



Western NEWS

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Convocation set for today

President Judith I. Bailey will share her vision for the future and announce major new initiatives in her "State of the University" address during the annual Academic Convocation, set for 3:30 p.m. today—Thursday, Feb. 5.

The Faculty Senate will act as host to the event, which will be held in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. In addition to the president's speech, the ceremony will include presentations of two Distinguished Faculty Scholar awards and a Distinguished Service Award.

WMU Magazine now on Web

The latest issue of the WMU Magazine is now available online at <www.ur.wmich.edu/magazine>.

The issue, which was prepared for publication last fall, was not printed because of the need to reduce budgets, according to Matt Kurz, associate vice president for university relations.

"Instead, we've tapped the technical abilities of our Web staff and posted the entire magazine online," Kurz says. "There are no PDF files to download or hoops to jump through—just 50 pages of great information about the University that is ready to read."

Stories in the new issue include a feature on composer Curtis Curtis-Smith, a photo essay on the new engineering campus, a Centennial feature on WMU's first international student, and stories on the Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center and a College of Education effort to collect the memories of earlier generations of WMU-trained teachers.

Distribution to the off-campus audience will be handled through a combination of e-mail and print messages notifying those who normally receive the magazine that it is now available on the Web.

Distinguished Service Award goes to longtime campus activist Gary Mathews

A social work professor with a long track record of service to the University community is the winner of WMU's 2003 Distinguished Service Award.



Mathews

Gary Mathews, social work and current president of the WMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors, will receive the award during Academic Convocation ceremonies at 3:30 p.m. Thursday,

Feb. 5, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

A longtime advocate for initiatives promoting wellness on campus and a respected member of a wide range of campus committees, Mathews was chosen for the award from campuswide nominations. Selection is based on such criteria as: service through innovative and effective

programs; service in areas that contribute to the growth and stature of the University; and service that extends the impact and presence of the University into the larger community. He will receive a plaque and a \$1,500 honorarium and will have \$2,000 added to his base salary.

A number of letters of support for his nomination pointed to Mathews' tireless work on behalf of the health of the University community, noting in particular his work in the 1970s and 1980s to turn the University into a smoke-free environment.

"I became a fan of Gary Matthews the first time I met him," wrote one colleague. "Untenured and vulnerable, Gary became a visible champion for a smoke-free campus...Gary is fearless when he knows his cause is just."

Another supporter noted that "almost 20 years later, it is difficult for our younger

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Tuition agreement puts University in position to focus on budget reductions for the 2004-05 academic year

President Judith I. Bailey will recommend that the Board of Trustees approve a 2.4 percent increase in tuition for the 2004-05 academic year, putting the University in line with a funding agreement Gov. Jennifer Granholm proposed to Michigan's public universities.

As part of the agreement, WMU will have a portion of the money that was cut from its budget by a December Executive Order returned to its base appropriation. That will allow the University to forego further budget reductions this academic year and focus on needed reductions for the 2004-05 fiscal year.

In a memo to the campus community Feb. 3, Bailey outlined the budget planning process now under way and disclosed the timetable for future budget recommendations.

"Our major budget decisions are for the coming 2004-05 academic year," said Bailey. "We will finalize these decisions in early April and take them to the Board of Trustees on April 16, which is several months earlier than typical."

In her December executive order, which reduced state appropriations to state universities by 5 percent, Granholm pledged that each state university that holds its

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Make a nomination

Feb. 20 is Staff Service Excellence Award deadline

The Staff Service Excellence Awards program is seeking nominations of non-faculty staff members for consideration for the spring 2004 round of semiannual awards.

The SSEA program is a peer-to-peer award program designed to recognize University personnel who far outperform normal job expectations. Winners are selected by representatives of the participating employee groups: AFSCME Local 1668, the APA, MSEA, POA, and PSSO.

Up to 12 staff members may be selected to win a semiannual award with a \$100 prize. The winners of the 2003-04 semiannual awards will be the only employees eligible to win an annual award—with a \$1000 prize—in May 2004.

Nominations should include specific examples of how the nominee has exhibited excellence in service to the University and may be submitted through Friday, Feb. 20, to Kitty Scheffers, human resources, by memo, by sending e-mail to <hr-ssea@wmich.edu> or by using a nomination form that can be obtained by going online to <www.wmich.edu/hr/staff_service_excellence.htm>.

Top student employees and supervisors sought by Feb. 9

Nominations are being sought for two awards associated with the University's annual observance of Student Employment Appreciation Week, which will take place Monday through Friday, Feb. 16 through 20. The theme for this year is "Back to the Basics."

Career and Student Employment Services sponsors the week each February as a way of honoring student employees, who help to make WMU a valuable place to learn new skills and develop competencies for future success.

A highlight of 2004's weeklong celebration will be a recognition reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in 209 and 210 Bernhard Center. The reception will honor the 2004 recipients of WMU's awards for Student Employee of the Year and Supervisor of the Year, as well as all of the nominees and nominators for these awards.

Awards nominations are being accepted through Monday, Feb. 9. Online nomination forms are available on the <www.broncojobs.wmich.edu> Web site. Paper nomination forms are available for pick up from CSES at its office on the first floor of Ellsworth Hall. Student employees and supervisors who have won in the past are not eligible to win again.

Gammon is Smithsonian source

Reginald Gammon, emeritus in humanities and art, served as a major source for an article on African American artist Romare Bearden in the February issue of *Smithsonian Magazine*.

Gammon, who also was invited to give a talk at a fall exhibit on Bearden's work at Washington D.C.'s National Gallery of Art, was a colleague of Bearden's when Gammon was himself a young artist in New York.

Stewart gets win No. 100



Stewart

Ron Stewart collected his 100th victory as head coach of the women's basketball team in a Jan. 22 contest at the University of Akron.

Stewart took over as head coach in 1997, and WMU was 7-19 in his first season. Since then, the Broncos have had five winning seasons and are well on their way to their sixth. Stewart has also taken WMU to two NIT post-season tournaments, an NCAA Tournament berth and the 2003 Mid-American Conference championship.

College of Education team is finalist for national award

The College of Education's School/University Partnership Team is one of three finalists for a national award that recognizes outstanding teacher education collaborations.

SUPT is up for the Distinguished Program in Teacher Education award, which will be given at the Feb. 15-18 meeting of the Association of Teacher Educators in Dallas.

WMU's SUPT is led by Katharine Cummings, teaching, learning and leadership, and Suzanne M. Timmer, student teaching coordinator. It is a cooperative effort involving the University and dozens of Michigan public schools.

Ferguson reception set

A retirement reception has been set for 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, to honor John A. Ferguson, Paper Technology Foundation, who is retiring Feb. 13 after 10 years at the University.

The event will be held in the Bertha Davis Room in Walwood Hall.



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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. This is the first issue of Western News for spring semester. Spring 2004 publication dates are Jan. 8 and 22, Feb. 5 and 19, March 11 and 25, and April 8. 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.



Numerous events planned to observe Black History Month

A variety of free, public events will take place on campus Feb. 1 through 29 during Black History Month.

In addition to lectures, discussions and entertainment, they include a traveling program focusing on Martin Luther King Jr. as well as special activities in honor of Black Love Week, which starts Sunday Feb. 15, and Africana Studies Week, which starts Sunday, Feb. 22.

For details, visit the WMU News Web site at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news>. Additional events will be listed on the site as they are received.

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) Office Assistant, 11, Extended University Programs, 03/04-4217, 02/02-02/09/04

(R)=Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Exchange

FOR SALE—Tri-level home at 6210 Devon in Portage. Three bedrooms, re-finished hardwood floors, new kitchen tile and bathroom flooring, new custom windows, fresh interior paint, and nice deck in fenced yard. Asking \$133,000. Call 344-7721 or 569-0110 or send e-mail to <stephen.podewell@wmich.edu>.

FOR SALE—Beautiful three- to four-bedroom home on wooded lot in Westwood neighborhood. Two-story 1994 Parade Home, open floor plan, spacious kitchen with ceramic tile and appliances, main-floor laundry, fourth bedroom/office upstairs. \$199,914. Call 488-0214.

Libraries

Library sponsors workshops on searching databases

Workshops aimed at building skills in searching two important government databases will be held monthly through April in Waldo Library.

"How to find statistical information available in the 2000 Census of Population and Housing" is scheduled for Feb. 12, March 11 and April 8.

"How to search the patent database at the United States Patent and Trademark Office" is scheduled for Feb. 26 and March 25.

All sessions are Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. in Classroom B on the lower level of Waldo Library. The workshops are free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. For more information, contact Michael McDonnell at 7-5187 or <michael.mcdonnell@wmich.edu>.

Zest for Life

CycleFit classes slated

Take a ride on the rec center side with CycleFit and experience high-energy group exercise while we guide and empower you to reach your personal fitness goals.

CycleFit is a complete mind/body exercise program that utilizes stationary bikes designed for your comfort and control. Music provides inspiration as you take a virtual ride through mountains, across the plains or along the beach.

The program is open to Zest for Life participants as well as Student Recreation Center members. Classes will take place in the Student Recreation Center's new Fitness and Wellness Room through April 16.

Admission is on a first come, first served basis and requires a pass, which is available for purchase at the recreation center Service Desk during open recreation hours. You may sign up for a bike 48 hours in advance or on the day of your choice. For class costs and times, visit <www.src.wmich.edu> or call 7-3543.

Noting two items will make new phone directories easy to use

As copies of the 2004 Faculty, Staff, Student Directory are being distributed campuswide, users need to note two important items.

Due to a vendor error, incorrect phone numbers are listed in the shaded faculty/staff pages for those in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The correct phone numbers do appear in the departmental listings. Also, the three-digit prefix for Parkview Campus numbers is 276 and must be used when dialing from off campus.

Frostic reading series will feature poet and novelist

The spring semester Gwen Frostic Reading Series, sponsored by the Department of English, will continue this month with presentations Wednesday, Feb. 11, and Thursday, Feb. 19, by award-winning authors Major Jackson and Naeem Murr, respectively.

Jackson, who lives in New Orleans, is the author of the poetry collection, "Leaving Saturn," and is the winner of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize and a Pew Fellowship in the Arts. His work has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *The New Yorker* and other leading publications.

Murr, who currently is a writer-in-residence at WMU, is the author of the novel "The Genius of the Sea." He grew up in London and has lived in the United States since his early 20s. His first novel, "The Boy," was a *New York Times* Notable Book and was translated into six languages.

Murr has received numerous awards and scholarships for his writing and has published several prize-winning stories and novellas in literary journals.

Both presentations are at 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre and are free and open to the public.

Sindecuse

Learn what you need to know about Sindecuse services

Faculty and staff members are urged to avoid missing out on the many benefits and resources available to WMU employees.

The next session on the Way Western Works will focus on "Everything you wanted to know about Sindecuse: From PPO Participation to Services." The session is set for noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, in 159 Bernhard Center. To register for this free session, contact Felicia Crawford at 7-3635 or send e-mail to <training@wmich.edu>. Because space is limited, those wishing to attend should reserve a spot soon.

On Campus with Laura Sheppard



HER WORK INCLUDES COMIC RELIEF
(Photo by Gail Towns)

As an office coordinator, Laura Sheppard, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, builds relationships, fixes problems and performs maintenance checks on everything from student issues to the department's budget.

Sheppard, who first joined WMU in 1999 to work in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences dean's office, juggles a wide range of duties.

She assists the faculty daily and works closely with department chairperson Parviz Merati and marketing coordinator Cathy Smith.

"I also help students with scheduling their classes, finding faculty and meeting with the department chair," says Sheppard. "Sometimes I'm just there for them to talk to when the stress gets high."

In 2003 she was a staff advisor for WMU's Sunseeker solar car team during the American Solar Challenge competition, and she accompanied them on the road from Chicago to Claremont, Calif.

Sheppard also supervises student employees, works with the department's scholarship committee and is the point person for PSSO membership this year.

"What else?" she asks. "You know, it's pretty difficult to come up with all that I do."

"Mainly, I like to bring as much comic relief into the department as I possibly can."

The KVCC graduate loves her work, but it's not always easy.

"The biggest challenge I have to face each day is working with such a diverse group of people," she says. "Not only do we have faculty from various parts of the world, but so are our students, and the industry folks we deal with. However, it's a challenge I enjoy."

Away from work, Sheppard enjoys swimming, spending time with her pets and volunteering with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Distinguished Service _____ continued from page 1

colleagues to imagine that a smoke-free policy could be considered innovative...Western's policy was ready to be in place in 1986, when the Michigan Legislature restricted smoking in all governmental buildings,...and other universities in Michigan and throughout the Midwest looked to Western as a model for their policies."

The diversity and breadth of his service to WMU was another factor for which supporters lauded Mathews. He has served on more than two dozen committees and organizations that span the academic enterprise. Mathews has been a volunteer or appointee on such committees as the Medallion Scholar election committee, the Faculty Senate Committee to Oversee General Education, the President's Task Force on Instructional Technology and the College of Health and Human Services' Grade and Program Dismissal Review Committee. Mathews, who is

currently serving his second term as AAUP president, also has served since 1998 as the AAUP contract administrator. In addition, he is the chairperson of the WMU Athletic Board, and he has served as a presidential appointee on campuswide committees examining sports sponsorship and gender equity.

However, if one looked only at his list of accomplishments to gauge his dedication and service to the University, wrote another colleague, the real reason for his nomination for the service award might be missed.

"It is his quiet confidence, his listening ear, his strong work ethic and his words of wisdom that are not found on a Curriculum Vitae," the supporter wrote. "...Unless you have sat on a committee with him, you will not understand his ability to quietly listen to comments, and then build consensus and move a group on."

Tuition _____ continued from page 1

2004-05 its tuition increase to the cost of inflation—2.4 percent—will have 3 percent of that 5 percent cut returned to its base 2003-04 state appropriation. In addition, Granholm has pledged that universities holding their tuition increases to the inflation rate will also be held "harmless" and spared additional appropriation cuts in the 2004-05 fiscal year.

"First and foremost, this is a move that will be a tremendous benefit to our students and their families," Bailey said of her decision to take the recommendation to trustees. "If our trustees approve the recommendation, our students will have an early and clear picture of their costs for next year, and we will have a solid footing on which to base our planning process."

Bailey said if the state's budget for next year deteriorates and the state is not able to maintain university funding, the tuition decision will have to be revisited.

online

Calendar

Check www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events
for a complete list of public campus events
and activities