Academic calendar revised
With recent national events expected to lead to substantial increases in winter energy costs, the faculty and administration agreed Sept. 26 to revise the 2005-06 academic calendar.

With implementation of this cost-saving measure, winter closure will begin Monday, Dec. 19, and continue until university offices reopen on Thursday, Jan. 5.

The new start date for the spring semester is Monday, Jan. 9, which is one week later than previously planned and will push back spring finals week and commencement by one week. The University’s spring break week dates will remain the same.

For a complete list of key winter closure and academic calendar dates, go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

Frostic Reading Series features Pulitzer Prize-winning author
Steven Millhauser will present a free public reading beginning at 8 p.m. today in the Little Theatre as part of the Gwen Frostic Reading Series.

Millhauser received the Pulitzer Prize for “Martin Dressler.” He is expected to read from his most-recent book, “The King in the Tree: 3 Novellas,” in which he examines the transformations of love in three hypnotic novellas.

Health Fair slated for Oct. 11
WMU faculty, staff and students are invited to attend the 2005 Health and Wellness Fair from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, in the Fetter Center. More than 50 exhibitors from WMU and the greater Kalamazoo area will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about available health and wellness services as well as employee/retiree benefits.

Special activities taking place during the free daylong event will include flu vaccinations, which will be free at the fair to faculty and staff; vision and hearing screening; blood pressure checks; diabetes screening; and service dog demonstrations. Comedians will be featured at 5 and 6 p.m. There also will be healthy food samples and door prizes.

Campaign off to rousing start
More than 40 percent of WMU’s $210,000 goal for the United Way was received in the first week of the campus campaign. During the week, $85,595 was received in gifts and pledges from 422 faculty, staff, emeriti and retirees, with 90 percent of the pledge cards turned in at the Sept. 20 kickoff gala in the Bernhard Center.

WMU joins state’s Core Technology Alliance
WMU has become the newest member of a consortium working to enhance life sciences research and product development across Michigan.

The Core Technology Alliance officially welcomed WMU into its ranks Sept. 22, after encouraging the University to apply for membership. WMU’s membership in the CTA means its Biological Imaging Center and Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center will be added to the alliance’s roster of core technology facilities.

The CTA serves as a catalyst for the development of life sciences and biotechnology research by making those and other core technology facilities available to Michigan researchers affiliated with universities, private research institutes and biotechnology or pharmaceutical firms.

With the support of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., the CTA was founded in 1999 by four members of the Michigan Tri-Technology Corridor: Michigan’s three other research universities—Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University—and the Van Andel Research Institute in Grand Rapids.

WMU President Judith I. Bailey notes that being invited to join the CTA is another example of the University’s growing stature as one of Michigan’s four research universities.

“We were approached to join,” Bailey says, “The invitation is recognition of our unique strengths as a research university and a valued partner in the research fabric of Michigan. We’re honored to be a member.”

Bailey also notes that CTA membership will be a boon to WMU scientists.

“Each member brings a series of different core technologies forward,” she says. “Membership will grow our research portfolio by offering opportunities for our research faculty to access these specialized technologies. And we’ll be partners with the CTA for new equipment renewal funding for our core technology facilities.”

Shen, Zegree chosen to receive newest named professorships
School reform expert Jianping Shen, teaching, learning and leadership, has been named the John E. Sandberg Professor of Education, while internationally known jazz educator Stephen Zegree, music, was named the Bobby McFerrin Professor of Jazz.

President Judith I. Bailey announced the designations Sept. 27 during her annual State of the University address. The two new endowed professorships were created this year to honor faculty members for their dedication and commitment to academic excellence and the well-being of students.

Shen, a faculty member since 1996, was lauded for his record of successfully leading or serving as a member on 35 doctoral committees over the past 10 years. During that same time period, he published 45 refereed articles. He also was selected as guest editor for six national journal publications.

Bailey delivers third address
Delivering her third State of the University address Sept. 27, President Judith I. Bailey pronounced the University “strong” and “vibrant,” and challenged faculty and staff to submit their ideas for quality improvement for funding through a newly established $2 million President’s Innovation Fund.

“I am convinced that passion and innovation and the desire to elevate our University to the highest level of excellence can be found throughout this University,” Bailey said in announcing a competition to provide monetary support to implement ideas "designed to challenge us to achieve the highest standard of quality."

Details of the competition for awards through the President’s Innovation Fund will be available from the president’s office in October. The fund was established with unrestricted gifts to the University.
WMU leads nation in developing paperless work order system

Personal digital assistants were standard issue in the 1980s version of "Star Trek" and now they're basic equipment for most of the University's maintenance services staff. By adding PDAs to the 800 MHz radios and traditional maintenance tools staff carry, WMU is not only in the forefront of a high-tech revolution that is improving accuracy, efficiency and customer satisfaction on campus, but also is being eyed as a model universities doing it," says Peter Strazdas, maintenance services director.

"Budgets are tight and taxpayers want us to be more efficient. Using technology to increase efficiency is all part of the new way of doing business. We're working smarter and accomplishing more for our customers," Strazdas says WMU began phasing in PDAs early last year. These handheld wireless devices, known as digital maintenance assistants or DMAs at WMU, have been customized to mesh with the University's existing maintenance software and server databases.

To get the initiative off the ground, maintenance services partnered with another innovator, the Detroit Opera House. From Oct. 22, Registration and payment are required by Oct. 7. The trip package includes orchestra seats, round-trip motor coach transportation, a box lunch from Panera en-route, and a lecture en-route by Sharon Garber, THE WOOLWICH TO THE TURNPIKE:--The Working Class and Rock, Pop and Hip-Hop. He made a presentation titled "There's an Opera Out on the Turnpike: Staging Authenticity in the Rock/Theatre of Bruce Springsteen," as part of a panel on the impact Springsteen has on his audience.

Barry-Davis, Sebaly receive 2005 Golden Apple awards

Josephine Barry-Davis, teaching, learning, and leadership, and A.L. "Mike" Sebaly, emeritus of education and professional development, have won 2005 Golden Apple awards from the College of Education Alumni Society.

The awards, which are presented to local educators who are exemplary alumni of the college, acknowledge achievements in the classroom.

Barry-Davis was singled out for being a dedicated and creative educator and mentor to WMU students. Sebaly was recognized for his innovative work and decisive action to improve education.

Barry-Davis and Sebaly will be honored at an awards dinner Friday, Oct. 7, in the Fetzer Center. To make a reservation, e-mail amy.burns@wmich.edu or call 7-2966.
FOR SALE—Home with more than 2,000 square feet on corner lot in cul de sac, 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 2 replaces and wood floors. Fenced back yard and 2.5 car garage. $174, 900. For a private showing, call Michelle at 353-8724 or 7-6017.

The following employees are recognized for 45, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and 5 years of service during September.

- **45 years**—Paul L. Maier, history.
- **45 years**—Gregory W. Boothroyd, University Counseling and Testing Center; Jefrey W. Decker, Physical Plant-landscape services; and Suzanne M. Timmer, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- **30 years**—Brenda S. Grimm, WMU Bookstore; Pamela J. Miller, teacher certification; Frank Peck, Physical Plant-building custodial and support services; and Donald Ponskar; logistical services.
- **25 years**—Jeanine M. Bartholomew, College of Health and Human Services; Amy L. Burns, College of Education; Charles K. Lantos, Physical Plant-landscape services; Nanette R. Morningstar, Bronson School of Nursing; and Diane M. Schulth, Physical Plant-maintenance services.
- **20 years**—Paula Armstrong, speech pathology and audiology; Dana Ball, Valley #2 Dining Service; Sue A. Boughead, Office of University Relations; Margo A. Kellogg, Development Office; Valerie J. Levenske, Barnum Dining Service; Laurie E. Miley, Physical Plant-building custodial and support services; and Brenda J. Thomas, student financial aid; and LaTona M. Wilson, intercollegiate athletics.
- **15 years**—The annual Art Faculty Show in the Dalton Center. The show, running through Oct. 12. It is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. The annual Art Faculty Show features works created by School of Art faculty and staff.

University trustees approve twelve faculty, staff retirements

Members of the Board of Trustees approved several faculty and staff retirements during their meetings in July and September, with all of the faculty members who are retiring doing so with emeritus status.

The names of those faculty and staff members, their positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are:

- **Gregory W. Boothroyd**, university counseling, 35-1/2 years, effective Jan. 1, 2006;
- **Robert Brinkerhoff**, counselor education and counseling psychology, 27 years, effective Dec. 18, 2005; and
- **Sandra J. Edwars**, occupational therapy, 32 years, effective April 9, 2006.

The staff members retiring are:

- **Carol J. Ashley**, human resources, 11 years, effective July 31, 2005; **June M. Conkin**, Physical Plant-building, custodial and support services, 17-1/2 years, effective Aug. 31, 2005; **Lorana J. Eason**, Valley #2 Dining Service, 15-1/2 years, effective July 15, 2005; **David French**, Physical Plant-maintenance services, 10-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31, 2005; **Linda K. Head**, Valley #2 Dining Service, 26 years, effective Oct. 31, 2005; **James Mort**, business and finance, 33 years, effective July 31, 2005; and **Barbara Shouse**, international student and scholar services, 30 years, effective Jan. 1, 2006.
Shen, Zegree named to professorships

Shen is the author of the 2005 book “School Principals.” A successful grant writer, he has garnered three recent awards totaling more than $42.5 million from the Wallace Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education.

Shen’s designation is named for a longtime faculty and staff member who served from 1971-1984. Sandberg retired in 1985 and now lives in Florida. Under his leadership, WMU established a doctoral program in educational leadership in Guam, and the college earned full accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Zegree, a WMU faculty member since 1978, is a conductor, composer, pianist and arranger as well as the driving force behind WMU’s Gold Company. He has brought the ensemble to New York City’s Lincoln Center and helped it earn repeat invitations to the International Association of Jazz Educators conferences and the prestigious French Polyfolia Festival. Under his leadership, the group has won more than 40 DownBeat awards. Widely sought as a conductor, clinician and adjudicator, Zegree has conducted around the globe and been the featured clinician for choral events across the nation.

The professorship he received is named for Bobby McFerrin, a friend and colleague. McFerrin is an ardent supporter of music education as well as a 10-time Grammy Award winner. He visited the University earlier this year to appear with Gold Company and has praised both Zegree and the caliber of the students he mentors.

Flu, meningitis vaccination clinics scheduled for WMU community

Four campuswide meningitis and influenza vaccination clinics will be held for WMU faculty, staff, students, retirees and emeriti.

No appointment is necessary to attend the clinics, which are scheduled for:
- Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., second floor, Sindecuse Health Center, retirees and emeriti accommodated;
- Tuesday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Room 2020, Fetzer Center, during the annual Health and Wellness Fair;
- Thursday, Oct. 22, 7-7 p.m., second floor lobby, Student Recreation Center; and
- Thursday, Nov. 3, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Rooms 157-59, Bernhard Center.

The meningitis vaccination costs $92 for faculty and staff, while flu shots cost $10. As an added employment benefit, flu shots will be administered to faculty and staff for free during the Oct. 11 clinic.

For more information, call Sindecuse at 7-3287 or visit www.sindecuse.com.

Amos tribute planned on Oct. 5

Thomas Amos, University libraries, will be honored during a memorial service at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, in the Dalton Center. As previously reported, Amos died July 28. It was recently announced that the former Faculty Senate president will posthumously receive that organization’s 2005 Distinguished Service Award.

State of the University

Bailey also reprised her invitation to the campus laid out in earlier campus messages, asking the audience to be part of a journey that would “focus on building the inner strength of the University—by making critical improvements to our academic programs, our research initiatives, our level of student service and our commitment to a diverse and civil community.”

In addition, Bailey reaffirmed the University’s role as a research university and said undergraduate education is at the institution’s core, while research and graduate education are its cornerstones.

“Students,” she said, “are the center of everything we do.”

Stating that quality initiatives are already under way, Bailey pointed to the need to reinvigorate undergraduate education; to achieve national recognition as “best in class” for more graduate programs; and to identify research areas in which the University can leverage existing strengths to give rise to important new discoveries and innovations.

Additionally, she called on individual faculty and staff members to help create a campus-learning environment that:
- responds with operational service excellence;
- retains enrolled students, and
- renews faculty as scholars with a passion for learning.

The president’s State of the University address is published in its entirety online. To read this full version of the speech, visit www.wmich.edu/news.