



Western NEWS

www.wmich.edu/wmu/news

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GOP primary debate will be held July 2 on WMU campus

The first of three primary campaign debates between Republican gubernatorial candidates Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus and Sen. John J.H. Schwarz will be held on the WMU campus Tuesday, July 2.

The pair will face off in a 6:30 to 8 p.m. event at a site still to be determined. The debate is sponsored by the Western Student Association and the Kalamazoo County Republican Party. Additional details will be posted on the WMU News Web site at <www.wmich.edu/news>.

Posthumus and Schwarz are opponents in the Aug. 6 primary that will determine their party's nominee for this fall's election of a new Michigan governor.

DeVos pediatric specialist named director of Sindecuse

Gary M. Kirk, Pediatric Program director for DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich., will be the new director of the Sindecuse Health Center. Interim Vice President Diane K. Swartz, Student Affairs, made the announcement June 14.

"His leadership and communication skills, along with his passion for educational and community intervention, will serve to enhance the quality of service delivered to our students, faculty and staff," Swartz said.

Kirk, who will begin his new duties July 15, presides over the Pediatric and Adult Asthma Network of West Michigan, which he helped found, and has taught at the University of Chicago and Michigan State University.

A licensed physician in Michigan, Arizona and Illinois, he received his doctor of medicine degree from the McGill Faculty of Medicine in 1984 and has done postdoctoral training at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich., and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

New area code dialing to start

Southwest Michigan's new area code goes live in less than a month.

The new 269 area code will be introduced July 13. WMU's Kalamazoo, Battle Creek and Benton Harbor campuses are included in the region that will change to the new code. The Grand Rapids campus will retain the current 616 code.

During a seven-month introductory period, callers may use either the old or new area code. Mandatory use of the 269 code is slated for Feb. 15, 2003.

David H. Smith, university relations and WMU's director of graphics and design, recommends that University offices begin distributing materials with the new area code on Aug. 1. Remaining printed items may be used through February 2003, but any new or reprinted materials should include the 269 code. Web sites should be updated by August to reflect the change.

This is last spring News issue

This is the last full-size issue of Western News for the 2001-02 year.

Publication of Western News in its traditionally smaller summer format will begin July 11, and summer issues also will appear on July 25 and Aug. 8. The deadline for each issue is 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the publication date.

WMU archaeological team finds evidence of multiple area locations for Ramptown

When a team of archaeologists from WMU was asked to help locate the site of Ramptown, the final stop on the Underground Railroad for many African Americans who fled slavery from the 1830s to 1860s, they didn't expect to find it in more than one place.

Any signs of Ramptown, a rural enclave located near Vandalia, Mich., believed to have housed hundreds of escaped African Americans, disappeared more than a century ago. Last fall, the Michigan Historical Center and the Vandalia Underground Railroad Foundation asked Michael Nassaney, anthropology, to locate Ramptown's site as part of a state and local effort to highlight the Underground Railroad's role in Michigan's history.

This spring, after eight months of preliminary research, Nassaney and students in WMU's 2002 Archaeological Field School dug up evidence, which not only verified Ramptown's existence, but also indicated that, contrary to popular belief, Ramptown wasn't located at a single site. Instead, Ramptown consisted of a number of cabins and residences spread out over a wide area.

"The name 'Ramptown' gave the connotation that it was a very confined place, but in doing our survey we've found evidence that 'Ramptown' was probably used more as a description for the community of escaped African Americans in this area as a whole," Nassaney explains. "Our evidence indicates that there was a pattern of distribution of the cabins of these individuals that was like the patterns you find for sharecroppers in the American South. They weren't all located in one place."

After arriving in Michigan's Cass County via the Underground Railroad, many escaped African Americans were given five- or 10-acre plots to farm by local Quakers in exchange for their labor clearing land or harvesting crops. The African Americans and their families established cabins on those plots, where most stayed for five to 10 years. Hostile environments created by raiders who came to Cass County to kidnap and take African Americans back to slavery in the South led many of them to move on to other locations such as Battle Creek, Mich., or Canada. It was only decades after the abolition of slavery before standing structural

remains of Ramptown could no longer be found. Ramptown's location also never appeared on any historical maps.

Finding Ramptown became a cause after it came to the attention of the Freedom Trail Project of the Michigan Historical Center at the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries. Michelle



Graduate student Amanda Campbell, right, of Harrisville, Mich., explains the Ramptown site map to Alicia Smith, news anchor and reporter for WWMT TV-3, during the June 14 news conference. (Photo by Marie Lee)

S. Johnson, the project's coordinator and a visiting professor at Michigan State University, was investigating Cass County's ties to the Underground Railroad when Sondra Mose-Ursery, executive director of the Vandalia Underground Railroad Foundation, told her about Ramptown. The Michigan Historical Center soon contacted Nassaney about searching for the site and awarded a \$21,000 grant for WMU archaeologists to do just that.

"This was truly a collaborative effort," Johnson says. "It illus-

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Bedrosian gets three-year NIH grant to study communication theory

A WMU researcher has been awarded a \$780,000 grant to help those with serious communication disorders communicate more effectively.

The grant has been awarded to Jan Bedrosian, speech pathology and audiology, from the National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Bedrosian, an internationally recognized researcher in augmentative and alternative communication—AAC—is using the grant to fund four experiments over a three-year period. Each of these experiments is designed to explore a portion of a theory of disordered communication, which Bedrosian has developed with colleagues in Kansas and Delaware.

"The theory attempts to explain and predict events associated with flawed communication," Bedrosian says.

AAC is a branch of speech-language pathology that addresses the communication needs of people with severe speech impairments, such as those with cerebral palsy. Since these people are unable, for the most part, to communicate through speech, they must rely on other methods to express themselves to others. One such method involves the use of a special communication computer or device with voice output technology.

Although AAC users find some liberation through communication devices, they still face communication problems, especially when they are out in public and have to deal with people who are unfamiliar with their method of communication.

Bedrosian describes spoken communication as a very spontaneous and fluid behavior that follows a variety of subconscious rules in order to be considered polite conversation. People who use a communication device cannot, however, maintain a conversation in the same fluent fashion. They must decide which conversational rules to observe and which to violate. It is the outcome of these rule violations, specifically with respect to the effect on atti-

tudes of service providers, that Bedrosian and her colleagues are investigating.

The theory Bedrosian and her colleagues are testing seeks to define which conversational rules are most important and which are less so. What they learn will help those who use communication devices, companies that design the technology for these devices and the speech-language pathologists who advise people in the use of these systems.

ACA is University's newest aviation partner

Atlantic Coast Airlines became the University's newest domestic partner, thanks to a bridge hiring program for pilots announced June 6 at the College of Aviation.

Jim Jennings, chief pilot with ACA, traveled from the firm's corporate headquarters in Dulles, Va., to the college's aviation facilities at W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek to sign an agreement with college officials and interview the first candidates for the new program. The program will bring WMU students into the ACA organization as pilot interns and give them preferential hiring consideration for positions as first officers.

Jennings selected six internship candidates during his stop in Battle Creek, and he extended job offers to three College of Aviation alumni. He told students who gathered for a brief signing ceremony that his airline expected to hire more than 400 pilots this year.

The five-year agreement between ACA

and WMU also will bring new aircraft training materials to the college and will allow ACA representatives to be involved in aviation curriculum development.

"We're tremendously pleased to add ACA to the list of airlines who have reviewed our programs and want our graduates as part of their organizations," says Dean Gregory A. Lyman, aviation. "Agreements like this one are important indicators that the industry appreciates the quality of our programs."

ACA, the fastest growing regional carrier in the United States, operates as United Express in the Eastern and Midwestern United States, and as Delta Connection in the Eastern United States and Canada.

Atlantic Coast Airlines employs more than 4,200 aviation professionals. In May, ACA officials reported a nearly 70 percent increase in passenger traffic for the first four months of the year in comparison with the same period in 2001.

Four Staff Service Excellence winners named

Four outstanding staff members have been chosen from among 21 candidates to receive the 2002 Staff Service Excellence Annual Award, which comes with a \$1,000 prize.

The winners selected by the Staff Service Excellence Awards Program Selection Committee are: Sherry K. Bate, College of Fine Arts; Scott M. Keeler, Physical Plant-Maintenance Services; Pamela D. Ross, Unified Clinics; and Kathryn A. Wright, Department of Geosciences.

The prestigious award is reserved for WMU's most outstanding staff employees—those who reach far beyond their assigned responsibilities to give generously and creatively of their time and talents. Winners are chosen from among the winners of the semiannual awards of the same name. The selection team includes representatives from each participating employee group: APA, PSSO, MSEA, POA and AFSCME.

In addition to the cash prizes, recipients will receive framed certificates and will have their photos displayed in the Siebert Administration Building. A June 26 luncheon in their honor is planned.

Sherry K. Bate

A WMU employee since 1965, Bate joined the College of Fine Arts in 1973. Initially hired there as an administrative assistant, she has progressively risen through the ranks to her current post as administrative specialist.

Fourteen nominators spoke out in support of Bate, praising her meticulous attention to detail, impressive writing skills, pleasant and professional demeanor, and deep institutional knowledge. She is an active volunteer in the University community, serving on a variety of committees within and outside her college.

Bate is also an effective mentor. Her position requires her to interact with countless people, and many of them have recounted how she has helped them develop their own skills. "While she is always available to answer my questions, she encourages me to learn and grow by working through things myself," said one nominator. "As a new employee, she has mentored me throughout the year and I have grown to appreciate her positive attitude and patient assistance (in) maneuvering me through the paper trail," commented another.

Nearly all her nominators commented on Bate's excellent memory and her impressive knowledge of the University and its procedures. "Sherry's memory verges on the supernatural," raved one colleague who has worked with her for more than 20 years. "I can't remember when she didn't have the right answer to any question I asked."

Scott M. Keeler

Keeler has been an environmental control person in maintenance services since 1998. He fills in regularly at the University's new Campus Environmental Control Center, and he's currently training the employee who will man that station full time.

Keeler is a problem solver. His supporters noted that he carefully examines every situation, often finding solutions to dilemmas that have existed for many years. "Scott has a customer-centered, can-do attitude," said one nominator. "Building coordinators occasionally mention a long-standing issue, saying, 'I know you can't do anything about this, but...' I encourage these customers to let us try again, confident that we can solve their environmental controls issues because of Scott."

Keeler also plays a behind-the-scenes role in a variety of artistic endeavors on campus. He created a way for smoke to linger on stage during Dalton Center performances without setting off the smoke detectors, solved an air-flow problem that affected audio quality in a recording studio, and worked with the staff at Miller Auditorium to successfully meet the strict requirements of a rock diva who performed there. "I wish we had 10 more like him," one of Keeler's fans raved.

Supporters also praised Keeler for his formal and informal mentoring efforts. They noted that he goes out of his way to explain difficult programming concepts and shares his extensive knowledge through hands-on training sessions. "Scott made me see the importance of the work we do," said one colleague, adding that Keeler had made him appreciate the opportunity to be part of the University's controls team.

Pamela D. Ross

A member of the University staff for 10 years, Ross began her WMU career in the Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse. In 1994, she transferred to the Unified Clinics and in 1998, was promoted to her current position as senior administrative assistant.

When people are impressed with someone's effort, they usually say that she gives 110 percent. One of Ross' nominators, however, insisted that Ross always gives 150 percent. Known as the first to arrive and the last to leave, she was lauded by her nominators for her unfailing dedication to the clinics.

"Ms. Ross has, on innumerable occasions, volunteered her time and effort on weekends to come to the clinics to assist and participate in research projects," said one supporter. "As a result of her efforts, research has been enhanced both in quality and timeliness, grant proposals have been submitted and funded, research results have been published and theses and dissertations have been completed."

Described as "the glue that holds everything together," Ross also was praised for her accessibility, professionalism and ability to stay calm in the midst of chaos. "Pamela is an individual who works behind the scenes. Her quiet, nonjudgmental demeanor combined with her competence in the completion of her job duties has earned her the respect of faculty, students and staff," wrote another nominator.

Kathryn A. Wright

Before taking her current post as office coordinator in the Department of Geosciences two years ago, Wright worked as a secretary in the former Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The improvements in the geosciences office since Wright took over are marked, according to her nominators. She came into the position during a difficult period and—without direct training—got the office organized and running efficiently in a very short time. Her colleagues applaud her for her organization, efficiency, professionalism and willingness to help others.

"The critical quality that Kathy brings to her job is a clear understanding and relentless focus on the mission of our academic unit," one supporter wrote. "She is not a bureaucrat—she does what is necessary to help get all of our jobs done. Our office is running extremely smoothly thanks to Kathy."

She often thinks ahead and predicts what other faculty and staff members might need, and then takes care of it without ever being asked. From proctoring exams when a faculty member must be absent to helping people navigate the University's accounting system, Wright goes out of her way to help however she can. "Her attitude is obviously infectious," said another nominator. "It's clear that the current convivial atmosphere in the geosciences office is largely due to Kathy's efficiency, leadership and upbeat attitude!"

Mangla's trip to Pakistan falls victim to political unrest there

With war brewing between India and Pakistan, one WMU faculty member recently discovered that he probably



Mangla

won't be returning to his native country next year after all.

After a nine-month planning and application process, Inayat U. Mangla was notified in April that he'd been chosen to go to Pakistan

as a Fulbright scholar. Mangla was thrilled to be returning to that country to research and teach finance for the 2002-03 academic year. His plans were detailed in the May 9 issue of *Western News*.

As tensions in the region heated up late last month, the U.S. Department of State, which administers the Fulbright program, told Mangla they're suspending the program in Pakistan.

"Obviously I'm disappointed and disheartened, but my first priority is safety," says Mangla, a U.S. citizen who originally came to this country as a young Fulbright scholar. "They are exploring the opportunity for me to do my sabbatical research project in another country and I've proposed Kuwait or the United Arab Emirates. Or, I may travel on my own to complete my project."

Zimmer wins national award

Christine G. Zimmer, health promotion and education, has won the American College Health Association's Edward Hitchcock Award. One of the nation's top college health awards, it honors ACHA members who have made outstanding contributions to advancing the health of all college students.



Zimmer

The award was presented at the ACHA's annual awards dinner May 29 in Washington, D.C.

"Chris embodies the highest ideals of the college health profession and has been a unique and tireless contributor to the field," the selection committee noted in naming Zimmer as the award winner.

She was cited in particular for her enduring contributions as a scholar, national leader, respected health educator and capable administrator as well as her pioneering initiatives in peer education and service learning, interactive multimedia education, participatory theatre and curriculum infusion.

In addition to her continuing work as a consulting editor for the *Journal of American College Health*, Zimmer's ACHA-related activities have included serving as vice president and in several other leadership posts and spearheading development of the "Standards of Practice for Health Promotion in Education" publication.

An ACHA fellow, she will retire from WMU Aug. 30 after 24 years of service.

Hong nabs Van Cliburn honors

Yat-Lam Hong, music, received a Special Recognition Award at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in Fort Worth, Texas, June 3-8.

A piano technician and tuner in the School of Music since 1973, Hong was among 73 competitors from five countries and 24 states. Professional performers and piano teachers are barred from this biennial competition, open only to amateur pianists over age 35.

A native of China, Hong holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music performance from Indiana University and a doctorate in music performance from the University of Cincinnati.

Wireless education, University's use of technology are engineering conference topics

The University's wireless computing technology got some international exposure this week when WMU President Elson S. Floyd joined officials from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences to make presentations at the annual conference of the nation's leading engineering education organization.

Floyd moderated a session on "Teaching and Learning with Technology" at the American Society for Engineering Education's annual conference and exposition, held June 16-19. The session, which focused on wireless developments in higher education, took place Tuesday, June 18.

Hossein Mousavinezhad, chairperson of electrical and computer engineering, was program chairperson of ASEE's Electrical and Computer Engineering Division. He says the annual conference is the major gathering for the nation's engineering educators and a chance for them to interact with government and industry officials as well as engineering professionals from other nations. More than 2,000 people are attending this year's event.

"There are more than 300 engineering schools in the nation, and this is the major gathering that gives engineering educators a chance to discuss the important issues they are all facing," says Mousavinezhad. Major issues discussed this

year, he says, included online education, the growth in the role of student researchers, the demand for hands-on experiences and schools' attempts to balance the speed of technological change with the need to impart basic engineering principles to students.

The technology session Floyd led featured presentations by Laurence Wolfe, chief information officer of the National Institutes for Health; officials from the University of Illinois and the Georgia Institute for Technology; and three members of WMU's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences—Daniel Litynski, dean of the college; and Dean Johnson and Bradley Bazuin, both electrical and computer engineering.

The WMU group was focused on the computing capabilities and wireless communication network that are part of the new engineering complex now being constructed on the University's Parkview Campus.

Litynski also moderated two sessions at the conference—one on undergraduate research and a second on precollege engineering education. Another WMU representative, Parviz Merati, chairperson of mechanical and aeronautical engineering, moderated a session on engineering design education.



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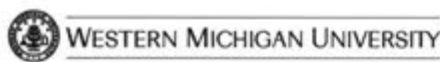
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OFFICES that receive too many copies — or too few copies — are asked to call 387-8400. WMU is an equal opportunity/employer/affirmative action institution.



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.

Grade 10 clerical positions are not required to be posted. 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.

Please call the Applicant Information Service for up-to-date information on the Job Opportunity Program and vacancies available to external applicants.

(N) **Instructor/Assistant Professor** (academic year, term appointment ends 8/3/03), 140/130, History, 01/02-2984, 6/17-6/24/02

(R) **Office Assistant** (academic year plus spring session, .85 FTE, 40 hours per week), 11, School of Music, 01/02-2985, 6/17-6/24/02

(R) **Assistant Manager, Dining Unit**, 15, Bernhard Center Dining Service, 01/02-2986, 6/17-6/24/02

(N) **Assistant Director, Student Judicial Affairs**, 15, Office of the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, 01/02-2987, 6/17-6/24/02

(N) **Instructor/Assistant Professor** (academic year, term appointment ends 8/3/03), 140/130, Communication, 01/02-2988, 6/17-6/24/02

(N) **Instructor/Assistant Professor** (academic year, term appointment ends 8/3/03), 140/130, Geography, 01/02-2989, 6/17-6/24/02

N= New
R= Replacement
WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Service

30 years—Lynn M. Ross, Lawson Ice Arena.

25 years—Janet S. Callahan, College of Health and Human Services; Charles E. Hines Jr., accountancy; Blaine D. Kalafut, public safety; and Thomas L. VanValey, sociology.

20 years—J. Patrick Forrest, accountancy; Francies Frazier, physical plant-building custodial and support services; and Shirley A. Vernia, admissions and orientation.

15 years—Roger A. DeKoekkoek, physical plant-maintenance services; Jim P. DeMello, finance and commercial law; Betty D. Dennis, Center for Academic Support Programs; Carol A. Hogmire, public safety; Amy Kizzie, residence life; Angela M. Miller, accounts payable; Dan L. S. Clair, physical plant-maintenance services; and Randy D. VanAvery, physical plant-maintenance services.

Five years—Andrew Rudolph Bachmann, public safety; Torriea M. Bradford, intercollegiate athletics; Earl Conner, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Guareve J. Dave, College of Aviation; William M. Feenstra, College of Aviation; John V. Fraire, admissions and orientation; Lisa J. Knutson, auxiliary enterprises; William B. Long II, Power Plant; Pamela A. McCartney, human resources; Lori J. Nagel-Bennett, student activities and leadership; Jeffrey L. Nelson, College of Aviation; and Ronald H. Stewart, intercollegiate athletics.



CAPTIVATED BY CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION
(Photo by Neil Rankin)

On Campus with Ray Wolfram

Ray Wolfram, campus facilities, definitely sees himself as a "big picture person." And as manager of campus construction, Wolfram spends his days working with people to make big plans, draw up big blueprints and create big buildings.

"I love construction," says Wolfram, who works on a myriad of building projects. "I love working with the end users, the subcontractors, the engineers and everybody else. It's a challenge, but it's one that I love."

After completing his construction management degree at Bradley University, the Peoria, Ill., native took a job with Sears & Roebuck, working with the company to build new stores. He later moved to the St. Joseph area to work in hospital construction and in 1985, joined WMU as a maintenance engineer.

In his current role, Wolfram works with a team of architects, engineers, interior designers, administrators, contractors and others to manage construction projects from building conception down to the last piece of furniture.

"I already know what I'm going to be doing the minute school is out in 2003," says Wolfram, who leads a staff of three project administrators and two construction management interns.

"In our work, the weather is less a factor than the academic calendar. Sometimes it can be very challenging."

The same goes for planning major projects like the 50,000-square-foot paper coating pilot plant, the three-story Donald "J" Seelye Athletic Center or the new \$72.5 million College of Engineering.

He's also hard at work trying to make sure WMU's Southwest Regional Center on the campus of Lake Michigan College is on schedule, while juggling a variety of campus road and parking lot projects.

After months—and in some cases, years—of being so close to various projects, Wolfram admits that it's easy to get attached to the work.

"Eventually you turn it all over to the physical plant, but you're never really separated from it," he explains. "There's always someone who later asks, 'Do you remember who did what and when?'"

"It's a good feeling to know that you're there to provide answers," says the Gull Lake resident who enjoys water sports and traveling with his wife, Donna-Lee, and children, Alex and Jenna.

More than 1,500 will get degrees in June 29 ceremonies at Miller

The University will award more than 1,500 degrees during commencement ceremonies Saturday, June 29, in Miller Auditorium.

President Elson S. Floyd will preside over two ceremonies.

A 9 a.m. ceremony is set for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Aviation, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and College of Health and Human Services.

An 11:30 a.m. ceremony will be held for graduates of the Haworth College of Business, College of Education, College of Fine Arts and General University Studies program.

A total of 985 bachelor's degrees, 500 master's and specialist degrees, and 17 doctoral degrees will be awarded for a total of 1,502 degrees. Students taking part in the ceremonies will include those earning their degrees in June at the end of the spring session and those earning their degrees in August at the end of the summer session. The University does not hold commencement ceremonies in August.

No tickets are required to attend the June commencement ceremonies. If Miller Auditorium fills to capacity, the ceremonies may be viewed on a large-screen television in 3512 Knauss Hall.

Each ceremony also will be carried live on Channel 7 of EduCABLE, the University's cable television system, and on Kalamazoo Community Access channel 19 of the Charter Communications cable system. In addition, video of the commencement may be viewed online at the time of the ceremonies and for 30 days

afterward. The Web site address is <www.wmich.edu/commencement>.

University Video Services provides an opportunity for persons to purchase videotapes of any of the three ceremonies. Orders may be placed by calling 7-5003. The tapes are \$20 each.

Juneteenth celebration slated for June 23

West Michigan's third Annual Juneteenth Celebration is set for 3 p.m. June 23 in the Dalton Center Recital Hall and in the adjacent Fine Arts Plaza.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States and is a major symbol of freedom for many African Americans, just as the Fourth of July is for all Americans.

The 2002 celebration, called "A Family Event," is being co-sponsored by the Division of Multicultural Affairs and African Student Association. The organizer and primary sponsor is Ujima Enterprises Inc., a Kalamazoo-based nonprofit educational, cultural and community service organization that operates an after-school and weekend youth development program incorporating an African-centered curriculum.

The keynote address "Why Juneteenth?" will be given by Roy Hudson of Kalamazoo, retired corporate vice president of what is now Pharmacia Corp. Hudson and another honoree also will receive the 2002 national Liberator Award for Leadership in Education from UEI.

The Juneteenth celebration also will feature authentic traditional African dances performed by the Ujima Afrikan Dance Troupe and a cultural demonstration by Detroit's Black Folk Arts. A buffet dinner is included in the price of admission, which is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students of any age with student IDs and \$5 for children age 5 to 11. Admission is free for children under age 5.

For more information, contact J. Baraka Love at UEI by calling 345-1534 or sending e-mail to <barakal@aol.com>.

Exchange

HOUSE FOR RENT—Cozy, quiet bungalow with back yard, close to campus, one bedroom. No pets, nonsmoker preferred. Great for single or quiet couple. Available by Aug. 1. Call K'Anna, 343-2479.

Human Resources

One-time pay form online

The One-Time Pay Form is now available on the HR Web site at <www.wmich.edu/hr>.

Links to the form are located on the "Quick Access" menu and "New Web site features." The form can be completed online as a Word document and then printed, or printed out as a blank form and then completed.

Department personnel and authorized signers should make file copies, as necessary, during the signature routing process.

History of hearing devices is seminar topic

From simple horn-shaped instruments to more complicated, high-tech devices, hearing aids of all sorts will be the subject of a special, one-hour PowerPoint presentation Tuesday, June 25.

A history of hearing aids will be presented by Claus Nielsen. Nielsen is an audiology technician with Oticon A/S, Eriksholm Research Centre in Denmark. The event is at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room off the lobby of the Unified Clinics, located on the third floor of the University Medical and Health Sciences Center, 1000 Oakland Drive.

Nielsen is in the United States to attend the inaugural meeting of the newly formed International Society for Historic Hearing Devices in St. Louis. He is visiting Kalamazoo to see the Baldwin Collection, a display of antique hearing aids in the Unified Clinics.

Nielsen has presented numerous Oticon courses, lectures and workshops on a wide range of hearing-related topics. While on campus, he also will discuss "The Hearing

Impaired Person as Our Most Important Research Tool" at an audiology seminar from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 26, in Room 241 of the Speech and Hearing Center.

For more information, contact Harold Bate, audiology, at 7-8052 or e-mail Bate at <harold.bate@wmich.edu>.

Weber to be feted today

Pat Weber, finance and commercial law, will be honored at a retirement reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. today, June 20, in 2150 Schneider Hall. Hosted by the Department of Finance and Commercial Law, the reception will celebrate Weber's 28-year career at WMU. The event is open to the entire University community. Additional information can be obtained by calling Chris Korth at 7-5371 or Bob Balik at 7-5674.

WMU professors chronicle rise and decline of 'Black Eden' as premier Michigan resort

Forget the Hamptons. From 1912 until the mid-1960s, if you were African American, Michigan's Idlewild was the summer hot spot for you. And with good planning and action, say two WMU professors, it can be again.

The rise and decline of Idlewild, once a thriving resort community in Michigan's Lake County, is detailed in "Black Eden," a new



After a day of fishing, resorters relax in one of Idlewild's taverns. For half a century, the resort's numerous nightspots and clubs attracted some of the nation's top black performers. (Photo from the Ben Wilson collection)

book, written by Lewis Walker, emeritus in sociology, and Ben C. Wilson, Africana studies, and published by Michigan State University Press.

Idlewild was created in 1912 by white entrepreneurs as a resort specifically for blacks who, at the time, were barred from public places, including hotels and restaurants. It quickly became the most popular black resort in the Midwest, attracting tens of thousands of visitors at the height of a season. Among the resort's vacationers were such black luminaries as Charles Chestnutt, Daniel Hale Williams, Joe Louis and W.E.B. Du Bois. Fueling Idlewild's popularity were its thriving entertainment venues, which boasted the best black performers of the day, from Louis Armstrong and Aretha Franklin to Stevie Wonder and Bill Cosby.

Idlewild enjoyed nearly half a century of prosperity before integration and the death of pivotal civic leaders brought about the community's decline. With a year-round population of approximately 500 and no gas stations or grocery stores, Idlewild is now a rural community fighting for continued existence in the face of social and economic woes. Unemployment, welfare dependency and poverty have replaced restaurants, clubs and hotels.

"Idlewild is a microcosm of the larger U.S. society," says Walker. "It is emblematic of the collective history of a people who have faced insurmountable odds, yet survived; a people who have made

enormous contributions to the growth and development of a nation, yet are despised by many because of the color of their skin."

"Idlewild was more than a place," asserts Wilson. "It became known as the Black Eden. As many as 25,000 people would come up there during the height of the summer season, and its clubs, juke joints and bars became a finishing school for those who became heavies in the black music culture."

Wilson, who was first drawn to Idlewild as a graduate student examining the state's African American communities, has made the former resort area the focus of his research for the past three decades. Walker caught Idlewild fever from Wilson, and the two began a four-year, collaborative investigation into the geographic, social, political and historical aspects of the community.

"Idlewild represents an aspect of the Black Experience that has not been as well explained as other parts of black life," says Walker. "Its rise to prominence as a stage for renowned black entertainers, the environment for thousands of vacationers, its rapid decline and its struggle to survive all recommended Idlewild as a prime candidate for a socio-historical investigation."

That investigation resulted in the book "Black Eden," which illustrates Idlewild's historical and cultural significance and its current plight. The book also examines the efforts being undertaken and still needed to help Idlewild thrive once again.

"To become 'a good community,' Idlewild must accept the definitional challenge and decide what it wants to become," Walker and Wilson write in "Black Eden." "Will it be primarily a retirement community? A black resort? A black historic community?"

"It'll probably be a combination of all of these," surmises Walker.

In the last two chapters of "Black Eden," Walker and Wilson outline measures that Idlewilders can take to help their community regain its prosperity. The authors point out that a number of factions are working on different plans to kick-start redevelopment in the community, but that these efforts are disjointed and do not take advantage of available resources.

"The most important thing is that they establish a vision and a comprehensive plan. A community cannot be revitalized in a piecemeal fashion," says Walker. "They also need to take advantage of the resources available to them. The community is part of a federally designated enterprise zone, FiveCAP [a local community action program] that has an attractive revolving loan program to stimulate economic growth, and there is a coalition of concerned citizens keenly interested in revitalization."

The authors conclude that their analysis of the community shows it is headed in the right direction and that while long gone, Idlewild's prosperous past holds a key to its future.

"There appears to be a genuine interest among people with substantial influence and resources as the socio-historical story of Idlewild becomes known to outsiders," says Walker. "I think one can easily be optimistic about the future prospects of Idlewild."

Women aviators make third try at 2,100-mile Air Race Classic

Two WMU women aviators took off June 18 on a more than 2,100-mile air race that dates back to the days of Amelia Earhart.

The race—the 2002 Air Race Classic—began June 18 in Silver City, N.M., and will conclude tomorrow, June 21, in Chesapeake/Portsmouth, Va.

This is the third consecutive year WMU aviators have entered the all-woman event that first was held in 1929 as the Women's Air Derby. Amelia Earhart was the first president of the 99s, the organization that began the race. The event is made up of two-person teams from around the nation. This year, 40 teams are registered to compete in the event.

The WMU team is composed of senior Michelle Glisan, an aviation flight science

major from Byron, Ill., and Michelle Homister, a flight instructor in the College of Aviation and a 2001 graduate of the University's aviation program who was a member of the 2001 Air Race Classic team. The pair is flying a sophisticated Mooney Ovation aircraft in this year's race. The Kellogg Co. of Battle Creek is sponsoring the team, and additional support has come from Aerox Aviation Oxygen Systems.

Entrants fly under visual flight rules during daylight hours and all fly fixed wing aircraft. Since many types of planes are used to compete in the race, each plane is given a handicap in ground speed, and aviators earn points by surpassing that speed. The WMU participants have enlisted the aid this year of a weather special-

ist in Georgia who will be able to help them find the best tailwinds over the course of the race. Before arriving in New Mexico for the start of the race, Glisan and Homister flew the planned course in reverse to familiarize themselves with the terrain to be covered.

Teams are racing their planes from Silver City, N.M., to Las Vegas, N.M.; then on to Burlington, Colo.; Ponca City, Okla.; Hot Springs, Ark.; Fayetteville, Tenn.; and Winnsboro, S.C.; before finishing in Chesapeake/Portsmouth, Va.

For a map of the race route, go to <www.faa.gov/NTAP/NTAP02MAY16/SP02019.HTM>. For more information about the 99s and the air race, go to <www.ninety-nines.org/arcwhy.html>.

Ramptown

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trates the strength that emerges when state agencies, local historians, community organizations and university scholars come together to document local, state, national and international aspects of the Underground Railroad."

The WMU team began last October narrowing a list of possible sites for Ramptown. Amanda Campbell, WMU graduate student and the manager for the project, pored through piles of maps and other historical documents and conducted interviews with Ramptown descendants. Prior research conducted by Virginia Springsteen, an 82-year-old Vandalia resident and local historian, her brother Warren Wooden, and Veta Tucker of Grand Valley State University, was instrumental in helping Campbell whittle down Ramptown's potential locations. In 1995, Springsteen and Wooden found the first archaeological artifacts believed to have come from Ramptown.

This spring, the WMU team surveyed a number of those possible sites, looking for and finding traces of domestic households. Most of those sites were located in agricultural fields being plowed in preparation for planting, which made the search for artifacts a little easier.

"We found pottery shards and ceramics that are contemporaneous with Ramptown's time period, nails, and bricks that could be from the construction of the cabins, potentially from chimneys or hearths," says Campbell.

The artifacts were found in what Nassaney describes as a "scattered distribution pattern" rather than in one large cluster, which would have indicated a single, established residential area. The locations of the artifacts showed a pattern consistent with cabins that would have been located on five or 10-acre plots at the corners of roads.

"We found eight clusters of artifacts that we could identify as possibly belonging to Ramptown residents. Looking at old maps, we were able to find the land that Quakers owned and ascertain that the sites where we found artifacts would have been on those properties," says Nassaney.

WMU archaeologists will spend the next year analyzing the Ramptown artifacts and, Johnson says, the information from the analysis will be integrated into Michigan Historical Center publications, museum exhibits and educational programs. The search for Ramptown is part of a larger effort by the state to promote and preserve the history of the Underground Railroad in Michigan. These efforts also are in concert with work being conducted by the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.

For the Underground Railroad Foundation in Vandalia, the findings by WMU archaeologists are a solid confirmation of the existence of Ramptown, which until now had lived on only in stories passed down through generations.

"It's a story that has been told and told and told, but we needed artifacts to confirm it," says Mose-Ursery. "Deep in my heart, I knew it was there."

National stroke quilt comes to Unified Clinics event tomorrow

A quilt representing the stories of 35 stroke survivors from around the nation will be on display at 1 p.m. tomorrow, June 21, at WMU's Unified Clinics in the University Medical and Health Sciences Center at 1000 Oakland Drive.

The quilt, which usually hangs in the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's National Center in Dallas, is being shown at various locations around Michigan this spring and summer. Its afternoon at the Unified Clinics is the first public viewing scheduled during the quilt's three-week stop in Kalamazoo. The WMU appearance is planned in conjunction with WMU's Aphasia Awareness Month readings that also begin at 1 p.m.

Calendar

The master calendar maintained by the Office of University Relations for use in Western News is available through WMU's home page on the World Wide Web. Select WMU News and then look for Calendar of Events. You can also link directly to the calendar at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events>.

JUNE 2002

6.20 Thursday

Retirement reception for Pat Weber, finance and commercial law, 3:30-5:30 p.m., 2150 Schneider Hall

6.21 Friday

Aphasia Awareness Month readings, "Balancing Your Life," delivered by people with aphasia, Unified Clinics, 1000 Oakland Drive, 1 p.m.

6.26 Wednesday - spring session ends.

Summer session begins, classes begin at noon.

6.29 Saturday

Commencement, Miller Auditorium; arts and sciences, aviation, engineering and applied sciences, health and human services, 9 a.m.; business, education, fine arts, University studies, 11:30 a.m.

6.30 Sunday

End of the 2001-02 University year.

JULY 2002

7.1 Monday

Start of the 2002-03 University Year.

7.4 Thursday - U.S. Independence Day

WMU offices closed. No classes.

*Admission charged