



Western NEWS

For and about WMU faculty and staff

OCTOBER 14, 2004
volume 31, number 4

Convocation set for Nov. 10

The University's annual Academic Convocation will return to the fall semester, beginning this year.

The event, which features Dr. Judith Bailey's State of the University address, is set for 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

HCOB Distinguished Speaker is tech turnaround expert

A WMU alumnus, who is the founder of a company that specializes in buying underperforming companies in the technology sector, will describe his work in a talk set for Thursday, Oct. 14, as part of the Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series.

Speaking at 7:30 p.m. in Brown Auditorium of Schneider Hall, Alec E. Gores, founder and chairman of Gores Technology Group, will discuss "Turning Mistakes Into Opportunities by Acquiring Underperforming Tech Companies." Gores earned a degree in computer science in 1977.

The speech is open to the public by invitation only and to WMU faculty, staff and students. To reserve a spot, call 7-5050.

Designer is visiting scholar

A leading figure in the world of graphic design visits campus Oct. 18-22 for a week of design seminars with graphic design students and two public presentations.

Wolfgang Weingart has taught typography at the Basel School of Design in Switzerland since 1968. His experimental work in typography has influenced the course of design history in past decades.

Weingart will give an informal public introduction to himself and his work, views and philosophy at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 18, in the Lee Honors College. He also will give a public lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, in 2304 Sangren.

Weingart's visit is sponsored by the WMU Visiting Scholars and Artists Program and the Graphic Design Program and School of Art. For more information, call Tricia Hennessy in the Design Center at 7-3435.

Series focuses on development

A leading authority on trade will be the first speaker in this year's Werner Sichel Lecture-Seminar Series.

The 2004-05 series, which focuses on "Regional Economic Development: Current Issues," begins Wednesday, Oct. 20, with William Schweke, vice president at the Corporation for Enterprise Development.

His presentation begins at 3 p.m. in 3508 Knauss and is titled "Getting Beyond Argument and Invective: Can We Bridge the Gap Between Free and Fair Trade Advocates?"

Homecoming weekend theme invites campus community to 'Go for the Gold'

Although this year's Olympic Games have come and gone, the University will pull out all the stops this weekend and "Go for the Gold!" during its 2004 celebration of Homecoming.

Among the many activities open to the public will be the Homecoming PepFest, Campus Classic run/walk, wild and wacky Friday Festival, and annual March Down step show.

The festivities center around the Homecoming football game at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, which pits the WMU Broncos against the Eastern Michigan University Eagles.

Alumni and friends of all ages are invited to fire up for the gridiron contest by attending the WMU Alumni Association's fifth annual Homecoming PepFest from 10 a.m. to noon in the tent village next to Waldo Stadium. Buster Bronco, the WMU Cheer Team and the band Los Bandits will be on hand, and food will be available for a moderate fee.

Entry badges are required to attend the PepFest, although admission is free and buying a meal ticket is optional. Those planning to attend may obtain badges in advance by calling 7-8777 or registering online by logging on to <www.wmich.edu/alumni>, the alumni association Web site, and visiting the "Events" section's PepFest page.

Saturday's activities will lead off with the sixth Homecoming Campus Classic race/walk, which features a 1K course and a certified 5K course, both of which begin at the Bernhard Center and showcase the WMU campus. There will be on-site registration from 7 to 8:30 a.m. in 105-07 Bernhard Center.

The 1K kid's fun run and fun walk will start at 8:15 a.m. and be followed by the awarding of medals and the kid's raffle. The 5K run and fun walk will start at 9 a.m. and be followed by an awards ceremony and refreshments for event participants, guests and volunteers.

Other activities taking place on game day include:

- A special Homecoming "Good Morning Kalamazoo!" program that will provide tours of



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Ambassador to visit WMU

The ambassador to the United States from the Arab nation of Qatar will visit the University Thursday and Friday, Oct. 14 and 15. During his stay, the WMU alumnus



Al-Dafa

will give a public lecture on his nation's relationship with the United States.

Ambassador Omar Bader Al-Dafa will describe "United States—Qatari Relations" in a public address at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, in 1010 Fetzer Center. A reception in the ambassador's honor, also in Fetzer, will precede the lecture at 5 p.m. Both events, which are free and open to the public, are being coordinated by the Institute of Government and Politics.

Al-Dafa, a career diplomat with more than a quarter century of service, was named his nation's ambassador to the United States in 2000. He is coming to the campus to accept the 2004-05 Alumni Achievement Award in political science from the College of Arts and Sciences.

He earned a bachelor's degree from WMU in 1975 and a master's degree in international public policy from Johns Hopkins University in 1979. His diplomatic career began in 1976, when he was made diplomatic attaché at Qatar's Foreign Ministry in Doha.

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Federal nanotech funding will focus on security issues

A new grant from the U.S. Department of Energy will put \$2 million in new funding into WMU nanotechnology research aimed at improving national security.

The grant will support two years of continued research on a project that focuses on "Design, Synthesis and Characterization of Nanosensors for Chemical, Biological and Radiological Agents." The initiative, which began last year with a \$950,000 grant from DOE, is directed by Subra Muralidharan, who heads WMU's Nanotechnology Research and Computation Center. The funded initiative is a collaborative effort that involves Altair Nanomaterials of Reno, Nev., and the University of Nevada-Reno.

The new funding will be used to continue development of nanosensors that could be used to detect chemical, biological and radiological weapons deployed against civilian populations or in military situations. They could include particles released by a "dirty bomb" or deadly nerve toxins such as sarin.

If successful, Muralidharan says, such sensors could be embedded in uniform fabric or the paint on military vehicles. When exposed to the substance they were designed to detect, the sensors could alert either an individual or a central control center.

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Campus welcomes new faculty members

Susan F. Ayers, health, physical education and recreation, comes to WMU from West Virginia University, where she had been a faculty member since 2001. Prior to that, she was at the University of Florida, where she directed a spinal rehabilitation certification program. She also has served as a college and high school coach and a high school teacher. Ayers earned a bachelor's degree from Winthrop College, a master's degree from the University of Florida and a doctoral degree from the University of South Carolina.



Ayers

Daniel "Jay" Berkow, theatre, comes to WMU after a nearly 20-year career in regional and off-Broadway theatre as a director/choreographer, playwright, performer and teacher. The new director of the University's Music Theatre Performance Program has been an artist in residence at the University of South Carolina and the director of education for the Burt Reynolds Institute as well as a faculty member at Wagner College. He is also a published playwright. Berkow earned a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth University and an MFA in directing from Purdue University.



Berkow

Liang Dong, electrical and computer engineering, comes to WMU from the University of Notre Dame, where he had served as a research associate since 2002. He also has been an engineer with CWILL Telecommunications Inc. of Austin, Texas. A native of Shanghai, China, he earned a bachelor's degree from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and a master's and doctoral degree from the University of Texas-Austin. His research interests include communication theory, signal processing, real-time systems, and wireless networking. The current emphasis of his work is on wireless communication systems.



Dong

Heather Petcovic, geosciences and the Mallinson Institute for Science Education, came to WMU from Oregon State University, where she taught and earned a doctoral degree in 2004. She also earned a master's degree there and a bachelor's degree from Smith College. Her science education research focuses on the preparation and development of K-12 earth science teachers. Her geology research is focused on igneous petrology and volcanology with a concentration on the lava flows of the Columbia River.



Petcovic

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

By giving blood, you may become a double winner

University faculty, staff and students have a chance to win a comfy chair as well as bragging rights during this year's "Blood Challenge" with Central Michigan University.

With only three more official blood drives to go, WMU lags behind CMU in the annual challenge to see which school can donate the most pints for the American Red Cross.

In keeping with its theme of "Rock and Roll up Your Sleeves," the Student Entertainment Team will be holding a rockathon during the blood drive it is sponsoring from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25, in the Bernhard Center.

Faculty, staff and students who donate blood at this time will be eligible to win a recliner donated by Vandenberg Furniture of Schoolcraft. The olive-colored chair, which includes a vibrating massager, is on display in the first-floor lobby of the Bernhard Center.



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



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES—Drive mascot 'Blood Drop' shows off chair that can be won by giving blood. (Photo by Mike Alwine)

27, in the Bernhard Center. For more information about the SET giveaway, call Sue Green at 7-4889.

Knific called 'hometown hero'

Tom Knific, music, was honored as a "hometown hero" by the Kalamazoo County Convention & Visitor's Bureau at an Oct. 13 breakfast at the Fetzer Center.

Knific was lauded as the person responsible for bringing next year's International Society of Bassists annual convention to Kalamazoo. That event, set for June 6-11, 2005, is expected to attract some 1,000 bassists from 30 nations around the globe.

Chairperson of WMU's Jazz Studies Program, Knific has been a faculty member in the School of Music since 1987. He is an internationally known bassist and is president-elect of the International Society of Bassists.

Apker wins writing award

Julie Apker, communication, has won the 2004 Nursing Economics Margaret Sovie



Apker

Writer's Award for her article titled "Predicting Nurses' Organizational and Professional Identification: The Effect of Nursing Roles, Professional Autonomy and Supportive Communication."

The publication presents the Writer's Award each year to a deserving author or authors who best exemplify Nursing Economics' mission to advance nursing leadership with thoughtful analyses of current and emerging best practices in health care management, economics and policymaking.

"This article appeals to nurses at a variety of levels and in many different care settings," stated the award committee. "It combines research with everyday management principles."

Also collaborating on the article were WMU's Wendy S. Zabavana Ford, associate dean, arts and sciences, and Dorothy H. Fox, a grants consultant at Wayne State University.

The award is named in memory of Margaret D. Sovie, a longtime Nursing Economics editorial board member, author and manuscript reviewer and nationally recognized authority in the field of nursing administration.

Stenesh to sign latest book

Jochanan Stenesh, emeritus in chemistry, is the author of a new book that focuses outside his usual world of science.

Stenesh, the author of five science books and 17 scientific papers, turned to religion for the topic of his latest work, "Rot on the Vine—The Many Dark Faces of Religion," which has just been published by Cogno Press.

The work explores hypocrisy, intolerance, prejudice and hatred through a blend of fiction and nonfiction.

Stenesh and his new book will be featured at a book signing from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, at Athena Bookstore in downtown Kalamazoo.

Stenesh served on the WMU faculty from 1963 until his retirement in 1990. After his retirement, he completed two biochemistry texts.

Service

The following employees are celebrating 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service to the University during October.

35 years—Dean K. Honsberger, University budgets.

30 years—Susan Kathleen Carlson, speech pathology and audiology; Annmarie Cox, Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance; Stephen M. Ferguson, physics; and Pamela G. Liberacki, admissions.

25 years—Eileen J. Boven, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Bonnie L. Hanson, residence life; Linda K. Head, Valley #2 Dining Service; Christine M. McDowell, grants and contracts; Susan M. Papesh, Burnham Dining Service; Maria A. Perez-Stable, University Libraries; Gladys M. Sims, Extended University Programs; and Catherine M. Walter, Office of the Physical Plant Director.

20 years—Gary Somerville, public safety; and Ronald A. Wester, information technology.

15 years—Yvonne W. Asken, campus planning; Gary M. Custer, Lawson Ice Arena; Carol Mountjoy; Student Financial Aid and Scholarships; and Carolyn J. Wiley, Valley #1 Dining Service.

10 years—Crista Boyle, Davis Dining Service; Kristine K. Dias, physical plant-

building custodial and support services; Sharon M. Dwan, Academic Planning and Institutional Data; Donna Gardner-Lawson, Sindecuse Health Center; Denise Grosser, Burnham Dining Service; Ruth Hurd, University Libraries; Lorinda McKnight, biological sciences; Darlean Morris, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Marcella Ohs, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships; Cathy M. Pietras, management; Gerald F. Slater, paper and printing pilot plant; Dion VanAtter, intercollegiate athletics; and Kevin West, School of Music.

Five years—Michael Lynn Black, Haworth College of Business; Samantha J. Cairo, University Libraries; Janice L. Campbell, Haworth College of Business; Joseph J. Guilfoyle, College of Aviation; Bart A. Haines, physical plant-maintenance services; Cynthia A. Hutchinson, physician assistant; Pauletta K. Johnson, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships; James W. Kison, occupational therapy; Nancy B. Mansberger, teaching, learning, and leadership; David P. Marlatt, School of Art; Tracey L. Moon, Career and Student Employment Services; Elizabeth M. Roe, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; Sally M. Texter, admissions; and Jacob Austin Zoch, College of Aviation.

Human Resources

Open enrollment for health insurance begins Oct. 18

Open enrollment for health insurance begins Oct. 18 and continues until 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29.

During open enrollment AAUP faculty, non-bargaining employees and retirees under age 65 have the option of changing health plans for 2005. In addition, they have the option of adding eligible dependents to their health insurance. The latter option also applies to AFSCME, MSEA, and POA employees, and to retirees age 65 and over. No action is required of those who do not wish to make a change to their health insurance.

Detailed open enrollment information was mailed to home addresses of employees and retirees Sept. 29. Individuals who did not receive this mailing can obtain the materials online at <www.wmich.edu/hr/benefits/health/open_enroll.htm>.

Flexible Spending Accounts: enroll by Oct. 29 for 2005

Employees who wish to participate in a Flexible Spending Account for 2005 must enroll during open enrollment, Oct. 18-29. FSAs offer an opportunity to use tax-free dollars to pay for qualified medical expenses not covered by insurance or for dependent care expenses.

New participants and current participants who wish to continue their plans in 2005 must submit an enrollment form to human resources by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29.

For more information, visit <www.wmich.edu/hr/benefits/health/open_enroll.htm>. Enrollment forms are available through this Web site or from human resources, 1300 Seibert.

Jobs

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 to hear the weekly job postings.

(R) **Manager of Catering**, 17, Catering, 04/05-4551, 10/11-10/18/04

(R) **Manager, Network**, 18, Plant-Administrative Services, 04/05-4552 10/11-10/18/04

(R) **Database Analyst**, 18, Plant-Utilities, 04/05-4553 10/11-10/18/04

(R) **Server Technician**, 16, University Libraries, 04/05-4554 10/11-10/18/04

R= Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Trustees approve retirements of 12 at September meeting

The retirements of one faculty member and 11 staff members were approved by the University's Board of Trustees at its Sept. 17 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of nine faculty members.

The faculty member who is retiring is doing so with emeritus status. Jay D. Lindquist, professor of marketing, will retire after 30-1/2 years of service, effective April 30, 2005.

The staff members retiring, along with their departments, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Nanci M. Aalsburg, University Libraries, 31 years, effective

Sept. 30, 2004; Joan E. Ashley, WMU Campus Apartments, 23-1/2 years, effective Jan. 3, 2005; Lon E. Baird, chemistry, 26 years, effective Aug. 31, 2004; Kenneth D. Bartholomew, WMU Dining Service, 37-1/2 years, effective Jan. 3, 2005; Mark J. Evert, Miller Auditorium, 35 years, effective Sept. 30, 2004; Joyce A. Fitzstephens, University Counseling and Testing Center, 21-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31, 2004; Christine M. McDowell, grants and contracts, 25-1/2 years, effective Jan. 31, 2005; James T. Schaper, Auxiliary Enterprises, 34-1/2 years, effective Jan. 3, 2005; Gerald F. Slater, Paper Pilot Plant, 10 years, effective Oct. 31, 2004; S. Yvonne Slater, teaching, learning, and leadership, 15-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31, 2004; and Trudy G. Verser, management and associate dean of the Haworth College of Business, 19-1/2 years, effective Jan. 3, 2005.



McDowell



Slater



Aalsburg



Bartholomew



Ashley



Lindquist



Verser

Exchange

FOR SALE—Cute three-bedroom, one-bath, 1,100-square-foot home. Many updates including new furnace with central air, elec. upgrade, new carpet and interior paint. Finished fam/rec room in basement. Large kitchen with slider leading to deck overlooking picturesque backyard with tall pines and perennial gardens. All appliances included. Located close to Markin Glen Park and the Nature Center. Parchment Schools. \$104,900. Call Cheri 382-3985.

FOR SALE, LEASE OPTION OR RENT—Nice, three-bedroom, two-bath home with finished basement. Pool, oak trim throughout, 2 and 1/2-car garage, nice neighborhood. Call 998-1349.

FOR RENT—Westside Duplex. Two bedrooms, updated kitchen w/dishwasher, washer/dryer, quiet neighborhood, no pets or smokers. Lease, Deposit. \$625.00. Call 383-2128.

On Campus with Nancy Kroes



TECHNOLOGY JUST ONE TIE THAT BINDS
(Photo by Thom Myers)

"If I could have invented a job," says Nancy Kroes, "this would be what I would have created. I love my job."

An 18-year veteran at WMU, all of it in what is now known as the Office of Information Technology, Kroes is responsible for all of OIT's Web pages, helps develop and write computer policy, and is actively involved with the WMU Webmasters Users Group and the GoWMU content managers group.

Which part of her varied job does she like the most?

"Anything that gets me out on campus and interacting with students," she says. She cites opportunities to photograph students in computer labs and using wireless technology on campus for use on OIT Web pages.

Kroes' roots run deep in the Kalamazoo area. Her grandmother enrolled at Western in 1906 and was the first of many family members to graduate from WMU. Her great grandfather owned the brickyard for which Brickyard Road in Delton is named, and Kroes owns the house originally built by her grandfather on Brickyard Road in 1914.

When not in her UCC office, Kroes has plenty to keep her busy on her eight-acres of land and her grandfather's house that she's lived in for the past 15 years. Most recently, for example, she's been building a 500-foot dock across the bog along the northern edge of her property to Wall Lake. For photos of Kroes' home and the dock project and for a history of her family, visit Kroes' personal Web pages at <homepages.wmich.edu/~kroes>.

Homecoming _____ continued from page 1

the new College of Engineering and Applied Sciences building at 9 and 10 a.m.;

- A free open house for WMU's new Multicultural Center from 4 to 5:45 p.m. in the Adrian Trimpe Building; and
- The free National Pan-Hellenic Council March Down at 6 p.m. in Miller Auditorium.

WMU students will celebrate on Friday, Oct. 15, by participating in a variety of zany contests during the traditional Friday Festival. The free festival will feature the soap box derby at noon in front of the Sincuse Health Center and then move to Goldsworth Valley for the Fritter Fest at 2 p.m. and Western Olympics at 3:30 p.m.

More information about the activities taking place during Homecoming is available by visiting the Homecoming Web

site, <www.wmich.edu/homecoming> and the "Events" page of WMU News, <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events>.

Homecoming road closings

A number of road and parking lot closings will occur at various times over the Homecoming weekend, primarily to accommodate such activities as the Soap Box Derby Friday afternoon and the Campus Classic Saturday morning. For complete details, go online to <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2004/10/032.html>.

Staff award nominations due

Nominations for the fall round of WMU's new semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Oct. 31.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes WMU staff for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards that go to non-faculty employees who provide exceptional service to the University.

Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected receive a plaque and a \$250 prize and are recognized at a special reception. They may win the award more than once, but are limited to one award per academic year.

Annual Make a Difference awards, which include a \$1,000 prize, go to each year's four most outstanding semiannual award winners.

More information and nomination forms are available online year round at <www.wmich.edu/makeadifference>. Nominations may be submitted through campus mail to Mail Stop Code 5216 or by e-mail to <Make-A-Difference@wmich.edu>.

Ambassador _____ continued from page 1

Prior to assuming his current post, Al-Dafa was director of European and American affairs at the Ministry of Foreign affairs in Doha, Qatar. During his career, he has served as ambassador to France, the Russian Federation, Egypt and Spain. In addition, he has held diplomatic credentials to Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Greece and Switzerland. While serving in Cairo from 1988 to 1993, Al-Dafa was also his country's permanent representative to the Arab League.

For more information about the visit by Ambassador Al-Dafa, contact Dr. Gunther Hega, associate professor of political science and director of the Institute of Government and Politics, at 7-5885.

WMUK launches annual fall fund-raiser this weekend

WMUK-FM, the University's public radio station, will kick off the on-air portion of its annual fall fund-raising drive Saturday, Oct. 16.

The station is out to repeat last year's success, by raising the same amount—\$210,000—with an Oct. 16-22 phone marathon. Station personnel have been working for several weeks to raise pledges during the quiet portion of its campaign. At *Western News* press time, more than \$70,000 had been raised toward the goal. The drive will stop as soon as the goal is reached.

New this year is an online option for making a gift or pledge that allows station supporters to immediately see the impact of their gift included in the campaign total.

To make a gift or pledge and to keep an eye on the campaign's progress, visit the station's Web site at <www.wmuk.org>.

Nanotech grant _____ continued from page 1

The challenges come, he says, from trying to design the nanosensors so that they can detect very small quantities of what he calls "agents of terror" in vast open areas, in water systems and in groundwater. At the same time, they must be capable of adapting to changing temperature and humidity levels as well as wind, dust and other environmental factors. The nanosensors must be able to capture, concentrate and measure the levels of the target toxins and provide a signal that is measurable, such as a digital or audio signal or a change in color.

"These are formidable challenges, but nanosensors have much greater potential for meeting them than conventional approaches," Muralidharan says. "We're grateful for the opportunity to develop this technology. We had tremendous support from Congressman Fred Upton in pursuing this critical funding."

