West Michigan University's (WMU) annual Academic Convocation set for Feb. 6 at Fetzer Center.

The convocation will be held in the Fetzer Center's Kirch Auditorium.

The 2003 event is being organized by Career and Student Employment Services and co-sponsored by Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Perry Hart-Davidson, Don Seeley Ford and the WMU Alumni Association.

Web site also located at the BTR Park.

The free fair is open to the public and expected to bring more than 3,000 job seekers together with recruiters from some 115 local, regional and national employers.

For more information, call 7-7475 or visit the "Events and Fairs" section of www.BroncoJOBS.wmich.edu Web site.
Professional development workshops slated for graduate students

A series of professional development workshops, which are free and open to graduate students, will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, through Thursday, Jan. 30. Reservations are required for any of the events, which are being sponsored by WMU’s Graduate College, Graduate Student Advisory Committee and Career and Student Employment Services.

"How to Get the Most Out of Your Graduate Degree" will kick off the series Jan. 27 in 210 Bernhard Center. Graduate College staff will present the program: Dean William Wiener, Montreale DiPiero, and Kevin Vieheals.

The Jan. 28 program in 210 Bernhard Center, which is sponsored by the Career and Student Employment Services, "will be a panel discussion featuring Jim Taylor, dean of health and sciences at Kalamazoo Valley Community College; Grace Williams, assistant director of human resources at KVCC; Beth Kreyer, an assistant professor of childhood education; Jason Allen, hardware products business manager for Stryker Instruments; and more than 100 ways. This marks the eighth time that the University has won a NODA award. The last honor was received in 2000 for outstanding orientation attire. The theme was used campuswide to encourage students to attend the annual Martin Luther King Jr. observance, and sponsored by the Department of History, the Graduate Student Advisory Committee, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Division of Multicultural Affairs.

For more information about any of these events, contact Tom Knific at <GSAC@wmich.edu>.

Durnell recognized for service to Kalamaooza-area community

For the second consecutive year, football head coach Gary Durnell has been honored for his community service and coaching accomplishments.

Durnell was one of four finalists for the 2003 Herman S. and Frances G. Robinson Coach of Distinction Award, presented last year to Miami coach Larry Coker. The award honors coaches who serve in role models to their players and are active in their community. Durnell was nominated for the Bronson Healthcare Group.

Morris, McGrath are next up in Spring Creative Writing Series

The Jan. 25 program in 210 Bernhard Center, which is sponsored by the department’s Creative Writing Program, "will feature poet Annette Winkler-Prins, assistant professor of gay/lesbian studies at Michigan State University, will present "One of Amazon's Other Books" June 1930-1990" at 2 p.m. in 2734 Wood Hall.

The Jan. 26 program is in the Nature of Geography Colloquium Series sponsored by the Department of Geography. The next presentation in the series, "Reconstructing and Communicating Uncertainty Associated with Regional Climate," will feature Julie L. Wilhelmi, professor of geography at Michigan State University. That session is set for 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, in 2734 Wood Hall.

Researchers will conduct an open house for the University’s annual Career Fair set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in 209 Ellsworth Hall, followed by resume critiquing from 4 to 6 p.m. in 209 Ellsworth Hall, followed by a question-and-answer session. The 90-minute presentation is free and open to the public, and tickets are not needed.

Makeba uses documentary theatre to examine the life and times of a woman who has spent her life as an activist and performer. Makeba will perform "Rage is Not A 1-Day Thing" at 2:30 p.m. in the Dorothy U. Diggs Theatre.

Awards were also presented to the Honorable Robert Pataki, who repeated the exercise as part of his campaign for governor of New York. "The theme was used campuswide to encourage students to attend the annual Martin Luther King Jr. observance, and sponsored by the Department of History, the Graduate Student Advisory Committee, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Division of Multicultural Affairs.

For more information about any of these events, contact Tom Knific at <GSAC@wmich.edu>.

Orientation program garners national award

The National Orientation Directors Association presented an Outstanding Use of Theme Award to WMU’s Office of Admissions and Orientation during its annual conference Nov. 6-10.

WMU was honored for its orientation program called "A Brand New Beat," which was integrated into the University’s 2002 orientation experience for new students in more than 100 ways. This marks the eighth time that the University has won a NODA award. The last honor was received in 2000 for outstanding orientation attire. The theme was used campuswide to encourage students to attend the annual Martin Luther King Jr. observance, and sponsored by the Department of History, the Graduate Student Advisory Committee, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Division of Multicultural Affairs.

For more information about any of these events, contact Tom Knific at <GSAC@wmich.edu>.
The following vacancies are currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by the Human Resource Services Department. Interested ben-
cations eligible employees should submit a job opportunity application during the 
posting period, and may contact a human resource services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

Service

The following employees will be recognized for 30, 25, 15, and 10 years of service to the University during January. Thirty-five years—Jim C. Flegel, Miller Auditori-
unum; Helen M. Horn, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Thirty years—Robin A. Williams, University Libraries.

Twenty-five years—Victoria L. Beyene, physical plant-landscape services; Jerry W. Fullbright, physical plant-landscape services; Robert E. Norbit, physical plant-
building custodial and support services; C. Dennis Simpson, School of Community Health Services; David H. Smith, university relations; Cindy Lou Thorpe, physical plant-
buiding custodial and support services.

Fifteen years—Donna G. Areaza, psychol-
ology; Connie S. Bushaw, financial aid; Craig Bohr, information technology; J. Suddavar, King/Chavez/Rosa Parks Program; Denise S. Williams, physical plant-
buiding custodial and support services.

Ten years—Susan M. Alexander, public safety; Kathleen M. Cantley, physical plant-
buiding custodial and support services; Julie M. Christensen, Sindecuse Health Center; Carrie A. Cummings, Registrar; Susan Dake, theater; Dennis R. Fleck, telecommunication; Doni N. Oller, auxiliary cash operations; Margaret R. Palmer, information technology.

N= New
R= Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative 
Action Employer.

Faculty, staff asked to recommend students

Faculty and staff are being asked to lend a 
hand to three campus-wide academic initiatives by identifying 
students who qualify for Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities 
and Colleges. This annual honor is presented by Who’s Who in American Uni-
versities and Colleges. The Who’s Who program honors academically 
counting students who also have made significant contributions to the University. More information and eligibility requirements are available by calling Jessica Babu at 7-2156.

The Office of Study Abroad is looking for 
enthusiastic international students who plan to spend part of their academic year abroad. Applications are due by Jan. 30 for the Study Abroad Fair to help U.S. students learn more about their home countries.

International student volunteers will sit at tables representing their homelands and talk to U.S. students about studying abroad in these areas of the world. Interested students should send an e-mail to Wendy Williamson at wendy.williamson@wmich.edu. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/studyabroad.

Faculty, staff are being asked to lend a 
hand to three campus-wide academic initiatives by identifying 
students who qualify for Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities 
and Colleges. This annual honor is presented by Who’s Who in American Uni-
versities and Colleges. The Who’s Who program honors academically 
counting students who also have made significant contributions to the University. More information and eligibility requirements are available by calling Jessica Babu at 7-2156.

The Office of Study Abroad is looking for 
enthusiastic international students who plan to spend part of their academic year abroad. Applications are due by Jan. 30 for the Study Abroad Fair to help U.S. students learn more about their home countries.

International student volunteers will sit at tables representing their homelands and talk to U.S. students about studying abroad in these areas of the world. Interested students should send an e-mail to Wendy Williamson at wendy.williamson@wmich.edu. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/studyabroad.

The Who’s Who program honors academically 
counting students who also have made significant contributions to the University. More information and eligibility requirements are available by calling Jessica Babu at 7-2156.

The Office of Study Abroad is looking for 
enthusiastic international students who plan to spend part of their academic year abroad. Applications are due by Jan. 30 for the Study Abroad Fair to help U.S. students learn more about their home countries.

International student volunteers will sit at tables representing their homelands and talk to U.S. students about studying abroad in these areas of the world. Interested students should send an e-mail to Wendy Williamson at wendy.williamson@wmich.edu. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/studyabroad.

The Who’s Who program honors academically 
counting students who also have made significant contributions to the University. More information and eligibility requirements are available by calling Jessica Babu at 7-2156.

The Office of Study Abroad is looking for 
enthusiastic international students who plan to spend part of their academic year abroad. Applications are due by Jan. 30 for the Study Abroad Fair to help U.S. students learn more about their home countries.

International student volunteers will sit at tables representing their homelands and talk to U.S. students about studying abroad in these areas of the world. Interested students should send an e-mail to Wendy Williamson at wendy.williamson@wmich.edu. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/studyabroad.

The Who’s Who program honors academically 
counting students who also have made significant contributions to the University. More information and eligibility requirements are available by calling Jessica Babu at 7-2156.

The Office of Study Abroad is looking for 
enthusiastic international students who plan to spend part of their academic year abroad. Applications are due by Jan. 30 for the Study Abroad Fair to help U.S. students learn more about their home countries.

International student volunteers will sit at tables representing their homelands and talk to U.S. students about studying abroad in these areas of the world. Interested students should send an e-mail to Wendy Williamson at wendy.williamson@wmich.edu. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/studyabroad.
Hip-hop, rap are focus of upcoming Exposition VIII Minifest

It’s a bun rap. Hip-hop and rap music, often maligned for their portrayals of violence, drug use and mistreatment of women, actually make valuable political statements if people take the time to listen closely. That view is the basic premise of the Exposition VIII Minifest set for Jan. 31-Feb. 1 on campus.

The annual event takes place in the Dalton Center Recital Hall and includes exhibits, entertainment and audience-educating performances by guest speakers and high-energy performances by entertainers in the genre. Activities begin at 7:30 p.m. both nights and are free and open to the public.

One of the main critics leveled at hip-hop from the mass media, clergies and women's organizations, uninitiated listeners stereotype the genre, says Benjamin Wilson, Africana Studies.

“Some do not listen to the genre as manifestations of violence because of the high amount of noise in such material, but rather is implied by the press, that hip-hop artists speak only of gangsterism, degradation of women, poverty, brutality, drugs, et cetera,” Wilson says. “These are topics that some performers rap about, but they do not represent the common frames for expression in this musical genre.”

Wilson notes that in the early 1990's, hip-hop began to increase its presence on the “mainstream” music scene, fueled, in part, by the arrival of the controversial form known as “gangsta” rap. Early practitioners included such artists as the Sugar Hill Gang, Dr. Dre and Snoop Doggy Dogg, and many questions arose about gangsta rap’s lyrics. But, Wilson says, the style has come a long way since then.

“The problem with the complaints given was that they were being presented by people who know very little or nothing about about hip-hop,” Wilson says. “The critics look at hip-hop as something that is corrupting the youth by glorifying negative aspects of urban street life.

“Certain rappers will appeal with the circle that they are telling it like it is. Urban youth felt that the problems of inner city life needed to be exposed, and through their music it was happening 24-7, whether in Los Angeles or New York City.”

The intent of Expo VIII is to listen to and appreciate hip-hop, not to condemn it. The exhibition presents a political-historical and musical perspective. Lecturers will address how and why this cultural genre has become so controversial and threatening. Points that will be emphasized are how the musical genre transcends international borders, how it has influenced the larger philosophy and how it differs from Norman Mailer’s beatniks of the 1950s, how the Sugar Hill Gang, Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg contributed to the development of hip-hop artists, both as musicians and comedians; and the impact of hip-hop culture on fashion industry and other big business sectors.

Lecturers include Melvin Peters, associate professor at Eastern Michigan University; Cowdenlood F. Pugh, assistant professor at the University of Minnesota; and Horace Boyer, professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Performing will be the Last Poets on Jan. 31 and the Josh Ampadu Band on Feb. 1. For more information, call Wilson at 7-2667.