



Western NEWS

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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Holden, Pero elected to lead trustees



Holden



Pero

The WMU Board of Trustees has elected James P. Holden of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and Dan Pero of Laingsburg, Mich., to serve for 2006 as chair and vice chair, respectively. The election took place at the board's March 9 meeting.

Holden was appointed to the board in 2002. He is the former president and chief executive officer of DaimlerChrysler AG, and earned his bachelor's degree from WMU in 1973. Pero, also a 1973 alumnus, was appointed to his current term on the board in 2001. He is president of the American Justice Partnership.

Tuition adjustment approved

Effective with the start of the 2006 Summer I session, students taking summer classes will be charged tuition on a per-credit-hour basis, rather than on the flat-rate tuition schedule. WMU trustees approved the change March 9, recognizing that summer students often include professionals taking one or two classes for certification or visiting students from other colleges and universities who are taking a limited credit load.

Cesar Chavez celebration set

Comic, magician and singer-impersonator Efrain "Happy" Guerrero will be the featured speaker at this year's observance of Cesar



Guerrero

E. Chavez Day at noon Thursday, March 30, in the South Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

Guerrero entertains audiences of all ages and frequently presents humorous motivational programs.

His March 30 presentation, which is free and open to the public, is part of a daylong series of events planned in Kalamazoo to honor Chavez.

The Kalamazoo observance will begin at 10 a.m. in Bronson Park with a program sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Cesar Chavez Day Committee. Immediately following the program, those attending will make a symbolic march to WMU to hear the presentation by Guerrero.

The day will end with the fourth annual Spring Fiesta from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Edison Environmental Science Academy, 924 Russell Street. The fiesta will celebrate Hispanic culture through food, music and dance.

Veteran education professor to coordinate WMU's 'Promise' efforts for next two years

A longtime education professor at WMU is coming back to the University to establish institutional coordination with the Kalamazoo Public Schools and the recently announced Kalamazoo Promise program.

James Bosco, who retired in 2004 as professor of educational studies and director of external technology affairs for the College of Education, has agreed to an initial two-year term as institutional coordinator. Ronika Hamilton, a finance specialist with the Division of Multicultural Affairs, will assist Bosco, and other staff members in the Office of the Provost will help as needed.

"Jim is exceptionally well-qualified for this task, given his extensive knowledge of community-school partnerships," says Linda Delene, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"He has extensive knowledge about the University, a deep commitment to the community and a strong educational technology background. He's also well-versed at the international level on how collaborative arrangements can work. I am grateful for the leadership and energy he will bring to the task, and delighted at Ronika's willingness to assist him as needed."

Bosco served as WMU professor of educational studies from 1965 to 2004, when he retired with emeritus status. In the years immediately before his retirement, he was well-known on campus for leading various educational technology initiatives, including spearheading several online projects.

Since leaving the University, he has remained active, serving as a senior advisor for Michigan Freedom to Learn and co-chair for

both the Consortium for School Networking International Committee and the World Bank/Consortium for School Networking International Symposium.

Bosco has taken part in a number of statewide education activities and initiatives, serving as chair of the Michigan Tech Corps Board from 1994 to 2000, coordinator of Michigan's ThinkQuest initiative from 1995 to 2000, a member of the State Superintendent's Technology Advisory Committee from 1992



Bosco

to 1996, U.S. Sen. Carl Levin's Education Technology

Task Force and a long list of other posts. He has written papers and articles for numerous publications, and he was awarded a "Making It Happen" National Technology Award in 2001.

Bosco says he's excited about his new position.

"I accepted the role of WMU coordinator with enthusiasm because it was clear to me that the WMU administration is deeply committed to helping make the Promise a complete success," Bosco says.

"As I spoke with Linda Delene and other key administrators it became clear to me that they see this as an opportunity for WMU to play a key role in something that can transform education in our community."

Announced in November and funded by anonymous donors, the Kalamazoo Promise offers Kalamazoo Public Schools graduates free tuition at any public college or university

continued on page 4



New Carnegie category refines WMU's research university status

A major overhaul of a higher education classification system produced by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching puts WMU in a research university category shared by just 76 public universities around the nation.

In the new classification, released earlier this month, WMU is called a "research university with high research activity." The category is a new one that resulted from a decision by Carnegie to refine its research university categories by adding a new category to reflect the status of doctoral-granting research universities that conduct a high level of research, often without the benefit of having a medical or veterinary school.

WMU shares the new category with such national universities as Clemson, George Mason, Temple, Texas Tech and Virginia Commonwealth universities as well as the universities of Alabama and Missouri-Rolla. In Michigan, the only other school in the same research category is Michigan Technological University.

"We watched closely as the new classification system developed and were pleased to see the Carnegie Foundation refine its earlier system to reflect the complexity of the higher education arena," says President Judith I. Bailey. "I think WMU's placement in the new category recognizes its standing in Michigan and the nation as a

continued on page 4

Senior citizens feel at home during WMU's annual prom

Area residents who grew up with typewriters and rotary telephones will be in familiar territory when WMU holds its 18th annual Senior Prom from 7 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

This semi-formal event transforms the traditional senior prom into a fun-filled nostalgic evening by bringing hundreds of senior citizens together with WMU students, faculty and staff for a night of Big Band music and swing dancing. Anyone wishing to attend may do so; there is no need to RSVP.

Students typically prepare for the prom by teaming up with senior citizen tutors in mid-March to learn the fox trot, waltz, Lindy and other dance steps popular in decades gone by. The seniors also are able to brief younger dancers on the hairstyles and fashions that were in vogue when these dances were all the rage.

The theme for the 2006 prom is "The Elegance of the Twenties: Tonight We're Puttin' on the Ritz." Admission is free, and those who arrive early will be able to "warm up" by participating in Early-Bird Bingo from 5 to 7 p.m.

In keeping with previous years, refreshments, photo keepsakes, dance contests and prizes also will enliven the evening. Music will be provided by the Phoenix Big Band, a 15-piece ensemble from Kalamazoo that has been providing music for the prom since the event's inception.

"Senior Prom is by far one of the best programs held on campus each year. It's a great way to bring together different generations in a fun atmosphere," says Meghann Meeusen, a senior from Romeo, Mich., majoring in English who is helping coordinate the event. "In 17 years, no one has ever walked away without having had a great time. What could be better than free food, music, dancing and great company?"

Student defends dissertation from Bahrain via teleconference

The doctoral dissertation process can be stressful even for the hardest individuals. With this in mind, a team of understanding faculty and staff swung into action March 15 when a WMU student was called away to Bahrain just before his scheduled dissertation defense.

In a WMU first, the Graduate College arranged for Alea Sleymann to defend his dissertation via teleconference.

"It was a team effort to set up a live webcast between Bahrain and Walwood Hall on campus," says Marianne Di Pierro, Graduate College. "But it's a great way to serve students when circumstances are beyond their control. The teleconference was a one-on-one demonstration that WMU really is student centered."

Sleymann, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Lebanon, was in Bahrain to help set up a business. A civil engineer, he works for a local firm and is in the final stages of completing his doctorate in public affairs. His dissertation committee members are Matthew S. Mingus, chairperson, public affairs and administration; James A. Visser, public affairs and administration; and Ahmad Jade, civil and construction engineering.

Sleymann's dissertation, "A Study on Perceptions of Civil Engineers Regarding Mandatory Continuing Education," involved a PowerPoint presentation, adding to the difficulty of setting up the teleconference.

"It was a wonderful collaboration between the Graduate College, School of Public Affairs and Administration, Academic Technology and Instructional Services, and the systems specialist for the Development Office here in Walwood Hall," Mingus says. "Everyone came together to make this happen."

WMUK's spring pledge drive scheduled to begin in April

WMUK will rely upon listener support both during and prior to the spring 2006 pledge drive, which will begin April 1.

"We were glad we met our fall 2005 campaign goal, even though it took a day longer than we had anticipated," General

Manager Floyd Pientka says. "The sooner we reach our spring goal of \$170,000, the better. We want to keep interruption of our regular programming to a minimum. The easiest and quickest way to make the goal is for supporters to call early in the drive, send in the pledge card they received in the mail before the drive or pledge online at www.wmuk.org on our secure server. Because more listeners are using the Web site to register their opinions or find information about WMUK, I believe we'll continue to see more pledges online."

Through early Internet and mail-in contributions, the station has already made substantial progress toward its goal. Drive progress can be followed by viewing the Web ticker at wmuk.org. More than 80 volunteers have signed up to answer pledge calls during the first week of April.

"Our volunteers are an important point of contact with the community," observes WMUK's new development director, Gordon Bolar. "A dedicated volunteer corps that can take down information quickly and respond to listener pledge calls in a friendly manner has been a characteristic of WMUK listener support drives for years."

Murali top executive nominee

Vice President Viji Murali, WMU's chief information officer, is one of 16 nominees from some of the Midwest's leading business and nonprofit organizations for the 2006 Information Security Executive of the Year Central Award.



Murali

The winner of the award as well as the finalists will be announced April 20 at ISE Central Executive Forum and Award Gala in Dallas.

The event is designed to honor the nation's leaders in the field of information security. Nominees from the nation's central region include CIOs or information security executives from such companies as American Electric Power, Dow Chemical, General Motors, Nationwide Insurance, and Procter & Gamble as well as their counterparts with the state of Michigan, a number of major health care organizations and three other universities.

The winner and finalists will be selected using criteria that includes effectiveness in leadership, developing innovative solutions, and mentoring and motivating staff members. The ISE award program series, organized by Executive Alliance Inc., is the largest and most widely recognized program for IT security executives. The series includes awards for six regions around the United States as well as an overall national award.

Wagner wins international award

Bret J. Wagner, management, has been named the first recipient of the Majdi Najm Outstanding Service Award from



Wagner

SAP University Alliances, an international organization focused on classroom use of the SAP family of integrated business software.

Wagner developed a database that simulates actual company structures for hands-on classroom training using the software. The program is now used at universities in the United States, Canada and Japan.

He and Ellen Monk of the University of Delaware collaborated to co-author the textbook titled "Concepts in Enterprise Resource Planning," which connects software instruction with the many hands-on activities he has developed. Faculty members starting out with the University Alliances program learn about SAP from training workshops developed by Wagner. More advanced faculty utilize his materials in the classroom.

SAP University Alliances provides faculty members at 120 universities around the globe with the tools and resources necessary to teach using the mySAP Business Suite—software that supports business, engineering and information technology programs and enables students to put classroom theory into practice through demonstrations, exercises and problem solving, case studies, and research programs.



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Around Campus

Surplus items to be sold

Surplus woodworking equipment slated for a sealed-bid sale may be viewed in a walk-through at 4 p.m. Monday, March 27, in the Campus Services Building. Sealed bids are due by 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 29, at the Campus Services Building, and all items must be picked up by 5 p.m. Friday, March 31.

Zest for Life program starting

Zest for Life is sponsoring the Weight Watcher at Work Program and will have an informational session on the program Tuesday, March 28.

This open session will be held in 3250 Sindecuse from noon to 12:45 p.m. The next 12-week session is scheduled to begin Tuesday April 4. For more information, call 387-3762.

Balkan politics to be discussed

Robert Hayden, the director of the Center for Russian and East European Studies and professor of anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh, will be on campus to deliver the 2005-06 George Klein Lecture and present a research colloquium. Hayden is an anthropologist of law and politics.

He will present "Antagonistic Tolerance, Divided Societies and Electoral Politics in India and the Balkans" from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, in 1010 Fetzer. He also will present a research colloquium titled "The Balkan Cockfight

and Imagined Communities" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 29, in 3301 Friedmann.

Greater China forum planned

Creating strategies for increasing faculty and student relationships between WMU and targeted universities in Greater China is the aim of a forum that will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, March 31, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium.

A highlight of the reservation-only event will be keynote presentations by two speakers who will address issues related to China's expected emergence as the world's No. 2 superpower and its goal of creating a higher education system that rivals that of Ivy League universities.

Keynoting will be Banning Garrett, director of Asia programs for the Atlantic Council of the United States and a former U.S. Department of Defense consultant, and Timothy Light, a retired WMU provost and faculty member who began his academic career at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

To make a reservation, call Bill Woods, forum chair, at 387-3956.

Pow-wow returns to WMU

The cultural heritage and diversity of American Indians will be celebrated during the annual Native American Pow-Wow from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 1, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 2, in University Arena. This large, public event has an

admission charge and features drumming, dancing, singing, food, artwork and crafts as well as spectacular Native American regalia and dance competitions.

Presentation to focus on Nepal

Krishna Gyawall, an authority on the Asian nation of Nepal and its economic reform efforts, will speak from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, in 3301 Friedmann. The evening will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m. Gyawall is joint secretary of his majesty's government of Nepal, the head of the Economic Affairs and Policy Analysis Division of the Ministry of Finance, and the Humphrey Fellow at Michigan State University.

Bioterrorism subject of talk

Austin S. Babrow, an internationally renowned communication scholar, will present "Constructing the Uncertainties of terrorism: A Case Study of Bioterrorism and a Meditation on Self-Defense" from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, in 3512 Knauss. Babrow is a professor of communication at Purdue University. His upcoming talk is part of the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program.

These and many other campus events are described in greater detail on the WMU News Web site at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

Service

The following employees are recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during February.

30 Years—Diana K. Allen, physical plant—building custodial and support services.

25 Years—Tobias J. Boyle, information technology; Lisa K. Hotchkiss, residence life; and Betty L. Kirk, physical plant—building custodial and support services.

20 Years—Deanna J. Hinkle, Development Office; Patricia A. Moore, intercollegiate athletics; Judith K. Phelps, admissions and orientation; Elizabeth Richardson, multicultural affairs; and Raymond Wolfram, Campus Facility Development.

15 Years—Carol L.J. Hustoles, vice president for legal affairs and general counsel; Stephen L. Kettner, information technology; and Nujurnor J. Parks, information technology-telecommunications.

10 Years—Dennis W. Brooks, WMU Bookstore; Gerald R. Ditto, student financial aid and scholarships; Deanna S. Draz, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; Deveta R. Gardner, Career and Student Employment Services; Joel Kendrick, Paper, Coating and Printing Pilot Plant; Suzette A. Kohlert, Sindecuse Health Center; Tracey Scott Overkamp, physical plant—maintenance services; Shannon A. Ringer, Miller Auditorium; and Anthony Craig Velez, physical plant—maintenance services.

Five Years—Connie Black-Pond, Unified Clinics; Audrey K. King, Valley #1 Dining Service; and Shellie Mosher, grants and contracts.

Exchange

For Sale—Utility tilt trailer, 8'x6'. Tongue jack, working lights, and good tires and bearing. \$200 or best offer. Vinyl Tonneau cover for short box Chevy/GMC, 1999-06; new condition; \$60.00. Wind deflector for GMC/Chevy truck, 1999-04, \$50.00. Call (269) 668-4718.

For Sale—Parkview Hills condominium. Kalamazoo Promise eligible, 1,105 square feet, three bedrooms, two baths (private full bath in master bedroom), dishwasher, fireplace, walk-in master bedroom closet,

balcony, central air, lower-level garage, clubhouse privileges and more. \$94,500. Call (269) 668-2064.

For Rent—Cute Cape Cod style house at 2528 Lorraine, Kalamazoo. Three bedrooms, one and one-half baths, wooden floors, arched doorways, built-in bookshelves, fireplace, garage, fenced yard and screened porch. \$850 per month. Utilities not included. Rental period September 2006 to June 2007. Will consider renting for portion of that period. Call (269) 344-0760 or send e-mail to susan.weinger@wmich.edu.

Jobs

The following vacancies are currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by the Human Resource Services Department. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period and may contact a human resource services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 387-3669 to hear the weekly Job Opportunity Program postings, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, from a Touch Tone phone.

For persons interested in faculty positions, there are openings in selected fields. A letter of application should be submitted to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

(R), Director, Battle Creek/Lansing Campuses, 20, Extended University Programs, 05/06-5067, 03/20-03/27/06

(R), Office Assistant, Battle Creek Campus (term ends 03/01/07), 11, Extended University Programs, 05/06-5086, 03/20-03/27/06

(R), Instructional Design Tech, 15, Academic Technology and Instructional Services, 05/06-5109, 03/20-03/27/06

(R), Office Assistant, Lansing Campus, 11, Extended University Programs, 05/06-5110, 03/20-03/27/06

N= New R=Replacement
WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

On Campus with Shawn Nelson



HIGH-TECH HONCHO
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Unlike most of us, Shawn Nelson is a happy camper regardless of whether he's curled up with an action-packed novel or a detailed technical manual. Nelson came to WMU in 1999 as the office technology coordinator for the College of Health and Human Services, assuming CHHS' first full-time information technology position.

After graduating from WMU in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in computer information systems, he worked in IT for a local bank and medical equipment company, then jumped at the chance to come back to the University and take his career to the next level. The timing was perfect.

"I participated in the extensive planning that went into the college's new building," Nelson says. "I've been involved from the ground up and have learned a lot about how you pull something like this off—it's huge."

His job has grown along with the technology-infused facility he tends. Nelson manages its classroom audio visual technologies, help desk, and instructional and student computer labs, which include special devices and software packages for differently abled users.

He also oversees faculty/staff support and development; provides overall support for the Unified Clinics, which are housed in a nearby building; and supervises a staff of two CHHS professionals and 20 student employees.

"The biggest challenge is accurately prioritizing things and being flexible enough to reprioritize on the fly," Nelson says. "But I really do like the mix of faculty, staff and students. We have a great group in the college. Our faculty has really embraced the technology and we have stellar staff and students working here."

The Portage resident is married with two young children. He splits his spare time between them, playing computer games, reading and running.

Carnegie _____ continued from page 1
highly productive research university that has carved out a reputation in a distinct set of disciplines."

The new system, which represents the first major Carnegie overhaul since 2000, augments the previous classifications by categorizing institutions according to undergraduate and graduate instructional programs, overall enrollment and undergraduate student profiles, and size and setting. In addition to its status as a research university with high research activity, WMU is categorized as a "large, four-year primarily nonresidential" university with a "high undergraduate" enrollment profile and a graduate program profile that is classified as "comprehensive doctoral, no medical or veterinary."

According to James Gilchrist, student academic and institutional research, the new Web tools and the multiple classification levels will make it easy to identify and compare WMU with other schools close in size, mission and research status. By selecting the field of public universities in the "high research activity" category and narrowing the group further to include only those schools with the same graduate program profile as WMU, a group of 34 schools can be identified. Those 34 schools include George Mason, the universities of Alabama, Maine, North Texas, Oklahoma and Mississippi.

"These are the schools we might consider our peer institutions," Gilchrist says.

The latest Carnegie effort classifies 4,321 colleges and universities, up from 3,856 in 2000. The foundation first developed its classification system in 1970. This year's revision marks the fifth such overhaul and is attributed to the increasingly complex and multifaceted higher education landscape. The 2000 classification initiative includes Web-based tools that Carnegie officials believe will make it easier to analyze the classification system and group like institutions. Those Web tools and the complete list of colleges can be found at www.carnegiefoundation.org/classifications.

At WMU, an on-campus session is being planned for later this semester to explore all of the categories the University is in and to examine the significance of each.

WMU's 'Promise' coordinator _____ continued from page 1
in Michigan.

"When I first heard about the Promise, it seemed too good to be true," Bosco says. "We all know what they say about things that seem too good to be true. But the Promise proves that there can be exceptions to that rule."

Bosco earned his bachelor's degree from Duquesne University, a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a doctoral degree from Columbia University.

Gamers convention slated

WMU will be the place to be when it plays host to southwest Michigan's largest gaming convention Friday through Sunday, March 24-March 26. Called Marmalade Dog 11, the public event will feature a variety of board, card, role-playing and miniature games; computer game tournaments; and Japanese animation screenings. Most activities will take place in the first-floor tennis court of the Student Recreation Center. For more information, visit www.marmaladedog.org.

Ceremony for scholars set today to recognize WMU's top seniors

In the spirit of "March madness" and college basketball's National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament, this could be called the "final 47."

WMU's top 47 undergraduates are being recognized today at the 26th annual Presidential Scholars Convocation at the Fetzer Center. The "final 47" will be honored as Presidential Scholars, WMU's highest academic award bestowed on an undergraduate.

The convocation, which is by invitation only, will begin with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and a program featuring WMU President Judith I. Bailey as the keynote speaker. Bailey's address is titled "The Power of One." Paul Pancella, president of the WMU Faculty Senate, will preside, while three of the scholars—Aliisa Lahti, Timothy Lechota and Molly Hines—will make brief remarks.

The Presidential Scholars Convocation is intended to celebrate the excellence of WMU students. It is sponsored by the Faculty Senate and the Office of the President. Students are nominated for the award by faculty members. They are selected on the basis of their general academic excellence, academic and/or artistic excellence in their major and intellectual and/or artistic promise. The students often travel and study across the country and overseas and are engaged in innovative and sometimes unusual research projects.

Just as in the past, the achievements of all of this year's scholars are as impressive as they are varied.