Stryker is next BTR Park partner

One of the nation's leading firms in the life sciences and advanced engineering arena is set to add its name and presence to the University's Business Technology and Research Park, when it becomes the 26th corporate partner to take up residence there this spring.

Stryker's Interventional Pain Business Unit will occupy about 5,000 square feet in the Granite Park 1 building later this spring. The BTR Park location will be used for research and development, sales, marketing and administration, and about 20 Stryker employees will be based there.

Stryker's commitment to the park completes occupancy in the Granite Park 1 building, which opened in 2003. The building currently is occupied by Blue Granite, an information technology firm, and DLZ, a national engineering firm. The Kalleward Group of Kalamazoo is the contractor responsible for building out the new Stryker space.

Now is time to get new ID cards

Faculty, staff and retirees who have not already gotten a new photo-ID card are encouraged to get one soon at the temporary card-processing center in Lawson Arena.

The ID card center at Lawson is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, through the end of May. In June, the card center returns to its normal home in the Bernhard Center and will be open on a reduced summer schedule.

Beginning May 2, only new cards work in card-swipe readers across the campus. Those members of the University community who use their existing card for building access or for services in the libraries, dining halls, recreation center and elsewhere will need their new cards immediately.

"Even for people who aren't using their old ID card, this is still the best time to get a new one," says Bob Coffman, public safety, who manages the card center. "There's plenty of free parking around Lawson, and most people are in and out with their new card in less than five minutes."

Visual arts center to get under way

Construction of the new James W. and Lois I. Richmond Center for Visual Arts will be under way following a formal ground-breaking at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 12.

The long-planned facility will be located on the Fountain Plaza between the Dalton Center and the Miller Auditorium parking ramp and will be connected to both by enclosed walkways. The new building, which will take about 18 months to complete, will be used primarily as exhibition space and will be connected to Kohrman Hall, which eventually will be renovated to house classroom and studio space.

Bailey's April message to campus audience followed by assignment of budget targets

Following up on a message delivered to the campus community April 21, WMU President Judith J. Bailey began the process this week of asking senior leadership to make the difficult budget decisions in their areas that will help address a projected $20 million deficit facing the University.

The Board of Trustees supports the president's decision to address the $20 million deficit over a two-year period—2005-06 and 2006-07. The $10 million target reduction for 2005-06 represents 3.65 percent of WMU's total 2004-05 general fund budget of $274 million.

For 2005-06, Bailey said, current projections show the additional loss of an estimated 3 percent in state funding and an enrollment decline of another 4 percent—despite a projected increase to the fall entering class.

The University also is faced with additional expenses of $13 million.

Over the past two years, the University has suffered a loss of $16.8 million in state appropriations and a $9.4 million loss in tuition due to enrollment declines, which Bailey has characterized as the equivalent financially of a near "perfect storm."

In a memo to vice presidents and senior administrators dated May 2, Bailey asked each to begin the process of developing reduction plans tailored to the vision and mission of the unit and areas they each are responsible for and the need to support enrollment efforts.

"Importantly, because it is our people that make us a great university," she wrote, "I ask that you use vacant positions to realize savings whenever possible."

Each of the recipients of the May 2 memo was also given a figure that represented their area's share of the budget reduction goal, and each was asked to provide the president with preliminary reduction plans by June 1 and final plans by June 20.

Bailey outlined the challenges facing WMU to a packed audience at the Dalton Center April 21. She emphasized the importance of continuing the campus commitment to being a graduate-intensive research university and told the audience that "working together," the campus community can continue to build the quality and reputation of WMU.

Speaking to more than 400 people, the president described in detail the financial realities of cuts in state funding and enrollment decline. She outlined several specific areas where savings were sought:

- The need to support enrollment efforts.
- The need to maintain a "world-class" level of academic and research excellence.
- The need to support research, creative and artistic projects.
- The need to preserve University Hall, which eventually will be renovated to house classroom and studio space.

Trustees approve new flat-rate tuition policy for fall 2005

Acting at its April 22 meeting, the University's Board of Trustees approved a flat-rate tuition plan designed to simplify the tuition structure, encourage students to move more quickly toward graduation and reduce the total cost of a WMU degree.

The plan will take effect with the beginning of the fall 2005 semester. Trustees did not set tuition rates for the 2005-06 academic year and are expected to wait until a clearer picture emerges from state budget talks about the level of state support the University can expect for the coming year.

"For both new and continuing students, there are real advantages to this new flat-rate tuition policy," says WMU President Judith J. Bailey. "Every student who graduates in four years rather than five will save more than $10,000 on the total cost of earning a degree. We're providing an incentive for students to earn their degrees quickly and become part of the state's work force, and we're recommitting our University to the goal of increasing the number of college graduates in Michigan."

Letters are being sent to students and their families with details on the new tuition policy. A Web site also has been established to offer answers to frequently asked questions about the change. The Web site address is <www.wmich.edu/flatrate>.

Under the new plan, which is similar to plans used at six other universities in Michigan as well as elsewhere around the
Woolfork-Barnes to lead First-Year Experience on campus

A new University program aimed at first-year college students has a new director at the helm and is gearing up to welcome its first group of participants.

The First-Year Experience program will debut this summer with a pilot group of about 630 incoming freshmen and continue through the 2005-06 academic year. FYE is expected to grow in future years to include significantly more students.

Toni Woolfork-Barnes was named the program’s permanent director April 1, replacing Bronco Days orientation coordinator Lori Bennett, who had been serving as interim director.

FYE seeks to strengthen new students’ academic performance during their initial year at WMU and ease their transition into campus life and college-level learning.

Research shows that the foundation for excellence in undergraduate life is usually established during the first year. Nationally, first-year programs have been shown to be central to retaining students, reducing time-to-degree completion rates, sustaining individual learning, and contributing to meaningful and productive individual lives beyond college.

Woolfork-Barnes says the research reveals that if students decide to leave college, they tend to do so in the first year.

“There are many theories as to why students leave, the overarching reason students stay is because they find success and satisfaction in learning,” she says. “The key, then, to persistence is when universities like ours provide the highest quality educational experience possible for students.”

FYE allows WMU to specifically tailor some first-year course work and to create small groups of about 21 students each who will progress together through their first year of studies. These groups, called sections, will be led by faculty facilitators who have volunteered for the program. The facilitators also will serve as mentors for the new students in their sections and be assigned an upper-class student assistant.

“FYE is geared to academics, but also focuses on personal and social needs,” Woolfork-Barnes explains. “For instance, lots of students may not know anyone when they get here. This program gives them a chance to get acquainted with faculty and their peers in and out of the classroom.”

Still, Woolfork-Barnes notes, academics will always be in the forefront.

FYE will begin with online placement testing before participating freshmen arrive on campus in June for one of WMU’s 12 one-day orientation sessions. Participants will then return to campus in August to move into their residence halls early and take part in the University’s new Fall Welcome program.

The Fall Welcome is a comprehensive week-long orientation to WMU that is grounded in the University’s previous two-day summer orientation and Bronco Days orientation week. It occurs just before the beginning of fall classes and is open to all incoming freshmen.

Once classes start, participants in each FYE section will attend four co-curricular activities during both the fall and spring semesters, plus take three classes together during those semesters. In addition to an FYE course each semester, the students will take two of WMU’s general education courses, one of them being English. Throughout this first academic year, the participants’ faculty facilitators and student assistants also will be providing ongoing mentoring.

Woolfork-Barnes came to WMU in 1978 as a student. She earned a bachelor’s degree in 1982, a master’s degree in 1984 and a doctorate in 1993. She joined the University’s Upward Bound program in 1984 as assistant director, and after a stint as director of the King-Chaves-Parks Program, served as Upward Bound director for 13 years.

She also worked with the Science and Mathematics Program Improvement project for six years as a research associate and has been an adjunct faculty member since 1993.

Medievalists mark four decades of annual congress this weekend

For four decades, they’ve streamed to Kalamazoo to debate the merits of both, the Crusades, chivalry and the Cistercian monasteries of Europe and to honor such luminaries as “Islamic Intellectual Tradition and the Crusades, chivalry and the Cistercian monasteries of Europe and to honor such luminaries as Augustine and Hildegard von Bingen.

This May 5-8, when 3,000 medieval scholars from around the globe come to WMU’s annual International Congress on Medieval Studies, they’ll also be celebrating the 40th time the campus and the community have opened their arms to modern-day pilgrims who travel to Kalamazoo to debate the finer points of lives lived long ago.

During 626 sessions over four days, participants will have the opportunity to select from among more than 1,800 scholarly papers to hear and consider.

Paper titles in this year’s catalog include such topics as “Islamic Intellectual Tradition and the Crusades, chivalry and the Cistercian monasteries of Europe and to honor such luminaries as Augustine and Hildegard von Bingen.

For more information about the event, go to <www.wmich.edu/middleware/congress/4Congress/>.
Obituaries

University retiree James E. Amos died April 11 in Kalamazoo. He was 75. Amos retired from WMU in 1992 as supervisor of custodial services after more than 22 years of service. An active community volunteer, he was known as the host of a live, weekly television program called "Amos in the Evening," which aired on Kalamazoo Community Access.

He also was active with Kalamazoo Senior Services, the Kalamazoo Nature Center, Tiller's International and the Gallery Art Center. He was a member of the Kalamazoo Rotary and was active with the United Methodist Church.

University officials have learned of the death in Florida last fall of Frederick Everett, emeritus in accounting. He was 87. Everett retired in 1982, after 22 years as a WMU faculty member. During his tenure, he served for 10 years on the Western Herald board and was an advisor to Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honor society.

He was an active member of the Fourth Marine Division Association and the Civil War Round Table. A certified public accountant, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1939 and a master's degree from the University of Iowa in 1952.

William C. Gross, health, physical education and recreation, died April 7 in Greenville, Mich. He was 49.

A faculty member since 1987, Gross was an associate professor at the time of his death. He was a school and community health specialist who was active as a volunteer both on and off the campus. Gross and students he worked with organized the United Methodist Church.

Rex E. Hall, emeritus in engineering technology, died Feb. 24 in Kalamazoo. He was 77. Hall retired from the University in 1986, after being a member of the engineering faculty for 25 years. He taught metalworking and industrial education courses. He was an active member and officer with the American Society of Tool and Manufacturing Engineers.

A native of Ennis, Texas, Hall earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas A & M. Before joining the WMU faculty, he taught at Texas A & M, Arlington State College and Kansas State University.

Human Resources

Job applicants must submit formal employment applications

Effective June 6, applicants for externally posted staff positions will be required to submit a Staff Employment Application to be considered for University employment. Applicants will be required to submit additional documentation that may be noted on the posting as well, and no applications will be accepted after the posting deadline.

Employees should note that internal applicants for University positions must complete a Job Opportunity Transfer Application and include a resume to be considered for a position.

Exchange

LICENSED DAY CARE IN MAT-TAWAN—Easy access off I-94 and Red Arrow Hwy. Accepting children 2-1/2 years and up. Full- and Part-time or on drop-in basis. 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Member of the Michigan Child and Adult Care Food Program. Call 666-5182 for more information.

FOR SALE—1999 Honda Shadow 600 VTX, under 3,500 miles. Black, very nice, has sport windshield and saddlebags, $4,000 or best offer. Call 217-0506.

FOR RENT—Richland village townhouse. Contemporary, three-level townhouse 20 minutes from both Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. Loft floor plan, 2,200 sq. ft., living room, dining area, kitchen, three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, family room, sun porch, air, washer/dryer, garage and carport. Elegant living and entertaining for $1,100 per month. Call (259) 629-4133.

Holiday schedules available

Holiday schedules for 2005-06 are now available on the human resources Web site as a PDF file. A link to the schedule can be found on the HR home page at <www.wmich.edu/hr>. Supervisors are asked to print and post a copy of the holiday schedule.

Performance reviews due in June

Supervisors across campus are reminded that human resources must receive Performance Management forms for all Staff Compensation System employees by Friday, June 3. The forms are available online at <www.wmich.edu/hr/forms.html> as either a Word document or a PDF file.

Business dean candidates visit, make public presentations

Two of the three candidates for the position of dean of the Haworth College of Business will be on campus next week to meet campus community members and make public presentations. Their public presentations will be held at 4 p.m. in Brown Auditorium of Schneider Hall. The candidates and the dates of their presentations are:

- Monday, May 9, Susan E. Moeller, professor of finance at Eastern Michigan University;
- Wednesday, May 11, Michael A. Mazzeo, associate dean for undergraduate studies and associate professor of finance at the Eli Broad School of Business at Michigan State University.

On May 4, the third candidate made his public presentation. He is Robert Baer, dean and professor of marketing in the Foster College of Business Administration at Bradley University.

A previously announced candidate, Bruce Bublitz of the University of Texas at San Antonio, has withdrawn his name from consideration.

The candidates were selected after a national search, which was launched last year to replace Dr. James Schmotter, who led the college from 1997 to 2004. For more information about each of the candidates, go online to <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news>.
For 36 years, Dave Smith has worked to blend the “right brain/left brain” parts of his job, and he’s pretty sure he’s found the right balance.

“I’ve had just two jobs in my life,” says Smith, WMU’s director of graphics and design. “That’s probably because I’ve known since junior college that this is exactly what I want to do. I love the process of developing a project from beginning to end and having multiple projects in multiple stages.”

He revels in melding the management and technical sides of his job with the creative aspect, as he directs the University’s efforts to find the right look for products ranging from event invitations and commencement programs to campus banners, magazine pages and even a presidential backdrop. Smith came to WMU from Wittenberg University in 1978 to direct what was then a one-man band with the title “director of publications.” Today, he supervises a staff that includes two graphic designers and the University’s Webmaster.

“It’s been amazing to have witnessed the massive change in technology during that time,” he notes. “but it all comes down to having a product ready at a given time and knowing the resources that can make that happen.”

Smith brings an added flair to his role in graphics and print. A theatre lover and a long-time dance professional who teaches and is active in the local and state arts communities, he occasionally serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Dance. Smith finds similarities in the two sides of his life.

“It’s all about presentation,” he says. “The flair for the theatrical can be integrated into print, Web and billboards.”

Smith and his wife of 34 years, Lucile, are Battle Creek natives who now live in Kalamazoo. He earned an associate’s degree in data processing from Kellogg Community College, a bachelor’s degree in advertising from Michigan State University and an MBA from WMU.

THE ‘RIGHT’ BRAIN FOR THE JOB

(Thanks to Cheryl Roland)

FINISHING FINALS

— President Bailey joined faculty and staff volunteers April 22nd for the ninth annual Finals Finish at the Student Recreation Center. Among students she met were, from left, finance major David Davignon, secondary education major John Crowell and marketing major Kevin Hodson. (Photo by Tammy M. Boneburg)

WMU is now enrolling school-age children for its 2005 Summer Program, which begins the week after Kalamazoo County public schools close for the summer and continues to the start of the next public-school year.

School-age children participate in the Campus Kids summer theme camp. Children must have completed kindergarten to be eligible. More information and the complete schedule of weekly summer activities can be found on the Web at www.wmich.edu/childrensplace.

Those who sign up by Friday, May 13, will receive one-half off the standard enrollment fee of $40. Weekly rates are $120 for WMU students, $150 for WMU faculty and staff, and $170 for the general public.

Toddler and pre-school openings are also available, but are filling fast. Call the Children’s Place Learning Center at 7-2277.

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