EUP candidate to speak today

The second of two internal candidates for the position of dean of Extended University Programs will make a public presentation to the campus community today, June 2.

Nicholas Andreadis, counselor education and counseling psychology, who directs WMU’s master’s degree program in human resources development, is a medical doctor with an extensive background in the medical and leadership development fields.

Darrell Johnson, director of the WMU-Lansing campus and interim director of the WMU-Battle Creek campus, is the second internal candidate for the position. He made a public presentation to the campus community today, June 2.

Programs will make a public presentation to the position of dean of Extended University over the summer, visit WMU News, the University’s online news site, at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

Close to 1,000 bassists from around the globe set to convene on campus next week

Close to 1,000 bassists from across the globe are expected to strum their way into town next week when the International Society of Bassists stages its biennial convention at WMU.

The convention, June 6-11, is the largest, most comprehensive gathering of its kind. More than 900 bass players are expected to attend from more than 30 countries.

“It is a tremendous honor to bring one of the world’s great musical gatherings to Kalamazoo and WMU,” says Tom Knific, music, who directs the University’s Jazz Studies program. “Our past sites have been the likes of Houston, Indianapolis, Chicago, Los Angeles and other major cities.”

Knific, who serves as ISB president-elect, played a key role in bringing the convention here and says a litany of activities is planned.

More than 100 events are scheduled during the convention, while six competitions will be staged, including solo, orchestra, young bassists and jazz division, as well as a competition for makers of basses and bows. Event offerings include performances and master classes by international and local luminaries alike. They include Franco Petracchi, Ron Carter, Nicola Abondolo, John Clayton, Thomas Martin, Drew Gress, Barre Phillips, Rufus Reid, Larry Gray, Mark Helias, Francois Rabbath, Knific, Mark Dresser, Rodney Whittaker, Kristin Korb, Bill Mays, Jerry Bergonzi, Tim Froncek, Brian Bromberg, Gene Bertoncini, Glen Moore, Nancy King, Sunny Wilkinson, Dennis Trembly, Daniel Marillier, Catalin Rotaru, Frank Proto and the Western Jazz Quartet.

But that’s not all. Ten world premieres will be presented, and a young bassist program will feature instruction by the convention’s elite faculty. Afterglow sessions will be held nightly at the Union Cabaret and Grill on the Kalamazoo Mall.

The ISB was founded by the world-renowned virtuoso Gary Karr in 1967. With some 3,000 members in more than 40 countries, the ISB is an organization for those who teach, study, play, repair, build and enjoy the double bass. The ISB is a forum for communication among bassists throughout the world and across a wide variety of musical styles. Every two years, the ISB holds an international convention with multiple double bass competitions, a composition contest and now a maker’s competition.

Members of the general public can feast on any of all the performances. A $15 ticket for any evening June 6-11 will give the holder access to both the 8 and 9 p.m. concerts. Tickets to a choice of either of two 5 p.m. concerts, running June 7-11, are $10 each. An all-day pass is $30, and an all-week pass is $255. Reduced prices are offered to seniors and students. Most performances are in Dalton Center Recital Hall, while some 5 p.m. concerts are in Dalton Center’s Multi-Media Room.

For more concert information, go to WMU News on the Web or call 7-5815.

Charter school research finds wide disparity among states

A just-released comparison of charter schools in six states reveals a wide disparity in how well the schools are functioning, and Michigan charter schools fared especially poorly overall, University researchers have found.

The findings are summarized in a paper presented at the American Educational Research Association’s annual meeting April 11-15 in Montreal, Canada. The paper was written by Gary Miron, Evaluation Center.

The six states hired the center to examine how their charter schools are functioning, and Michigan charter schools fared especially poorly overall, University researchers have found.

The comparison shows that charter schools in Ohio, Connecticut and Delaware. Earlier studies were conducted on charter schools in Michigan, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

The comparison shows that charter schools in Michigan and Ohio are performing poorly overall, while schools in Connecticut and Delaware consistently outperform traditional public schools.

Results for Illinois and Pennsylvania were mixed, with Pennsylvania charter schools showing a very small advantage over traditional public schools.

From this comparison, Miron concludes continued on page 4
Campuswide training effort focuses on sexual harassment

The Office of Institutional Equity and the Department of Human Resources are providing online training to all faculty and staff members that is designed to identify and prevent behaviors that fall under the classification of sexual harassment. All employees will be required to complete the training and, after completion of the course, should be able to:

• identify behavior that might be considered sexual harassment;
• explain the legal or other consequences of sexual harassment;
• describe an employee’s role in creating an environment free of harassment;
• know what actions can be taken against sexual harassment; and
• describe WMU’s policies and procedures on sexual harassment.

The interactive, online program takes about an hour to complete. Upon completion, each employee has the option of taking a brief mastery test and printing out a completion certificate. The training is being rolled out to different units each month, beginning in May and ending in November. Faculty and staff may complete the training prior to their scheduled month by clicking on the “Harassment Prevention E-Training” link on either the institutional equity or human resources Web sites.

APA names 2005-06 officers, new scholarship recipient

The Administrative Professional Association announced its 2005-06 officers and selected the winner of its 2005-06 scholarship during a general membership meeting May 19. The officers are: president, Julie Scrivener, Medieval Institute; treasurer, Joe Odehnal, Medieval Institute; secretary, Joan O’Bryan, information technology; and vice president—Chapel of St. Aidan, the building has changed. Neither has moved, only the name of the facility. And, as we have stated all along, our best students are as good or better than those at any other university.

Results were announced in the magazine’s June issue, now on newsstands. In addition to WMU’s nine awards, two articles mentioned or were about events and seminars at WMU, one of which touted the considerable and unique talents of members of the Knuzki Transatlantica Sextet. The extracurricular group, headed by WMU senior and saxophonist Aaron Knuzki, won two awards in the competition.

The other article was about Bobby McFerrin’s most recent performance with Gold Company, WMU’s award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, in February. In that article, McFerrin heaps praise on Gold Company and its director, Stephen Zegree, music.

Music students snag nine awards in annual Down Beat magazine jazz competition

Music students at the University hit another high note this year in Down Beat magazine’s student awards competition.

WMU students brought home nine awards in Down Beat’s 28th Annual Student Music Awards, the premiere student competition in jazz open to students throughout North America. WMU was second only to the University of Miami in the number of awards. The school’s closest school, the University of Texas, had three awards, while the only other school in Michigan to win an award, the University of Michigan, received one.

“To receive nine, prestigious Down Beat awards in a single year makes us delicious,” says Tom Knutie, music, who directs the WMU Jazz Studies program. “This puts us second only to the University of Miami in all of North America. It is triple the number of our next closest competitor. This reflects on our talented and dedicated faculty. And, as we have stated all along, our best students are as good or better than those at any other university.”

Former St. Aidan’s Chapel now known as Woodlawn Place

The Children’s Place Learning Center and Disabled Student Resources and Services are now located in Woodlawn Place, but neither has moved, only the name of the building has changed. Located next to the Sindecuse Health Center, the building has been known unofficially for the past decade as the Children’s Place. That name failed to recognize its dual role as home for WMU Disabled Student Resources and Services.

Use of the name Woodlawn Place was authorized by the University Space Allocation Committee, chaired by Vice President Robert M. Beam.

Originally known as Canterbury Center—Chapel of St. Aidan, the building was completed in 1966 with support from members and friends of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo and was owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan. By the mid-1980s, the Canterbury Center name had fallen from common use and thereafter most of the campus community knew it as St. Aidan’s Chapel.

The chapel was used less and less frequently in the early 1990s, and the Episcopal Diocese sold the property to WMU in 1994.

Szarmach chosen to lead group

Paul Szarmach, English, Medieval Institute and medieval studies, has been selected as the president of the International Boethius Society.

Szarmach, a former member of the society’s board of trustees, now leads the nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the study of all aspects of the work of Boethius, a Christian who wrote during the late Roman Empire about the existence of evil among men and the suffering of good people. A philosopher, poet, politician and statesman, Boethius is best known for “The Consolation of Philosophy,” which became an important book for medieval and early Renaissance Christianity.

The Boethius Society produces an annual peer-reviewed journal and holds two major gatherings every year—during the Medieval Academy of America’s annual meeting and during the Modern Language Association and the second during the International Congress on Medieval Studies held each May at WMU.

Borish tapped for history entries

Linda Borish, history, has recently finished several entries for a new edition of Ency clopedia Judaica.

Judith R. Baskin, editor for the Gender/ Women section of the new edition, invited Borish to contribute biographical entries about Jewish women in American sport. The new encyclopedia will provide important material about women in Jewish life.

The second edition of Encyclopedia Judaica will be published in 20 to 22 volumes toward the end of 2006 in Israel by Macmillan in conjunction with Keter and the Jerusalem Publishing House in Israel.

The Encyclopedia Judaica was published in 16 volumes in 1971. Like its predecessor, the second edition has enlisted hundreds of contributors from among the front ranks of modern Jewish scholarship under the supervision of dozens of editors.

Johnston work in Chicago revue

A new musical revue of works by Belgian-born composer Jacques Brel, with translations by Arnie Johnston, chairperson of English, opened Friday, May 13, at the No Exit Cafe in Chicago.

“A Jacques Brel Revue: Songs of Love and War” is a musical journey exploring the passion and intensity of love and war. Songs include many new translations, as well as popular Brel pieces such as “Sens, ‘When We’ve Nothing but Love,’ ‘Don’t Leave Me,’ and ‘Marianke.’”

“A Jacques Brel Revue” was conceived and directed by Fred Ancevino, with musical direction by Michael Miller. The Chicago Reader has placed the show on its “highly recommended list” for readers.
Community garden event is June 4

Students from WMU and neighboring Kalamazoo College will be joined by area residents to plant a new community vegetable garden beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at Gibbs House for Environmental Research and Education on the Parkview Campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Master gardeners and members from the Kalamazoo Community Garden Initiative will provide their expertise. Participating students and community members will have the opportunity to learn about sustainable organic home gardening. All plants, tools and supplies will be provided free of charge.

Following the planting activities, which are expected to last about one hour, there will be an outdoor potluck dinner with live music. Guests who stay for the potluck are expected to last about one hour, there will be an outdoor potluck dinner with live music. Guests who stay for the potluck are encouraged to bring a dish to share.

Grants for fiscal year top $25 million at end of third quarter

WMU received $5,327,212 in grants during January, February and March, WMU trustees learned during their April 22 meeting.

The new awards bring the total of grants received since the July 1 start of the 2004-05 fiscal year to $23,489,911. Notable awards during the period included grants from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as well as the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the Wallace Foundation and Haworth Inc.

Major awards included a $1 million grant to Dr. Clement Burns, associate professor of physics, to build a dedicated beamline at Argonne National Laboratory’s Advanced Photon Source.

Board approves retirements of 20 longtime faculty members

The retirements of 20 faculty members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its April 22 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of two faculty members and three staff members.

Campbell is coordinator for young alumni, student outreach

Heidi Campbell is the University’s new coordinator of young alumni and student outreach, effective April 27. She replaces Erin Cerlada, who had been hired as assistant director of alumni relations at Oakland University.

In her new post, Campbell will help engage more young alumni in the life of the University and heighten awareness of the WMU Alumni Association among current students.

Her duties will include developing and implementing activities and programs to accomplish those missions as well as serving as advisor for the Student Alumni Association, coordinator of the Alumni Association’s Legacy Award program and staff liaison to the Alumni Association Board of Directors’ Scholarship Committee.

“I believe that ties to the college experience are a lifelong bond that begins the student’s very first day on campus, whether they are 18 or 50,” Campbell says. “Working in this new position has opened the door to developing this theme, and I’m ready to get things started.”

Campbell is a graduate student at WMU who will earn a master’s degree in student affairs in higher education administration in August. She earned her undergraduate degree in 2003 from Michigan State University.
that a significant contributor to the success or failure of each state’s charter school initiatives stems from the laws passed that allow them and the political environment in which those laws were created. The paper, titled “Strong Charter School Laws are Those That Result in Positive Outcomes,” contends that charter school laws should be judged by their positive outcomes rather than by the amount of autonomy they grant.

Both Michigan and Ohio, spurred by a heated political atmosphere, jumped headlong into their charter school initiatives. Connecticut and Delaware have been much more deliberate in their entry into the charter school realm.

“That’s a big lesson for both Michigan and Ohio,” Miron says. “Ohio started later, but they scaled up their reform very rapidly and now they’ve had to impose a moratorium for a bit. When you rush into a reform the way Michigan did, there isn’t time for charter school authorizers to get the tools or the mechanisms in place to do effective oversight.”

Recently released Evaluation Center studies of charter school movements in Delaware and Connecticut paint a different picture. Delaware officials eased into the movement, saw there were some problems and imposed a moratorium until better safeguards were put in place. The moratorium was then lifted, and Delaware now has 13 charter schools. By contrast, the number of charter schools in Michigan exploded in the late 1990s until a cap of 150 university-authorized charter schools was reached in 1999.

A series of reports by the state’s Blueline Club. “In Connecticut, they have clear expectations and a willingness to act when those expectations are not met,” Miron says. Both Delaware and Connecticut have been highly selective in approving charter applications, which is one of the best ways to ensure strong charter schools, Miron says.

Lack of accountability also was a problem both in Michigan and Ohio. Performance data and other pertinent information sometimes were not available because large numbers of schools do not submit this information as required by law in their annual reports, says Carolyn Sullins, Evaluation Center senior research associate and the lead author of the center’s recently released study on four charter schools in the Cleveland area. Still other schools do not submit annual reports at all because the Ohio State Board of Education lacks the personnel to review them.

The situation is similar in Michigan, Miron says.