New firm relocating in BTR Park

DLZ Michigan Inc., a full-service, minority-owned engineering firm with locations throughout the Midwest, is relocating its Niles, Mich., office to the Business Technology and Research Park. Initially, eight employees will staff the firm’s offices in the park’s Granite Park I building, which is currently being built by the Kalleward Group and is scheduled for mid-May occupancy.

DLZ does extensive work with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and numerous communities throughout the state. The company has been actively involved with WMU’s Department of Civil Engineering since the department was launched in 2003 and plans to continue this relationship.

Netters garner tournament title

WMU’s men’s tennis team won both the Mid-American Conference regular season and tournament titles in April and advanced to the NCAA Championships for the third time in the past six seasons.

The Broncos have won 18 MAC championships in men’s tennis, which ties Miami University for the most in league history. WMU has claimed MAC titles in four different sports during 2003-04, the most in one year since 1984-85.

Medievalists to gather May 6-9

More than 3,000 medievalists from around the world will be on campus today through May 9 for the 39th International Congress on Medieval Studies. New for 2004 are a medieval fashion show and a collaboration with the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival.

There is no registration fee for Kalamazoo County residents or WMU faculty, staff and students. Among the events open to the general public are the fashion show, two concerts and the annual Medieval Film Festival. More details are available online at <www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress>.

$11.8 million in cuts approved

Trustees adopt $272 million 2004-05 budget

Acting at its April 16 meeting, the University’s Board of Trustees adopted a $272.5 million general fund operating budget for the 2004-05 year that addresses a serious budget shortfall created by state funding cuts and cost increases.

The new budget calls for campuswide reductions of $11.8 million. The reductions will result in the elimination of 122 full-time positions at the University as well as new cuts to an already reduced operating budget. Because of unfilled vacancies and transfers between University units for some employees, the actual number of layoffs at Western News press time was estimated at 38 employees—down from the 48 layoffs reported to the board April 16.

President Judith I. Bailey and members of her senior staff held two campuswide town hall meetings April 28 to brief the campus community on the budget and the measures that would be taken to meet the reduction targets. More than 600 employees attended and many posed questions on topics such as layoffs and support services for affected employees, faculty teaching loads, implementation of the new Student Information System, and how decisions were made to distribute the cuts.

“There are no rights or wrongs in a budget,” Bailey told the morning town hall session. “There are, here, competing goods. Every program that Western Michigan University has supported has had value and has added value to the institution, as has every employee.”

Layoff notices to affected employees began May 3, and Bailey said all layoff notices and “bumping” provisions outlined in employee contracts and employee guidelines are expected to be completed by May 28. The total number of employees affected has fluctuated in the past two weeks as positions have opened, allowing employees to be transferred to other departments or non-general fund budgets.

The general fund budget reduction figure of $11.8 million was previously estimated at $13.7 million, but was decreased as a result of the administration’s acceptance of budget adjustments proposed late last month by the Academic Affairs Budget Advisory Committee, a campuswide group charged with finding ways to meet the budget reduction goals in the University’s academic affairs units.

While classroom instruction was protected from cuts, four graduate programs will be suspended and another four will be reorganized, beginning in 2004-05. In addition, the Center for Science Education and the Lee Honors College Student Volunteer Service Program will be eliminated.
Trustees okay appointment of Evaluation Center director; name four current, new employees to administrative posts

The WMU Board of Trustees approved a number of academic and administrative moves as part of a larger personnel report presented for the board’s review at its April 16 meeting.

Among items approved were the appointments of Michael Scriven as associate director of the Evaluation Center, effective March 19; and Glen Tracy, director of business development for Shell Services USA in Houston, as executive director of the Paper Technology Foundation, effective April 1.

In related action, trustees approved the previously announced appointment of Deborah Barnes as director of the Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations and granted her tenure as an associate professor in the Africana Studies Program.

Proposals due by May 14 for Bronco Days interest sessions

The Division of Student Affairs is currently signing up faculty and staff who would like to serve as an interest session presenter during Bronco Days 2004, a transition program for incoming first-year students.

The deadline to submit session proposals is May 14.

Bronco Days will take place Aug. 23 through 27, with interest sessions being held Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 25 and 26. Sessions related to your professional area of expertise, office or organization are encouraged. They last 50 minutes and may be presented up to three times during the two-day period.

To obtain a program proposal form, visit <www.broncodays.wmich.edu> and click on the link “Interest Session Presentation Applications.” For details, call 7-2773.

FOR SALE—Household items including sleeper, coffee table, two televisions (19-inch and 25-inch RCA), entertainment center, dinner table with six chairs, bunk bed, microwave, vacuum cleaner and iron. 1994 Mercury Grand Marquis with 82,000 miles, in excellent condition. Call 353-1827.

FOR SALE—Beautiful, spacious condo in the Cloisters. Open floor plan, master bath, huge bedroom, basement with lots of storage. $62,900. Call 207-7446.

FOR SALE—Four-bedroom home five minutes from WMU campus. Built and occupied by longtime faculty member. House and two and one-half lots, surrounded by protected mature oak forest. Call 372-2189.

Morin, Trout receive 2003-04 MAC Coach of the Year honors

Men’s tennis coach Dave Morin and golf coach Cindy Trout have been named the Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year in their respective sports for 2003-04.

Morin earned the honor for the third time during his eight seasons at WMU. He also garnered the honor in 1994 while at Bowling Green State University. Under Morin’s leadership, the Broncos have advanced to the NCAA Championships three times in the past six seasons, including this year.

Trout has served as head coach of the women’s golf team since its inception in 1998 and has brought the team increasing success each season. She guided the Broncos to a best-ever second-place finish at this year’s MAC Championship, along with the lowest tournament score in the team’s brief history.

Three WMU coaches have won Coach of the Year honors during 2003-04. Chris Karwoski also won the award for men’s soccer.

Reish fills in for Gov. Granholm

Dean Joseph G. Reish, University Libraries, presented two keynote addresses in April.

The first address opened the one-day conference of the Michigan Association of Honor Societies on April 22. Reish was invited to speak as a last moment stand-in for Gov. Jennifer Granholm. His remarks were titled “My Aunt Kate’s Meatloaf: An Evolving Analogy.”

On April 30, Reish delivered the keynote address for the Michigan Library Association’s Symposium for Academic Librarians 2004. His talk was titled “From University Bookshelf to Dean of University Libraries: A Meteoric Leap of Faith for a Non-Librarian.”
Outbursts

F. Sylvia Culp, philosophy, died April 23. She was 50. Culp, a faculty member since 1992, came to WMU from a teaching position at the University of California, San Diego. She was a graduate advisor and served as the Department of Philosophy’s associate chairperson for the 2003-04 academic year.

Her areas of specialization included the philosophy of science, biology and social science. She was a frequent contributor to scientific literature on such topics as cloning and genetic testing and was widely published in professional journals that focus on philosophy and biology.

In addition, Culp was a frequent speaker whose lectures in recent years were given at major universities around the country and at the National Institutes of Health.

She earned a doctoral degree in microbiology as well as philosophy and held postdoctoral fellowships in molecular biology, biochemistry and immunology at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation and at Stony Brook University.

A June 12 memorial service is being planned. Details will be announced later.

Jobs

While a campuswide job freeze remains in effect, the following vacancy has been approved for posting as a position that is 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, Athletic Equipment, 16, Intercollegiate Athletics, 03/04-4320, 5/3-5/10/04
R=Replacement
WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Eleanor R. McKinney, associate professor emerita of librarianship, died April 27 in Kalamazoo. She was 85.

McKinney came to WMU in 1967, after serving for more than 27 years as a public school librarian in New Jersey. She taught school-library administration courses in WMU’s School of Library Sciences until her retirement in 1981. During her tenure, she served as acting director of the school several times.

She served on the executive board of the American Association of School Librarians for five years, from 1969 to 1974. She also was a member of several other professional associations.

McKinney earned specialist degrees in education and librarianship from WMU.

Vera Jean Russell, assistant professor emerita of education and professional development, died April 4 in Kalamazoo. She was 84.

Russell joined the WMU faculty in 1954 as a supervising teacher in WMU’s Campus School nursery. She later served lengthy stints as a student teaching and program operation coordinator in the College of Education. She retired in 1980 and was preceded in death by husband Norman K. Russell, a WMU faculty member.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Friends of Historic East Campus, c/o WMU Foundation, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5403.

Service

Editor’s note: Due to a backlog of service anniversary lists, this issue of the Western News includes the lists for both February and April. The March list was included in the March 25 Western News.

The following employees were recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service to the University during February and April.


25 years—(February) Marcia A. Agema, Davis Dining Services; Lundy D. Green, Registrar’s Office; Sharon L. Nicholson, information technology; and Mary E. Ross, University Libraries. (April) Lori S. Groh, Logistical Services; Sharon Stoken, physical plant-building custodial and support services; and Dennis L. VanDenge, information technology.

20 years—(February) Hazel N. Williams, Valley #2 Dining Service. (April) Margie M. Coleman, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Rose A. McKinney, health and human services; and Peter Thannhauser, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

15 years—(February) Mary J. Miller, physical plant-landscape services, and Marcia A. VanGemert, public safety. (April) Daniel-Muslim Y. Abdullah, physical plant-maintenance services; Richard T. Boyd, physical plant-power plant; Kenneth J. DeVries, development; Linda Emmons, physical plant-building custodial and support services; David R. Miller, physical plant-maintenance services; leva M. Sverns, Sinedecuse Health Center; and Kevin L. Villadsen, physical plant-maintenance services.

10 years—(February) Teresa Ann Coburn, Sinedecuse Health Center; John A. Ferguson, Paper Technology Foundation; Michael A. Matthews, physical plant-building custodial and support services; and Natalie E. Morton, Extended University Programs. (April) None.

Five years—(February) Opal Alene Carr, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Steven R. Cartwright, University Libraries; Elizabeth A. Dalzell, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Arthur L. Desjardins, anthropology; Dixie L. Edwards, president’s office; Brien S. Leonard, Sindecuse Health Center; Andrew J. McHugh, development; Melanie Parish, Bernhard Center; RoseMarie Roberts, legal affairs and general counsel office; and Dorothy E. Servant, Bernhard Center Dining Service. (April) Carey F. Baker Jr., physical plant-building custodial and support services; William C. Brooks, intercollegiate athletics; Carol E. Bukant, Sindecuse Health Center; Nancy Lou Cardoza, Sinedecuse Health Center; Linda M. Comrie, Graduate College; Sharon L. Conolly, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Alicia A. Eby, Sinedecuse Health Center; James F. Haun, physical plant-building custodial and support services; William C. Johnson, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Celeste A. Jordan, human resources; Joseph LeMahieu, physical plant-maintenance services; Carolyn L. Lynn, physical plant-general services; Michael J. McKinley, Unified Clinics; Tammy L. Miller, institutional equity; Angela R. Phelps, arts and sciences; Carlos A. Rivera, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Yeqin Wang, information technology; and Linda A. Ware, disability services.
MORE THAN FAMILIAR FACES
(Photo by Gail Towns)

Kerry Eldred, physical plant-building, custodial and support services, has dozens of children’s photos—cap and gown poses, newborn hospital shots, school pictures and more—pinned to her bulletin board.

Some are related to her husband Dale, a WMU dining services manager, but many are not. Still, Eldred considers them all family.

“Sometimes I’m an ear for people who need someone to listen, and they often bring me pictures of their kids and grandchildren,” says Eldred, an administrative secretary who works with upward of 200 people in her department.

“It’s about the personal touch,” she says. “When I first started here in 1992, I thought ‘How will you ever know all these people?’

“Over time, though, you just get to know a little bit about all of them.”

Eldred’s duties include managing departmental correspondence, supporting the front office staff, overseeing the daily logs and taking care of payroll.

“This year, I’m the uniform coordinator, the pop bottle collector, singer, dancer...” she adds. “But seriously, so much of what I do involves getting everything coordinated. It’s a challenge.”

From taking overtime requests and working with vendors to updating personnel reports and relaying urgent messages to supervisors, Eldred is constantly fielding calls.

That’s just how she likes it.

“I love it here,” she says. “The people are what I enjoy most. There’s a real camaraderie.”

Away from work, Eldred stays busy with her PartyLite and Body Shop home shows. She and her husband also spend time with their three dogs: Blue, Taz and George.

WMU ranks eighth in nation as wireless computing site

WMU ranks eighth in the nation in the use of wireless computing technology on a university campus according to an Intel study. WMU is the only Michigan institution in the top 50 on Intel’s recent list of the 100 “Most Unwired College Campuses.”

Siena Heights University in Adrian—the only other Michigan school to make the top 100—was ranked 58th. Indiana University, Bloomington took the top spot.

Wireless Western made WMU one of the first major research universities in the nation, and the only one in Michigan, to offer campuswide wireless computing. The cost savings of using a wireless network to extend computing capability is substantial. Wiring an existing building can cost from five to 10 times as much as installing wireless access points.

The Wireless Western initiative, completed in 2002, allows faculty, staff and students to access WMU networks and the Internet from nearly every corner of campus.