Trustees gather to vote on presidential candidate

The University's Board of Trustees will meet in a public session Friday, May 9, to consider the nomination of Judith I. Bailey to serve as the next president of WMU.

Convening at 10:30 a.m. in the President's Dining Room on the first floor of the Bernhard Center, trustees will consider the nomination of Bailey to become the University's seventh president. No meetings of the board's standing committees are planned for that day.

If Bailey's nomination is approved, she will succeed Elson S. Floyd, who left WMU in January to become president of the University of Missouri system.

Western News moves to smaller publishing format

Beginning with this issue, University budget constraints will result in a smaller format for the Western News. The News will continue to appear every other week through the end of the Summer I session. Remaining issues in the summer publication schedule are set for May 22, June 5 and June 19. Publication will cease during July and August and resume in September with the start of the fall semester.

Readers will continue to find the regular features and campus information columns they've come to expect. The smaller format, however, will mean less detail will be provided for most stories, and the events calendar will no longer appear.

Extended versions of news stories and a complete listing of events continue to be available on the WMU News Web site, which can be found at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news. Readers are encouraged to turn to that site continually for the latest information on news and events.

NMU's Bailey is WMU presidential nominee

WMU trustees are set to consider the nomination Judith I. Bailey, president of Northern Michigan University, to serve as the seventh president of the University.

Bailey, who has been president of NMU since 1997, was among candidates reviewed by the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. Her name will be placed in nomination before the Board of Trustees at its next meeting Friday, May 9. If approved, she will succeed Elson S. Floyd, who left WMU in January to become president of the University of Missouri system.

"The advisory committee met with some outstanding candidates, but Dr. Bailey impressed us all with her strong academic and research background and her dedication to issues of critical importance to the future of this University," said Birgit M. Klohs, chairperson of the Board of Trustees and a member of the 14-person search advisory committee formed by the board last December. "Dr. Bailey's commitment to technology in higher education, her ability to forge strong relationships and her familiarity with state issues will be incredibly important assets in her role as WMU's new president."

A longtime higher education administrator, Bailey established a reputation at NMU both in the area of fund raising and in promoting the use of technology on campus. She is credited with success in leading that school's first comprehensive capital campaign and she spearheaded a campus initiative in 2000 that put laptop computers in the hands of every full-time student. NMU is the largest university to which IBM has awarded the designation of "ThinkPad University."

Prior to assuming the presidency at NMU, Bailey held positions as vice president of academic affairs and provost as well as vice president for research and public service at the University of Maine. Before that, she served in leadership roles in the cooperative extension operations at that university as well as at the University of the District of Columbia and the University of Maryland. She also has taught at George Mason University and the University of Maryland.

A native of North Carolina, Bailey earned a bachelor's degree in English from Coker College in Hartsville, S.C., and master's and doctoral degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1973 and 1976, respectively. She also attended Harvard University's Educational Management Institute in 1994 and took part in the institute's 1996 alumni seminar.

Bailey began her teaching career as a high school language arts and social studies teacher in Charlevoix, R.I., then taught in the public school systems in Virginia's Prince William and Stafford counties before moving to the University of Maine.

History buffs see Bailey pick as centennial coincidence

Selection of Northern Michigan University President Judith Bailey as WMU's presidential candidate drew the notice of WMU history buffs who noted the strong historical ties that exist between the two institutions.

Nowhere are those ties stronger than in the leadership arena. WMU's founding president was Dwight B. Waldo, who also was the founding president of Northern. Waldo served as the first leader when what was then Northern Michigan Normal School was founded in 1899.

In 1904, after the Michigan Legislature had approved the establishment of a new normal school on the west side of the state, it was Waldo, a native of nearby Plainwell, who was recruited to serve as the leader of the new school. Waldo remained head of Western until 1936, relinquishing control of Western State Teachers College to its next president, Paul Sanggren.
Candidates Announced for 2003 Staff Service Excellence annual awards

The Staff Service Excellence Awards Program Selection Committee has announced the names of candidates for the 2003 Annual Awards. The 15 individuals are the winners of 2002-03 semiannual awards and are now eligible to win one of four annual awards, each with a $1,000 prize. The candidates are:

- Chad H. Avery, landscape services; John Disbro, landscape services; Annie R. Dobbs, chemistry; Deanna J. Hinkle, development; Nancy J. Johnson, investments and endowment management; Paul MacNellis, landscape services; Barbara T. McKinney, mathematics; Sharon P. Myers, sociology; Rosemary Nichols, Extended University Programs; Maureen Price, Office of the General Counsel; Shelly L. Russell, building custodial and support services; Cynthia L. Seedorff, Medieval Institute; Susan A. Standish, Kercher Center for Social Research; Penny Villadsen, Burnham Dining Service; and Richard H. Welch, physics.

The selection committee, with one representative from each employee group, will review any new information submitted for the candidates as well as the previously submitted semiannual nominations. Employees who wish to provide additional information in support of any of the above candidates may do so until May 16.

Any additional information must include specific examples of how the candidate has exhibited excellence that far exceeds normal job expectations. The committee will select four of these candidates to win a Staff Service Excellence Annual Award. Annual award winners will be announced in June.

Additional information in support of any candidate may be submitted until May 16 to Kitty Scheffers, Human Resources, by memo, e-mail sent to <hr-sea@wmich.edu> or fax sent to 7-3441.

Medievalists set for annual international congress at WMU

Military technology, anger management, protests against priests and labor policy sound like the stuff of modern-day newspapers and television broadcasts.

But when about 3,000 international scholars gather on the campus this weekend to talk about such issues during for the 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, the conversation is more likely to be about the Crusades and idle chatter more likely to reflect Chaucer.

The congress begins today, May 8, and runs through Sunday, May 12.

The annual Medieval Film Festival is part of the congress and includes screenings of "Francesco, Giuligare di Dio" on Wednesday, May 7; "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" on Thursday, May 8; and "The Lion in Winter" on Friday, May 9. All showings begin at 8 p.m. in Kirsch Auditorium of the Fetzer Center on the WMU campus. The film festival is free and open to the public.

Other performances include two for which tickets may be purchased. Benjamin Bagby will perform "Beowulf" at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at Kalamazoo College's Stetson Chapel. Tickets are $15.

The musical group HourGlass will perform "The Tale of Samuel Anthor" at 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 9, at First Baptist Church, 315 W. Michigan Ave. Tickets are $10. For up-to-the-minute information on ticket availability, call (269) 387-8745.

Registration for the Congress begins at noon, Wednesday, May 7, and continues through the event. There is no registration fee for WMU faculty, staff members and students or for Kalamazoo County residents. The fee for others attending the event is $115. For students and family members accompanying registrants the fee is $75.

Jorgens honored by YWCA

Three University women will be honored May 15 at the YWCA Women of Achievement Award Celebration at the Radisson Plaza Hotel.

Interim Provost Elise Jorgens is one of the YWCA's five Women of Achievement for 2003. Before being appointed to her current post, she had headed the College of Arts and Sciences since 1996. She became interim dean that year and was permanently named to head the University's largest college a year later. Jorgens has served on a variety of national boards and committees as well as being active volunteer in the Kalamazoo community. The YWCA award honors her professional and person accomplishments as well as her contributions to the community, state and nation.

WMU is a sponsor of the Women of Achievement event, and will honor Barbara Havira, history, as its Woman in the Spotlight. Recent graduate Michelle Glisan, an aviation science major, will also be recognized as one of the YWCA's Young Women of Achievement.

Curwen work selected for gala

Choreography by David Curwen, dance, was recently selected by national adjudicators for the gala performance at the Central Region's American College Dance Festival.

The festival was held March 13-16 at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. Approximately 400 students from 14 colleges and universities were brought together for master classes, concerts and to have student and faculty choreography adjudicated.

After three days of adjudication, Curwen's Harp Finale and eight other dances were chosen to appear on the final gala concert. Curwen's work featured five classical dancers and was set to Beethoven's Harp String Quartet. The production team included Stephen Kettner, media productions, videographer; Jeffrey Rogers, theatre alumnus, lighting design; and Anne DeVelder, visiting assistant professor from the University of Illinois, costume design. The dancers included Alyson Assenmacher, Sarah Ivory, Brooke Holiday, Lacey Kelley and Briona Richards. Understudy Lindsay Moore filled in to cover a last-minute illness.

Late last year, Curwen's dance was also selected as one of six finalists for the Spirit of Degas Dance Award, sponsored by the Detroit Institute of Art and the Michigan Dance Council.
Elmer J. Brune, emeritus in industrial engineering, died Jan. 21 in Kalamazoo. He was 89.

Brune earned bachelor's and master's degrees from WMU in 1939 and 1957, respectively, and was a member of the faculty from 1956 until he retired in 1979 from his position as director of cooperative education for the College of Applied Sciences. Prior to joining the faculty, he was an industrial education instructor at South Haven (Mich.) High School.

Clarence W. Hackney, emeritus in mathematics, died Dec. 26 in Kalamazoo. He was 92.

Hackney joined the WMU faculty in 1936, as a supervising instructor at Paw Paw (Mich.) High School. He retired in 1973. During his career, he served as principal at Paw Paw High School from 1946 to 1948 and for 16 years was the supervising instructor at WMU's University High School.

He also served as treasurer of the WMU Faculty Senate from 1960 to 1961 and was registrar for the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics from 1965 to 1967.

Waldemar E. Klammer, emeritus in industrial technology and education, died Dec. 23, in Corinth, Texas. He was 86.

Klammer, who earned degrees from Mankato State University and the University of Wisconsin-Stout, joined the WMU faculty in 1956 after six years of teaching in the public schools in Blue Earth and Truman, Minn.

From 1959 until his retirement in 1981, Klammer coordinated the Clausing Scholarship and helped steer students toward careers in teaching industrial education, printing marketing/management, construction supervision and related areas. He also was a member of several professional, trade and academic groups.

Conner "Bill" Otteson, emeritus in marketing, died suddenly May 3. He was 75.

Otteson retired in 1990 after serving on the WMU faculty for 25 years. In 1980, Otteson completed a major survey indicating that WMU's then economic impact on Southwest Michigan exceeded $100 million. He was active with the AAUP and the American Marketing Association.

Prior to his career in academia, Otteson worked in management and the construction and retail sectors. He served in the U.S. Army and was a veteran of the Korean War, earning a Bronze Star for bravery.

Otteson earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Hawaii in 1960 and 1961, respectively, and completed his doctoral degree at Indiana University in 1965.

Estate planning primer offered
Concerned about estate taxes? Employees can learn how to minimize estate taxes and maximize the wealth transferred to heirs in a TIAA-CREF session that will be offered twice on Monday, May 19.

Todd Kephart of TIAA-CREF will present "Trust and Estate Planning," a seminar designed to provide the tools and techniques necessary to build a solid strategy to meet estate-planning goals.

Discussion items include: probate estate versus gross estate, estate planning tools, services available through TIAA-CREF Trust Company, overview of trusts and their use in estate planning, pros and cons of corporate and individual trust arrangements, protecting income and assets, estate preservation and distribution, tax and legal issues affecting retirement, legislative changes, and tools for reducing estate taxes.

The session is being offered at 3 and 6:30 p.m. in 210 Bernhard Center. Register for the session of your choice at www.tiaa-cref.org/moc or by calling Linda Baker at 1-800-842-2044. Any remaining seats will be available on a first-come, first-seated basis.

FOR SALE—Home just minutes from campus. Recently renovated, stylish 1950s post and beam contemporary, vaulted, open spaces, with new everything—kitchen, appliances, furnace, a/c, carpet, interior paint. Three bedrooms, one bath, 1,450 square feet plus basement, quiet Westwood neighborhood, 1821 Hillsdale. $139,500. Call 345-2535 or 7-3219.

ALUM DONATES PHOTO TO UNIVERSITY—Thomas Cooper, an award-winning nature photographer and alumnus of WMU, has donated a print of his most popular photo to the University's permanent art collection, as a centennial gift to the University. For the complete story, visit the Arts & Entertainment page in WMU News, <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/arts>.
Richard Long to help explore ties between auto industry, vision

Richard Long, blindness and low vision studies, will be a member of an elite panel of experts taking part in a June conference sponsored by the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology.

Named “Eye and the Auto” and held at the Ford Motor Co. Conference and Event Center in Dearborn, Mich., the conference is a world congress on the relationship between vision and the safe operation of a motor vehicle. It will focus on three general areas: matters related to the eye, vision and the act of seeing, particularly in relation to driving; advances being made in the automotive industry to enhance the vision of people with normal vision; and the environment in which a driver performs, including such matters as road illumination, signage design, and inclement weather conditions and how these influence vision. Long’s presentation is on vision issues in driver-pedestrian interaction.

“I primarily am involved in research about visually impaired pedestrians,” Long says. “This conference offers a great opportunity to inform the world’s leading driving researchers about the challenges that visual impairment can create for pedestrians and the need to plan roadway environments and vehicles so that drivers and pedestrians can both function safely and efficiently.”

Long explains that one interesting automotive issue emerging in vision rehabilitation is the concern about the effect of quiet cars on pedestrians. People with visual impairment and blindness rely on their hearing to determine how vehicles are moving and to judge when it is safe to begin crossing a street. As hybrid electric/gasoline powered cars become more common, the acoustic environment at roadway crossings will probably get more challenging from a blind pedestrian’s point of view.

Long says he looks forward to talking about these topics with his colleagues who conduct driving research. His participation is evidence of blindness and low vision studies’ expertise and influence.

“The department is really one of a kind,” says Dean Janet I. Pisaneschi, health and human services. “There is simply nothing like it in the world, and Dr. Long and his colleagues have ensured its stature.”

One conference goal will be to use the research and knowledge of professors such as Long to reduce the number of auto-related deaths on America’s roadways, which currently number 41,000 annually. After the conference, organizers hope to publish the academic presentations in a special issue of a juried journal.

Presidential nominee

continued from page 1

...