Campus to come together Sept. 3 for inauguration, centennial kickoff gala

The University will officially launch its centennial celebration Wednesday, Sept. 3, with a kickoff gala that will begin with the inauguration of Dr. Judith I. Bailey as the University’s seventh president.

The event, intended as a campuswide celebration, will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Miller Auditorium and will open with an academic procession and the installation of Bailey, then shift to a centennial program featuring musical, video and spoken presentations. Following the gala, a reception in the Grand Tier lobby of Miller will take place along with an ice cream social and more musical performances on the Fountain Plaza.

Two former WMU presidents, Diether H. Haenicke and Elson S. Floyd, plan to be on hand for the evening’s activities, which mark the official start of WMU’s semester-long observance of its 100th birthday. Establishment of the University was authorized by an act of the Michigan Legislature in May 1903. Kalamazoo was selected as the site for the new Western State Normal School on Aug. 27, 1903.

Birgit M. Klohs, chairperson of the WMU Board of Trustees, will preside over the WMU one of top100 again

The University has again been placed among the nation’s top-100 public universities by U.S. News & World Report.

The 2003 listing of U.S. colleges and universities, which appeared in the magazine’s online edition Aug. 22, lists WMU as one of the top-100 public institutions among 248 “national universities-doctoral.” This is the fifth consecutive year WMU has placed in the top 100 and the 14th consecutive year it has been included in the magazine’s national university grouping.

CEAS building set to open

The new building housing the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences on the University’s Parkview Campus will be formally opened during a public ceremony set for 2:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12.

The 343,000-square-foot facility, which has been under construction for the past two years, was completed this summer, and classes will begin there this week.

Details of the event will be available online at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news> and will be published in the Sept. 11 issue of the Western News.

Regalia orders due today

Faculty members who wish to participate in the academic procession for President Bailey’s inauguration must place their academic regalia orders by 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28.

Regalia order forms were included with faculty invitations and also were sent to faculty mailboxes earlier this week. Those with questions about the forms should contact the Office of University Relations at 7-8400. Completed forms may be faxed to 7-8422.

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Prison-based group gives scholarships

A nonprofit, Braille translating organization based in Michigan is donating $160,000 in scholarship funds to the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies. The funding is from the MBTF — Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund — a nonprofit organization based in the Cotton Correctional Facility at the State Prison of Southern Michigan in Jackson, Mich. The MBTF, which translates documents such as textbooks and manuals into Braille, began in 1962 as a volunteer effort by a few prisoners. Today the MBTF works with close to 35 inmates, training them in complex Braille transcription and other technologies, which allows them to offer affordable, quality Braille to companies and school districts throughout the country. The MBTF specializes in transcribing “hard-to-do Braille,” such as math, science, geography, spelling and social studies. Each year, the program translates 4.5 million pages into Braille.

Blindness and low vision studies will receive four grants worth $8,000 each per year to educate students in the teaching of Braille. The scholarship gifts will continue for five years, with the total amount of awards totaling $160,000.

According to the MBTF, of the approximately 57,000 blind children in the United States, fewer than 10 percent can read Braille.

“Depriving a blind child of Braille,” says Francelia Wonders, chief operating officer of the MBTF, “is like taking pencil and paper from a sighted child.”

It is hoped that the yearly scholarship recipients will go on to teach others Braille.

“This fantastic gift...represents a major step forward in overcoming a nationwide deficit in Braille instruction,” says Paul Ponchillia, chairperson of blindness and low vision studies.

Recent WMU graduates aim for more than high salaries

A quality work life is more valuable to most recent WMU graduates than a huge paycheck, according to the results of an employment survey published this summer by WMU’s Career & Student Employment Services.

The 2003 edition of CSES’ annual “Recent Graduate Survey” asked students who graduated between August 2001 and June 2002 to rate the factors that are most important to them when considering whether to accept employment offers.

“It was the first time we asked the question, and the response was intriguing,” says Linda Ickes, CSES. “Salary wasn’t among the top factors for members of the ‘Millennial Generation’ consider. This indicates a paradigm shift compared to the competitive starting salaries and signing bonuses we saw several years ago.”

Ickes says 59 percent of those responding to WMU’s 2003 survey rated benefits and workplace culture/colleagues as very important. About half of those responding also rated geographic location, promotion opportunities and an employer’s reputation as very important.

“Salary received a very important rating from only 40 percent of respondents, making it the sixth highest priority, and being paid a signing bonus was dead last,” Ickes says.

The total median salary for alumni taking part in the 2003 survey held steady at $44,750 for graduate degree recipients and increased from $33,900 to $34,764 for undergraduate degree recipients.

Read details on the survey and the salary figures for WMU colleges online at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2003/0308/0304-043.html>
Obituaries

Hugh G. Archer, associate professor emeritus of education, died Aug. 4. He was 96.

Archer joined WMU in 1939 as superintendent of the Portage (Mich.) Training School. He served as a flight instructor and liaison officer in the U.S. Army Air Corp during World War II and returned to WMU in 1946 as superintendent of the Paw Paw (Mich.) Training School. In 1959, he moved to the regular faculty as an associate professor in the College of Education, a position he held until his retirement in 1972.

Jobs

The following vacancies are currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by the Human Resource Services Department. 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 in securing these positions.

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 to hear the weekly Job Opportunity Program postings, seven days a week, 24 hours a day from a Touch Tone phone.

For persons interested in faculty positions, there are openings in selected fields. A letter of application should be submitted to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

(N) Parking Enforcement Officer, 10, Public Safety, 03/04-4074, 8/25-9/2/03
(N) Parking Enforcement Officer, 10, Public Safety, 03/04-4075, 8/25-9/2/03
(R) Medical Assistant, 11, Sincendue Health Center, 03/04-4077, 8/25-9/2/03
N = New
R = Replacement
WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Exchange

FOR RENT — Two-bedroom, two-bath upper-level condo in Moorsbridge/Por- tage. $1,000 per month, plus utilities. For more information, call 329-2068 and leave a message.

Human Resources

Address changes needed

Human Resource Information Systems reminds employees to report name, address or phone number changes by 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, to ensure inclusion in the 2003-04 campus directory.

Changes should be reported using one of the following methods:

• completing the Employee Name and Address Change Form found on the on the Human Resources forms Web page at <www.wmich.edu/hr/forms.htm>
• sending an e-mail to HRIS <hrhis@wmich.edu> that includes full name and social security number or employee identification number as well as the change being reported; or
• noting the change on an Employee Personal Data form. Employees who do not have a recent one on file can obtain one by calling HRIS at 7-3637 or by visiting the HRIS office in 1240 Seibert.

Western News to go digital

Beginning with the Sept. 11 issue, a majority of WMU employees will receive the Western News electronically.

The News will maintain all of its current features, design and its bi-weekly schedule, but to reduce costs and take advantage of the University’s technical capabilities, employees will be asked to read online or print the issue from their own computing terminals.

A small number of copies of each issue will be printed for distribution to areas where employees do not have regular Internet or e-mail access. Those currently receiving the News via mail will still receive it, but they also have the option of receiving each issue in a more timely fashion by opting for electronic distribution.

Those who wish to switch from mail to electronic receipt should send e-mail to <teresa.ventimiglia@wmich.edu>.
O n C a m p u s  w i t h T a m m y  B o n e b u r g

W hen it comes to her work, Tammy Boneburg, university relations, is very concerned about appearances.

As a graphic designer, she should be.

"It's important to me to make everything I do look good," says the WMU grad, who earned an art degree in 1996. "I feel like I have a responsibility for the image of my alma mater."

Her take on the University’s image extends to several projects, including such recent efforts as reunion materials for the class of 1953, the Black Alumni Reunion, WMU Bookstore materials, the University’s MLK Committee, the Campus Walking Tour, Students Socializing Sober and many others.

"One of the most fun things about this job is that I get to work with so many clients around campus," says Boneburg, who came to WMU five years ago after working as advertising coordinator for Gilmore’s department store. "At the same time, I learn a lot about what Western has to offer."

Over the past year, Boneburg has waded through hundreds of historic photographs, and dozens of yearbooks and other documents in preparation for WMU’s centennial celebration. This month she finished designing the 276-page history of the University, "Brown and Golden Memories," by Larry Massie.

"The biggest challenge on any Centennial project is having to make it look the best you can based on what you’ve got to work with," she says.

The avid kickboxer, yoga enthusiast and Elvis fan lives in Kalamazoo with her husband, Keith, whom she met in the Bigelow Hall dining room.

G a l a  c o n t i n u e d  f r o m  p a g e  1

inaguration, which will include a formal academic procession from the Dalton Center to Miller for the ceremony. Those processing will include WMU faculty, staff and administrators as well as invited guests from a number of other institutions. Political and business leaders from around the state, county and city will be in attendance.

Following a brief inaugural address by Bailey, the program will be turned over to Ed and Ruth Heinig, retired WMU faculty members who have served for the past two years as co-chairpersons of the University’s Centennial Celebration Committee. They will act as hosts for a program that will range from a short video trip through WMU history to a performance by the Velvelettes, the hit MOTOWN group that began at WMU.

A admission to the Miller event is free and open to the public, but tickets are required and may be obtained by visiting the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office or calling 387-2300.

C e n t e n n i a l  s e r i e s  c o n t i n u e d  f r o m  p a g e  1

ment, health, and science.

"We’re thrilled with the quality of scholars and artists who are coming to the University this fall in order to help us celebrate our centennial," says Keith Hearit, communication, a steering committee member who is coordinating the series. "Together, they are an impressive group of men and women of national and international reputations who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields."

Each event is underwritten in part by the Centennial Committee, with additional sponsorship by the colleges of Fine Arts, Arts and Sciences, Education, Health and Human Services, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Aviation as well as the Haworth College of Business, Lee Honors College and University Archives and Regional History Collections.

From performances of widely loved show tunes to talks on the trends trackers see as the future for America’s public schools, events scheduled for the series are engaging and entertaining, and reflect the hallmark issues and ideas that have made WMU a vibrant force in higher education since 1903.

WMU alumnae and Broadway celebrities Barbara Marineau and Marin Mazzie are first up in the series, and will sing their favorite solos and duets at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Sept. 4 and 5, at Shaw Theatre. Tickets for the Sept. 4 concert are available by calling 7-8777. Sept. 5 concert tickets can be ordered by calling 7-6222. The series’ next guest is “Maus” author and illustrator Art Spiegelman, whose graphic memoir of the Holocaust landed him the 1992 Pulitzer Prize. Spiegelman will present a free lecture at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22, in Brown Auditorium of Schneider Hall. His presentation is free and open to the public.

A complete list of the scholars and artists who will visit the campus as part of the centennial series is available online at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2003/0308/0304-044.html>. Details about each event will be available in Western News and on the Web as the visit date nears.