Trustees set phone conference

The WMU Board of Trustees will convene by phone at 9:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 31, to consider approval of a new, three-year contract with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 1668. The conference call will originate from the Connable Board Room in the Bernhard Center.

A greement was reached between AFSCME and University negotiators earlier this month. Union members approved the contract in a vote held Oct. 21.

Bloody battle with CMU staged

WMU and CMU are gearing up for their bloodiest battle yet when the universities face off in an annual Blood Challenge to benefit the American Red Cross.

Starting Nov. 3, 11 campus blood drives will be held, leading up to the WMU-CMU football game Nov. 15. Collection dates, times and locations are listed online at <www.greaterkzooredcross.org>.

Biotech execs are series speakers

Executives from two Michigan start-up companies will speak about building their businesses Friday, Oct. 24, at the Haworth College of Business.

Phil Long, CEO of NephRX, and Jay Goodwin, founder of ADMETRx, will present “Building New Companies in Kalamazoo’s Southwest Michigan Innovation Center” as part of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Series. The free presentation will begin at 7:30 a.m. in 2150 Schneider. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the business dean’s office at 7-5050.

New legislative affairs staff gears up to deal with state budget shortfall, cuts

Rosine

The University’s Office of Legislative Affairs is back at full force again, just in time to deal with the impact of Michigan’s looming $898 million deficit and the likelihood of further cuts to WMU’s state appropriation.

Gregory J. Rosine, former director of the Michigan Department of Transportation and one-time associate director of the House Fiscal Agency, was named vice president for legislative affairs on Aug. 28 by President Judith I. Bailey. He replaced Jeffrey Breneman, who left WMU in July for a position with Bosch North America in Farmington Hills, Mich.

Melissa Yutzey Bourke was appointed assistant vice president for legislative affairs, effective Oct. 13. Bourke will work on state political relations with Rosine and, under his direction, lead the day-to-day federal relations effort.

Rosine brings more than 25 years of experience in state government, working with both sides of the aisle, to his new position. It’s experience he says will come in handy as WMU tries to deal with what political observers predict will be another sizeable cut in state appropriations.

“The state’s revenue estimating conference was held Oct. 14 in Lansing, and we learned the deficit for the new fiscal year is nearly $900 million,” Rosine says. “With a figure like that, it is clear that we will have additional cuts to our state appropriation. The universities and community colleges together account for 22 percent of the state’s general fund budget and it’s hard to impossible to insulate from budget cuts.”

Rosine predicts that Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm will issue an executive order that will cut public university state appropriations by 5 to 10 percent. State appropriations make up nearly 50 percent of WMU’s budget.

“By December, we expect this round of state budget cuts to be completed,” he says. “But it appears there are further state budget problems on the horizon for the 2005 fiscal year. This timing is harder for us than for other state agencies, because our students are already here and they’ve made their plans and the University has made its plans for the year as well. We’ll have to deal with a cut half way through our budget year.”

A student-initiated Web site is making the case for Michigan higher education as the state makes new budget decisions.

To get involved, go online to <www.helphighered.org>.

The site’s current goal is to gather 2,000 letters and e-mails to send state legislators by the end of Friday, Oct. 24. A list of Michigan’s public universities have joined in the campaign, which was launched by students at Northern Michigan University.
Sustainable growth is topic

How will the world feed another 3 billion people?

Vernon W. Ruttan, a Regents Professor in the Department of Economics and Applied Economics, and adjunct professor in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, will present "Scientific and Technical Constraints on Sustainable Growth in Agricultural Production" at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, in Brown Auditorium, of Schneider Hall.

Choral students, alums take stage at Miller auditorium

Nearly 200 choral alumni will be joined by eight University choral ensembles for a free concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, in Im H Miller Auditorium. The concert is the final event in the weekend's Choral Alumni Reunion and includes performances by the University Chorale, Women's chorus, Collegiate Singers, Concert Choir, SLA B, Collegium Singers, Gold Company and GC II.

Joe Miller, director of choral studies, will be joined by three of his predecessors: Craig Arnold, 1991-98; Mel Ivey, 1973-89; and Thomas Hardie, 1960-72. Each will conduct the alumni choir in a piece of his choosing.

Nominations due tomorrow for staff service awards

Nominations are due tomorrow, Oct. 24, for the Fall 2003 semiannual Staff Service Excellence Awards.

The SSEA program is a peer-to-peer award program designed to recognize University staff members who perform in true service excellence, far out-performing normal job expectations. Up to 12 staff members may be selected from those nominated to win a semiannual award, which includes a $100 prize. In addition, winners are eligible for next May's SSEA annual award, with a $1,000 prize.

All nominations should include specific examples of how the nominee has exhibited excellence in service to the University. Nominations may be submitted by memo sent via e-mail to chssea@wmich.edu or by using a nomination form that can be obtained from Human Resources by calling 7-3620.

Thompson's book takes award

A University professor has won a book award from a national midwifery organization.

Joyce Thompson, nursing, has won the 2003 Book Award from the American College of Nurse Midwives for her 2001 book "Educating Advanced Practice Nurses and Midwives: From Practice to Teaching."

The book, published by Springer Publishing Co., was written with Rose Kersha, and Mary Ann Krisman-Scott of the University of Pennsylvania.

In February 2002, Thompson, a former professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, was named the first person to fill the Bernadine M. Lacey Endowed Chair in the Bronson School of Nursing.

PSSO scholarships awarded

The Professional Support Staff Organization has announced the names of three employees who have been awarded PSSO Education Assistance Scholarships for the 2003 fall semester.

The scholarships were awarded to Pearl DeVries, office associate in the Department of Mathematics; Ann M. Conn, finance specialist in Accounts Payable; and Shannon Rauner, office assistant in accounting.

Engineers take prize for paper

The Captain Alfred E. Hunt Memorial Medal from the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers has been awarded to Philip Uichlelaar, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Associate Dean Molly Williams, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; and Deborah Wilde, a 2000 alumna.

The award honors the best paper dealing with the field of lubrication and published in a society publication. Their paper "The Effect of Oil Type on Blister Formation in Carbon-Graphite Mechanically Sealed" was published in the Journal of Tribology Engineering. The award will be given Oct. 28 at the 2003 Tribology Conference in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Deborah Wilde is the daughter of Linda Wilde-Swanson and the late Lanny Wilde, former WMU Director of Public Safety.
Edward L. Trembley, emeritus in counselor education and counseling psychology, died Oct. 12 in Kalamazoo. He was 65.

A former department head, Trembley was instrumental in launching the counseling psychology doctoral program. Before retiring in 2000 after 24 years of service to the University, Trembley worked as a CECP administrator and faculty member. In 1999, he was named Psychologist of the Year by the Western Michigan Psychological Association.

Trembley directed more than 100 doctoral dissertations wrote extensively for professional journals and made numerous presentations and public lectures to professional organizations.

A memorial reception is planned for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at the Kalamazoo Ladies’ Library Association at 333 S. Park, Kalamazoo.

Robert B. Trader, emeritus in marketing, died Oct. 12 in Florida. He was 81.

Trader retired in 1986 after 34 years at the University. He helped to found WMU’s Department of Marketing in 1962, serving as chairperson until 1984. At the time of his retirement, he was the longest-serving chairperson in University history.

Trader was a longtime member and past president of the West Michigan Chapter of the American Marketing Association, and in 1982 he received the chapter’s Distinguished Marketing Educator Award. He also served as a member of the executive advisory board of the Midwest Marketing Association.

The following employees are being recognized for 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, and five years of service to the University during Oct.

35 years— George R. Kohrman, information technology.
30 years— Klazina A. Welch, industrial and manufacturing engineering.
25 years— Lon E. Baird, chemistry; Mitchell P. Beare, Bernhard Center; and Diane C. Campbell, physical plant-building custodial and support services.
20 years— Joyce Lynn P. Fooy, intercollegiate athletics; Nancy L. Kablitz, Valley #1 Dining Service; Erma J. McCall, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Willie T. Murray, Division of Multicultural Affairs; Robert R. VanDyke, dining services; and Lonnie Wesseling, physical plant-building custodial and support services.
15 years— Shirley D. Bishop, physical plant-building custodial and support services; George D. Broomell, information technology; Patricia Jean DeYoung, Physical Plant; Darlene J. Earl, Accounts Payable; Judith L. Peppel, sociology; Juanita Snell, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Janet Stewart, Davis Dining Service; James A. Visser, School of Public Affairs and Administration; Janice S. Weaver, dining services—cash operations; and Arnita Williams, physical plant-building custodial and support services.
10 years— Jacqueline R. Angel, Sindecuse Health Center; Joanne L. Barretta, College of Education; Janet L. Clubb, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Turea Z. Jordan, finance and commercial law; Thomas W. Norton, chemistry; and Arthur J. Smith, information technology.

Five years— Catherine B. Hennessy, information technology; Nick A. Juday, intercollegiate athletics; Maureen Price, Office of Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel; and Ann M. Trevino, dining services.

### SDMG offers personal counseling

Employees considering enrolling in the University’s tax-deferred savings plans for 2004 may schedule an on-campus personal consultation with Jane Brady-Ertz, an investment advisor with SDMG Investment Advisory Services.

Appointments will take place in 2100 Seibert, Nov. 3 through Nov. 26: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 to 4:40 p.m.; except Nov. 26, when appointments are available from 8 to 11:40 a.m.; and Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 to 11:40 a.m.

Appointments can be made by calling Todd Ingle of SDMG at 552-3224. To meet with Brady-Ertz at the SDMG office at other times, call 552-3246.

### Retirement counseling available

Employees can still take advantage of the opportunity to meet with a TIAA-CREF representative to discuss personal retirement and investment planning.

Ema Osaki is available for on-campus meetings Oct. 29 and 30, Nov. 13 and 14, and Dec. 17 and 18. To make an appointment, visit the TIAA-CREF Web site at <www.tiaa-cref.org/meetings> and follow the online prompts. All meetings will take place in 2100 Seibert.

### Open enrollment continues

Health Plan open enrollment continues through 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31.

Open enrollment details and forms can be obtained at the Benefits Office, 1310 Seibert, or online at <www.wmich.edu/hr/benefits/health/open_enroll.htm>.

All non-bargaining staff, AAUP faculty, retirees under the age of 65, and COBRA participants must re-enroll in the health plan of their choice during open enrollment. Currently enrolled individuals who do not re-enroll during open enrollment will be covered under the new Community Blue PPO plan effective Jan. 1, 2004.

There are two remaining health plan informational meetings: 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Oct. 23, in 1010 Fetzer Center; and 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28 in 157 Bernhard Center.

Employees are also reminded that enrollment in a Flexible Spending Account for 2004 also must occur during the open enrollment period. FSAs allow you to use tax-free dollars to pay for medical expenses not covered by insurance or dependent care. Information is available on the open enrollment Web site.
State budget continued from page 1

Rosine says his work over the coming week will be focused on making legislators understand the impact of further cuts on WMU — especially in light of the cuts the University took in personnel and departmental budgets last summer. The major issue, he says, is maintaining the quality of the educational product the University provides to students.

“Our local legislators are highly supportive of WMU,” he notes, “but they understand the problem is so severe that everything is on the table.”

The governor has pledged to maintain the K-12 foundation allowance that guarantees schools funding for each pupil. With that money off the table, Rosine says the other major budget ingredients are higher ed, corrections and Medicaid. Of the three areas, higher ed appears most vulnerable.

“The worst part of all of this is that this is not a one-time issue,” he says. “We’re just beginning the 2004 budget year and all of the predictions show the state in real budget stress well into the 2005 budget year.”

Other than cuts, the state’s only alternative is to raise taxes, a move Rosine says is not in the cards, given the political climate. He notes there has been some talk of delaying the state income tax cut that is scheduled to go in effect Jan. 1. The cut will take the state income tax down to 3.9 percent from its current 4 percent. That’s not likely, he says, and the savings would not be enough to counteract the deficit.

“If the income tax cut were delayed, that will only give the state another $100 million to work with, and that still leaves an $800 million hole.”

Rosine says the administration is committed to keeping the campus community informed as the issue unfolds. He recommends the Citizens Research Council Web site at <www.crmich.org> as a “must read” for those who want to stay up to date on the budget.

Centennial series continues

What do a computer information systems expert, a former interim university president-turned Wall Street professional, and an education futurist have in common?

They’re all speakers in WMU’s Centennial Scholar and Artist Series.

• National Academy of Engineering President William Wulf is slated to discuss the need to increase technological literacy in grades K-12 and among the general public. The event takes place at 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27, in room D109 at the college’s Parkview campus.

• Later that day, former University of Michigan Interim President B. Joseph White will speak at 7:30 p.m. in Schneider Hall’s Brown Auditorium. White recently returned to Michigan after working for Fred Alger Management Inc. in New York.

• Next in the series is education futurist William Banach, who will offer an analysis of education today and in the future. Banach appears at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4, in Schneider’s Brown Auditorium.