



Western NEWS

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For and about WMU faculty and staff

Trustees meeting set for today

The Board of Trustees will elect new officers for 2006 and consider an adjustment to tuition for the University's summer sessions when it meets in public session at 9 a.m. today in 157 Bernhard Center.

Trustees also will consider a number of other items, including a proposal to transfer the Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center to the WMU Research Foundation as well as a recommendation to confer an honorary degree. In addition, the board is expected to hear reports on gifts and grants, consider a number of personnel items, and hear several information items.

Bailey testifies before legislators

During a Feb. 24 hearing held on campus, President Judith I. Bailey urged the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education to make investing in education the Michigan Legislature's top priority. Bailey's testimony included a description of WMU's impact on the local community, state and nation, and a warning that the lack of investment in higher education would jeopardize Michigan's prosperity for coming generations.

Three other presidents also testified at the hearing: Mary Sue Coleman, University of Michigan; Mark Murray, Grand Valley State University; and David L. Eisler, Ferris State University. The complete text of Bailey's testimony, as well as her written responses to questions posed by the panel in advance of the hearing, are available at www.wmich.edu/president.

Rypma to read from chapbooks

Judi A. Rypma, English, will read from her two most-recently published chapbooks at 7 p.m. Monday, March 13, on the 10th floor of Sprau Tower. The free program will feature readings from "Rapunzel's Hair" and "Mineral Treasures." A reception will follow.

Rypma is the winner of the ANP (All Nations Press) 2005 Chapbook Contest for "Rapunzel's Hair." She has published poems in more than 100 journals. A Pushcart Prize nominee, she has won the Editor's Prize from *The Chaffin Journal* and received honorable mention in the *Sulphur River Literary Review's* Ocean Prize.

Francophone fest March 15-19

The fifth annual Francophone Film Festival of Kalamazoo will take place Wednesday through Sunday, March 15-19, in the Little Theatre. This year's event will include films from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Congo, France, Haiti and Quebec-Canada.

The festival gives attendees the chance to experience a broader and more diverse view of the many world cultures which express themselves in French. For more information, including ticket prices, visit www.wmich.edu/fffkzoo.

NSF CAREER grant aids researcher's quest to harness, use sun's energy in novel ways

One of the National Science Foundation's most prestigious award programs will fund five years of pioneering research by Sherine Obare, chemistry.



Sherine Obare is pushing the boundaries of nanotechnology research. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Obare has been awarded \$509,972 to conduct research on nanoscale materials and use this research to develop real-world experiments that will excite elementary and secondary students about science.

The award was made through the NSF's Faculty Early Career Development Program, known as the CAREER Program. CAREER grants recognize and support the early career work of teacher-scholars who are expected to become the academic leaders of the 21st century. They number among NSF's most important and competitive grants and are based on faculty proposals for creative career development plans that effectively integrate research and education.

"Dr. Obare's CAREER proposal received an 'Excellent' grade from three reviewers and the review panel," says Subra Muralidharan, chemistry and director of WMU's

Nanotechnology Research and Computation Center. "It's very difficult to have different scientists come to a unanimous positive decision. To have this happen on Dr. Obare's first try is simply outstanding."

Obare came to WMU in 2004 and is a key member of the Nanotechnology Research and Computation Center. Her NSF project, "Rationally Assembled Nanoparticles for Multi-Electron Transfer Processes," seeks to create nanoscale materials that trap and store the sun's energy and use that energy to carry out chemical reactions for specialized purposes.

Among the purposes she is studying are breaking down pollutants in groundwater and generating hydrogen for use as an alternative fuel. She is focusing on nanomaterials—materials organized atom by atom or molecule by molecule—because they have unique properties that can be manipulated and exploited for these and other important applications.

The project is inspired by how nature is able to use intricate pathways to carry out important reactions, Obare says, noting as an example that plants use sunlight to carry out photosynthesis. But what makes her research novel is that she is using nanomaterials to store the energy as electrons, and then initiate chemical reactions even when sunlight is not present.

Obare is working with a 10-person research team composed of one postdoctoral fellow, three graduate students and six undergraduate students. The group, which has been working on the project for about six months, will spend the first year of the CAREER grant studying the theory behind how different configurations of metal and semiconductor nanomaterials that they already have created affect chemical reactions.

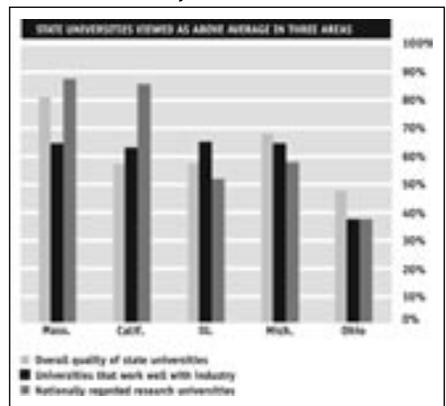
continued on page 4

Taxes should be no barrier to new economy business success

Michigan needs to expand the scope of its debate from one heavily focused on business taxes to a more comprehensive look at improving the state's reputation in the areas most likely to turn Michigan into a new economy force.

That is among the conclusions of "New Economy Progress: The Next Wave," a survey released in its entirety by President Judith I. Bailey during presentations in Dearborn and Grand Rapids earlier this week. The survey was designed to gauge resources, define challenges and analyze the gap between the reality and perception about which states have the most to offer technology-driven businesses.

"The Next Wave" study shows that favorable taxes and a well-educated work force are the two most important traits a



state can have for new economy business development. But having an educated work force trumps taxes in states where the new economy is thriving. Michigan business

continued on page 4

Annual festival feeds appetite for exploring different cultures

The WMU community will have a chance to learn about other countries as well as sample exotic cuisines during the 17th annual International Festival from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 19, in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

This year's event will spotlight more than 14 nations on five continents. Admission is free and open to the public. Food will be sold for a nominal fee.



The International Festival is a global open house that attracts some 4,000 campus and local community members each year. It allows participants to "travel" around the world in a single evening while gaining an appreciation for the University's cultural diversity.

In fact, WMU enrolls more than 1,250 international students from nearly 100 countries and ranks among the nation's top 70 universities in international enrollment.

The University also supports a wide variety of international student groups. Among those participating in International Festival 2006 are the Korean Student Association, Latino Student Association, Malaysian Student Organization, Russian Club and Indonesian Student Association.

The festival is being organized by the International Programs Council and Campus Activities Board. Sponsors include the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, Student Activities and Leadership Programs, the Division of Student Affairs, the University Cultural Events Committee, the Graduate Student Advisory Committee, and the Western Student Association.

WMU-Southwest partnership earns state excellence award

A four-year-old partnership between the WMU-Southwest Campus, Lakeland Regional Health System, Lake Michigan College and the Berrien County Intermediate School District has earned a state award.

The consortium's Professional Health Careers Academy, or PHCA, received a 2006 Excellence in Practice Award from Michigan's Office of Career and Technical Preparations during a Jan. 31 ceremony attended by Leonard Seawood, WMU-Southwest Campus director. The PHCA also received an Education Excellence Award from the Michigan Association of School Boards this past May.

The PHCA gives high school juniors and seniors who demonstrate a career interest in health services an opportunity to gain knowledge and hands-on experience in the field by working side by side with health care professionals. It will now be used as a national pilot model for similar programs across the nation.

The Excellence in Practice Award is bestowed annually to programs that exhibit high standards of excellence in preparing Michigan students for higher education and careers. Students enrolled in the PHCA program take a course at the WMU-Southwest Campus.

Those who successfully complete the program earn up to 13.5 college credits that will be honored at either WMU or Lake Michigan College.

Nominations sought for new Athletic Hall of Fame members

The WMU Athletic Hall of Fame selection committee is soliciting nominations for the 2006 induction class, which will be honored this fall.

The deadline to submit nominations is May 31.

Since its inception in 1973, the Athletic

Hall of Fame has grown to include more than 150 former student-athletes, coaches and administrators.

"We're looking for former student-athletes who have set records or were All-Americans," says Bud Donnelly, committee chairperson.

"The idea is to recognize the very best of Bronco athletes with representation from all sports and time periods."

Criteria for selection is based on several factors.

- Athletes are eligible for nomination 10 years after graduation or final year of competition.
- Athletes must have earned at least two letters in one sport, or one letter in at least two sports.
- Coaches and athletic administrators must have served the University for a minimum of five years.
- In addition to athletic contributions, professional careers and character are taken into consideration.
- No more than six people may be inducted in a single year.

To submit a nomination, send a cover letter and supporting materials to Donnelly via campus mail or e-mail to cabdonnelly@sbcglobal.net.

Kominz published in *Science*

Michelle Kominz, geosciences, is one of the lead authors of a review paper examining sea level change over the past 500 million years that was published



Kominz

in the journal *Science* last fall. The paper, titled "The Phanerozoic Record of Global Sea-Level Change," shows dramatic evidence of the impact of global warming.

Kominz is listed as the second author among the 10 scholars who contributed to the paper. The lead author is her longtime colleague Kenneth Miller of Rutgers. Their paper reports that ocean levels are rising twice as fast over the most recent 200 years, compared to the average rise over the preceding 5,000 years, and that human-induced global warming appears to be the cause.

"Almost everybody who lives along a beach has been experiencing beach erosion," Kominz says. "Much of that has been a factor of the long-term rise in sea level. Eventually, they're going to be underwater. It's just a question of time."

Lindquist article gets top rating

Jay Lindquist, emeritus in marketing, is the co-author of one of the most read articles to appear in a journal published by Sage Publications.



Lindquist

The article, titled "Understanding the Experience of Time Scarcity: Linking Consumer Time-Perceptivity and Market-Place Behavior," is the third most read work on Sage Publication's

current list of its top-50 articles.

Lindquist's piece, co-written with Carol Kaufman-Scarborough of Rutgers, appeared in a 2003 issue of *Time and Society*, which is one of the leading international, cross-disciplinary scholarly publications on time-related topics.

Han, Razi tapped by Microsoft

Bernard Han and Muhammad Razi, business information systems, have been invited to present "Classroom use of Mi-



Han



Razi

crosoft Dynamics-Great Plains" at the 10th annual Microsoft Convergence conference, slated for Friday through Tuesday, March 24-28, in Dallas. Han and Razi's topic was selected after a blind review of 18 high-quality proposals.

Convergence is Microsoft's premier annual event. It features speakers, detailed product demonstrations and in-depth learning sessions. William "Bill" Gates will be among this year's keynote speakers.

March meetings planned to organize Relay for Life team

Relay for Life, a fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society, will be held from noon Friday to noon Saturday, April 7-8, at Kanley Track.

Several WMU student organizations and community groups and businesses have already organized teams to participate in the 24-hour walk-a-thon to raise money for cancer prevention, research and other ACS programs.

Shannon Landis, president's office, is organizing a team for interested faculty and staff.

Informational "brainstorming" meetings will be held in the President's Conference Room in Seibert Administration Building at 2 p.m. Monday, March 13, and at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 14. All WMU employees are invited to attend.

Anyone who would like to serve as a leader for the WMU Faculty-Staff team in his or her office or department should contact Landis at 387-2361 or shannon.landis@wmich.edu. Those interested in serving as area leaders are encouraged to attend one of the March 13 and 14 meetings.

Individual employees interested in participating may contact Landis or sign up online by visiting Relay for Life of Western Michigan University on the Web at www.acevents.org/relay/mi/wmu and click on "Sign Up Here." The name of the faculty and staff team in the selection menu on the Web is WMU Fac/Staff.

Medieval Congress wins award; sets 2006 reservation deadline

WMU's International Congress on Medieval Studies, the largest, most comprehensive academic conference of its kind in the world, has been named the 2006 Discover Kalamazoo Award winner by the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The Medieval Congress, which is organized by the Medieval Institute, was honored for making an outstanding contribution to Kalamazoo County's convention and tourism industry. The award was presented during a celebrating excellence ceremony March 7 to recognize individuals and organizations for their efforts in bettering the Kalamazoo area and southwest Michigan.

The 2006 congress, now in its 41st year, will take place Thursday through Sunday, May 4-7. Members of the University community and Kalamazoo County residents may attend the event free of charge as long as they register by April 15.

Anyone attending any Medieval Congress sessions or exhibits must register. Those registering after April 15 must pay a \$25 late registration fee.

Online registration is encouraged, but printed registrations sent in via mail or fax will also be accepted. April 15 is the last day to register online, and registration fees will not be refunded after this date.

To register for the congress, visit www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress.

Bronco teams advance to league tournament quarterfinals

The women's basketball team (14-13, 11-5 MAC) finished second in the MAC West Division.

The team was seeded No. 2 and at press time on March 8, was preparing to play its quarterfinal game in Cleveland's Quicken Loans Arena.

The men's basketball squad (14-16, 10-8 MAC) beat Eastern Michigan University March 6 to advance to MAC Tournament quarterfinals in Cleveland, where it will play No. 3 seed Akron at 2 p.m. today.

The Broncos, seeded No. 6, finished the regular season tied for second place in the MAC West Division. It had received a tournament bye the previous two years.

The hockey team, meanwhile, will play a best-of-three series against top-seeded

Miami University in the quarterfinals of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association Tournament Friday, Saturday and, if necessary, Sunday, March 10-12, in Oxford, Ohio.

WMU (10-22-6) is seeded No. 11. Prior to its first-round win this past Saturday over heavily favored Lake Superior State University, the icers had lost nine straight postseason series and had not won a postseason series on the road since 1987.

ISMM group earns high honors

A team of integrated supply matrix management students from the Haworth College of Business took top honors in the 2006 APICS Case Competition Feb. 11 in Downer's Grove, Ill.

Nineteen schools from across the Midwest participated in the competition, which was held by Region 14 of the Association for Operations Management.

"Our teams have always performed well in the case competition, but this year is the first time the team won," says ISMM director Bret Wagner, management. "We're really proud of their performance. They've set the bar for next year's team."

The two-day competition is designed to test students' knowledge of supply chain practices and innovations by evaluating a real world situation. All teams developed a plan for a business facing financial difficulties and produced a three-page paper and five-minute presentation explaining its plan to make the company in the case more efficient.

Obituaries

Lethonee A. Jones, emerita in social work, died Feb. 22, in Kalamazoo. She was 67.



Jones

Jones, a WMU faculty member for 19 years, retired in 1994. She was a member of the American Association of Black Social Workers, Council on Social Work Education and Popular Culture Association.

Prior to coming to WMU, Jones was co-director of professional development for the Department of Social Work and assistant professor of social work at the University of Tennessee in Nashville from 1974 to 1976; an instructor in the human services department at Kennedy-King College, City Colleges of Chicago from 1972 to 1973; and assistant community program coordinator for Urban Gateways in Chicago from 1971 to 1972.

Jones also was a Peace Corps volunteer in Mogadishu, Somalia, from 1964 to 1966. She enjoyed crafts of all kinds but was best known locally for her quilting.

A West Virginia native, Jones earned a bachelors degree from the Western College for Women in 1960, a master's degree from the University of Illinois in 1969 and a doctoral degree from Union Graduate School in 1977.

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), Assistant Professor, I30, University Libraries, 05/06-4995, 03/06-03/13/06

(R), Assistant Professor, I30, School of Art, 05/06-5039, 03/06-03/13/06

(R), Instructor, I40, School of Music, 05/06-5094, 03/06-03/13/06

(N), Coordinator First-Year Experience (term appointment ending 12/31/07), 16, First-Year Experience Program, 05/06-5095, 03/06-03/13/06

(R), Office Assistant (term appointment ending 6/30/07; FTE .75, 30 hours per week), 11, Mallinson Institute for Science Education, 05/06-5098, 03/06-03/13/06

(N), Accountant-Senior, 16, Accounting Services, 05/06-5100, 03/06-03/13/06

(R), Professor, I10, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, 05/06-5104, 03/06-03/13/06

N= New R=Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Exchange

For Sale—Excellent family car. 125K, AM/FM tape, new tires, oil change, third-row seating, excellent condition. Make appointment to view car in heated garage by calling (269) 998-3822.

For Sale—Baby furniture set in natural color. Crib with mattress and matching accessories, lamp shade and valance. Three-drawer changing table and hutch. Five-drawer dresser. All like new from pet-and smoke-free house. \$350 or best offer. Call (269) 501-3312 or (269) 668-4718.

For Sale—1997 Chevy Camaro. White, V-6, 3.8 liter, 19,625 miles. All power, keyless entry, alarm. Winter stored, excellent condition \$7,500 or best offer. Call (269) 207-2401.

On Campus with John Greenhoe



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, DEVELOPING TRUST
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Becoming a fund-raiser for WMU was a natural progression for John Greenhoe, director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences.

"It's all about building relationships. So in a way, development was just taking my relationship-building skills to a different level," the former journalist says. "We have very interesting, successful and generous alumni all over the world. They have a lot to offer, and that goes far beyond financial resources. It's been great bringing them and our friends closer to WMU."

Greenhoe, an alumnus himself, majored in communication and worked with the sports information office as well as with WIDR and the Western Herald. After graduating in 1983, he landed jobs as a radio reporter, a newspaper sports editor and then sports information director at Kalamazoo College.

He got a taste of the development profession when "K" promoted him to director of public and media relations and while serving three years as assistant executive director of the Kalamazoo area Red Cross. That taste prompted Greenhoe to pick up a master's degree in philanthropy and development and in 2001, to join WMU's cadre of development directors.

"Our ultimate goal is to encourage significant investments," he says. "But good academic programs aren't enough. You also have to build and maintain strong relationships. It's hard for people to invest if they aren't engaged."

Greenhoe enjoys spending time with his wife and 5-year-old daughter as well as working out and watching sports. But the Certified Fund Raising Executive also devotes a significant amount of his spare time to professional development.

"Earning professional credentials and pursuing continuing education is a sign to our stakeholders that we take development seriously," Greenhoe says. "It also instills trust in our investors that we're being good stewards and doing things in the most ethical manner possible. This is important to me and I think to our development office overall."

NSF grant continued from page 1

"We've made a lot of progress on making materials and assembling them, and now we're testing their ability to harvest and store energy in the form of multiple electrons," Obare says. "We need to understand the choreography of multiple electron transfer and how the nature of the metals and semiconductors, and their arrangement, will impact electron transfer dynamics."

In the second and third years of the project, team members will use what they learn about the choreography of electron transfer to pinpoint what governs the chemical reactions that they initiate. In the project's final two years, they will look for practical applications for their materials, conducting tests to see which ones hold the most promise for being developed into new technologies.

"At the end of the grant, we're expecting that the new science coming out of this project will open up a new field for us to continue working on, a field that will make an economic difference here in Michigan," Obare says. "Nanotechnology integrates several scientific disciplines—biology, physics, chemistry and engineering. So by training students through nanotechnology, we're building new scientists as well as new materials with new properties. It will be interesting to see what people trained in nanotechnology come up with."

Because nanotechnology requires an understanding of so many disciplines, Obare says

introducing students to the field through laboratory work is essential, as is getting more students interested in science at an earlier age.

In addition to helping train the students on her research team, Obare is working with WMU's Mallinson Institute for Science Education to use the results of her research to explain basic nanoscale science concepts



to the general public, especially elementary and middle school teachers.

Initially, Obare and her research team will develop intriguing experiments that address real-life problems and demonstrate these experiments in area classrooms. Then the researchers will work with teachers, educating them about nano-

technology and designing experiments that will be incorporated into their schools' science curricula.

She also plans to develop outreach activities that will broaden understanding of nanoscale science and science in general among diverse groups and the general public through formal as well as informal education.

"Nanoscale science is currently spearheading the next industrial revolution," she says. "Increased understanding and appreciation of the potential of nanoscale science is needed to create a competitive workforce."

New economy continued from page 1

people, the survey found, tend to focus on tax structure rather than the complete range of traits that their colleagues around the nation view as critical to success.

"For many of the traits that attract new economy businesses, Michigan is seen as only average by those in competitor states," Bailey says. "The good news is that Michigan has resources that are viewed as valuable by those both inside and outside of Michigan. As a state, we now need to shift our focus and build on those resources in a way that lets the rest of the country know we've made a commitment to becoming a powerhouse in the new economy."

The survey queried nearly 1,200 executives at new economy businesses in Michigan and four other states: Illinois and Ohio, which are in hot competition with Michigan, and California and Massachusetts, which are coastal states where new economy businesses are thriving. It was completed for the WMU Research Foundation by EPIC-MRA, a Lansing-based public opinion, marketing and polling firm.

Among the survey's major findings was that Michigan's state universities are viewed nationally as key resources.

Respondents from all five states (69 percent) put Michigan in second place behind Massachusetts as the state among the five that is known for having top-quality public universities.

For more information about the survey's findings, visit the Web site at www.wmich.edu/neweconomynext.