Western News going on hiatus

Today's issue of Western News is the last issue for the summer. Western News will resume its regular publication schedule after Sept. 5—the start of the fall semester. 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.

Two commencement times set

The University will hold summer graduation exercises Saturday, July 1, in Miller Auditorium.

President Judith I. Bailey will preside over two ceremonies. Faculty are asked to assemble in Shaw Theatre's Green Room 45 minutes prior to each ceremony.

The morning exercise will start at 9 a.m. and is for graduates of the College of Education, Extended University Programs, the College of Fine Arts and the Haworth College of Business. The second ceremony will start at noon and is for graduates of the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health and Human Services.

Trustees meeting set for July 14

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet Friday, July 14, in 157-159 Bernhard Center. The board's formal public session will be held in the morning that day. Agenda items were not available at Western News press time.

Top staff awards announced

Four exceptional employees have received WMU's prestigious annual Make a Difference award, which comes with a $1,000 prize. A luncheon has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, to honor the quartet for representing WMU's most outstanding staff members.

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 Faff, physical plant-landscape services.

MAD is a campuswide recognition program for staff members that features two rounds of semiannual awards, from which four annual award winners are selected each year. More information is available online at www.wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Johnson to head WMU's regional efforts

Veteran administrator Darrell Johnson has been named to a two-year appointment as dean of Extended University Programs, effective June 15 and pending approval of the WMU Board of Trustees.

Johnson replaces Nicholas Andreadis, who had served as dean of EUP for the past three years. Andreadis, who announced last month he would step down for personal reasons and, after a six-month administrative leave, plans to return to the faculty in time for the spring 2007 semester.

"Darrell Johnson brings a wealth of experience in higher education and extensive knowledge of WMU’s regional efforts to his new position," Provost Janet I. Pisaneschi said in announcing the appointment.

"He has earned the respect of the EUP staff, and I have great confidence in his ability to lead this important part of our University."

Johnson served as director of WMU-Battle Creek and WMU-Lansing before being named associate dean of EUP earlier this year. He has been at WMU since 2000, spending his first three years on campus as a graduate student and completing a doctoral degree in counselor education in 2003. From 2001 to 2003, he served as a doctoral intern and then a doctoral associate in the Division of Multicultural Affairs.

Prior to coming to WMU, Johnson served from 1998 to 2000 as manager of recruitment and retention for the Graduate Education for Minorities Consortium at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. He also was coordinator of engineering recruitment and admissions at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Fla., from 1997 to 1998 and associate director of admissions and coordinator of minority recruitment at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich., from 1990 to 1997.

In addition to his doctorate, Johnson has a master's degree in counseling and higher education administration from WMU, a master's degree in educational leadership and higher education administration from GVSU, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Michigan State University. He is a licensed professional counselor as well as a nationally certified counselor.

JUNE 22, 2006
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Western News for and about WMU faculty and staff

New director tapped to oversee Battle Creek, Lansing campuses

The new director for WMU-Battle Creek and WMU-Lansing is Sharon Russell, a business professional who has extensive background in finance and marketing and 16 years of experience at the University. Russell assumed her role with EUP on June 19. She will oversee both the Battle Creek and Lansing campuses and lead their strategic business development, community relations and marketing efforts.

In addition to professional staff positions with the Department of Theatre and Alumni Association, Russell has served the Division of Student Affairs as director of development and marketing and, most recently, as the business manager for University Recreation. In addition, she is a part-time faculty member, teaching courses in interpersonal communication and public speaking.

Russell earned a bachelor's degree in theatre arts from Loyola University in Chicago and a master's degree in communication from the University of Illinois.

WMU's HERE—A 142nd birthday party for founding president Dwight B. Waldo was held June 13 outside East Hall.

The event was sponsored by FOHEC—Friends of Historic East Campus—as a celebration of WMU's contributions to higher education and a way to honor its first buildings. Waldo, who died in 1939 at age 75, served as president for 32 years. During the birthday celebration, a wreath was placed near the East Hall cornerstone overlooking Prospect Hill where his ashes are interred. David Isaason, emeritus of University Libraries, addressed the crowd as Waldo, whom he began portraying during WMU's centennial celebration in 2003. Also making remarks were current president Judith I. Bailey; Randy Horvat, FOHEC chairperson; Dean Gray Wigenka, College of Education; and William Whitbeck, chief judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals and an alumus of WMU's Campus School and State High School. The WMU Choral Group provided the music. (Photo by Tammy M. Boneburg)
Merrion leads search committee for provost

Dean Margaret Merrion, College of Fine Arts, has been appointed head of the provost search advisory committee.

WMU launched its search for a new provost June 15 with a public forum featuring a consultant from one of the nation’s leading academic search firms.

James B. Appleberry of Academic Search Consultation Service led the forum, during which attendees were invited to offer opinions of the types of experiences and qualifications that would be desirable in a candidate, issues a new provost must address, and reasons why top-flight candidates would vie for the provost position at WMU.

Appleberry has been hired to assist the University in its search to identify a successor to Janet I. Pisaneschi, who late last month accepted a one-year appointment as provost and vice president for academic affairs after the resignation of Linda M. Delene. While on campus for the forum, he met with WMU and Kalamazoo community members as well as the campuswide advisory committee assisting with the search.

A Web site detailing the provost search process will be available soon. The site will include a timeline, the position description, the charge to the committee and the ethics statement each committee member was asked to sign.

The 23-member search committee includes faculty, staff, administrators and students. For a complete list of committee members, go online to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2006/06/029.html to read a news story about the launch of the provost search process.

New Undergraduate Program Review details explained

Provoct Janet I. Pisaneschi announced three measures on June 16 that will affect the comprehensive Undergraduate Program Review scheduled for 2006-07.

The measures, which are designed to help faculty, staff and administrators plan their work for the coming academic year, are:

• The review will be deferred until the Graduate Program Review concludes and attendant curricular and organizational changes are in place.

• During 2007-08, the new provost will confer with appropriate administrative and faculty governing bodies to establish the timing and parameters of the undergraduate review process.

• The regular University curriculum review process will be reopened to receive all program proposals at the beginning of the 2006-2007 academic year.

HCOB senior earns prestigious management scholarship

For the second year in a row, a student in the Haworth College of Business has been awarded a prestigious R. Gene Richter Scholarship, named to the editorial board of national psychology journal.

Carr, LeBlanc named editors of national psychology journal

James Carr and Linda LeBlanc, psychologists, have been appointed associate editors of the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis. Applied Behavior Analysis is the flagship applied journal in the behavior analysis discipline.

For Sale—3 yr. old Richter Scholarship Program Details Explained

The 3-year-old Richter Scholarship Program is the largest nationally recognized scholarship program in the field of supply chain management. It was created to identify and support top students at some of America's top-accredited universities.

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Conferece teaches importance of link between health, literacy

A conference on “Linking Literacy and Health,” a Formula for Quality Care and Patient Safety,” will be held Thursday and Friday, July 13-14, in the Fetzer Center.

The conference recognizes that a high level of health literacy is essential for patients in the United States to understand certain regimens and, ultimately, improve their health.

The event will provide an easy and cost-effective way to learn more about health literacy, successful strategies to use with patients, and activities taking place at the local, state and national levels.

Training sessions throughout the conference will address getting started within health professions education programs as well as in clinical settings—and will teach participants how to write materials at appropriate literacy levels. These sessions make “Linking Literacy and Health” an important conference to attend for anyone involved in health care and health care education.

Jobs

Western News will not be published again until the fall semester. Faculty and staff may learn about the weekly job postings, which are updated every Monday, by visiting www.wmich.edu/hr/job.htm or calling the Applicant Information Service at 387-3669.

McKitrick

A memorial service for Judy Wolpe, wife of former state and U.S. Rep. Howard Wolpe, will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 24, in Miller Auditorium.

Judy Wolpe, 62, drowned in a vacation swimming accident June 16 in Guatemala. She was regional outreach director for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in Arlington, Va., and was a cabinet member of two former governors—Michigan’s James Blanchard and Indiana’s Evan Bayh.

On campus memorial service being planned for Judy Wolpe

The Wolves were married in 1992 at WMU. Judy earned a master’s degree from WMU and a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University.

Howard was a member WMU’s political science faculty from 1967 to 1972 and was named the University’s first distinguished visiting professor in 1993. He is director for the Africa Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

For more funeral details, visit www.judywolpe.homestead.com.
Czech literary, political figures to receive honorary degrees in July

WMU will present honorary degrees in Prague July 3 to two leading Czech figures who have distinguished themselves in both literature and politics.

The degrees are being awarded to Vaclav Havel and Arnost Lustig and stem from the duo’s association with the University’s Prague Summer Program, PSP, which WMU has administered since 2002, is the premiere summer creative writing program in the Czech Republic. It will run from July 1 through 29 this year.

Havel has garnered numerous national and international honors, including receiving the Freedom Medal from the U.S. president and appearing several times on the short list for the Nobel Peace Prize and Nobel Prize for Literature.

Two retirement receptions set

A retirement reception recognizing Donna Icbone for 30 years of service will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, in the Oaklands. Icbone is an associate professor of educational studies and most recently served for three years as University ombuds.

On Wednesday, June 28, a retirement reception recognizing Rollin Douma’s 36 years of service will also be held from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Oaklands. Douma is an associate professor of English and currently serves as associate vice president for academic affairs. He also has been Graduate College dean and interim College of Education dean.

Many consider Havel the father of his country. He was its first president and in 1989, led what he termed the Velvet Revolution, the bloodless movement resulting in the republic’s independence and peaceful association with the West. He is one of the most celebrated dissidents of his generation and spent several years in communist prisons.

A playwright, Havel penned such major works for the stage as “The Memorandum,” “A Hotel in the Hills,” and “Protest.” His many essays include “Letters to Olga,” the collected letters to his wife from prison.

Lustig, who has been on the PSP faculty since the program’s inception 13 years ago, is professor of film and literature at American University in Washington, D.C. He founded the celebrated Czech New Wave cinema in the 1960s, and is the author of numerous stories and 14 books, five of which were made into films in the Czech Republic.

An Emmy winner, Lustig has received the Carl Capek Award, one of Central Europe’s most prestigious literary awards, and an award from the American Institute of Arts and Letters. He, too, has been on the short list for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Lustig opposed the communist government’s anti-Israeli policies and in 1967, was proclaimed an “enemy of the people.” He is a survivor of Theresienstadt, Buchenwald and Auschwitz, and has made the Holocaust the exclusive subject of his fiction.

Hearing aid semi-finalist in ‘Modern Marvel’ challenge

A hearing device developed by a Kalamazoo businessman with the help of a WMU engineer was recently named a semi-finalist in The History Channel’s Modern Marvels Invent Now Challenge.

Known as the “Liperator,” the computerized device attaches to a telephone and uses sound from the phone to generate realistic lip movements on a video screen, enabling someone with a hearing impairment to lip-read their phone conversation.

The Liperator was one of 25 semi-finalists in the Modern Marvel contest, which drew more than 4,000 entries. Four inventions were named finalists and one was chosen as the 2006 Modern Marvel of the Year. All of the inventions named as finalists and semi-finalists were included in an exhibition traveling across the country to five major cities. The exhibit currently is at the National Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio.

The Liperator was developed in the early 1990s by Yair Mendelowitz, who was then studying for a master’s degree in electrical engineering at WMU, and Robert P. Slager, then a hearing aid specialist at the Hearing Aid Center of Kalamazoo. Slager came up with the idea for the product and enlisted the aid of the University’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Slager’s idea came from his own experience. After he began losing his hearing, he learned to lip-read, but could not do that over the phone. He began looking for ways to make lip-reading over the phone possible. Mendelowitz received his master’s degree from WMU in 1991.

On Campus with Elena Wood

This August, Elena Wood will celebrate her 11th anniversary as a WMU staff member in the Office of Admissions.

“This is a great office to work for. Everybody is really focused on helping students through the admission process,” she says. “And I love interacting with the students. It’s a great feeling to be able to help them.”

Wood, who earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree in history from WMU, started in the Operations Center then took a part-time receptionist post in 1998 so she could spend more time with her first child. Now, with her daughters Emily and Sheridan age 6 and 8, she isn’t looking to return to full-time work soon.

At present, Wood works five days every two weeks, taking overflow calls and backing up Operations Center staffers as necessary. Her primary duty, though, is using her agile memory, the Student Information System, and printed as well as online materials to direct prospective students, parents and anyone else who comes in the door.

“We’re the first point of contact for many students,” she says. “We get a lot of inquiries so you have to have a lot of general knowledge about the campus.”

Due to ongoing remodeling, she’s currently stationed at the Siebert Administration Building’s new Welcome Center desk. But she’ll be greeting visitors from a new reception area when the project to transform Siebert’s former Graduate College entrance into a new entry for admissions and orientation is completed prior to the start of fall semester.

Wood lives in Plainwell and is a certified massage therapist and Reiki practitioner with an in-home office. She says she plans to build up the office’s clientele when her youngest child starts attending a full day of school. In the meantime, she enjoys spending her spare time gardening, camping, reading and taking trips with her husband Bruce—on the seat of his motorcycle.