**WMU earns high national marks**

The University was recognized in national college rankings released last week. For the seventh consecutive year, WMU was included on U.S. News & World Report’s list of the nation’s top-100 public universities. The 2006 list is part of the magazine’s issue that hit newstands Aug. 22 and also appears online.

Meanwhile, Princeton Review named WMU one of the Best Midwestern Colleges in its annual online list that was released Aug. 23.

The U.S. News list is based on more than a dozen criteria, including academic reputation, retention and graduation rates, student/faculty ratio, class size, faculty resources, and student test scores and high school class rank. WMU is one of only four public universities in the state to be included among the nation’s top 100. The others are University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Michigan State University and Michigan Technological University.

The Princeton Review selection is based on information provided by the University and student opinion gathered independently.

University, faculty tentatively agree on three-year contract

During the early morning hours of Aug. 31, WMU and faculty negotiators reached tentative agreement on a new faculty contract. The contract must now be ratified by the faculty and approved by the WMU Board of Trustees. More details are available on the WMU News Web site at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

**One-stop service center open**

A temporary one-stop service center will be open through Sept. 9 in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom, making it easier for students to take care of last-minute business associated with starting the new academic year.

The One-Stop Convenience center offers numerous services in one central location—the top level of the Bernhard Center, East Ballroom. Primarily for students, it will be open seven days a week until Friday, Sept. 9, except for Labor Day weekend, Sept. 3-5.

Those visiting the One-Stop Convenience center are able to get new Bronco ID cards, pay bills, purchase campus parking permits, arrange for campus housing and sign up for a WMU meal plan. They are also able to obtain information about a variety of topics, including financial aid, employment opportunities, immunizations and other campus health care services.

The center is being staffed by representatives from 12 administrative units. For a daily schedule of the center’s extended hours, visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

Civil engineering firm to build at BTR Park

A civil engineering firm with a long track record on building projects across southwest Michigan is set to break ground on its new facility at the University’s Business Technology and Research Park, becoming the 28th firm to locate at the park.

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SME celebrated 20 years in southwest Michigan this past May and works closely with several of the firms already located in the BTR Park, says Timothy J. Mitchell, who is SME’s regional manager. The concept of the private sector firms in the park working in partnership with the University and with each other, he says, was “an important influence in our decision to locate to the BTR Park.”

“We always try to be at the leading edge of our industry, and we have a long history of working with the University and with communities and businesses throughout southwest Michigan,” Mitchell says. “We see this as a growth opportunity, a way to enhance our partnership with the University and a way to further develop our relationships with students and faculty members.”

Mitchell points to a new SME lab, opened last year in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the work being done there as a good example of one area in which he expects to enhance strong ties between SME, WMU and MDOT. SME currently is under contract to complete the building in early 2006. The site will then become home to 16 full-time employees and eight to 10 interns and co-op students whose expertise includes geotechnical engineering, materials science and environmental engineering. The new facility will include office space as well as laboratories for testing soil, concrete and other building materials.

**College of Health and Human Services’ first home now open, slated for formal dedication during Sept. 15 ceremony**

In its nearly 30 years of existence, the College of Health and Human Services has never had a home of its own—until now.

A dedication of the college’s new building on the Oakland Drive Campus will take place at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15. A host of local and state officials and WMU faculty, staff and students are expected. They will get an up-close look at the college’s new high-tech home that exudes warmth and a welcoming atmosphere.

The program will include remarks by WMU Board of Trustees Chair Peter Aseritis; WMU President Judith I. Bailey; Janet Pisaneschi, college dean; architects Carl Roehling and Chris Purdy of the SmithGroup; Al and Glen Granger of Granger Construction; college students Erin Muston and John Green; and Susan Ponchilia, WMU Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies. A ceremonial ribbon cutting will follow the remarks.

**WORKING OUT A WELCOME IMAGE—Some 2,000 members of the incoming freshman class for 2005 got their first taste of working together when they formed a Fall Welcome “W” during an evening of events Aug. 23 in Waldo Stadium. The stadium activities were among five days of orientation activities scheduled this year for incoming students. (Photo by Mike Lanka)**
Four exceptional employees have received Western Michigan University's annual Make a Difference award, which comes with a $1,000 prize.

The 2005 recipients are: Amy Burns, office associate in the Department of Finance and Commercial Law; Chad Stec, director of information services in the Division of Student Affairs; and Judy Tice, supervisor of the duplicating center in the Haworth College of Business.

Edwina Lyons was consistently described as someone who is helpful, highly competent, resourceful, well organized, caring and tactful and always gets the job done. Her nominators said she not only provides outstanding service to individual faculty members and students, but has taken the initiative to make improvements in areas impacting faculty and students as a whole.

"She always has a positive attitude, with a cheerful and upbeat demeanor," one nominator said. "She routinely goes out of her way to help students and faculty solve problems." Lyons also helps out at college functions and plays an important role in maintaining her department's positive image.

"She is an excellent ambassador for the University and a positive force in retaining our students," another co-worker said. "She is quick to try and help and knows the system well that students report to me that she was 'great' and that they received very good service."

Chad Stec was cited for his technical acumen, reliability, positive outlook, and willingness to work with his Division of Student Affairs colleagues to ensure cost efficiencies as well as optimal service. He knows the ins and outs of some 50 pieces of software and advises the division on related purchases. And on any given day, it isn't unusual for Stec to visit several buildings around campus while helping his colleague troubleshoot computer problems.

"His positive attitude is one of the first things you notice when you're talking with him," one administrator wrote. "He is a truly reliable employee who knows how to get the job done. His positive attitude and strong ethic set a wonderful example for students who come in contact with him."

Stec's nomination materials also note that he frequently serves on committees, is available any day of the week to solve work-related issues and often helps student members with home computing issues.

Judy Tice was nominated because of her outstanding work for the Haworth College of Business and for being one of WMU's strongest heroes—staff members who work long hours in little-known jobs but whose professionalism has a major impact on the units and colleagues they serve.

Tice was commended for her dedication, cheerfulness, willingness to go the extra mile, and ability to complete jobs involving thousands of pages in a timely and accurate manner. In addition, she was praised for helping keep expenses down and catching errors before going ahead with duplicating work.

"My nominee is one of the hardest workers in the Haworth College of Business," one of Tice's co-workers wrote. "Every day, she comes to work with a positive attitude towards work and life. She is one of the first to arrive at work and usually the last to leave."

Four staff members receive top Make a Difference awards

Amy Burns was praised for her professional skills, dedication, special touches, and ability to develop strong relationships with the College of Education’s many internal and external partners.

Burns helps keep the college’s office running smoothly while assisting the dean and business manager. Her nomination materials noted that she does an excellent job performing these duties, despite the office being short-staffed and Burns recently taking on a new major assignment—assistant building coordinator for Sangren Hall.

"Not only does she make sure things are done on time, but, somehow, she manages to complete twice her usual assignments with the highest quality," one nominator said. Burns also is the liaison to several of the college’s external constituency groups, works with numerous ad hoc councils and committees, and coordinates and implements every social or outreach activity the college hosts.
**Obituaries**

**Thomas L. Amos**, head of special collections for the Western Michigan University Libraries and president of WMU’s Faculty Senate, died July 28. He was 53.

A medieval studies specialist, Amos’ responsibilities included managing the University’s rare book collection, by acquiring new volumes and by processing, interpreting and providing reader reference and preservation services for the collections. Amos, who held the rank of professor of libraries and history, taught graduate courses in early medieval history and directed the graduate work of master’s- and doctoral-level graduate students.

Amos came to the University in 1996 from Harvard University, where he served as curator for a collection in the Houghton Library. Prior to that, he was assistant head of public services at the Lilly Library at Indiana University. He also served at St. John’s University, where he was cataloger of Western manuscripts at the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library and curator of rare books for the Alcuin Library.

Amos earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Purdue University, a doctoral degree in medieval history from Michigan State University and a master’s degree in library science from Indiana University. He also held a diploma from the University of Farts.

University officials have recently learned that James R. Bliss, emeritus in finance and commercial law, died March 17 in Scotts Valley, Calif. He was 87.

Bliss retired in 1987 after an 18-year career at WMU. Prior to teaching at the University, he was a private practice attorney in the Chicago area for 20 years. He also served as a high school teacher and principal in Nebraska before earning his law degree.

Bliss was a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University and the University of Michigan Law School.

**Helen M. Brown**, emerita in dance, died Aug. 23 in Kalamazoo. She was 89.

Brown retired in 1981, after 34 years of service to the University. Active in University affairs, she served several terms on the Faculty Senate.

She joined the faculty to teach in the Department of Physical Education and later became a member of the dance faculty when that department was formed. She taught social dance forms, recreational dance and children’s rhythms. Prior to coming to WMU, she taught in both the Kalamazoo and Detroit public school systems.

Brown earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Northwestern University and later studied dance with Martha Graham and Eric Hawkins at Connecticut College.

**Phyllis Burnham**, longtime employee of the WMU Archives and Regional History Collections, died Aug. 13. She was 78.

Burnham retired in 1985 after 25 years of service to the University. She was instrumental in building a fledging archival collection into what is now the Regional History Collection. She continued to work in the archives as a volunteer after retirement, and her last major project as a volunteer was the publication of the Guide to the Regional History Collections in 1998.

Memorial contributions should be directed to Kalamazoo Senior Services or Westwood United Methodist Church.

**Janice L. Myers**, a WMU Bookstore employee, died Aug. 5 in Kalamazoo. She was 53.

A lifelong resident of Kalamazoo, Myers had worked at WMU for the past nine years. She was the lead cashier and supervisor for the store’s service desk, and the oversees the hiring of student employees who work as cashiers in the main bookstore and in the Campus Trends women’s store and the card shop.

M&S was active with both the Third Reformed Church and Kalamazoo County 4-H programs. The family has requested that memorial contributions be made to either of those organizations.

**Human Resources**

Human Resources Information Systems reminds employees to report changes of name, home address or phone numbers by Tuesday, Sept. 6, to insure inclusion of correct information in the 2005-06 edition of the campus directory.

Changes may be reported by completing the Employee Name and Address Change Form found online at www.wmich.edu/hr/forms.htm or sending an e-mail to hr-hts@wmich.edu that includes the employee’s full name and employee identification number or social security number along with the changes being reported. Questions may be directed to human resources by calling 7-3620.

**Service**

A total of 201 University employees marked service anniversaries during July and August when the Western News was not in publication.

Lists of employees who celebrated 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, and 10 and five years of service to WMU over the summer are available online at www.wmich.edu/hr/aniv_list_july_05.pdf and www.wmich.edu/hr/aniv_list_aug_05.pdf.

**Exchange**

FOR SALE—A 1,200-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bath modular home in Clayton Estates on Ninth Street in Oshtemo. All appliances stay. Oak cabinets throughout. Two walk-in closets in master suite. Features include central air, fireplace, two skylights. $39,500. Call 7-5812 or (269) 353-5891.

FOR SALE—Riding lawn mower with 46-inch cut and 18.5hp Briggs auto trans. New battery, blades and fresh tune up. Owner runs great. Needs nothing. $620 or best offer. Call 7-4893 or (269) 685-4718.

**Obituaries**

**William R. Wiener**, who retired as dean of the Graduate College this summer, is the first recipient of the Faculty Senate Distinguished Service Award.

The award, which will be bestowed annually, was presented just before Wiener’s July 1 retirement. He is now vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School at Marquette University.

Wiener was honored for his achievements in blindness and low vision studies and for his service to students and faculty of the Graduate College.

Wiener came to WMU in 1987 as chairperson of what is now the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies and was named dean of the Graduate College in 2002. He is credited with a lengthy list of accomplishments that range from creating a new academic discipline aimed at providing travel instruction for people with disabilities to writing a textbook used by most university programs in the blindness field.

In 2004, Wiener won the Ambrose M. Shortwell Memorial Award presented for a lifetime of achievement by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.
The shining, new 200,000-square-foot building weaves together the tech-heavy health field with the human element it also embraces. The result is a facility that puts under one roof all of the college’s nationally recognized programs, fostering a collaboration between students and faculty across disciplines that is sure to pay big dividends in research and learning for many years to come. Above all, collaboration was the key element in the building’s design.

The gently curved, glass, brick and stone structure opened with the fall semester and houses several state-of-the-art laboratories, including bio-feedback and motion analysis labs, and four computer labs, as well as multi-media and distance learning equipped classrooms, a 100-seat lecture hall, and faculty offices. But there’s much more. Rice paper sheets of glass provide artful, translucent windows along hallways and the college’s emphasis on sustainable and renewable materials is reflected in its rich, brown per between sheets of glass provides artful, translucent windows along hallways and the labs, and four computer labs, as well as multi-media and distance learning equipped classrooms.

HHS dedication continued from page 1

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SME offers an innovative student co-op program, and the firm hires about 50 co-op students and interns per year. Mitchell sees that pattern as a win-win situation for both SME and engineering students applying to the co-op program. He believes the part-time arrangement has a positive benefit not only for the University and SME, but for the state as well.

“Getting young adults into a Michigan firm like ours as co-op students helps them to get a start with their career and helps convince them that Michigan is a great place to work and live,” he notes.

Founded more than 40 years ago in the Detroit area, SME has provided engineering services for such high-profile projects as the Renaissance Center and the Palace of Auburn Hills. The company also has been involved with a variety of WMU construction projects, including the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the BTR Park, Haenicke Hall, the Seelye Athletic Center and the new College of Health and Human Services building. Last spring, SME completed geotechnical evaluations for the sites of WMU’s new chemistry building and Richmond Visual Arts Center.

In Kalamazoo, the company has recently been involved with the Radisson Plaza Hotel expansion, the City Center and current construction at the Kalamazoo Transportation Center as well as the Rave Theater and Ramp 3 projects.

French, Native American connection topic of events
An award-winning exhibit chronicling the historical connection between the French and Native Americans will be on display at Waldos Library for six months. The exhibit, “Shared Waters: Natives and French Newcomers on the Great Lakes,” can be viewed from September through February 2006. The exhibit officially opens with ceremonies on Friday, Sept. 9, beginning with a 4 p.m. presentation by eminent historical geographer Conrad Heidenreich of York University in Toronto.

Heidenreich’s lecture is in the library’s Clock Tower Conference Room and will include a slide presentation on “The Changing Role of Natives in the Exploration of the Great Lakes during the 17th Century.” There will be an official opening ceremony at 5 p.m. and a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Meader Rare Book Room, with welcoming remarks by WMU President Judith Bailey. The events are free and open to the public.

Originally conceived and designed by faculty members of the WMU history department, “Shared Waters” received the 2004 Great Lakes Cultural Center Best Exhibit Award.

Kristie Morin measures her success by the achievement of others, specifically the students she works with as assistant director of Student Activities and Leadership Programs.

“The best part of my job is working every day with students,” says Morin, “and the most rewarding part is when students evolve as responsible leaders of campus organizations and major events.”

Morin’s responsibilities include large student events, such as Bronco Bash and homecoming. She serves as staff advisor to the Campus Activities Board, which schedules and funds much of the student-sponsored entertainment, lectures and other programs on campus, and to WWMU, the student-managed radio station. She also is a resource for WMU’s more than 200 other registered student organizations.

Morin is proud to be a Bronco. She earned a Master of Social Work degree at WMU before joining the WMU staff in 1999 as an assistant director in admissions. She moved to her present position in SALT in 2001.

When she isn’t on campus, which isn’t often during fall and spring semesters, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, especially her one-year-old nephew, Jordan.

This past year, Morin has also devoted a lot of hours to her new house in the Westwood neighborhood of Kalamazoo. It isn’t so much a Tim Allen-type home-improvement project, she says, as it is a decorating project to “make it my home—painting and new bathroom fixtures. The people at Lowe’s know me on a first-name basis.”