



# Western NEWS

June 5, 2003

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[www.wmich.edu/wmu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news)

## Faculty, staff invited to have coffee with President Bailey

All faculty and staff are invited to join President Judith I. Bailey for coffee the morning of Monday, June 9, the first day of her tenure as the University's seventh president.

The welcoming event is set for 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Fetzer Center.

## Ide and Means named to Frostic professorships

Two environmental researchers have been named to professorships created through a major bequest from one of the University's best-known alumni—artist and naturalist Gwen Frostic.

Charles F. Ide has been named the Gwen Frostic Professor of Environmental Biology. Ide is director of the University's Environmental Institute and the Great Lakes Center for Environmental and Molecular Sciences.

Jay C. Means has been named the Gwen Frostic Professor of Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology. A professor of both chemistry and biology, Means specializes in environmental contamination issues.

The two new positions were created with part of a \$13 million bequest to the University by Frostic, who died in April 2001.

## Jorgens to be feted June 12

Members of the University community are invited to a retirement reception honoring Interim Provost Elise B. Jorgens from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, June 12, at the Gilmore Theatre Atrium.

Jorgens, who has been at WMU for 25 years, will begin a new position July 15 as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of Charleston.

## Centennial kickoff, inauguration set for Sept. 3

On May 27, exactly a century after Michigan Gov. Aaron Bliss signed legislation that created Western State Normal School, WMU officials announced plans for a four-month series of fall centennial events that will begin Sept. 3 with an opening gala and the inauguration of a new president.

On May 27, 1903, the state authorized the establishment of Western State Normal School to serve the west side of Michigan. Just days later, on June 3, members of the Kalamazoo community gathered



Workers install replicated Western Trolley car in front of the Bernhard Center as part of centennial preparations. (Photo by Thom Myers)

to launch an effort to have the new school located in Kalamazoo, and on Aug. 28, the city received the nod from the state Board of Education as the site of the new school.

The University's celebration of its 100th birthday will officially begin Wednesday, Sept. 3, with a kick-off gala in Miller Auditorium and the inauguration of Judith I. Bailey as WMU's seventh president. The evening will include musical performances, video presentations and appearances by former WMU presidents

Diether H. Haenicke and Elson S. Floyd. Following the gala, the celebration will move outside Miller to the Fine Arts Plaza for an open-air concert tailored for students.

The Sept. 3 festivities will signal the start of four months of special events, exhibits and activities that will revolve around WMU's 100-year history as well as its direction for the next century. Events range from a Centennial Lecture Series and the introduction of commissioned art and musical works to a Centennial Football Game against the University of Virginia and a Centennial Homecoming that will reprise such popular traditions as a Homecoming parade through the community.

Planning for the celebration has been under way for more than two years. Spearheading the effort are Ed and Ruth Heinig, retired faculty members who lead a campuswide committee that includes faculty, staff and students.

"It's been a long time coming," says Ed Heinig. "But the celebration is about to begin, thanks to

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## Capital campaign surpasses goal, will continue through 2003

With the original goal of \$125 million already in hand, University officials have pledged to vigorously seek additional support in the remaining seven months of the WMU centennial capital campaign.

Reporting at a May 21 meeting of the WMU Foundation Board of Directors, William U. Parfet, chairperson of the campaign, announced that the total of gifts and commitments to the campaign stands at \$125.4 million and said that

the campaign will continue through Dec. 31, as originally planned.

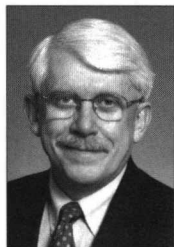
"Our alumni and friends have stepped up to support this great University in a grander fashion than ever before," said Parfet, who is chairman and chief executive officer of MPI Research. He noted that the \$125 million raised to date is more than twice the total raised in WMU's previous campaign, concluded in 1992. Parfet also led that effort.

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# Diapers reveal lead exposure in area infants

A team of University researchers, up to their elbows in more than 800 sets of dirty diapers, have turned the experience into what may be some of the first conclusive evidence that environmental pollutants can impact the health and future prospects of children, even before they're born.

WMU researchers, working in cooperation with Kalamazoo's two major hospitals and Michigan State University's Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies, have determined that a startling 50 percent of children born in the area during a 10-month period in 2002 were exposed to lead while still in the womb, and about 5 percent of babies born had already suffered lead exposure at levels typically associated with neurological problems.



Means

Exposure in the womb to lead and other toxic chemicals was analyzed by collecting blood from umbilical cords as well as meconium samples from the first sets of diapers soiled by newborns. Meconium is the bowel discharge from infants during their first 24 to 48 hours of life and reflects the accumulation of bile secreted during the last five months of gestation.

"What we've done is develop a way to look at the earliest potential impact of substances on fetal development," says Jay Means, chemistry, who was the lead researcher. "We know that many of these substances have their most profound effects on the developing child, but so little is known about the exposure of a significant percentage of the population to these substances. This gives us a snapshot of that exposure."

Means says the selection of meconium as a sample to be analyzed along with the cord blood helps rule out the possibility that the babies' exposure came in any way other than through the placental blood barrier.

"It's unambiguous," he says of the resulting data. "As soon as the child starts to nurse or eat from other sources, you raise the possibility of another outside source of contamination."

Beginning in March 2002, Means along with Michael Liepman, of MSU/KCMS, and their team worked with staff members at Borgess Medical Center and Bronson Methodist Hospital to collect nearly 3,000 cord blood and meconium samples from newborns. Of those samples, about 800 were complete paired samples that included both cord blood and meconium. Samples were collected after receiving anonymous informed consent agreements from mothers and were then analyzed to ascertain levels of heavy metals, pesticides, PCBs and herbicides as well as recreational and psychoactive drugs. About 200 randomly selected samples were screened to determine whether and how much of a toxic substance was transferred across the placental blood barrier.

Researchers screened the samples using two sophisticated mass spectrometer systems to determine fetal exposure to heavy metals such as lead, mercury, chromium and cadmium; toxic organic compounds like PCBs and dioxins; and such drugs as cannabis, cocaine, methamphetamine and cotinine, which comes from nicotine.

In addition to the high levels of lead exposure, researchers found a wide range of exposure to the other measured substances. For instance, PCBs and DDT, which can lead to reduced IQ and other developmental problems, were found in about 15 percent of the samples. Mercury and cadmium also showed up in 15 percent of the samples, while the tobacco-related compound cotinine was found in more than 30 percent of the samples.

But it was the high incidence of lead that stunned the team, Means says. Means says that their measurement tool—the inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometer—allows researchers to measure lead in infinitesimal amounts that are far below the levels at which exposure is considered dangerous, according to federal guidelines. But the tool identifies lead with complete certainty.

## Mirzeler gets NEH grant to pursue East Africa research

Mustafa Mirzeler, Africana studies, was recently awarded a grant to support his research on East Africa through one of the nation's most prestigious and highly competitive award programs.

Mirzeler has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for his research on the cultural history of East Africa and the intercultural exchanges that have molded that area's identity.

Mirzeler's research examines a particular story of the Elmolo people of the Lake Turkana region of Kenya. He will travel to that region this summer to pursue his work.

His focus is on an encounter that took place during the colonial period, but was reported and interpreted by scholars just decades ago. Mirzeler conducts interviews with traditional Elmolo historians, as well as outside scientists and explorers, to better understand the interactions that took place in the retelling of the story.

Mirzeler says his research aims to not only address the links between the Western and non-Western regions of the world, but also those that exist between myth and history.

Many historical and anthropological works have studied the West's influence on non-Western culture and history. Mirzeler's approach is distinctive because it focuses on the ways in which the non-Western world has influenced Western thought.

## Walter earns praise from paper and pulp industry colleagues

Jan Walter, general manager of the University's printing, paper and coating pilot plants, was honored in Chicago May 12 for service to the paper and pulp industry.



Walter

Walter won the Leadership and Service Award from the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry's Coating and Graphic Arts Division. She also was the recipient of the DuPont Soy Polymers Award and Honorary. The awards were made at the 2003 TAPPI Coating and Graphic Arts Conference.

The TAPPI division award recognizes leadership and service that has resulted in significant benefits to division members.

Since 2001, Walter has directed WMU's pilot plants.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

The following employees will be recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service to the University during June.

**30 years**—Marilyn J. Gillette, WMU Bookstore; Maria H.D. McGurn, College of Arts and Sciences Advising; and Howard R. Poole, educational studies.

**25 years**—Joseph J. Belonax Jr., marketing; Robert Brinkerhoff, counselor education and counseling psychology; Paul F. Heintz, University Libraries; Terence A. Hudson, WMU Bookstore; and Pauline M. Trembley, human resources.

**20 years**—Jerry G. Kreuze, accountancy; and Tim F. Scheu, finance and commercial law.

**15 years**—James M. Hillenbrand, speech pathology and audiology; Neil Lewinski, information technology; Donald L. Mintz, information technology; and Brian E. Shade, information technology.

**10 years**—Paul Steven Sizer, art.

**Five years**—Jeffery D. Alexander, physical plant-general services; Heidi Douglas-Vogley, speech pathology and audiology; Timothy E. LaLonde, information technology; Dale B. Latulippe, unified clinics; Sharon Masten, Center for Disability Services; Cecelia M. Moore, University Libraries; Gregory A. Peet, University Libraries; Autumn Rademacher, intercollegiate athletics; Gregory Thompson, College of Aviation; Cynthia L. Trout, intercollegiate athletics; and Marcia L. Weller Weinhold, mathematics.

## Exchange

**FOR SALE**—Beautiful entry door with sidelites and transom, white aluminum exterior, wood interior, full glass with muntin bars and brass hardware, valued at \$3,400. Main unit: 5 feet 2 inches wide, 7 feet high. Transom: 5 feet 2 inches wide, 17 inches high, elliptical shape, manufactured by Eagle. Asking \$900. Call Jim at 372-8110 or 375-4323.

**FOR SALE**—Natural gas furnace, Lennox Model #G12Q3E-110-6, 110,000 BTUH input, good shop furnace. Asking \$75. Call Jim at 372-8110 or 375-4323.

**FOR SALE**—E-Z Up Instant Shelter, 9 feet 6 inches by 9 feet 6 inches. Ideal for backyard barbecues, picnics, camping, beach, concession booth, arts and crafts booth, etc. Like new, bought in 2002 and used only four times. \$115 (list price \$170). Call 342-9935.

**FOR SALE**—1998 Toyota Camry, 76,500 miles, well-maintained, two new tires, \$8,100. Call 584-1216 or 383-6048.

**J. Michael Kemp**, trustee emeritus and director emeritus of the WMU Foundation, who is credited with the creation of the Medallion Scholarship program, died May 23, in Bayfield, Ontario. He was 59.



Kemp

Kemp was a member of the Board of Trustees for eight years, 1975-82, and served as a director of the WMU Foundation for nine years, 1984-93. He also served as an adjunct professor in the College of Business. He received the WMU Distinguished Service Award in 1984, and was named Fund-Raising Volunteer of the Year by both the WMU Foundation and the Michigan Chapter of the National Society of Fund-Raising Executives.

During his active service to the University, Kemp was an attorney and partner with Howard & Howard Attorneys in Kalamazoo and Bloomfield, Mich. He graduated with honors from Michigan State University and George Washington University School of Law.

## 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.

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. Persons interested in faculty positions should submit a letter of application to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

(R) **Database Analyst**, 19, Auxiliary Enterprises, 02/03-3387, 6/2-6/9/03

(R) **Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs** (tenure track, full year), Z2, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, 02/03-3388, 6/2-6/9/03

R= Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

## Next News is last until fall

The June 19 issue of *Western News* will be the last issue published until the start of the fall 2003 semester. The deadline for items submitted to appear in the June 19 issue is 5 p.m. Friday, June 13.

**Laurence H. Berman**, retired director of the University Counseling and Testing Center, died May 26 in Kalamazoo. He was 69.



Berman

Berman came to WMU in 1967 as a test evaluation specialist in the counseling and testing center and was named head of the center the same year. He retired in 1996 after more than 29 years with WMU.

Previously, Berman had been director of testing and research at the Custer Job Corp. Center. He began his career as an elementary teacher in Muskegon, Mich., and later served as a teacher and counselor in the Mattawan (Mich.) Public Schools and as a junior high counselor for the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Berman, a Korean War veteran, was past president of the Kalamazoo County Personnel and Guidance Association and a member of several state and national professional organizations. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from WMU in 1959 and 1963, respectively, and a doctoral degree from the University of Michigan in 1981.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association or American Lung Association.

## Schoffers gets NIH funding for research on catalysts

Elke Schoffers, chemistry, has landed a \$136,000 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences—a branch of the National Institutes of Health—to conduct research that ultimately could influence some of the chemical processes used to develop pharmaceuticals.

The three-year project, titled "Phenanthroline Derivatives in Asymmetric Catalysis," will focus on designing catalysts that accelerate specific organic transformations very selectively, says Schoffers. For example, molecules and ions can be used as reagents to speed up organic reactions.

"But what if the reagent has the ability to revert to its original form and conduct the process over and over again? Then we refer to it as a catalyst because it participates in a transformation and is recovered unchanged," she says. "In a way, we are mimicking nature's catalysts—enzymes—for new applications in chemistry."

Catalysts are used widely in the chemical industry because they can be recovered and reused many times, thus lowering production costs, Schoffers notes.



# On Campus with Deveta Gardner



IT'S ABOUT APPEARANCES.

(Photo by Gail Towns)

From the classroom to the dining room, Deveta Gardner, career and student employment services, comes prepared to teach students a lesson.

As the career advisor for the College of Education, Gardner reviews resumes, critiques cover letters, coaches interview candidates, counsels alumni looking to shift careers and works with about 500 teacher interns each semester.

"I'm an encourager," says Gardner, who also organizes panel discussions that allow WMU students to interact with public school administrators and educators.

"In many cases, I help them focus on their strengths and enhance those experiences," she says. "Students don't always give themselves enough credit."

Gardner, a Kalamazoo native who earned a degree in political science and English at Howard University, spends much of her time collaborating with others.

As chairperson of the WMU Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, she spends considerable time working with volunteers on campus and community leaders to plan MLK celebration events. And in organizing WMU's annual teacher placement fair, she deals with recruiters from Atlanta, Ga., to Zeeland, Mich.

She also assists with WMU's annual etiquette dinner—an event where savvy conversation, networking skills, and proper use of utensils are part of the main course.

Gardner, who recently earned a master's degree in educational administration from WMU, is committed to young people at the University and in the community.

"I love their energy, enthusiasm and their desire to learn," says Gardner, a longtime cheerleading coach and youth ministry coordinator.

"They are our future, and I believe there has to be an investment made," she says. "I feel a God-given responsibility to do my part."

## Capital campaign

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"We have tremendous momentum right now," said Parfet. "We need to keep that going, because in a real sense, this campaign launches WMU into its second century. The more successful the campaign is, the stronger the University will be as a resource for education, research and economic development as it begins its next 100 years of service to the community, state and nation."

Interim WMU President Daniel M. Litynski also emphasized the importance of pursuing private support during times of economic difficulties as well as the importance of taking advantage of the current momentum.

"There's a tremendous amount of pride and excitement about our University right now,

because of the centennial celebration and the recent appointment of our new president, Dr. Judith Bailey," said Litynski. "I believe that our alumni and friends are going to respond very positively to the challenge of making the centennial campaign a resounding success."

"I applaud the campaign leadership and the many volunteers and donors who made today's announcement possible," said President-elect Bailey in a prepared statement read at the foundation meeting. "I gratefully acknowledge the leadership provided to this effort by former President Floyd and Interim President Litynski, and I am very much looking forward to doing my part in making the

conclusion of this campaign the crowning achievement of our centennial celebration."

While the total raised exceeds the overall goal of \$125 million, there are some specific areas within the campaign that have not yet been fully funded, according to William D. Johnston, president and CEO of Greenleaf Trust, who serves as WMU Foundation president. Those areas include the capital building projects and endowments that will fund additional faculty positions.

## Centennial

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the dedication of a whole lot of people. Ruth and I are just ready to say, 'Let the good times roll.'"

In addition to the events scheduled, a number of other centennial initiatives are planned. For a complete list of centennial events and

initiatives under way as well as a wealth of historical facts about WMU and information on campus traditions, past presidents, campus trivia and memorabilia, visit the WMU Centennial Web site at [www.wmich.edu/centennial](http://www.wmich.edu/centennial).

## Benner reception is June 20

The Office of Transportation Services invites the University community to attend a Friday, June 20, retirement reception honoring Betty L. Benner, transportation services office manager, who is retiring in June after 15 1/2 years of service to the University.

The reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

online **Calendar**

Check [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events) for a complete list of public campus events and activities