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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Bailey leads delegation to conference in Qatar

President Judith L. Bailey led a small WMU delegation to the Arab nation of Qatar last week to attend an international conference and explore higher education partnerships in that country.

The delegation attended the Sixth Annual Doha Forum: Democracy, Development and Free Trade that took place April 11 through 13, in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

Bailey, who served as a panelist for one of the conference’s sessions, and three WMU faculty and staff members traveled to the region and attended the event as the guests of the Qatari government, with all expenses paid.

Nearly 600 business and government leaders, educators and journalists from around the globe also were at the event, which was opened with an address by the emir of Qatar. The conference focused on challenges faced by the Arab world, various types of reforms in the Middle East, media freedom, dialogue between civilizations, democratic moves and methods for combating terrorism.

U.S. delegates included members of Congress, administration officials, journalists from major media outlets and representatives of a handful of U.S. universities.

Other members of the WMU delegation were James Bisco, emeritus of educational studies, James Butterfield, political science, and Brett Berquist, Haenicke Institute.

During the conference, Bailey was part of a panel that explored “The Clash of Civilizations” and how a culture of tolerance and acceptance between nations can be built through education and communication. Panelists included a former president of Lebanon, a French senator, a parliamentarian from Tunisia, Russia’s deputy foreign minister and California Congressman Dana Rohrabacher.

The panel attracted media attention and continues on page 4

Communication students produce TV program for Fox 17

A 30-minute news program produced by journalism and video production students that reports on the WMU community will be aired at 6 a.m. Sunday, April 23, on Fox 17 WXMI in Grand Rapids.

“This project is terrific because it gives students the valuable experience of writing and producing news stories that will be assembled into a newscast and shown on a commercial TV station in a top-40 television market,” says Jan Kruse, communication.

Jennifer Machiorlatti, communication, is coordinating the video production and mentoring the students taking part in 2006’s Fox Student News. Machiorlatti says the project brings college students’ issues to viewers while ensuring WMU’s students get relevant real-world work experience. She plans on submitting their newscast and individual segments for Student Emmy Award consideration through the Michigan Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Show topics cover campus building accessibility, “hidden” charges in leases for off-campus housing, use of the ADHD drug Adderall on college campuses, balancing athletics and academics, the Kalamazoo live music scene, and what two faith-based student organizations at WMU are doing to reduce tensions and create unity among the University’s diverse student population.

Record number of students to graduate at end of spring semester

The University will grant about 3,100 degrees—the most in its history—during spring semester commencement ceremonies held on April 29, in University Arena.

This will be the first set of commencement ceremonies held in University Arena since 1992. The arena in Read Fieldhouse was the traditional site of commencement ceremonies for many years.

That facility was renovated in the early 1990s, necessitating the move of commencement ceremonies to Miller Auditorium. Miller is unavailable this month because of the four-week run, April 19 through May 14, of “The Phantom of the Opera.” Summer commencement ceremonies, July 1, will return to Miller Auditorium.

Faculty members participating in the April exercises should report to the Aerobics Room, adjacent to the indoor tennis courts, in the Student Recreation Center 45 minutes before...
Artwork of Fulbright Scholar Sushma Yadav on display

Artwork by Sushma Yadav, Fulbright Artist-in-Residence in the College of Fine Arts, is on display in Sangen Hall, Yadav, a printmaker and native of New Delhi, India, began her residence at WMU in January 2006, working with Charles Stroh and Nichole Maury, School of Art. She expects to work at the University until early July. Examples of her art are displayed on the first floor and second floor of the Bernhard Center. Her art is displayed in the central hallway near Gallery II.

New menu items showcased

WMU Catering invites University employees and their guests to an Administrative Professionals Day luncheon. Executive Chef Nick Petruska and the catering staff will debut a variety of upscale hors d’oeuvres, lunch entrees and desserts.

The event will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. The per-person cost is $9.95 if reserving by Friday, April 21, and $11.95 at the door. To make a reservation, call 387-4868 or e-mail sue.oole@wmich.edu.

Two retirement receptions set

A retirement reception for Sandra Edwards, occupational therapist, has been slated for 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, in the atrium of the College of Health and Human Services building. Edwards has been at WMU for 32 years.

A retirement reception for Norm Grant, information technology, will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 28, in the Oaklands. Grant has been at WMU for 34 years. His last day will be April 28.

Leading Chinese ecologist to visit

Fu Bojie, one of China’s leading environmental scientists, will give two public talks as part of the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program. Bojie is director of the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ General Bureau of Sciences and Technology for Resources and Environment.

He will discuss “Land Degradation and Ecological Restoration in China” at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 27, in 242 Bernhard Center. At noon the following day, he will speak about “Sustainable Land Use: Landscape Pattern and Ecological Process in the Loess Plateau of China” in 1728 Wood.

Fu oversees 25 research institutes and a research staff of more than 5,000 scientists. He is considered a rising star and a national authority on landscape processes and ecology in China. In addition, he serves as vice chairman of the Chinese Society of Geography and was the winner of China’s Young Scientist Award in 2001.

A retirement reception for Jordan Miller, School of Music, conducted his final public appearance at the University on Monday, April 17 with the Western Chorale in “Choral Masterworks of the Early Baroque,” a program that featured Monteverdi’s Il ritorno d’Ulisse in patria and Handel’s La resurrezione. Miller wraps up WMU career

Joe Miller, School of Music, conducted the Collegiate Singers and the University Chorale for the last time April 17. Miller, in June, will assume one of the nation’s premier choral posts—choral activities director at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J.

For the past seven years, he has made significant contributions to choral excellence at WMU as the choral studies director and in the community and state. Under his leadership, the University Chorale has received such high honors as the Grand Prize at the Robert Schumann International Choral Competition.

Miller is a sought-after guest conductor and clinician. During the current season, he has conducted high school and community groups through videotaped remarks, and officials such as the U.S. treasury secretary and director of the National Human Genome Research Institute were scheduled to make in-person presentations.

Hamman talks at health congress

William Hamman was in Washington, D.C., this week to speak about his research aimed at applying lessons learned in flight simulation systems to the task of improving patient safety. Hamman, co-director of the Center of Excellence for Simulation Research in the College of Aviation, participated in the Third Annual World Health Care Congress April 17 through 19.

The congress is one of the world’s most prestigious gatherings of executives from all sectors of the health care arena and attracted some 1,500 attendees. President George W. Bush was expected to address the group through videotaped remarks, and officials such as the U.S. treasury secretary and director of the National Human Genome Research Institute were scheduled to make in-person presentations.

Sizer novel nationally recognized

Paul Sizer, production manager in the School of Art’s Design Center, has had his graphic novel “Moped Army” nominated for awards in both the literary and comics worlds. The 144-page work was nominated for the American Library Association’s “Best Books for Young Adults” and “Great Graphic Novels for Teens” honors.

It also is in the running for three Glyph Awards: “Story of the Year,” “Best Writer” and “Best Female Character.” The Glyphs honor outstanding achievement in black comics and comics with black themes.

Sizer earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from WMU in 1988 and became a WMU staff member in 1993. While a student, he created the popular “Bill the Rabbit” cartoon series that was a regular feature in the Western Herald.

Around Campus

Wall Street Journal rep to talk

Michael Schroeder, a reporter/editor for the Wall Street Journal’s Washington Bureau and a 1974 WMU graduate, will be the featured speaker at this year’s Department of English awards ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, April 21, on the 10th floor of Sprau Tower. In addition to Schroeder’s remarks, award students for 2005-06 will be presented, and Schroeder will be given an award as this year’s distinguished alumnus of the Department of English.

Finds Finish volunteers sought

Volunteers are needed to help out at the 10th annual Finals Finish from 6 to 11 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, April 24 and 25, in the Student Recreation Center. Volunteers are asked to sign up on either Monday or Tuesday for a two-hour block of time from 6 to 8 p.m. or 8 to 10 p.m. To volunteer, visit www. finishfinals.wmich.edu, call 387-3233 or e-mail sue.oole@wmich.edu.

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Board of Trustees approves 11 retirements, three resignations

The retirements of one faculty member and 10 staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its March 9 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of two faculty members and one staff member, as well as made amendments to the previously announced retirements of two faculty members.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: F. William McCarty, professor of finance and commercial law, 36 years, effective July 30, 2006; (title correction) Janet Piasneschi, professor of speech pathology and audiology, 17 years, effective June 30, 2006; and (change in retirement date) Judith F. Stone, professor of history, 20-1/2 years, effective Dec. 17, 2006.

The staff members retiring are: Marcia A. Agema, first cook, Davis Dining Services, 27 years, effective Feb. 28, 2006; Ursula Barrett, head salad maker, Burnham Dining Service, 25-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2006; Mary J. Grant, office coordinator, political science, 18 years, effective May 31, 2006; Norman D. Grant, systems manager, information technology, 34 years, effective April 28, 2006; Carol J. Haines, office coordinator, psychology, 25-1/2 years, effective March 31, 2006; Ann E. Houser, manager, human resources information systems, 28-1/2 years, effective April 7, 2006; Dorothy L. Kaczmarek, utility food worker, Bernhard Center, 19-1/2 years, effective May 31, 2006; Laura Latulippe, director, Career English Language Center for International Students, 30 years, effective May 31, 2006; Virginia D. Lytle, utility food worker, Burnham Dining Service, 13 years, effective Feb. 28, 2006; and James A. Singleton, paper plant operator, Paper Printing Pilot, 11 years, effective April 30, 2006.

The faculty members resigning are: Elizabeth M. Fox, faculty specialist I-lnterpreter, business information systems, effective Jan. 3, 2006, and L. Jawahar Nesan, assistant professor of civil and construction engineering, effective Jan. 25, 2006. The staff member resigning is: James Van Rhee, chairperson, physician assistant, effective June 30, 2006.

Faculty invited to sign up as facilitators for First-Year Seminar

Faculty still have time to sign up to be facilitators for the fall 2006 First-Year Seminar being offered to new and first-time students through WMU’s First-Year Experience program.

Faculty members are invited to join the FYE team by teaching one of 40 seminar sections of about 25 students each and mentoring the students in their sections. Those who agree to serve as facilitators are compensated for teaching the First-Year Seminar and for full participation in the FYE faculty orientation and faculty development sessions. In addition, they are assigned a seminar student leader to assist them.

The seminars are part of the FYE initiative inaugurated last year to start out incoming students right and help them persist in their studies through graduation.

The First-Year Seminar is designed to be a true collaborative effort across WMU/colleges, departments, programs and academic disciplines,” says Toni Woolfork-Barnes, FYE programs director.

For more information or to sign up as a seminar facilitator, contact Woolfork-Barnes by sending e-mail to toni.woolfork-barnes@wmich.edu. More information about FYE is available online at www.wmich.edu/fye.

Exchange


For Sale—Beautiful family home in Texas Township. Great price. Call 688-4419 or 947-0182.


For Sale—1,800-sq.-ft. bi-level home. Kalamazoo Promise eligible, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, formal dining room, family room, 1/2-acre lot, deck. $145,000. Call 217-2053.

Obituaries

Roger N. Bresson, a millwright in the physical plant, died Tuesday, April 1, in Galesburg, Mich. He was 68.

Bresson worked at WMU from 1991 to 2003 and was a member of Kalamazoo Antique Engine & Machinery Club. He was born in Battle Creek, Mich., and had been a longtime Galesburg resident.

Memorial contributions may be made to the West Michigan Cancer Center.

Mary Frances Fenton, associate professor emerita of education and professional development, died April 12 at St. Arbor Hospice in Kalamazoo. She was 68.

Fenton came to WMU in 1963 as a television graphics artist. Three years later, she joined the Faculty Graphics Service in the College of Education, becoming the unit’s director in 1988.

Before her retirement in 1991, the WMU alumna forged a diverse career as an educator, researcher, artist, women’s advocate and lecturer. In 1972, she became the first president of the University’s Commission on the Status of Women and in 1977, she was a founding member of Matrix, Kalamazoo’s first feminist art group. More recently, she gained notoriety as an organic gardener.

Herbert H. Hannon, professor emeritus of mathematics, died Tuesday, April 11, in Kalamazoo. He was 82.

Hannon joined the WMU faculty in 1947 and retired in 1976. Although he taught many different undergraduate courses, his primary focus was elementary mathematics education. He earned a bachelor’s degree from WMU in 1938, a master’s degree from the University of Michigan in 1940 and a doctoral degree in education from the University of Northern Colorado in 1954.

Hannon grew up in Hermanville, Mich., in the Upper Peninsula. Prior to joining the faculty, he was an elementary and secondary public school teacher for 15 years in Hermanville and Grand Blanc, Mich.

Memorial donations may be made to the Westwood United Methodist Church or to Herbert H. Hannon Scholarship Fund at WMU. Scholarship donations should be made payable to the WMU Foundation and mailed to the WMU Foundation, Kalamazoo MI 49008-5431.
Relay for Life walk—Relay for Life of Western Michigan University raised $44,700 for the American Cancer Society through the 24-hour walk-a-thon held April 7 and 8 at Kanley Track. Contributions may still be made (see details online at www.wmich.edu/wmuneews/2006/04/045.html). Money received before the end of August will be added to this year’s event total.

More than 600 people, mostly WMU students, participated in the walk-a-thon. The top fund-raising team represented WMU faculty and staff and brought in $7,083. Staff members Shari Glaser, president’s office, and Bill Whitman, information technology, were among the top individual fund raisers.

WMUK spring fund drive—WMUK’s public radio service, WMUK, met its 2006 spring pledge drive goal of $170,000 on April 10, residence hall students had raised nearly three times the amount of money for local charities than their counterparts did during the entire 2004-05 school year.

Since August, this year’s residence hall students raised a total of $11,645 for charitable organizations, plus donated hundreds of pints of blood, contributed some 300 pounds of food to local food banks, and volunteered more than 500 hours at events to aid others. Of the money raised, $5,108 was garnered during WMU’s Relay for Life while $4,239 went to hurricane relief.

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Commencement—continued from page 1 their college’s scheduled ceremony. They are asked to use the east entrance to the SRC, opposite Lot 13.

Ceremony times and the colleges for which they are being held are: 9 a.m., College of Arts and Sciences; noon, College of Aviation, Engineering and Applied Sciences; 3 p.m., College of Education and Extended University Programs; and 6 p.m., Haworth College of Business.

There’s been a whole lot of fund raising going on this year

Qatar—continued from page 1 was covered in an article in the Gulf Times under the headline “Speakers Reject ‘Clash of Civilizations Theory.’”

“In the article, the president came across as the voice of reason and moderation that she was on the panel,” said Butterfield, noting that the focus of the coverage was on Bailey’s presentation.

In addition to attending the conference, the WMU group met with officials from the University of Qatar, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Qatar Foundation. The latter organization is the developer of Education City, a 2,500-acre desert location being transformed into a world-class educational facility populated by branch campuses of U.S. institutions like Cornell, Texas A&M, Carnegie Mellon and Virginia Commonwealth universities.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to explore some new possibilities that we might pursue as we continue to strengthen our international programs and connections,” Bailey said prior to the trip. “We have strong ties to Qatar and we would like to continue the dialogue we’ve begun about how to build on those ties by establishing program and economic partnerships in that nation and promoting more opportunities for Qatari students to travel to Michigan for university study.”

This was the second trip to Qatar for Bailey, who traveled there in fall 2004. Qatari officials have visited the WMU campus in recent years as well, including Ambassador Omar Bader Al-Dafa, who served as his nation’s ambassador to the United States from 2000 to 2005. Al Dafa is a WMU alumnus, as is Ambassador Nasser bin Hamad M. Al Khalifa, the current Qatari ambassador to the United States.