Cherry report now available

The long-awaited report by a statewide commission charged with finding ways to double the number of college graduates in Michigan over the next 10 years was published Dec. 15 and is available on the Web.

The group, headed by Lt. Gov. John Cherry, began its work in March and was made up of 40 voting members, including college and university presidents, lawmakers, state officials and representatives of business, labor and 1-12 education. WMU Trustee Birgit Klohs served on one of the commission’s working groups devoted to maximizing economic benefits.

The commission developed 19 recommendations that Gov. Jennifer Granholm calls “a road map” to a stronger economic future for Michigan. The governor’s state of the state address this month is expected to focus heavily on those recommendations. To read the commission’s complete report, go to www.cherrycr.commission.org.

Graduate catalog now online

WMU’s 2004-05 graduate catalog is now available online for download at this site: <catalogs.ur.wmich.edu>. The catalog is available as a fully searchable and printable PDF and has a table of contents similar to the print version. Users can locate an item on the contents page and click on it to go to the appropriate page in the PDF. They also may print as much or as little of the PDF as they wish.

According to David H. Smith, university relations, the catalog will not be continuously updated, but will be updated each time a new print version is completed. The 2003-05 edition of WMU’s undergraduate catalog is available at the same Web address.

Spring Frostic readings begin

Award-winning poet John Koethe will read from his latest book, “North Pointe North,” at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, in the Little Theatre as the Spring 2005 Gwen Frostic Reading Series gets under way.

“North Pointe North” is considered Koethe’s break-out book. It includes some of his critically acclaimed work from such earlier collections as “The Late Wisconsin Spring” and “Falling Water” as well as new material.

Koethe’s awards include the Frank O’Hara Award for Poetry, the Bernard F. Conners Award from the Paris Review, and the Kingsley-Tufts Award. He is a professor of philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Milwaukee’s first Poet Laureate.

Witness to King assassination in Memphis will give keynote to start MLK Celebration

A longtime civil rights activist who was a witness to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. will be the keynote speaker Sunday, Jan. 9, beginning this year’s celebration of King’s life.

WMU and the Northside Ministerial Alliance are teaming up for the third year to put on a memorable series of events honoring the memory of the slain civil rights leader.

A focal point of the collaboration will be the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, which will precede a week of activities. The celebration is set for 4 p.m. in Miller Auditorium and is free and open to the public.

The keynote speaker of this year’s program is the Rev. Samuel “Billy” Kyles. Kyles has been pastor of the Monumental Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., since 1959. He has participated in many of the program’s activities and will be the keynote speaker at the celebration.

Kyles had close ties with King. After Memphis sanitation workers went on strike in February 1968, Kyles organized nightly rallies and raised money to support striking workers. He scheduled a major rally on April 3 and persuaded King to speak at it. King delivered his famous “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” address and was assassinated the next day at the Lorraine Motel. Kyles was an eyewitness to the shooting and was with King during the last hour of his life.

Kyles continued his involvement with the civil rights movement and is a founding member of the national board of Jesse Jackson’s People United to Save Humanity, known as PUSH, and is the executive director of Rainbow-PUSH-Memphis. He also worked on Jackson’s 1984 and 1988 presidential campaigns. President Bill Clinton appointed him to serve on the Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad.

Kyles has appeared in several television documentaries on the life and death of King and has traveled the nation extensively, speaking about King and his message.

In addition to Kyles’ speech, University programs, departments and registered student organizations will participate in a weeklong, campuswide observance of King's life Jan. 18-21. A wide range of activities is planned in keeping with this year's theme “Integrating Our Past with Our Present: Impacting Our Future.”

Deveta Gardner, Career and Student Employment Services, is chairperson of the WMU Martin Luther King Jr. Committee. She says working with the Northside Ministerial Alliance on the annual celebration has been very beneficial.

“It is again a pleasure to collaborate with the Northside Ministerial Alliance,” Gardner says. “This unique collaboration continues to blaze a trail of hope, and proves that all things are possible if we focus on our commonalities instead of our differences.”

University hires seasoned professional to manage enrollment

Veteran college admissions and enrollment professional John Beacon has been appointed vice provost for enrollment management at Western Michigan University.

Beacon comes to WMU from the University of Maine, where he has been assistant provost and dean of enrollment management since 1997. His appointment at WMU is effective Feb. 1, 2005.

“With John Beacon, we’re hiring a very senior, seasoned colleague with nearly 37 years of experience in enrollment management, admissions and financial aid,” says Provost Linda Delene. “I think it’s important to note that he has been the admissions director at three research universities before coming to us.”

Beacon is expected to focus on the total enrollment management picture at WMU and will oversee such areas as admissions, financial aid, the university’s First Year Experience program and the Registrar’s Office.

During Beacon’s tenure, Maine has enjoyed a 60 percent increase in the enrollment of new first-time students. Prior to taking his current position, Beacon spent 10 years at the University of Nebraska, serving as both director of admissions and director of scholarships and financial aid during most of that time. In addition, he has held admissions directorships at Oklahoma State University, Eastern Illinois University and Illinois Valley Community College.

Check Web site for full details on MLK activities

A full round of related activities is planned for Jan. 12 to Jan. 21 to commemorate the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

For a complete list of events and details on those activities, visit the MLK Celebration site online at www.wmich.edu/mlk.
Campus welcomes new faculty members

Ala 1. Al-Fuqaha, computer science, comes to WMU from Reston, Va., where he was a senior member of the technical staff of Lambda Optical Networks. Prior to that, he was a software engineer for Sprint Corp. in Kansas City, Mo. A specialist in optical communication, computer and communication networks, and artificial intelligence, he earned a doctoral degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Petroleum & Minerals in Saudi Arabia before coming to the United States to pursue graduate education, and he earned a master’s degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Kathleen M. Baker, geography, came to WMU from the University of Michigan-Flint, where she had been a faculty member since 2002. Before that, she was a research assistant for three years at Michigan State University. Her research interests include geographic information systems and analysis, environmental risk assessment, and Web mapping. Her work has focused on using geographic methods for climatology modeling and plant disease control. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Central Michigan University in 1995, a master’s degree from WMU in 1998 and a doctoral degree from MSU in 2002.

Carmen A. Corneilles, educational studies, earned a WMU doctoral degree in special education in 2003 and served as a doctoral associate at the University. She also has been a research associate on WMU’s Project SEETAP—Special Education Evaluation and Technical Assistance. She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WMU in 1982 and 1998, respectively, and she spent a year in South America earning a diploma through a joint program involving the Organization of American States and the University of Chile. In addition, she has worked as an educational consultant for the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory in Naperville, Ill.

Bill Davis, art, came to WMU from Antonelli College in Cincinnati, where he had been teaching since 2004. A photographer, Davis also has taught at both the Tyler School of Art and Temple University, both in Philadelphia. He earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Ohio University in 1993 and a master of fine arts degree from Tyler in 2004. He worked as a commercial photographer for three years in Chicago and the Czech Republic, and he has a wide range of experience and curatorial experience in the international arena. His work is part of several permanent collections in the United States and Europe.

Board OKs hiring of new registrar and financial aid director

A veteran WMU staff member has taken the reins of the Registrar’s Office, while the financial aid operations will be led by a new hire with experience at several Midwest institutions.

Barbara McKinney, a staff member since 1986 who was serving in the position on an interim basis, has been appointed as the new registrar, effective Dec. 6. Mark Delorey, director of financial aid at Northern Michigan University, has been named director of student financial aid and scholarships. Delorey’s appointment is effective Feb. 5. Both appointments were approved by WMU Trustees at the board’s Dec. 10 meeting.

Both appointees are extremely knowledgeable about the capabilities of WMU’s new student information system. McKinney has been the interim registrar since September, when she was tapped to replace Susan O’Flaherty, executive director of student services, whose job included financial aid and registration. Delorey is currently a financial aid advisor serving as both registrar and director of financial aid.

Editor’s note: This is the sixth milestone 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 new faculty members will be profiled.

Dybek story among year’s best

Stuart Dybek, English, closed out the year by seeing a piece of his writing selected as one of “The Best American Short Stories 2004.”

Dybek is the author of “Breasts,” one of 20 stories selected by editor Lorrie Moore for inclusion in the annual anthology published by Houghton Mifflin.

Other authors whose work was selected for the honor this year include literary luminaries John Updike, Sherman Alexie, Alice Munro and Annie Prouds as well as a number of newcomers to the field.

Dybek’s contribution was first published in his most recent book, “I Slept With Magellan,” and is an anchor piece in that volume of interrelated short stories. Set in Chicago, the tale revolves around a Chicago hit man, a bar owner and a failed wrestler.

Since its inception in 1915, the Best American series has become the premier annual showcase for the country’s finest short fiction and nonfiction. For each volume, a series editor reads pieces from hundreds of periodicals, then selects between 50 and 100 outstanding works. That selection is pared down to about 20 of the very best pieces by a guest editor who is widely recognized as a leading writer in his or her field.

Washington’s Rosa Parks play will be part of boycott events

Von Washington, theatre, has had his play about civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks selected to help commemorate the 50th anniversary of the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott.

“Rosa Parks—More than a Bus Story” will be staged Jan. 12 and 13 in Montgomery, Ala. The play is an outgrowth of Washington’s 2001 play “Rosa,” which was premiered on campus and uses Parks’ autobiography as a window into her role in the civil rights movement. It is the only stage adaptation of her life that Parks has authorized.

Washington will play the main narrator and several other parts, while his wife, Fran, will reprise her role as Rosa Parks from the 2001 premiere. In addition, their daughter, Alicia, will appear and WMU alumni Curtis Gullidge and Dwendra Nickole will act and sing in the production. Nickole’s last name was Lampkins when she attended WMU.

“This is what I had hoped for all along, to perform this play in Montgomery, where the momentous activity began,” Washington says. “Having it as a part of the 50th anniversary celebration is almost unbelievable.”

Dec. 5, 2005, is the 50th anniversary of the day Rosa Parks was arrested when she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus. For more information, visit <www.50busboycott.com>.
Summerville served as director of human Resources in 1994. She was appointed to the Staff Compensation System position before Jan. 3, 2005.

Managers of Staff Compensation System employees will be sent a report listing their employees' eligibility, old pay rate, increase amount, and new pay rate. Managers are being asked to share this information with their employees in individual meetings.

To be eligible for the 3 percent increase, employees must have been hired into a Staff Compensation System position as of Jan. 3, 2005.

While a campuswide job freeze remains in effect, the following vacancies have been approved for posting as positions that are essential for the continued operation of the unit represented. All position authorizations must have the approval of a WMU vice president to be posted during the hiring freeze.

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 or check the weekly job postings.

(WMU) Office Associate, 13, Extended University Programs, 04/05-4632, 1/3-1/10/05, Office of Conferences and Seminars

(R) Office Associate, 13, Extended University Programs, 04/05-4632, 1/3-1/10/05, Office of the Vice President for Research, 04/05-4638, 1/3-1/10/05

(R) Office Associate (academic year/summer 1); FTE .85, 13, Davis Dining Services, 04/05-4639, 1/3-1/10/05

Replacement WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Pay increases effective Jan. 3

Eligible Staff Compensation System employees received a 3 percent pay increase, effective Jan. 3.

The increase will be reflected in paychecks beginning Jan. 3. Employees and unit heads should note the following:

• Increases were effective Jan. 3, the beginning of pay period 30. Employees will not receive retroactive pay increases for prior pay periods.

• Managers of Staff Compensation System employees will be sent a report listing their employees' eligibility, old pay rate, increase amount, and new pay rate. Managers are being asked to share this information with their employees in individual meetings.

To be eligible for the 3 percent increase, employees must have been hired into a Staff Compensation System position as of Jan. 3, 2005. Have a satisfactory 2003-04 performance review, and be on the payroll as of Jan. 3, 2005.

Summerville is associate VP

Lauren Summerville has been promoted to associate vice president and chief human resources officer for the University.

Summerville, whose promotion was effective Jan. 1, has served as WMU's director of human resources services since January 2004. She first joined the WMU staff in 1993 and was named manager of wage and salary in the Department of Human Resources in 1994. She was appointed director of staff collective bargaining in 1997 and held that position until 1999. Summerville served as director of human resources services from 1999 until 2004.

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An industrial engineer with a track record in academic leadership and service to industry has been selected to lead WMU’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Timothy J. Greene, assistant vice president for research and academic affairs at the University of Alabama, will take the reins as dean of the engineering college in April. His appointment, which was approved by the University’s Board of Trustees Dec. 10, includes a tenured appointment as a faculty member in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering.

“Professor Greene has had an outstanding academic and administrative career, and he brings with him solid experience in such important areas as graduate education, research, corporate collaboration and fund raising,” says Provost Linda Delene. “With his leadership, we expect this important college to continue and grow in its multiple roles of serving students, advancing our research agenda and working in partnership with the community.”

Greene’s background also includes extensive consulting work in private industry, reviewing production operations and providing expert advice for such diverse clients as Brunswick Corp., Ingersoll Rand, Union Carbide, Federal Mogul and IBM Corp.

Greene replaces Dr. Michael Atkins, who is retiring after serving as dean since 2002 and as a member of the engineering faculty since 1971. Atkins has agreed to continue leading the college until Greene arrives in April.

**On Campus with Kurt Haenicke**

Kurt Haenicke likes to tell a good story.

For nearly four years, those stories have revolved around the College of Health and Human Services.

Haenicke, who earned an English degree from WMU and a master’s in creative writing from Notre Dame, spends much of his time writing about the college as assistant to the chairperson.

His stories often reflect the challenges and triumphs of the college. From the expansion of the Student Health Center to the growth of the College of Health and Human Services, Haenicke weaves narrative to bring the college to life.

“I’m very pleased to have this opportunity to lead this outstanding college,” Greene said of his new role. “The college has wonderful new facilities, an excellent faculty and staff, and a top-notch and energetic student body. With these attributes, we’ll continue to build the college’s reputation and make real contributions to the region’s economy.”

New appointments

McKinney has served as Northern Michigan’s financial aid chief since 2001. Prior to taking the NMU position, he held similar positions at the University of Michigan-Flint, GMI Engineering and Management Institute in Flint and the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Ind. He began his financial aid career at Kalamazoo College, where he served as assistant director of financial aid from 1983 to 1985.

At both NMU and U of M-Flint, Delorey had responsibility for managing the implementation of the SCT-Banner software, the same type WMU currently is implementing to manage and integrate its student information, financial aid, registration, billing and student communication activities.

**Trusted people approve contract with Power Plant employees**

WMU trustees approved a three-year labor contract covering campus employees who are members of the Michigan State Employees Association and who run the University’s power plant.

The new contract, which was ratified by MSEA members Nov. 8, calls for a 3 percent across-the-board wage increase in January 2005, a 2.5 percent across-the-board increase in July 2005 and a 2 percent across-the-board increase in July 2006. Other agreement provisions include a commitment by the parties to continue with a downsizing and restructuring plan first agreed to during 2002 negotiations and streamlined discipline and grievance procedures. The new contract is in effect through June 30, 2007.