Still time to support Relay for Life

Members of the WMU community still have time to show their support for Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society walk-a-thon fund-raiser that will take place Friday and Saturday, April 7-8, at Knely Track. Supporters may join one of WMU’s relay teams and “walk for a cure” and/or make a monetary donation to the effort. Relay activities will begin at noon Friday and continue through noon Saturday. President Judith I. Bailey will be among those making welcoming remarks at an opening ceremony set for 3 p.m. Friday.

For event details, including how to annotate online or sign up for a team, read the Relay for Life article posted at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news or contact Shannon Landis by calling 387-2361 or sending e-mail to shannon.landis@wmich.edu.

Business dean candidates to visit

Three candidates for the position of dean of the Haworth College of Business will visit the campus in the coming weeks to meet with faculty, staff and students and make public presentations. The candidates and the days and times of their public presentations in Schneider’s Brown Auditorium are:

• P. David Shields, associate dean for graduate and professional programs at the University of Houston’s C.T. Bauer College of Business, from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 13;
• Michael J. Keller, dean of the University of South Dakota School of Business, from 4 to 5 p.m. Monday, April 17; and
• Mitchell W. Fields, executive director of the Centre for Executive Education at the University of Windsor, from 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 19.

Dean Margaret Merton, fine arts, is heading the campuswide search committee. For more about the candidates or the search, visit www.hcob.wmich.edu.

China expert sees higher education in light of global realities

China’s rise on the world stage should prompt universities and other institutions in America to practice strategic engagement, those attending a Haenicke Institute forum March 31 heard. Called “Greater China Forum: Our Relationships with China, Taiwan and Hong Kong,” the event focused on developing strategies for increasing relationships between WMU faculty and students and targeted universities in Greater China.

“China wants to be totally integrated in the global economy. The leaders at the top get it,” said Banning Garrett, director of Asia programs for the Atlantic Council of the United States and kick-off keynote speaker. “The notion that China is a threat to established power should have ended with the Cold War. We’re in one world now.”

Garrett says some in the United States miss the mark by ignoring the world’s interdependence and viewing China as a strategic competitor.

“I tell my students not to look through the lens of the past. They will grow up in a world where they work together and collaborate with people all over the world,” he said. “They will have three to four different careers and a dozen different jobs. So as a university, we must ask ourselves, ‘How do we train people; how do we collaborate?’”

New dean selected to lead Graduate College

Lewis R. Pyenson, a scholar at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette with extensive international experience, has been named dean of WMU’s Graduate College, effective June 15.

Pyenson served as dean of Louisiana’s Graduate School from 1995 to 2001, before moving to his current role as research professor at the Center for Louisiana Studies and professor of history.

Academically focused on the history of science, Pyenson also is an adjunct professor of physics, philosophy, modern languages and cognitive science at Louisiana. The school has some 16,000 students, nearly 1,200 of whom study at the graduate level.

Pyenson’s background includes faculty affiliations with such schools as the universities of Toronto and Montreal and the Virtual University of Quilmes in Argentina. He also has served as a visiting fellow at Princeton; a Suntory lecturer at four Japanese universities; a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow at three Argentinian organizations and the George Soros Chair at the University of Ghent in Belgium.

“Dr. Pyenson brings with him a successful track record in graduate program leadership as well as a wealth of experience as an active scholar in his own right,” says Provost Linda Schelle.

“His background is an unusual blend of science and the humanities that I think will be invaluable in his work here at WMU. This University will benefit from his energetic leadership and creativity as well as the unique point of view that comes from his own research and writing. He will also participate in the comprehensive review of graduate programs now under way.”

Additional information technology firm moves to BTR Park

An information technology company that has carved out a national niche in the real estate property appraisal arena is the newest corporate partner to take up residence in WMU’s Business Technology and Research Park.

Network Appraisal Services Inc., a division of First American Corp.’s eAppraiseIT group, has opened an office in the park’s Initech Building, formerly known as the Pro Line Tech Building. The move brings this multitenant building to full occupancy, with six advanced engineering and IT firms located there. A total of 29 firms with more than 500 employees are now part of the BTR Park community.

Operating under the domain name www.Appraisals.com, NAS is a firm developed by WMU alumnus William Brian Hartman, who is the company president. Using his background in real estate appraisal for financial institutions, Hartman has developed software to be used by the appraisal industry.

His company has seven employees in Kalamazoo and 21 in Romeo, Mich. Four current employees are WMU students with backgrounds in business, education, computer science and business information systems.
Bronco Spirit Day returns on first Fridays beginning April 7

Latino issues to be discussed in upcoming diversity program

WMU Residence Hall Association. Born all part of a very special university.”

This year’s program will last 90 minutes and be presented by Victor Rivas Rivers, a Cuban-born actor, athlete, activist and author. Rivers will tell his personal story of overcoming a violent upbringing and the challenges of cultural prejudice as well as explore new strategies for changing entrenched stereotypes and confronting divisions within the Latino community itself.

“The University is proud to co-sponsor the eighth annual Respecting Differences diversity event,” says WMU President Judith I. Bailey, “I strongly encourage you to attend. The presentations have been scheduled to accommodate various work schedules and to ensure that WMU services are not interrupted.”

Rivers attended Florida State University on a football scholarship and went on to become the first Cuban rookie to have a tryout with the Miami Dolphins. He was drafted in 1977 and played with the Dolphins for two years before embarking on an acting career. Since 1999, Rivers has been the national spokesperson for the National Network to End Domestic Violence. His book, “A Private Family Matter: A Memoir,” recounts his own violent upbringing.

Admission to the “Respecting Differences” program is free, WMU faculty and staff should bring to the event the postcard-sized “ticket” they received last month in their campus mailbox. For more information, call Felicia Crawford in the Department of Human Resources at 387-3635 or Sue Oole in the Lee Honors College at 387-3233.

Bronco Spirit Day is go...
Around Campus

Ruttinger to be feted April 7
Jacquelyn Ruttinger, director of exhibits in the School of Art, will be honored for her more than 20 years of service to WMU at a retirement reception from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 7, in the atrium of the Gilmore Theatre Complex. University colleagues and friends from the community are welcome to attend. Ruttinger officially retires June 30.

Students to host Earth Week
A variety of events have been scheduled for WMU’s Earth Week, which starts Monday, April 10. The week will conclude on Thursday with Earth Fest, which is being described as an environmentally focused Bronco Bash. It will feature a celebration from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Fountain Plaza and a concert from 4 to 9 p.m. near the Goldsworth Valley Pond.

Supreme Court focus of lecture
As the Supreme Court debates such controversial issues as enemy combatants’ rights, this year’s Sam Clark Lecturer will try to make sense of it all. Lawrence Baum, professor of political science at Ohio State University, will deliver the Clark Lecture from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, April 10, in the Bernhard Center’s South Ballroom. Baum also will present a research colloquium for political science faculty and students at 3 p.m. the same day in 3301 Friedmann.

Speakers to address ethics issues
Two talks remain in the spring series of discussions slated by the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society. Edward Goldman, associate vice president and deputy general counsel in the Office of the General Counsel at the University of Michigan, will speak on “Should You Be a Subject in Research?” at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 11, in 3512 Knauz. Jan Narveson, a retired professor of philosophy at the University of Waterloo, will speak on a topic to be announced at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 18, in 3014 Moore.

World Bank official to visit
Visval Thomas, a high-ranking World Bank official and 1971 alumnus, will present “New Directions in Development: Brazil, India and China,” at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, in 3508 Knauz as part of the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program. He has served in several capacities with the World Bank since 1976 and is currently director-general of operations evaluation. Thomas’ expertise includes knowledge sharing and training, trade policy, macroeconomic adjustment, macrosectoral links, environmental policy, agricultural policy, urban economics and poverty measures.

Russian film series ends soon
The final film in the Department of Foreign Languages’ Russian Film Series will be shown at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, in 1021 Brown. The free film, 1988’s “Heart of a Dog” directed by Vladimir Bortko, will be presented in Russian with English subtitles.

Two poets to give readings
Poets Peter Covino and Paula McLain will read from their works at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 13, in the Little Theatre, as the final installment in the 2005-06 Gwen Frostic Reading Series. For more information, send e-mail to armie.johnston@wmich.edu.

Obituaries

Sharlene M. Miller, supervisor of academic records, died March 27, in Florida, it was recently learned. She was 67.

Miller worked at WMU from 1959-61 as a secretary in the Department of English, then returned to the University in 1975 as a clerk in the academic records office. She went on to serve as a secretary in the registrar’s office from 1979 to 1987, when she was named academic records supervisor. She remained in that post until her retirement in December 1996.

Before coming to WMU in the 1950s, Miller worked for the Travelers Insurance Co. in South Bend, Ind.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 8, in Kanley Chapel.

Marc W. Perkovic, chemistry, died April 1 in Kalamazoo. He was 45.

Perkovic, who died from complications of open-heart surgery, joined the faculty in 1996. He came to WMU from the University of Michigan, where he was director of research instrumentation. He also was a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Fellow at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and a research associate at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Notre Dame Radiation Laboratory.

An active researcher in such fields as solar photochemistry and environmental photochemistry, Perkovic led a team that earlier this year won a President’s Innovation Fund award to develop Bronco Biodiesel, an alternative fuel source produced by recycling waste vegetable oil.

Perkovic earned a bachelor’s degree from Cleveland State University in 1984 and a doctoral degree from Wayne State University in 1990.

A memorial celebration of his life is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday, April 9, in WMU’s Lee Honors College, with an open house to follow. A scholarship fund has been set up in Perkovic’s memory through the Department of Chemistry.

James P. Robinson, manager of the Audiovisual Center in what had been Media Services, died March 20, at Rose Arbor Hospice in Kalamazoo. He was 82.

Robinson came to WMU in 1964 as news director and an announcer at WMUK and later was promoted to Audiovisual Center manager.

Previously, he had worked in commercial radio for eight years and served as a YMCA Boys’ Work secretary for two and one-half years. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Denver and a master’s degree from WMU.

A Nebraska native, Robinson was active in numerous local civic and service groups and served as international president of the Kalamazoo Round Table. He joined the U.S. Air Force during World War II and served as a member of a tank battalion.

Service

The following employees are recognized for 25, 15, 10 and five years of service during April.

25 Years—Jacqueline M. Schley, Sindecuse Health Center, and Ronald Schubot, laboratory services; and Michael A. Walden, Department of Chemistry.

20 Years—Kim Brown, Bernhard Center Dining Services; Alison K. Colonka, counselor education and counseling psychology; Diane D. DeZoete, Bernhard Center Dining Services; James R. Fulmer, College of Aviation; Annette M. Kemler, Extended University Programs; Michelle L. Lanris, Bernhard Center Dining Services; Robert H. McDonough, Extended University Programs; Jennifer A. Newcomb, College of Health and Human Services; Frank James Robinson, Extended University Programs; and Abhay Sharma, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging.

15 Years—John Barton, physical plant–building custodial and support services; Arthur Hudson, physical plant–building custodial and support services; Yolanda

10 Years—Lois J. Campbell, physical plant–building custodial and support services; Yolanda

8 Years—Marc A. Knight, physical plant–building custodial and support services; James Douglas Short, physical plant–building custodial and support services; and Michael A. Walden, physical plant–power plant.

5 Years—Kim Brown, Bernhard Center Dining Services; Alison K. Colonka, counselor education and counseling psychology; Diane D. DeZoete, Bernhard Center Dining Services; James R. Fulmer, College of Aviation; Annette M. Kemler, Extended University Programs; Michelle L. Lanris, Bernhard Center Dining Services; Robert H. McDonough, Extended University Programs; Jennifer A. Newcomb, College of Health and Human Services; Frank James Robinson, Extended University Programs; and Abhay Sharma, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging.
New dean selected

Pyenson says he’s eager to begin his new role and expects to visit campus several times before his official start date. He notes that his recent conversations with colleagues around the world have shown him the breadth of WMU’s reputation.

“Western has a strong presence internationally, and I’ve been pleased at the number of different graduate programs people talk about when I bring up WMU,” Pyenson says. “What really strikes me, across the board, is the strength of the programs and the encouragement of different graduate programs people talk about when I bring up WMU.”

Pyenson earned a bachelor’s degree with honors in physics from Swarthmore College in 1969, a master’s degree in physics from the University of Wyoming in 1970 and a doctoral investment of energy and creativity.

Staff award winners announced

Nine staff members have been selected to receive spring 2006 annual Make A Difference awards. The awards will be presented during a reception at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 20, in the Fetzer Center.

The University community is invited to attend the event, during which the award recipients will each receive $250 and a commemorative certificate.

The recipients are: Betty Dennis, University Curriculum; Kevin Hinds, public safety; Pamela McCartney, chemistry; Judy Northey, University Dining Services; Kelley Oliver, Haworth College of Business; Victoria Rose, public safety; Deborah Stansfield, marketing; Michael Walden, physical plant-power plant; and Judy Walters, University ombuds.

The WMU Make A Difference awards program is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

2006 Finals Finish seeks volunteers

Members of the faculty, staff and administration are asked to help students ease into finals week by volunteering at the 10th annual Finals Finish from 6 to 11 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, April 24-25, in the Student Recreation Center.

This year’s program, “Late Night With Finals Finish,” will celebrate the event’s 10th anniversary.

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. During their shifts, volunteers help distribute snacks, work registration, gather evaluations and support students participating in the event.

Those volunteering or donating $25 or more will receive a free T-shirt.

To register online, visit www finalsfinish .wmich .edu (site will go up week of April 10). For more information, contact Sue Oole by calling 387-3233 or sending e-mail to sue.oole@wmich.edu.