WMU looking for former women varsity athletes

All former and current female varsity athletes will be invited to a special reunion celebration during the Women’s Reunion Committee’s efforts to identify and locate former female varsity student-athletes. Anyone with information about these athletes should contact Kim Theriault in athletic corporate relations at 7-2057. There is also a form on the Web at <www.wmich.edu/centennial/women/> that may be used to send information.

Admissions event set to honor students who enlist in military

While admission each summer is focused on the increasing numbers of high school seniors who choose to enroll in the U.S. Army, the 1878-79 will be awarded letters during the celebration. The Varsity Women’s Reunion Committee is working to identify and locate former female varsity student-athletes. Anyone with information about these athletes should contact Kim Theriault in athletic corporate relations at 7-2057. There is also a form on the Web at <www.wmich.edu/centennial/women/> that may be used to send information.

University Chorale takes international prize

Under the direction of conductor Joe Miller, the University Chorale recently was named grand prize winner of Europe’s Fourth International Robert Schumann Choral Competition.

Thirty-nine choirs from 16 countries were selected from recorded auditions to participate in the three-day competition in early April 16-19 in Zweikau, Germany. A panel of judges from Germany, Hungary, Russia and Sweden adjudicated the compulsory round and a final competition of compulsory round winners from each of several categories. For the compulsory pieces, the University Chorale competed in “Difficulty Level IV,” the highest level of the mixed choir (male and female voices) category. The chorale won the category, receiving six gold medals in the process.

The final competition of category winners included two freely chosen a cappella pieces. The judges awarded grand prizes to two ensembles, a semi-professional group from Germany and the WMU University Chorale. The chorale is the first ensemble from the United States to receive the grand prize in the history of the festival. In addition to receiving a cash prize of $2,500, the University Chorale was selected to perform at the final award ceremony. Nations represented at this year’s competition were Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, South Africa, Ukraine, Hungary and the United States.

WMU garners $7.7 million in grant funding during March and April

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Held every four years, the Robert Schumann Choral Competition is part of the “Musica Mundii” series of European festivals and competitions. Musica Mundii brings together maestros and semi-professional choirs in different categories and levels of difficulty. The festival series has earned a worldwide reputation through approximately 50 events involving more than 100,000 participants from nearly 70 countries since 1988.

Devoted to choral master works, the University Chorale’s select membership of 32 voices is chosen by audition. In addition to performances on campus and throughout the United States, the group tours and performs internationally at least once every three years. Competing in the Schumann competition was part of a two-week European tour by the chorale, which performed in Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands.

WMU garners $7.7 million in grant funding during March and April

More than $7 million in grant funding was announced during March and April, according to a report presented to the WMU Board of Trustees at its May 17 meeting.

The total of $7,724,944 was received during the two-month period, bringing the total of grants received by the University since the July 1 start of the fiscal year to $36,463,912.

The largest grant received during this period was a $3 million award to continue research into the interactions of x-ray photons with atoms, molecules and ions. The engineering technology program is being conducted by the University’s Micro-Electrical Mechanical System, or MEMS.

A number of grants were received to support established programs or projects at WMU. C. Dennis Simpson, community health services and director of WMU’s Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and James Kendrick, community health services, received $1,464,000 from the Michigan Department of Corrections to continue providing substance abuse treatment services for prisoners, parolees and probationers at state correctional facilities. In addition, British Airways awarded the University’s College of Aviation $54,400 for an initial pilot training of the airline’s cadets through the college’s International Pilot Training Centre.

The National Science Foundation awarded WMU researchers a number of grants totaling more than $870,000. A. R. Gallick, evaluation, received $569,412 to continue assess student efforts of the NSF’s Advanced Technological Education Program, which promotes improvement in technological education at the two-year college and secondary school levels.

Robert J. Lenewey, teaching, learning and leadership, was awarded $149,995 to continue his research efforts into the viability of utilizing an e-learning Internet site to prepare community college students with disabilities for careers in information and technology. Grants to fund programs that provide research opportunities for undergraduates were awarded to Osman Abdulayeh, construction engineering, materials engineering and industrial design; Susan R. Stapleton, chemistry, and Stephen B. Malcolm, biological sciences.

Other grants received during the report period include the following:

- A $267,875 award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the college’s Center of Excellence in Health Information Technology, $20,000 to Donna M. Weinreich, community health services, to prepare allied health students to work with an aging and culturally diverse population.

A grant for $204,127 from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services also awarded WMU researchers a number of grants totaling more than $870,000. Arlen Lentz, construction engineering, was awarded nationally in an annual competition the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for Minorities, one of two dissertation fellowships she was granted this year.

A $119,151 to Donna M. Weinreich, community health services, to prepare allied health students to work with an aging and culturally diverse population.

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For the 10th consecutive year, students in the School of Music have chalked up multiple awards in Down Beat magazine's annual Student Awards Competition. WMU students garnered for this awards highlight by three-award tally by guitarist Brett Farkas of Northville, Mich. Farkas won in the categories of Outstanding Graduate Performance, Outstanding Graduate Composer and, for Farkas’ rock group, The Zegree, which was in the Down Beat jazz group, the Brett Farkas Trio; and Blues/Pop/Rock Group, College Co-Winner, for Farkas’ rock group, Doc Brown. 

Farkas is a senior from Willow, formerly of Battle Creek, a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and a native of Ann Arbor. The Zegree arrangement of “Love Story” was performed by the Zegree arrangement of “Love Story” was performed by the Zegree arrangement of “Love Story” was performed by the WMU's Jazz Ensemble in April.

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Two-state confab to focus on 4,700 miles of St. Joe River watershed

With more than 4,700 square miles stretching over 14 counties in Michigan and Indiana, the St. Joseph River watershed is a pivotal natural resource that presents a variety of management challenges. Those challenges will be discussed in a bivariate conference on the watershed to be held Monday and Tuesday, June 10-11, in South Bend, Ind.

The University’s Environmental Institute is convening the “State of the St. Joseph River Watershed Conference” at the Century Center Convention Complex, 120 South St. Joseph St. in South Bend. The conference will provide a forum to exchange information on the watershed; discuss issues from pollution and economics to public health and geology; and review programs, policies and institutions responsible for managing the basin.

Participants are expected from federal, state and local organizations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, Michigan and Indiana environmental management agencies, and nongovernmental organizations concerned with the watershed’s health.

Located in a highly agricultural area, the St. Joseph River watershed is one of the chief sources of Atrazine and other herbicides. Atrazine is a pesticide that can impair an individual’s speech, mobility and other everyday capacity. It is an acquired language disorder that has a devastating effect on language abilities, including speech, listening, reading and writing. It usually strikes suddenly and is typically associated with strokes. Though more than one million Americans suffer from aphasia—more than either muscular dysphagia or Parkinson’s disease—very few people know about it.

The event is being presented through the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology with help from the Kessig Giddings Aphasia Awareness and Education Fund. Giddings, a former client of the Charles Van Riper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic, will present the readings. The readings are from plays written by people with the disorder and include segments of “The Traveler” by Jean下调au van Halter, “Struck Dumb” by Joseph Chaikin and “Night Sky” by Suzy Yankowitz. Aphasia is a neurological disorder that can impair an individual’s speech, mobility and other everyday capacity. It is an acquired language disorder that has a devastating effect on language abilities, including speech, listening, reading and writing. It usually strikes suddenly and is typically associated with strokes. Though more than one million Americans suffer from aphasia—more than either muscular dysphagia or Parkinson’s disease—very few people know about it.

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On Campus with Jim Abe

A ruptured Achilles tendon from playing flag football and three months of sick leave from a high-powered job amounted to a reality check for Jin Abe, who landed at WMU in 1996 after leaving BMW. He earned a master’s degree in counselor education and now is studying for a Ph.D. in student affairs in higher education. He hopes to put his experience to work on both sides of the Pacific.

“I want to be able to help international students maximize their potential,” says Abe, who eventually will return to his native Japan with his wife, Mari, and daughters Jun, 3, and Mei, 1.

Adept at running around campus or running marathons, the self-proclaimed football fanatic is busy chasing the pigskin. Each fall, he officiates junior varsity games for the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and returns to Minnesota for at least one Vikings game. “Football and I are inseparable,” he says. “Look it did it all my career.”

Aphasia awareness is goal of June 21 event sponsored by family of former WMU client

An educational event at WMU will teach people about the little-known condition of aphasia and commemorate National Aphasia Awareness Month. At 1 p.m. Friday, June 21, the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology will offer a series of readings delivered by people with aphasia. The event will take place in the United States and International College of Arts and Sciences from 1973 to 1978, and coordinator of graduate science education from 1966 to 1972.

A native of Holland, Holkeboer is an alumnus of Hope College and earned master’s and doctoral degrees from Purdue University.

Holkeboer

Obituary

Paul E. Holkeboer, professor emeritus of chemistry, died May 26 in Holland, Mich. He was 74.

Holkeboer retired from WMU in 1988, after serving at the University for 35 years. During his tenure, he was a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry and served as the university coordinator of academic advising from 1978 until his retirement. He also held positions as the acting director of admissions in 1984, director of academic advising and the College of Arts and Sciences from 1973 to 1978, and coordinator of graduate science education from 1966 to 1972.

A native of Holland, Holkeboer is an alumnus of Hope College and earned master’s and doctoral degrees from Purdue University.
Haworth marketing team nabs second place

Four WMU seniors rolled to a second-place finish last month in a national competition sponsored by the American Marketing Association.

The Haworth College of Business students made up one of eight developing strategies and fine-tuning their presentation," Larson says. "Obviously, we're very proud of them for making such an impressive showing on the national level. There was some external feedback, but nothing sum- marized leadership theories in a clear and straightforward way that students could grasp.

Peter Northouse says teaching leadership principles should be simple

A WMU professor of communication and researcher of leadership principles, Northouse recognized that when it came to teaching leadership, a prevalence of heavy academic jargon was used, but nothing sum- marized leadership theories in a clear and straightforward way that students could grasp.

So he wrote "Leadership: Theory and Practice" in 1997 to meet that need and watched as his book has gained national and international recog- nition, had a second edition printed, and been translated into several languages, in- cluding Chinese, Korean, French and Ara- bic. A best-selling book for Sage Publica- tions, "Leadership: Theory and Practice" is in use at more than 250 colleges and uni-

Apparenly, Northouse's philosophy of clarifying complex theories has resonated with those teaching leadership around the globe. In his text, Northouse seeks to bridge the gap between simplistic popular- approaches to leadership and more abstract theoretical approaches.

"Underneath it all, I would argue that the leadership field has suffered from the notion that everything is leadership and it's a highly valued process exemplified by a prevalence of heavy academic lingo- jargon. Many colleges and universities are not using leadership theories in their operations training," says Colvin. "The critiques of each approach to leadership theory and practice offer insights on strengths and weaknesses. The case study and question- style text helps bring the reader into the material to life."

In developing the book, Northouse, who has been at WMU since 1974, enlisted the help of a number of colleagues who contributed chapters on topics including women and leadership and the psychody- namic and team approaches to leadership. "I looked for people that I knew were experts in their area and could write in the style that I thought would be useful," says Northouse.

Promotional strategies, according to Ronald B. Larson, marketing and coach of the team. "These students put in many long hours researching the industry, designing strategies and fine-tuning their presentations," Larson says. "Obviously, we're very proud of them for making such an impressive showing on the national level. There was some external feedback, but nothing summarized leadership theories in a clear and straightforward way that students could grasp."

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All of the students' attention has been turned to the written marketing plan that led the group to the national level: Amy Scott, Kevin Butler, Mike Riegling and Nicole Stein.

Calendar

The master calendar maintained by the Office of University Relations for use in Westnile is available at the University's homepage on the World Wide Web. Select WMI News and then look for Calendar of Events. You can also link directly to the calendar at www.wmich.edu/wmi/events/.

JUNE 2002

6.8 Wednesday

Reunion Weekend, 50th reunion for the Class of 1952 and annual meeting of Golden; Associate, Bernard Center and other locations. To register or for more information, call the McKeth Alumni Center at 7.