Bailey leads delegation to conference in Qatar

President Judith I. 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 Bosco, 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

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 invaluable experience of writing and producing news stories that will be assembled into a newscast and shown on a commercial television 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 newsprint 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 value of education in the Middle East, the importance of the media and events such as the Cultural Center's SARS in the Bronco Mall will both close during the Summer II Session.

8 and June 22.

Two Bronco Mall eateries closing

McDonald’s Restaurant and Little Caesar’s in the Bronco Mall will both close May 1, leaving Subway Sandwiches and Salads as the lone remaining eatery.

Officials are in the process of locating replacements for the vendors leaving the mall, which is located on the Bernhard Center’s lower level. Anyone with suggestions for replacement establishments may e-mail ted.petropoulos@wmich.edu.

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 Saturday, 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 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
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, student awards 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.finalsfinish.wmich.edu, call 387-3233 or e-mail sue.oole@wmich.edu.

New menu items showcased

WMU Catering invites University employees and their guests to an Administrate Professionals Day luncheon. Executive Chef Nick Peterska 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 East Ballroom. The per-person cost is $9.95 if reserving by Friday, April 24, and $11.95 at the door. To make a reservation, call 387-4868 or e-mail wmucatering@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.

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 Sangren 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 Sangren Hall’s ground floor in the lobby showcase in the north entrance and the No. 3 and 4 showcases that face each other in the central hallway near Gallery II.

A printmaker, Yadav taps into her personal experiences to reveal the state of women in her homeland, touching on status, the plight of urban working women, violence against women, gender and justice, and human rights. She has presented one-person exhibitions in several cities across India, and her work was recently featured in a London group exhibition.

Yadav says the invention of photography in the early 1800s greatly influenced the development of visual arts, although its effect was not immediate on printmaking.

“I believe that photographic methods affect printmaking,” Yadav says. “I have combined photographic methods with intaglio to enrich its vocabulary. I see nearly limitless possibilities. This series of my work may simply be referred to as ‘Images: Women and companion sufferings of ages.’ Women and companion sufferings of ages: ‘Women and companion sufferings of ages.’

For more information, call the Haenicke Institute’s Olosape Oyelaran at 387-3963.

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.

Miller wraps up WMU career

Joe Miller, School of Music, conducted the Collegiate Singers and the University Chorale for the past five years. Miller, who will retire 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 university choirs in All-State choruses in Carnegie Hall and Boston’s Symphony Hall as well as in Illinois, Tennessee and Michigan.

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.
**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 Experience program.

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."
Commencement continued from page 1

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/wmu/news/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 fund drive—WMUK’s public radio service, WMUK, met its 2006 spring pledge drive goal of $170,000 on April 10, having raised $170,778 from 1,862 donors, including 259 first-time contributors. The money will offset the cost of producing local and regional programs as well as acquiring National Public Radio and Public Radio International programs.

Qatar continued from page 1

This was the second trip to Qatar for Bailey, who traveled there in fall 2004. Qatar 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.