Three selected for top alumni honors

Three prominent leaders in education, government and business have been selected by the WMU Alumni Association to receive the 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The recipients are: Robert Brininks, president of the University of Minnesota; Richard G. Haworth, chairman of the board of the office furniture manufacturer Haworth Inc.; and Carolyn Kilpatrick, a veteran member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The deadline for dinner reservations is Oct. 1. To make a reservation, call the WMU Alumni Association at 7-8777 or logon to <www.wmich.edu/alumni>, click on “Events” and complete the online reservation form on the Distinguished Alumni Dinner page.

Robert Brininks, who earned a bachelor’s degree from WMU in 1964, became the University of Minnesota’s 15th president in November 2002, just months after his selection as interim president. He has risen through the ranks since coming to the university in 1968 as an assistant professor of educational psychology.

Before being named interim president, Brininks had served as executive vice president and interim provost since 1997, overseeing the academic enterprise of the University of Minnesota’s four-campus system.

Richard Haworth has led Haworth Inc. through its evolution from a small company with a single-product line to a global corporation that has $1.23 billion in annual sales and employs 8,530 people in 120 countries. He has been chairman of the board since 1994.

Armed with a bachelor of administration degree from WMU in 1964, Haworth began his career with Modern Partitions Co., now Haworth Inc., a contract furniture manufacturer founded in 1948 by his father, G.W. Haworth. Under his tutelage, the company developed a number of products that were industry “firsts.”

Haworth has been involved in numerous community and professional activities and also has maintained close ties to his alma mater, serving on the WMU Board of Trustees from 1991 to 2001 and as its chairperson in 1997.

Carolyn Kilpatrick, who earned a...
The Staff Service Excellence Award program has been expanded and supplanted by the Make a Difference program, a new campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

As with the prior program, Make a Difference includes semiannual as well as annual award opportunities. But starting this fall, the awards will feature larger prize amounts and be presented to a greater number of non-faculty staff.

The expanded recognition program is being sponsored by the Administrative Professional Association; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1668; Michigan State Employees Association; Police Officers Association; and Professional Support Staff Organization. Employees eligible to receive Make a Difference awards must be part of the Staff Compensation System and be represented by AFSCME, MSEA or POA.

A committee representing all of those participating employee groups has been working for the past 14 months to expand the 10-year-old Staff Service Excellence Award program. Chairperson Christine M. McDowell, grants and contracts, says suggestions from employees and support from Vice President Robert M. Beam were the driving forces behind transforming the service excellence awards into the Make a Difference program debuting this fall.

"These are trying times for many staff members," Beam says. "We want to let them know that their continuing commitment and hard work are truly recognized and appreciated."

In reiterating that message, President Judith I. Bailey says staff members are the essence of WMU's success and its existence.

Sept. 23 Study Abroad Fair designed to explore global options

About 800 people are expected to turn out for the fall semester Study Abroad Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, in the South Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

Information on hundreds of programs offered by WMU and other universities and organizations across the country will be offered. On hand to answer questions will be WMU students, faculty and staff who are familiar with study abroad programs and services, including representatives from the university's Office of Study Abroad, Sincere Health Center and Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Some 500 WMU students study overseas each year. They may be found in more than 30 countries on six continents, and many receive financial aid that travels with them when they are abroad.

For more about the fair or international learning, visit the Office of Study Abroad on the Web at <www.wmich.edu/studyabroad> or call 7-5890.

Pre-retirement MPSERS information session

Participants in the Michigan Public Employees Retirement System—MPSERS—are invited to a Pre-retirement Information Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, in Wile Auditorium, Kalamazoo.

Online registration for the meeting is required. To register, visit <www.michigan.gov/or> select School Employees Retirement System, and then select Pre-retirement Information Meetings. If you are unable to use the online registration, contact MPSERS at (800) 381-5111.

Expanded staff recognition program debuts this semester

"The vice presidents and I recognize your loyalty and dedication to WMU and our mission," Bailey said recently, adding her remarks directly to staff members. "We're committed to recognizing you for your day-to-day performance as well as your most outstanding accomplishments. I encourage you to acknowledge and applaud your peers' performance."

McDowell says under the Make a Difference program, up to 15 rather than 12 people will be honored each semiannual award period. Semiannual award winners receive a plaque and a $250 prize, compared to the previous $100 prize, and will be recognized annually at one of two new award receptions.

No changes have been made in the annual awards, which go to the four most outstanding recipients of each year's semiannual awards. The winners of these awards receive a framed certificate and a $1,000 prize. In addition, they are honored at a special luncheon, and their photos are included on the staff recognition display on the second floor of the Seibert Administration Building.

Any member of the University, including staff, faculty and students, may submit Make a Difference award nominations. Submitting nominations is more convenient than ever, as nomination forms are now available online year round at the Make a Difference Web site. Staff may win the award more than once; however, they are limited to one award per academic year.

Additional changes to the staff recognition program are in the planning stage and will be announced in a future issue of the Western News.

Award nomination forms and specific deadline and eligibility information are available online at <www.wmich.edu/makeadifference>.

Literary 'gold' goes to Blickle

A WMU faculty member is the winner of the international Eleven-Minutes-Sports Novel Contest held in connection with the Blankenesee Games in Hamburg, Germany.

Peter Blickle, who teaches German, was notified recently of the award, which coincided with the 2004 Olympic Games. The competition, sponsored by the city of Hamburg, was organized in order to revive the ancient Olympic tradition of having competitions in arts and literature simultaneous with those in athletics.

In antiquity, the Olympic Games included literature and the arts. Only since 1952 has the Olympic idea been interpreted exclusively in the athletic realm.

Blickle received his prize and a cash award for "Und Nicht Dahinter" (And Not Behind), his "11-minute novel" in which a former soccer player reminiscences about his love affair with a teammate. The prize includes publication.

Two on campus honored with community arts medals

Carl Doublenaday, associate director of the School of Music, and Von Washington, director of multicultural theatre, were among three area residents honored with the 2004 Community Medal of Arts at a Sept. 9 ceremony in the Dalton Center.

The annual awards are sponsored by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo to honor those who have made significant contributions to the artistic life of the community.

Doublenaday, who joined the music faculty in 1966, was cited for his tireless efforts coordinating hundreds of arts events on campus for WMU and other organizations, including the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, Fontana Chamber Arts and Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

Theatre Professor Washington joined the faculty in 1989. In addition to his work as a teacher and director of multicultural theatre, he was cited for his excellence as an actor, director and playwright in productions ranging from the local stage to national television.

Pawlak publishes new book

Edward J. Pawlak, emeritus in social work, is the co-author of a new book on planning in the nonprofit and government areas.

"Designing and Planning Programs in Nonprofit and Government Organizations" is the title of the book by Pawlak, who retired from the faculty in 2000, and Robert D. Vinner, a retired faculty member at the University of Michigan. Both are active in program evaluation and community service.

The book includes case studies of planning projects, and publisher Jossey-Bass of San Francisco offers a supplementary online instructors manual through its Web site.

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Ethel G. Adams, emeritus in music, died Aug. 6 in Batesville, Ind. She was 91.

Adams joined the WMU faculty in June 1946 and served on the faculty for 27 years until her retirement with emeritus status in 1973. She served as chairperson of the music theory and history area from 1962 to 1968. She also was the staff soprano soloist from 1946 to 1961.

During her tenure at WMU, Adams appeared as a guest soprano soloist in concerts and oratorios throughout the Midwest, including multiple performances with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra.

A memorial service for Adams, organized by former faculty colleagues and friends, will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at Zion Lutheran Church, 2122 Bronson Blvd., Kalamazoo.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sam and Ethel Adams Vocal Music Scholarship Fund through the WMU Foundation.

Joseph Gill, emeritus in mechanical engineering, died Aug. 29 in Kalamazoo. He was 85.

Gill was a WMU faculty member from 1965 until his retirement in 1985. Prior to coming to the University, he was employed by Bendix Corp.

In addition to his WMU teaching responsibilities, Gill worked on research projects funded by the National Science Foundation. He also worked on the design of an orbital research laboratory at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., which was funded by the National Science Foundation.

While a coprofessor, Gill was a member of the faculty for 27 years until his retirement with emeritus status in 1985. He served as chairperson of the mechanical engineering program and was a member of the graduate committee.

In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities, Gill was a member of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and served on the board of directors for the organization.

Robert D. Neubig, emeritus in accounting, died Sept. 1 in Portage, Mich. He was 78.

Neubig taught at WMU for 24 years, until his retirement in 1991. Prior to coming to WMU, Neubig taught at Ohio State University, Ohio University, the University of Michigan-Dearborn and the University of Colorado.

Neubig earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Ohio State University. He also was a visiting scientist at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Neubig worked in the private sector before beginning his teaching career, working for seven years for Price Waterhouse at the firm’s offices in New York City, Caracas, Venezuela; and Baltimore.

Obituaries

**Adams**

**Neubig**

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**Service**

The following employees are recognized for celebrating 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service to the University during September. A list of more than 180 employees celebrating service anniversaries during the month of August is available as a PDF online at <www.wmich.edu/hr/an-niv_list_aug_04.pdf>.

**40 years**—Harold L. Bate, speech pathology and audiology; Jerry L. Bloemstra, WMU Bookstore; Gary T. Charrand, mathematics; Adrian “Ed” Edwards, Haworth College of Business; and Louis B. M. Rizzo, School of Art.

**35 years**—Paula J. Boord, Graduate College.

**30 years**—Wil B. Emmett, Office of Vice President for Research.

**25 years**—Guy R. Banks, Miller Auditorium, and Deborah K. Withere, College of Education.

**20 years**—Marcia Ellis, Siedscheidt Health Center; Phyllis A. Griffin, Bernhard Center; Charlotte O. Kelley, Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center; Tammy Kiel Valley #1 Dining Service; Annie Marston, building custodial and support services; Kelley Oliver, Haworth College of Business; Ellen Pestoot, landscape services; Donnie L. Phelps, Bernhard Center; Christine A. Roberts, information technology; Rebecca Roberts, maintenance services; Mark E. Tomlomson, WMUK; Nancy C. Watson, building custodial and support services; and Jesai H. You, University Libraries.

**15 years**—Kristina Berns, building custodial and support services; Pamela Emery, Extended University Programs; Judith Jones, admissions; Deanna L. Mengen-Henry, West Hills Athletic Club; Joyce A. Parsons, Office of the Vice President for Development; Alison K. Thor, University Libraries; and Carla S. Truppa, Davis Dining Services.

**10 years**—Diane B. Hamilton, Bronson School of Nursing; Natalie C. Obreiter, military science; Terry W. Shaffer, residence life; Jan G. Tiderington, International Student and Scholar Services; and Alfonso Wilson, Physical Plant.

**Five years**—Massoud Zanlali Atashbar, electrical and computer engineering; Elias R. Dely, West Hills Athletic Club; Derek L. Diget, information technology; Deno S. Frier, West Hills Athletic Club; Robert S. Kennedy, West Hills Athletic Club; Kim A. Livock, West Hills Athletic Club; Amber Joy MacKenzie, Development Office; Jody J. McBay, West Hills Athletic Club; Tyler H. Norman, West Hills Athletic Club; Leonard Seawood, Extended University Programs; Betsy Sell, West Hills Athletic Club; Lee E. Smith, West Hills Athletic Club; Lana Stier, Siedscheidt Health Center; Ellen M. Van Andsdale, Bronson School of Nursing; Chad W. Ward, West Hills Athletic Club; Evelyn Winfield, University Counseling and Testing Center; and Kenneth K. Wood, West Hills Athletic Club.

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**Exchange**

Three alumni selected

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bachelor’s degree from WMU in 1972, has been representing Michigan’s 13th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1996. Regarded as a hard worker with a thoughtful style, she was appointed by her peers to the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which authorizes spending for all levels of the federal government. Kilpatrick is the only Michigan Democrat on that powerful committee.

United Way campaign set for Sept. 20 campus kickoff event

The campus campaign is led by Linda Jones of the Office of the President, who is working with a team of 120 volunteer fund-raisers from across the campus. Jones led the WMU campaign last year when the campus raised $233,607. “We wouldn’t be able to accomplish as much as we do in our community without this network of volunteers,” Jones says. “I am so proud of all that our volunteers do to make our campaign a success.”

She points out that WMU emeriti and retirees play an important part in the campaign as well, last year donating $27,890 to the annual campaign.

Students and student organizations are also being encouraged to participate in United Way nationwide.