HHS dedication is today

Formal dedication of the new College of Health and Human Services building on the Oakland Drive Campus is set for 2 p.m. today, Sept. 15.

The program will include remarks by WMU Board of Trustees Chair Peter Aseritis; President Judith I. Bailey; HHS Dean Janet Pisaneschi; project team members Carl Roehling and Chris Purdy, of the architectural firm SmithGroup; Al and Glen Granger of Granger Construction; HHS students Erin Maston and John Green; and Susan Ponchillia, Blindness and Low Vision Studies.

Following the program and the ceremonial ribbon cutting, tours of the new 200,000-square-foot building will be offered.

State of University address set

President Judith I. Bailey will deliver her State of the University address at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 27, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

The annual event returned to the fall semester last year. A reception will follow the speech in the lobby of the Dalton Center.

Board to meet Friday in HHS building on Oakland campus

The University’s new College of Health and Human Services building will serve as the backdrop when the WMU Board of Trustees gathers Friday, Sept. 16, to discuss the 2005-06 budget and a number of other finance, research and academic issues.

Trustees will begin their meeting with an 8:45 a.m. closed informal session in the new building, which is located on the Oakland Drive Campus. The formal public session for the board’s meeting is scheduled to begin at about 10 a.m. in Room 4010 of the new facility.

Pending a Sept. 14 ratification vote of WMU’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors, trustees are expected to act on a new three-year contract between the University and its faculty.

Among other topics at the meeting will be an enrollment report, information about the pending accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission and a report on the Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center.

Saturday CommUniverCity event is 100th football season opener

The opening of the 100th WMU football season is the central ingredient Saturday, Sept. 17, for the annual CommUniverCity event.

The Broncos 7 p.m. gridiron contest against Southern Illinois University in Waldo Stadium is the centerpiece of the community celebration. For game tickets, call 7-8092.

GEAR UP to extend its impact with more than $20 million in expected funding

WMU’s GEAR UP Program, which prepares at-risk students for college, is about to begin its second phase with a string of recent successes both in the school districts it serves and in the halls of Congress.

The program’s first phase, which first won Congressional budget approval in 2000, was extended from five to six years with the help of a $4.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, GEAR UP is now entering a second six-year initiative with the help of close to $2.8 million in annual funding from the Department of Education. The total for the new funding round is expected to reach $16.8 million over the course of the program.

Both the one-year extension and additional six-year funding for GEAR UP’s second phase reflect the strides the program has made in member school districts, says Joseph Kretovics, teaching, leadership and project director.

“The success has been enormous,” Kretovics says. “In my estimation, it is one of the most, if not the most, successful school restructuring programs in the country.”

GEAR UP—Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs—is a partnership involving universities, school districts, communities, businesses, cultural centers and social service agencies from three Midwestern states. Its goal is to restructure public schools, provide extensive professional development, and support students and families, with the ultimate goal of increasing the number of students attending college.

“This grant is a big win for our local students who are in need,” said Congressman Fred Upton of the recent funding. “GEAR UP is such an important program that provides at-risk students the opportunity to further their education. I applaud Western Michigan University for its commitment and dedication to our local youth. The partnership between Western and our school districts has been invaluable, and I am pleased that the program will continue to be an integral part of the success story, as at-risk students excel in their pursuit of higher education.”

The collaborative nature of the program distinguishes it from other education reform efforts, says WMU President Judith I. Bailey.

“GEAR UP is a perfect example of how to leverage resources through strategically developed partnerships,” Bailey says. “This effort was conceived with the cooperation of other organizations and universities. Its hallmark has been collaboration with the communities served and with the businesses, social and cultural resources in those communities. It’s an effective model with national potential, and we deeply appreciate continued on page 4

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The University’s official fall enrollment figures finalized this week. The annual fall census was taken Sept. 12.

“There are positive messages about our future in this fall’s report,” said WMU President Judith I. Bailey of the tally. “We’re pleased with the size of our incoming freshman class and with the nearly 5 percent increase in new graduate students. And across the board, students are taking a higher average number of credits, which means they’ll be able to graduate more quickly and begin pursuing their careers or the next phase of their education.”

The University’s total enrollment now stands at 26,239, down from 27,829 a year ago. Bailey attributed the change in enrollment to the graduation in recent years of the three

Census shows new student numbers, credit loads both up

The University’s beginning freshman class of 3,837 is slightly larger than last fall’s group, more students are starting graduate degree programs and average student credit loads have increased.

Those are just a few of the trends that are reflected in the WMU’s official fall enrollment figures finalized this week. The annual fall census was taken Sept. 12.

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继续阅读
WMU community focuses on Hurricane Katrina-relief efforts

With state and federal efforts placing evacuees from Hurricane Katrina around the nation, the Western Michigan University campus is working on a variety of fronts to lend assistance and expertise to those whose lives have been disrupted.

WMU President Judith I. Bailey announced Sept. 2 that the University would welcome college students from the affected areas to the WMU campus. Four students from colleges in the region were accepted at WMU and two—one from Dillard University and another from Tulane—are now enrolled.

Personnel in WMU’s Haenicke Institute for International and Area Studies worked last week with an international education organization and the U.S. Department of State to investigate logistics of a request from longtime international partner, Charles University in Prague. Charles asked WMU to consider taking two of its eight students who were beginning an exchange program at the University of New Orleans when the hurricane hit. The students decided against transferring.

Meanwhile at locations across campus, fund-raising efforts and other efforts are under way, and University personnel are working with disaster relief organizations to respond to the human crisis.

The following are among the many members of the WMU community who have been personally involved in relief efforts.

- The Red Cross volunteer Delores D. Walcott, Counseling Center; Kenneth Reid, emeritus in social work; and Alonso Hannahford, emeritus in education, were called to work at Fort Custer Army Training Center in Battle Creek, Mich., where nearly 300 evacuees from the hurricane-stricken region are temporarily housed.

- Robert Johnson, security administrator with the Office of Information Technology, is also a longtime Red Cross volunteer. He has spent the past week delivering Red Cross training to teams of volunteers being sent south to assist in relief efforts. He is also on call to assist with local Red Cross operations and recently took a turn at overseeing Red Cross activities at Fort Custer.

- Sara L. Carlson, a registered nurse at Sindecuse Health Center, and Bill Green, chief pharmacist at Sindecuse, have been working as medical volunteers with evacuees at Fort Custer.

- Students and staff from WMU’s ROTC program spent part of Saturday, Sept. 10, helping renovate a house on West Michigan Avenue that will be used as a home for evacuees. The WMU group worked with Catholic Men’s Fellowship on the project.

- Students, faculty and staff returned to campus after the long Labor Day weekend and were greeted with opportunities to help. Donation boxes set up on the campus quickly gave way to planning for fund-raisers designed to address requests from relief agencies for cash donations, which support a more efficient distribution of aid.

- During the CommUniverCity Night Football Game Saturday, Sept. 17, student-athletes and community members will collect funds for the efforts of the Red Cross. The 7 p.m. contest versus Southern Illinois University at Waldo Stadium is the home opener.

Kynaston honored by College of Fine Arts for teaching excellence

Trent Kynaston, music, was honored with the inaugural Dean’s Teaching Award in the College of Fine Arts at a Sept. 9 reception in the Gilmore Theatre Complex.

The new award will be presented annually for outstanding teaching and dedication to student development.

“I received correspondence from eight alumni who gave extraordinary testimony to your effectiveness as a mentor, coach, role model, instructor and good colleague,” said Dean Margaret Merition in presenting the award to Kynaston. “Mentoring hundreds of saxophonists and jazz musicians over the past 32 years has yielded an impressive array of successful alumni.”

Kynaston is recognized internationally as both a classical and jazz saxophonist, with numerous recordings, as well as published compositions, articles and texts to his credit.

Borish invited to rank sports feats

Linda Borish, history and women’s studies, was asked by Forbes.com to help rank the top athletic feats in modern times for a special feature on the Forbes magazine Web site.

The list of the top 32 athletic feats, post 1850, will be posted on the Web site in the coming weeks. The athletic achievements, which include everything from Mark Spitz winning seven gold medals at the 1972 Olympics to Roger Bannister breaking the 4-minute mile, were to be measured by their athletic or physical impressiveness, rather than by their social or cultural importance.

Ruth Heising named Valparaiso’s Distinguished Alumna for 2005

Ruth Heising, emeritus in communication, has been named the 2005 Distinguished Alumna for Valparaiso University, where she earned her bachelor’s degree. Heising will receive the honor during VU’s Oct. 7-9 homecoming celebration.

The Distinguished Alumna Alumna Award is the highest distinction the Valparaiso University Alumni Association bestows. The award honors alumni who have enhanced the prestige of their alma mater by virtue of their character, integrity, and nationally recognized personal accomplishments.

Nationally recognized for her contributions in the field of creative drama for children, Heising was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre in 1996.
Obituary

Charles R. “Rusty” Dannison, a 25-year veteran of the adjunct faculty in Extended University Programs, died Sept. 6 in Alto, Mich. He was 58.

Dannison was an attorney with a long-standing practice in family law and a particular focus on estate planning and elder law. He frequently collaborated with his wife, Linda Dannison, chairperson of family and consumer sciences, on issues surrounding grandparenting. He also worked with other WMU faculty members to offer training for professionals who planned to become mediators in family legal proceedings.

He was a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Michigan Forum of Estate Planning Attorneys, and he was recently named a member of Michigan’s Council on Aging.

A South Haven native, Dannison earned a bachelor’s degree from WMU in 1969, and he earned master’s and doctoral degrees from Kansas State University in 1974 and 1976, respectively. In 1984, he earned a law degree from Cooley Law School.

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GERU

Congressman Upton's support for GEAR UP as it moved through the budget process. One of the program's beauties is that it's not all about book learning. GEAR UP's hands-on activities have taken students to the U.S. Space Academy in Huntsville, Ala., and to the Minnesota wilderness to study ecology.

Two Kalamazoo schools—Milwood Middle School and Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts—will be added to GEAR UP's new initiative. The program will continue serving students in Battle Creek and Bangor, Mich., as well as students in Toledo, Ohio, through a partnership with Bowling Green State University. Students in Harvey, Ill., were part of the first GEAR UP program through a partnership with the Small Schools Workshop, formerly housed at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

School districts with GEAR UP centers have made significant academic strides, Kretovics says. One indicator is newly released results required under federal No Child Left Behind legislation. GEAR UP schools have shown great improvement in meeting Adequate Yearly Progress requirements mandated by the legislation.

For example, Toledo Waite High School jumped three tiers on Ohio's state report card, from the lowest—"academic emergency"—to the second highest—"effective"—rating, and East Toledo Junior High jumped two tiers.

Results in Michigan also have been encouraging. Bangor Middle School has met AYP requirements for the past four years and has been taken off the list of targeted schools that need to improve. In addition, Bangor High School met AYP for the first time this year. And in the Battle Creek Public School District, all middle schools met AYP for the first time this year. Battle Creek High School almost met AYP requirements for the first time, but scores were low in just one subgroup.

Census

largest classes in the school's history and to an increasingly competitive environment. However, she expressed confidence that WMU has a plan in place that will lead to enrollment growth in 2006.

That plan includes a new Enrollment Management Program and the flat-rate tuition policy adopted this year, which is designed to encourage students to take more classes. It appears to be working. The average number of credit hours undergraduates are taking this fall increased by 2.3 percent. For students in master's and specialist programs, the average number of credit hours is up by 5.5 percent. And at the doctoral level, the average credit-hour load is up by 1.8 percent.

Frostic series fall kickoff will feature renowned short story writer

Award-winning author Ann Beattie opens the fall Gwen Frostic Reading Series with a Thursday, Sept. 22, reading beginning at 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre.


The writer has earned a number of awards, including an award for excellence from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, four O. Henry prizes, a Guggenheim Fellowship and PEN/Malamud Award for excellence in short fiction. She is best known as a voice of the generation that grew up in the 1960s.

Other writers in the fall-semester series are novelist Steven Millhauser, Sept. 29; playwright Charles Smith, Oct. 13; poet Michael Ryan, Oct. 20; novelist Jost Novakovich, Nov. 10; and poet Jonathan Johnson, Dec. 1. All readings are Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre. Series events are free and open to the public.

On Campus with Chris Carlson

When Chris Carlson interacts with faculty, staff and students, a patient approach is his key strategy. The WMU police officer is usually first on the scene when something has gone wrong, and because he works the midnight shift, he finds himself spending lots of time addressing safety issues.

"It's always good to have patience with people when they're under stress," he says, noting that stress is sometimes caused by bad judgment when it comes to traffic safety or alcohol-related violations. "I think the enforcement we do has a positive effect in the long run. We're very proactive when it comes to safeguarding campus safety."

Carlson, a Midland, Mich., native, first came to WMU as an undergraduate, earning a bachelor's degree in exercise science in 1996. He started work toward a master's degree in sports administration in 1997, but didn't complete it. The opportunity to join WMU Department of Public Safety as an officer brought him back to campus in 1999, and in recent years, he's been chasing away at the master's degree goal, taking one class each semester.

The evening hours offer him flexibility to take daytime classes, and he says he likes the flexibility that comes with the work life of a campus public safety officer and his department's workplace culture.

"Our calls are always our priority," he says, "but I think one big advantage is that we do a lot of officer-initiated work. We make a lot of decisions about how to spend our time effectively."

When not working and focusing on his graduate studies, Carlson is a self-described exercise addict who works out at least six days per week.

Guyton

in Showcase No. 3 in Sangren Hall and can be viewed through Sept. 30.

In addition to the King-Chavez-Parks Program, Guyton and Whitfield's visit is sponsored by the WMU Department of Geography and School of Art, Deborah Che, geography, proposed bringing Guyton here and has organized activities surrounding his visit.

Guyton is world-renowned for his art, which transforms abandoned buildings, sidewalks and empty lots into works of art using lots of paint and discarded objects he collects—everything from old shoes to bicycles to baby dolls. Guyton's art has generated headlines across the country and been featured numerous times on television. The Heidelberg Project was the subject of an "NBC Nightly News" report, while Guyton has appeared on the "Oprah Winfrey Show" and ABC's "Good Morning America."

Keeping Watch on the Night Shift

(Left) "one of our era's most vital masters of the short form."

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