic heritage events set

A full slate of events have been scheduled to commemorate national Hispanic Heritage Month, which officially runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 14. The events include a celebration of Hispanic Awareness Day Thursday, Oct. 5, and a Latin American horror film festival at the end of October. For details on all of the Hispanic Heritage

Month events, as well as some of WMU's other multicultural events, check the calendar at www.multicultural.wmich.edu.

Emeriti Council to conduct forum

Former U.S. Rep. Howard Wolpe will be the featured lecturer at a public forum on "Achieving Peace in an Embattled World" from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, in Schneider Hall's Brown Auditorium. The panel will also include Professor Emeritus Peter Kobrak and two WMU faculty members, Howard Dooley, history, and Iraqi native Emanuel Kamber, physics.

Conference looks at 'Us,' 'Them'

Scores of the world's leading experts in addressing stereotyping and prejudice will be in Kalamazoo Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 26-29, to launch an annual international conference series on "Engaging the Other: The Power of Compassion." It will take place in the Radisson Hotel and has an Oct. 8 reservation deadline. For costs and other details, visit www.cbiworld.org.

Rainbow Reception scheduled

The Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services will sponsor its fourth "Rainbow Reception" Friday, Sept. 29, in WMU's Ackley-Shilling Residence Hall. The free public event will feature a resource fair at 5 p.m. and a community social at 6 p.m.

Meyer receives state honor

Bettina Meyer, assistant dean of University Libraries, will be recognized as Librarian of the Year by the Michigan Library Association Oct. 11 for her ability to blend traditional roles with forward thinking as well as to focus on end-users and embrace new technologies to enhance accessibility.

Meyer, who has been instrumental in garnering private support for WMU's libraries, has been involved in advancing library technology and accessibility since joining the library faculty in 1978. She will retire with emerita status in June 2007, concluding 29 years of service to the University.

Faires co-writes new book

A unique window on the religious, social and communal structures of Jews in Flint, Mich., is presented in "Jewish Life in the Industrial Promised Land, 1855-2005," a new book co-written by Nora Faires, history.

Faires has a joint appointment with the Women's Studies Program, chairs the Canadian Studies initiative and is part of WMU's "Teaching American History" grant team. She also serves on editorial boards for the *Journal of American Ethnic History* and the *Michigan Historical Review*.



Faires

Munley earns national award

Patrick H. Munley has received the 2006 W. James Cossé Distinguished Service Award for Extraordinary Contributions to the Professional Practice of Counseling Psychology. The American Academy of Counseling Psychology award was presented Aug. 11 in New Orleans during AACoP's annual meeting.

Munley, interim chair and professor of counselor education and counseling psychology, is a licensed professional counselor and psychologist, as well as a diplomate in counseling psychology. He was AACoP president in 2004-05 and a member of the editorial board for *the Counseling Psychologist* from 2003 to 2005.



Munley

Doctoral program awards newly created Pisaneschi Prize



Pisaneschi

A new prize has been created in honor of Janet I. Pisaneschi, current provost and former dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

The University's interdisciplinary health studies doctoral program has awarded the first Pisaneschi Prize for Best Research Practicum to Barbara Cliff, a graduate student in the program. Cliff was given her prize at a July 21 conference for her research on "Association Between Body

Mass Index and Waist Circumference in Adolescents."

Honorable mentions went to Janice Long for her presentation on "Race/Ethnicity and Age as Predictors of Overweight in Children 6 to 11 Years of Age" and John McMahon for his presentation on "Barriers to Accessing Print Prescription Medication Information by Persons Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired."

The prize was awarded at the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Research Conference, a biennial event in which doctoral students in the program who are completing their course work and beginning comprehensive examinations orally present the results of their research practicum studies. A panel of judges determined the winner.



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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.



INTO THE HOOD—Kalamazoo city officials joined WMU administrative and student leaders Sept. 6 to walk area neighborhoods and welcome back students. One such team consisted of, from left: Jeff Chamberlain, Kalamazoo city planner; Martha Warfield, WMU director of multicultural affairs; and Matt Bray, Western Student Association representative. (Photo by Thom Myers.)

St. John recognized for service

An annual award has been created in recognition of Donna St. John's 15 years of outstanding service to WMU and its orientation program. St. John was named associate director of admissions in 1999 after having headed orientation since 1992, and has remained actively involved in orientation activities.

The Donna St. John Leadership Award goes to student orientation employees. It was created and funded by the orientation office and First-Year Experience Programs to honor St. John's longstanding contributions to the program and the positive influence she has had on countless student leaders and administrative staff.



St. John



Board of Trustees approves promotions of 66 faculty members during July 14 meeting

The promotions of 66 faculty members were approved July 14 by the WMU Board of Trustees.

Except for the promotions to assistant professor, all the changes in faculty ranks were effective with the beginning of the 2006-07 academic year.

The faculty members and their academic areas, by the academic rank or position to which they were promoted, are:

Professor—Peter Blickle, foreign languages; Marlene R. Breu, family and consumer sciences; Paul Ciccantell, sociology; Sime Curkovic, management; Paul D. Fleming III, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Lauren Freedman, teaching, learning, and leadership; Michelle Kominz, geosciences; Irma M. Lopez, Spanish; Molly Lynne-Recchia, foreign languages; Niloufer Mackey, mathematics; John Martino, mathematics; Donald J. Meyer, economics; Ann Miles, anthropology; Stephen Newell, marketing; Magdalena Niewiadomska-Bugaj, statistics; Kenneth C. O'Shaughnessy, management; Peter E. Parker, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Andrea B. Smith, teaching, learning, and leadership; and Benjamin Torres, Spanish.

Associate professor—Marc Alspector-Kelly, philosophy; Masood Z. Atashbar, electrical and computer engineering; Louann Beirllien-Palmer, teaching, learning, and leadership; Robert F. Berkhofer III, history; James J. Biles, geography; Mozhdeh B. Bruss, family and consumer sciences; Jonathan Bush, English; Deborah Che, geography; Kuanchin Chen, business information systems; Carol J. Crumbaugh, teaching, learning, and leadership;

Josephine Barry-Davis, teaching, learning, and leadership; Lisa M. DeChano, geography; Vincent Desroches, foreign languages; Lonnie E. Duncan, counselor education and counseling psychology; James A. Eckert, marketing; Johnson Haas, geosciences; Lynne Heasley, history; Kevin High, College of Aviation; Karen Horneffer-Ginter, physician assistant; James Hueng, economics; Jennifer A. Machiorlatti, communication; Juanita Manning-Walsh, nursing; Kelly A. McDonnell, counselor education and counseling psychology; Patricia M. Montilia, Spanish; Amy Naugle, psychology; Paul Nwulu, communication; Jennifer Palthe, management; Muhammad A. Razi, business information systems; Edward A. Roth, music; Michael J. Ryan, economics; Eric M. Sauer, counselor education and counseling psychology; Jeffrey Strom, Department of mathematics; Judith Swisher, finance and commercial law; Ineke F. Way, social work; Lisa Whittaker, College of Aviation; Jennipher Wiebold, blindness and low vision studies; Devrim Yaman, finance and commercial law; and Richard W. Zinser, family and consumer sciences.

Assistant professor—Susan V. Piazza, teaching, learning and leadership, effective July 31, 2006.

Master faculty specialist—Ronald Miller, computer science, and Jaclyn West-Frasier, occupational therapy.

Faculty specialist II—Jan Gable-Goes, business information systems; Patrick J. Ryan, health, physical education and recreation; David H. Schrader, aviation; Ryan Seller, aviation; Jay W. Waalkes, aviation; and James Whittles, aviation.

Four employees recognized for making a major difference

Four outstanding employees from across the University have been selected to receive WMU's annual Make a Difference award, which comes with a \$1,000 prize.

The 2006 award recipients are Donna Kim Ballard, Academic Support Programs writing lab; Brenda Case-Parris, Career and Student Employment Services; Judy Northey, University Dining Services-Parkview Campus; and Donald Scott Paff, physical plant-landscape services.

The MAD awards recognize WMU's most outstanding staff employees—those who reach far beyond their assigned responsibilities to give generously and creatively of their time and talents, making the University an even finer place to work and study.

In addition to the cash prize, the four were honored at a July 27 luncheon and received framed certificates.

This campuswide recognition program for staff members features a semiannual award that is bestowed during two separate award periods each year and a prestigious annual award that is bestowed once a year.

Up to 15 people may be chosen to receive an award during each semiannual period. Only the winners of that honor are eligible to receive one of the final four annual awards.

More information about the award program is available online at www.wmich.edu/makeadifference.



Ballard



Case-Parris



Northey



Paff

Tenor to perform in solo recital

Tenor Ken Prewitt, a new music faculty member, will present a solo recital at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Resident artist Yu-Lien The will perform with Prewitt.

Exchange

For sale—Black 2005 Honda CRV w/ 17,200 miles. Automatic, two-wheel drive, air, power locks/windows, AM-FM/CD player. Looks new. \$18,000. Call 567-3229 and leave message.

Wanted—Treadmill in good condition. Call 998-9468.

Wanted—Kalamazoo-area housing for visiting faculty member and family of four. Mid-January to mid-June. Prefer furnished house close to campus, approx. \$1,100/month. Send e-mail to trevisan@mail.wsu.edu or call (509) 335-7063.

Obituary

Helen Cummings died Aug. 16, it was recently learned.

Cummings began her career at WMU in 1965 and retired in 1988 as an administrative secretary in the Department of Languages and Linguistics. Earlier in her career, she had worked in the Department of Music and the College of General Studies.

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. Please note that applications are accepted for posted jobs only and must be submitted by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included on each posting.

Flu clinic tailored for retirees

The flu clinic from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10, at the Sindecuse Health Center will be geared to WMU retirees.

Service

The following employees are recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during September. Service anniversaries that fell in August are too numerous to publish in *Western News*, and have been posted online at http://www.wmich.edu/hr/anniv_list_sept_06.pdf.

30 Years—Eva F. Blades, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Janice L. Dekker, College of Health and Human services; Christin Fawley-Zehner, Valley #1 dining; and Gary Mathews, social work.

25 Years—Bernadette Ballard-Reid, Bio-sciences Research and Commercialization Center; Jane L. Harrison, admissions; Sylvia R. Horton, Valley #1 dining; and Margaret J. Watson, information technology.

20 Years—Shashanta James, student financial aid and scholarships; Nancy A. Kroes, information technology; and John Racine, information technology.

15 Years—Janice Evans, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Denise M. Forman, physical plant-landscape services; Sheila K. Johnson, Bernhard Center dining; Senora Jones, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Matthew A. Knewtonson, theatre; and Janet M. Rice, Valley #1 dining.

10 Years—Kevin Abbott, information technology; Bonnie S. Adduci, Valley #1 dining; Lynda M. Baker, Bernhard Center dining; Stacey M. Doxtater, registrar's office; Megan McCoy, catering; Todd Lenard Noeske, public safety; and John Srdjan Petrovic, mathematics.

Five Years—Shirley I. Everett, Residence Life; Betty J. Hughes, University Libraries; Esther Newlin-Haus, educational leadership, research and technology; Wendy W. Proeschl, development; and Jeffrey M. Rank, intercollegiate athletics.

On Campus with Linda Comrie



QUIET EFFICIENCY
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Linda Comrie has been quietly helping the Graduate College hum along for the past seven years.

She joined the college in 1999 as a receptionist and in 2001, became an office associate in its Office of Graduate Diversity Programs. Plans call for this unit, which has evolved into the Office of Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention, to move out of Welborn Hall this semester and physically recombine with the Graduate College in Walwood Hall.

With the move, Comrie will become office coordinator for the college.

"I've been very happy working at the Graduate College," she says. "The people are great. And I enjoy learning about the students and their backgrounds. They're all different. I always wanted to see the world; now the world comes to me."

Along with general office duties, Comrie's current job includes working with the budget, assisting with selected award programs for minority students, and fielding a wide range of questions from students, faculty and staff.

"I like the student contact. The students are the reward of the job," Comrie says. "When they come here, they're a little apprehensive about graduate school, then you get to see them grow and go on to exciting jobs."

Graduate Students of Color recognized her dedication last year when it started an annual award in honor of Comrie's previous boss, Griselda Daniel. "I was really touched to receive the first award given out in her name," she says.

Comrie holds a bachelor's degree in social work from WMU and has worked in health care and in management for an architectural association. She and husband Leo used to live in Arizona but are now firmly ensconced in Galesburg.

Although Comrie enjoys cooking and trying out new recipes, her greatest pleasure comes from spending free time with her family. She especially likes taking trips to northern Michigan with Leo and going on excursions to Chicago with daughter Stacy, who is a senior at WMU.

Career services newsletter turns 'best practices' spotlight on WMU

A successful effort to better evaluate WMU's career development programs has received national recognition.

The June 9 issue of *Spotlight Online*, an e-mail newsletter published by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, featured an article on WMU's assessment strategy as the lead item in the newsletter's ongoing "Career Services Best Practices" series.

The article, "Shifting Focus to Achieve Desired Student Learning Outcomes at WMU," referenced the University's migration to an outcomes-based model of assessing student learning. It went on to describe how tailoring this model has benefited Career and Student Employment Services in the Division of Student Affairs.

"A campuswide assessment committee developed guidelines for the model, and once the student affairs division adopted these

guidelines, we applied them to our strategic planning and assessment practices," recounts Lynn Kelly-Albertson, CSES.

"Determining how to assess student learning beyond the classroom isn't always easy, but taking an outcomes-based approach has resulted in big dividends for us and our students. The new strategic assessment plan we created has led to numerous program improvements. Now, the improvements we've made are attracting the attention of other schools around the country."

CSES began getting noticed after WMU detailed its adaptation of the outcomes-based model during a presentation at North Carolina State University's Undergraduate Assessment Conference on University Assessment in April. The office is still fielding calls from university career specialists intrigued by the June best practices article.

Research _____ continued from page 1

"While our faculty researchers are submitting about the same number of proposals, they're experiencing a much higher success rate," Ginsberg says.

He notes that his office is working to support external funding by developing collaborative teams for larger grants, conducting grant pre-reviews and providing informational programs for new faculty.

Also during 2005-06, WMU recorded a total of 20 inventions, filed eight patent applications and had three technologies licensed to outside parties for further development and commercialization.

University labs produced seven inventions and three patent applications in the previous year and averaged two inventions and one patent application annually from 1978 to 2004. The recent data represent a tenfold increase in the number of inventions produced over the 1978-2004 time frame.

In 2003, the national average was 3.9 inventions per \$10 million of research expenditures. During the spurt in inventions last year, WMU generated 5.1 inventions for each \$10 million of research expenditures.

Branding _____ continued from page 1

vice president for advancement and legislative affairs who is spearheading the branding efforts, the branding initiative is a long-term project. The campus, however, must take immediate steps that will have an impact on both retention and the way students are recruited this fall and winter.

The SimpsonScarborough team spent three days in August doing in-depth interviews with nearly 60 staff and faculty members.

REMEMBERING 9/11—The University's employee groups sponsored a service Sept. 11 to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. It opened with a flag ceremony by WMU's ROTC battalion and music by Gloria Culp, registrar's office, and Allison Downey, creative arts education. The event was organized by a committee composed of, from left: Kris Kenz, College of Fine Arts; George Eskro, Career and Student Employment Services; Chair Toby Boyle, information technology; and Dori LaChance, registrar's office. (Photo by Thom Myers)

