



Western NEWS

For and about WMU faculty and staff

MARCH 10, 2005
volume 31, number 12

Unsung civil rights hero to be topic of Whitney Young lecture

A nationally known historian will give a lecture on "Ella Baker as an Activist and Intellectual" from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, in 208 Bernhard Center.

The free public lecture by Barbara Ransby, who teaches history and African-American studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago, will be the keynote presentation at the School of Social Work's Whitney Young Jr. Scholars Award Program.

Ransby's work has been published in academic journals as well as in the news media, and she is a regular contributor to the Chicago Public Radio program "Eight Forty-Eight." Her biography of unsung civil rights hero Ella Jo Baker, titled "Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision," has won national recognition.

Baker, an activist and advocate for more than 50 years, was influential in the battle for social justice. She was a legendary organizer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the first director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Presidential Scholars honored

The University's top undergraduates will be recognized Tuesday, March 22, at the 25th annual Presidential Scholars Convocation at the Fetzer Center.

A total of 48 students will be honored as Presidential Scholars, the University's highest academic award bestowed on an undergraduate. The convocation, which is by invitation only, will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. The program will feature Ernst Breisach, emeritus in history, as keynote speaker. His address is titled "On Learning for and Learning from Life." Thomas Amos, Faculty Senate president, will preside at the convocation, while President Judith I. Bailey will deliver opening remarks.

Alumnus Reece is HCOB speaker

The head of a New York-based industrial conglomerate will focus on the role of ethics in the global business world when he speaks on campus Thursday, March 24, as part of the Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series.

Thomas L. Reece, chairman of the Dover Corp., will discuss "Doing the Right Things Right in a World of Global Business" at 7:30 p.m. in the Brown Auditorium of Schneider Hall. The 1964 WMU alumnus heads an industrial organization that primarily manufactures specialized industrial products and sophisticated manufacturing equipment.

The event is open to WMU faculty, staff and students. To reserve a spot, call 7-5052.

Design and development firm to build its new headquarters at campus BTR Park

A southwest Michigan design and product development firm will capitalize on its recent success and reinvigorate its strong ties to WMU by expanding and moving its company headquarters to the Business Technology and Research Park.

TEKNA Solutions Inc. will build its new 24,000-square-foot headquarters on a four-acre site located on the northeast side of the park, according to TEKNA President Kris Eager. He expects to break ground in early spring and occupy the building by late this year. The building site is on the cul-de-sac known as Tech Circle and will be constructed by Delta Design Systems of Kalamazoo.

TEKNA, founded 17 years ago by WMU alumni Kris and Claire Eager, is an advanced concept design and engineering firm primarily involved with product development in the life sciences and medical device sectors. Founded under the name IDEA Design and Product Development, the company recently changed its name to TEKNA and has a work force of 25.

TEKNA fills client product design needs, including conceptual design, engineering and even final product assembly and distribution. The company specializes in enhancing the usability, aesthetics and unique functional qualities of its customers' products. TEKNA's clients range from Fortune 500 companies, such as Stryker Corp., to startup entrepreneurial groups looking to enhance their entry into the marketplace.

TEKNA has extensive experience in

medical device product development, having participated in the development of more than 200 medical-related products.

"Our strength in delivering innovative, effective, user-friendly product solutions is a cornerstone of our business," says Kris Eager.

Due to TEKNA's extensive medical product development portfolio, it has recently been selected by GE Medical Plastics as an information technology partner to help expand the use of specialized plastics in medical product design.



Architectural rendering of new TEKNA headquarters

With the addition of TEKNA to the BTR Park, more than two dozen firms will be located there. All of the companies

fall into one of the park's three targeted areas of focus—advanced engineering, life sciences and information technology. In addition to the engineering design work and life sciences product specialty, TEKNA has become increasingly more involved with products and systems requiring graphic-user interface design, adding an information technology element to its diverse portfolio of services. Because of the wide range of products TEKNA develops, the company is the first at the BTR Park to incorporate all three of those disciplines.

"Our staff, many of whom are also WMU graduates, are looking forward to the move to this unique research campus, as well as developing new relationships with the University's industrial design and engineering departments and other BTR Park companies," Eager says.

University Theatre troupe to go to Washington in April

The University Theatre production of "Othello" has won national honors in American College Theatre Festival competition, and a WMU student troupe will head to Washington, D.C., next month to stage the play twice at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Directed by James Daniels, theatre, the WMU production won kudos from judges during regional competition in January and was one of only three college theatre productions in the nation to win an invitation to the national ACTF event in Washington. An invitation to perform at the ACTF's Kennedy Center

Statewide satellite summit set for Friday at Fetzer Center

WMU is one of four sites selected to play host when leading women's organizations



Bailey

bring prominent women leaders from around Michigan together via satellite Friday, March 11, to kick off a public education campaign focused on equal opportunity.

"Michigan Women's Summit 2005: Challenges to Equity" will attract such leaders as Gov. Jennifer Granholm, WMU President Judith Bailey and the women presidents of two other state universities

continued on page 4

continued on page 4

Campus welcomes new faculty members

Laura B. Citrin, sociology, came to WMU from the University of Michigan, where she earned a joint doctoral degree



Citrin

in social psychology and women's studies in 2004, and a master's degree in 2002. She was a U of M Teaching Fellow in 2002 and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow from 1998 to 2001. Her areas of expertise include the social psychology of gender, emotions and cultural ideologies about the body. A frequent presenter at regional and national professional meetings, Citrin earned bachelor's degrees at both the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Washington-Seattle.

Jofen W. Han, business information systems, came to WMU from Washington State University, where she had been an admissions officer since 1997. Prior to that, she was a faculty member at Nan-Tai Institute of Technology in Taiwan. Her teaching specialties include composition, business communication and language acquisition. Her research interests include bilingualism and multicultural literature. She earned a bachelor's degree from National Taiwan University, a master's degree from the University of Washington and a doctoral degree from Washington State University.



Han

Gayl (Gay) S. Walker, physician assistant, is no stranger to WMU, having taught in the graduate holistic health



Walker

program and served as an adjunct faculty member as far back as 1990. A well-known graphic artist with many exhibits to her credit, Walker is actively involved in art therapy, and was the force behind a series of shows around the state under the title "The Art of Healing: An Exhibit by People Touched by Cancer." She earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, a master's degree from Antioch University and a Holistic Health Graduate Specialty Certificate from WMU.

Kevin J. Wanner, comparative religion, came to WMU from Southwest Missouri State University, where he was a visiting lecturer in 2003-04. He also has taught at DePaul University. A specialist on the history of religions and on medieval and Reformation Christianity, Wanner also has focused specifically on medieval Scandinavian religions. He has presented his work at WMU's annual International Congress on Medieval Studies. He earned a bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Chicago.



Wanner

Weinger wows British audience

What started more than a year ago with an e-mail message from the British Broadcasting Corp.



Weinger

seeking information on a WMU researcher led to an appearance this winter by Susan Weinger, social work, on the BBC program "Child of Our Time" watched by some six million viewers.

It all started in January 2004 when the BBC sent an e-mail to the Office of University Relations looking for detailed information on Weinger's research on children and their perception of class. She had been the topic of several earlier news releases by the office.

Two of Weinger's papers were faxed to the news organization, but it wasn't until May that the BBC, using an e-mail address provided by Mark Schwerin, university relations, actually contacted Weinger, who was then conducting new research and teaching in Cameroon under a Fulbright Scholar Award.

The BBC wanted Weinger to fly to London to be interviewed. But since Weinger had conducted her research years earlier, she needed to refresh her memory. Schwerin sent her papers to her in Cameroon via Federal Express, with the papers arriving just days before her departure to London.

Stapleton named to journal board

Susan R. Stapleton, chemistry, has been named to the editorial board of the journal Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education, known as BAMBED.

BAMBED is a publication of the American Chemical Society of Biochemistry and Biology and is dedicated to worldwide promotion of quality biochemistry and molecular biology education as well as education in such related fields as microbiology and cell biology.

Campus photographers featured

Charles Comer, emeritus in health, physical education and recreation; and Gary Ciadella, art; are two of 12 West Michigan professional photographers whose work is featured in an unusual exhibition that will open this week in St. Joseph, Mich.



Comer

"2 Cities; 48 Hours" opens Friday, March 11, and continues through Sunday, April 17, at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad Street, St. Joseph.

All photos were taken during two days in August 2004 in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, Mich. by the 12 professional photographers as well as by eight amateur photographers and 70 students with disposable cameras. Combined, they captured more than 10,000 images. EPSON was the major sponsor of the project, and most of the work in the exhibit is digital.

Comer says it was a rewarding experience, and efforts are under way to find funding for a similar project in Kalamazoo.

For a complete overview of the project, visit <www.2cities48hours.com>.

Editor's note: This is the tenth installment in the *Western News* series that offers brief profiles of new members of the WMU faculty. In each issue, several of the more than 80 first-year faculty members will be profiled.

Fourth annual festival brings French-language films to town

A festival at the University this week brings a slew of rare foreign films to town, offering area film buffs what's likely to be their only chance to see these hidden gems.

The fourth annual Francophone Film Festival began March 9 and runs through Sunday, March 13. It offers one U.S. premiere, while the remaining films will have their first screenings in Michigan. Besides being extremely rare, the films have one other thing in common: they all were produced in French-speaking countries outside France.

The festival again includes a competition of new feature films—five this year—and the awarding of the Gold Kazoo for best feature film. In addition, the feature film "Lumumba," a somewhat older film that has been more widely shown in the United States, will be shown. Feature films in the competition are all under three years old.

In a new twist, the festival is shining a spotlight on women filmmakers. Women's issues in the Francophone world are a focus of this year's films.

"What we've done this year, which we haven't done in the past, is try to build a theme," says Vincent Desroches, foreign languages, who organizes the festival. "So there will be several films by women filmmakers, and that's a new feature."

Tickets are \$8 for general admission or \$5 for students with school identification. A pass good for all films is \$40. For more information, visit <www.wmich.edu/fffkazoo>.



volume 31
number 12

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WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week when classes are in session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Western News*, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding the publication date. Spring semester publication dates are Jan. 6, Jan. 20, Feb. 3, Feb. 17, March 10, March 24, and April 7. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail (cheryl.roland@wmich.edu).

WMU is an equal opportunity/employer/affirmative action institution.



Obituaries



Miner

Margie J. Miner, emerita in health, physical education and recreation, died Jan. 30 in Kalamazoo. She was 82.

She was a faculty member from 1957 until her retirement in 1986, and she began

the Women's Recreation Association at the University. She also served as vice president of physical education for the Michigan Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Before coming to WMU, she taught in schools in her native Oklahoma and in Illinois.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University and master's degrees from both the University of Wisconsin-Madison and WMU.

Following her retirement, Miner was active with the WMU Emeriti Council.

Assessment Fellows' work shown

The results of work done by some of the University's 2004-05 Assessment Grant Fellows will be presented in a public forum set for 3 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, in the Putney Auditorium of the Fetzer Center.

The fellows will summarize the purpose of their grants, issues encountered and the lessons learned as they conducted departmental-level assessments. Those interested in applying for similar grants for the 2005-06 academic year should be particularly interested in the discussions, which will cover systems development, student learning, instruction outcomes, MIS startup and using student portfolios.

This year's presenters will be: Patrick Benton, aviation; Kelly McDonnell, counselor education and counseling psychology; Susan Caulfield, sociology; Cynthia Carver, teaching, learning and leadership; and Maira Bundza, University Libraries.

University community gets free pass to attend equity conference

Michigan's 15th annual "Equity in the Classroom Conference" will take place Sunday through Tuesday, April 3 through 5, in the Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Kalamazoo and the Bernhard Center at Western Michigan University.

The conference focuses on achieving parity in higher education in enrollment, retention and graduation for underrepresented minority students and academically and economically disadvantaged students.

WMU, which is serving as host for this year's conference, will pay the registration fee for University faculty, staff and students who wish to attend. The deadline to register is March 21, and advance registration is required.

The cost of meals will be picked up by WMU for a small number of early faculty and staff registrants. Other members of the University community, including students, may pay a nominal fee for food or sit in on the programs that include meals.

To register, complete the registration form in the event brochure available online at <www.conference.wmich.edu> and fax it to Martha Warfield at 7-3390.

Retiree **Zona O. Pryor** died Feb. 26 in Kalamazoo. She was 94.

Pryor was employed as a cook in the University's food services from 1959 until her retirement in 1975. Prior to coming to the University, she was employed by KVP Paper Co.

Her family has requested that memorial donations be made to University scholarship funds.

Service

The following employees are celebrating 35, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service to the University during March.

35 years—Kenneth J. Pollack, physical plant-landscape services.

25 years—Pamela J. Buist, WMU Apartments; Beth A. DenHartigh, Disabled Student Resources and Services; Joel M. Fletcher, information technology; and Thomas L. Swihart, physical plant-landscape services.

20 years—Catherine L. Eikum, physical plant-landscape services; Theresa Paul, physical plant-building custodial and support services; and Dennitta L. Warner, physical plant-building custodial and support services.

15 years—Jacquelyn E. Bizzell, College of Arts and Sciences Advising Office; Betty J. Flora, Burnham Dining Service; Erica J. Krol, Sindecuse Health Center; Terylle D. Lavender, University Libraries; Thomas Bruce Maida, physical plant-power plant; and Linda M. Rowen, psychology.

10 years—Annette Calvert, Extended University Programs; Cleon Ludwick, physical plant-building custodial and support services; and John C. Meyer, physical plant-building custodial and support services.

Five years—Maranda L. Curtis, Burnham Dining Service; Phyllis LaRue Dungey, University Libraries; Joyce A. Flynn, Registrar's Office; Timothy Knox, intercollegiate athletics; Vickie G. Langkam, WMUK Radio; Thuy T. Martin, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Richard C. Mehl, University Libraries; Norma L. Sylvester, University Libraries; and Jene A. Wenzlaff, Extended University Programs.

Human Resources

TIAA-CREF meetings offered

TIAA-CREF representatives will be on campus in April, May and June to offer individual retirement/investment counseling sessions in 206 Bernhard Center.

Individual appointments can be scheduled April 21 and 22, May 10 and 11, and June 15 and 16. To schedule an appointment, visit TIAA-CREF on the Web <tiaa-cref.org>, click on "Meetings/Counseling" at the top of the page and follow the instructions. If you are unable to register on the Web, contact Dick Schaper, retirement services, at 7-3580.

Microsoft Office training offered

Computer tutorials are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint or Outlook, exclusively for WMU staff members.

Human Resources offers Adaptive Computer Tutorials—on-campus, four-hour classes featuring convenient scheduling and small class sizes with individualized attention. For more information, call 7-3635.

Jobs

The following vacancies are posted through the Job Opportunity Program by human resources. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period, and may contact a human resource services staff member for assistance.

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 to hear the weekly job postings 24 hours a day, seven days a week from any touch-tone phone.

Those interested in faculty positions should submit a letter of application to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

(R) **Director of Student Conduct**, 19, Office of Student Conduct, 04/05-4637, 3/7-3/14/05

(R) **Assistant Dean for Technologies and Systems**, 22, University Libraries, 04/05-4708, 3/7-3/14/05

(R) **Office Assistant**, Grand Rapids Campus, 11, Extended University Programs, 04/05-4709, 3/7-3/14/05

(R) **Assistant/Associate Professor** (tenure track, full year), 130/I20, University Libraries, 04/05-4710, 3/7-3/14/05

(N) **Assistant/Associate Professor** (tenure track, full year), 130/I20, University Libraries, 04/05-4711, 3/7-3/14/05

(R) **Administrative Specialist**, 17, College of Fine Arts, 04/05-4712, 3/7-3/14/05

R = Replacement

N = New

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Women's history month marked with campus events

March is Women's History Month, and the Center for Women's Studies is celebrating women in history with a series of award-winning films.

The series began this week with "Whale Rider" and continues at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, with the Peabody Award-winning PBS documentary "Not for Ourselves Alone" in 2208 Dunbar. The story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and the struggle for women's rights features Julie Harris in an Emmy-winning role as the voice of Susan B. Anthony.

"Iron-Jawed Angels" will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, in 2208 Dunbar. This acclaimed story of Alice Paul and the battle for women's suffrage features 2005 Golden Globe-nominated performances by Hilary Swank and Anjelica Huston.

The center also is presenting programs on self-defense for women. The programs are designed for WMU students, faculty and staff. Allison Hartman of Power for Women presents a free lecture on self-defense from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Thursday, March 24, in 3206 Dunbar. A free class and demonstration of self-defense techniques will be held the same day from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in 4204 Dunbar.

Exchange

FOR SALE—Entertainment Center. Solid wood, light color, 4 feet high by 4 feet wide, fits 25- to 27-inch TV. Three shelves, storage with doors underneath. Great shape. Buy for \$100. Call 385-4711.

On Campus with Patrick Donnelly



A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE
(Photo by Thom Myers)

Patrick Donnelly brings national experience in theatre management to his job in University Theatre, and something of an international perspective as well.

Donnelly is in charge of marketing, publicity and ticketing for the theatre department and also works with its fund-raising organization, the University Theatre Guild. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware and a master's in arts management from Carnegie Mellon University. Before coming to WMU in 2003, he worked for more than seven years in arts facilities management at the University of Delaware, the University of New Mexico and Central Michigan University.

He was the performance hall manager in the School of Music at Central Michigan when he met and married Alexandra Mascolo David, a pianist and member of the CMU music faculty. His wife is Portuguese, and they regularly travel to Lisbon and to Marseilles, France, to visit her family.

Donnelly's first ventures into theatre were in elementary and high school. Despite his early association with the stage and his lengthy resume in arts management, it was not his first career. He continued to dabble in theatre production during his undergraduate years at Delaware, but he majored in history, and his first job after graduation was high school teaching. But he kept coming back to theatre, and after a few years decided to change careers.

His preoccupations outside of keeping ahead of a hectic theatre schedule are finding time for leisure reading—he's currently re-reading Don Quixote—and stretching his weekends to spend more time with his wife, who still resides in Mount Pleasant.

Series to feature three recent Distinguished Faculty Scholars

A series of lectures by the University's 2003 and 2004 Distinguished Faculty Scholars is set to begin late this month.

The annual award, the University's highest to a faculty researcher, includes an opportunity to address the campus on a topic of the scholar's choice. Each lecture will be presented at 4 p.m. in 208 Bernhard Center. The speakers and topics scheduled are:

- Monday, March 28—Paul Szarmach, Medieval Institute, a 2003 scholar who will describe "The Disappearing Woman."
- Thursday, March 31—Elise deDoncker, computer science, a 2003 scholar who will talk about "Multivariate Integration and Applications."
- Tuesday, April 5—Catherine Julien, history, the 2004 scholar who will describe "The Art of Speaking Like an Inca to the Spanish King."

Theatre

gathering has been called the college-theatre equivalent of winning the Heisman Trophy.

"This is about as good as it gets," says Joan Herrington, chairperson of theatre. "There are eight regional festivals leading to this one national event. You always want to hear the judges advise you to 'save your set' after they've watched your production at regionals. It's an indication that you're in the running for one of those three national slots. We saved our set this time and we're ready to go."

One judge's comments were especially welcomed. WMU's "Othello," the adjudicator said, "has reset the standard for collegiate performance of Shakespeare."

The winning production was first performed for Kalamazoo audiences in November. It will be performed at

continued from page 1

7:30 p.m. Monday, April 18, and Tuesday, April 19, in the Terrace Theatre at the Kennedy Center. The performances will mark University Theatre's first appearance at the national event since 1988, when its acclaimed production of "Quilters" won a similar ACTF invitation.

Women's summit

continued from page 1

to discuss women's access to high-paying jobs, affirmative action and the future of opportunity for women in the state. Other speakers at the 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. event will be Detroit Free Press columnist Desiree Cooper; Debbie Dingell of the General Motors Foundation; and Llenda Jackson Leslie, president of the National Women's Political Caucus.

WMU's Fetzer Center will be one of the satellite locations. Others will be at Michigan State University, the University of Michigan-Dearborn and Lake Superior State University.

One of the summit's highlights will be a panel discussion involving the women presidents of the state's major universities. From 10:30 to 11:45 a.m., Bailey, Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon and University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman will discuss the importance of affirmative action, policies in higher education and their personal career stories. Those planning to attend should preregister online at <www.oneunitedmichigan.org>. The cost to attend is \$25 per person. There is a reduced student rate, but the president's office will cover the cost for WMU students who wish to attend. Call 7-2351 to make arrangements for student registration. On-site registration will be available.

Indiana U's Borden to focus on campus diversity climate

The role assessment and evaluation play in diversity on higher education campuses will be explored in a free presentation for the University community at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium.

The talk, "Learning to Do Better: Improving the Campus Climate for Diversity through Collaborative Inquiry," will be presented by Victor M. H. Borden, an administrator and assessment expert from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. It is being sponsored by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Division of Multicultural Affairs.

Martha Warfield, assistant vice president for student affairs and DMA director, says while on campus Borden also will meet with the Universitywide Diversity Council, the General Education Assessment and the University Assessment committees, and Provost Linda Delene and Vice Provost Eileen Evans.

"As implementation of WMU's Diversity Multicultural Action Plan moves forward, the campus is eager to learn from other institutions that have launched diversity assessment initiatives," Warfield says. "Their experiences can help to inform ours."

According to Borden, diversifying college and university environments contributes to student learning, faculty productivity and institutional vitality. But he adds that those tenets are closely tied to an institution's ability to develop and continuously improve its effective diversity initiatives.