Mesaba expands aviation hiring agreement

Northwest Airlink's Mesaba Airlines has expanded its relationship with the University's College of Aviation, signing a new agreement with the college that will put even more WMU graduates on the fast track to employment as Mesaba flight officers.

A Mesaba official traveled to WMU's flight facilities in Battle Creek April 12 to sign a new agreement that will allow WMU graduates to fulfill the airline's multi-linguage flight-time requirement for pilot candidates by completing the University's Jet Orientation Course. That intense four-week course, which is conducted on the college's Boeing 737-type flight-training device, has been offered at WMU for the past 18 months and already has been completed by a number of WMU domestic flight students and cadet pilots being trained at the University for British Airways and Emirates Airlines.

Joe Restifo, director of flight operations for Mesaba, came to Battle Creek for the signing and to speak at the National Intercollegiate Flight Association's Region III competition held at WMU April 9-13. The new agreement was originally scheduled for signing on Sept. 11, 2001, Restifo and a Mesaba colleague were flying to WMU when terrorist attacks halted all U.S. flights. The agreement was subsequently postponed due to an industry-wide slowdown.

"This is a tremendous validation of the quality of the training taking place at WMU," says Gregory A. Lyman, dean of the College of Aviation. "It's been a difficult few months for the country, but Mesaba is looking at the public's return to regular flying and the airline's future needs for strong pilot candidates. They have indicated great appreciation for the caliber of WMU graduates who already have been hired, and now, after reviewing our Jet Orientation Course, Mesaba officials have told us it provides the level of flight experience they are seeking for future hiring."

To have an inside track in hiring the highest caliber pilots available, Mesaba became the college's first domestic airline partner nearly three years ago when it launched a "bridge training and hiring program." It has hired more than 32 WMU alumni since the first agreement was signed in August 1999, and airline officials have made repeated trips to the college to interview and test WMU-trained pilot prospects. Under the earlier agreement, Mesaba streamlined its hiring requirements for those who had completed aviation training at WMU, significantly modifying the flying time requirements for the pilots.

The new agreement further modifies requirements that must be met by candidates by allowing the Jet Orientation Course to take the place of a 100-hour multi-linguage flight-time requirement that was part of the previous agreement.

"Mesaba recognizes the overall experience and training that pilots are able to receive through Western Michigan University," says Restifo. "We're offering our support by guaranteeing a job interview for all who successfully complete WMU's aviation flight science program and satisfy our criteria. Upon successful completion of the interview process, WMU graduates will be offered conditional employment opportunities."
Youth Arts Festival, Gilmore event join forces

The Michigan Youth Arts Festival at WMU has joined forces with the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival to bring one of the world's rising young pianists to campus as the festival's artist-in-residence.

Kirlin Conreen, one of two recipients of the 2002 Gilmore Young Artist Award, will perform for participants during the youth festival's opening ceremony today and will conduct a master class Saturday morning. Conreen also will lead an informal workshop session for student participants to answer questions about their future careers.

Those and many more activities are on tap Thursday through Sunday, May 9-11, when more than 1,000 of the state's finest young artists gather for the 40th annual Michigan Youth Arts Festival on the WMU campus. The festival honors Michigan high school students gifted in the areas of dance, drama, instrumental and vocal music, visual arts, creative writing, and film/video.

Events open to the public include an art exhibition in the Dalton Center Multi-Media Room that opens at 10 a.m. today and will be available for viewing on Friday and Saturday as well. A series of public performances will begin at 1 p.m. Friday. A complete schedule of events open to the public is available online at <http://www.wmich.edu/youthfestival/wnfaa>. Unusual bug this year is a unique tall single screen for young musicians. Today, it is a comprehensive arts spectacular, featuring a nation search for the finest artistic talent in Michigan high schools. More than 60,000 students across the state have become involved in the adjudication process that results in more than 1,000 students being invited to participate in the annual three-day festival.

This is the 18th year WMU has served as host to the event, which is sponsored in part through funding from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Western Michigan University, the Michigan Arts Council, One of Michigan; Pavi Iota Xi, Eta Omicron Chapter; Howard Printing; Siegfried Crandall Vos & Lewin; Jaws Foods; D & W Food Centers; and the Coca-Cola Bottling Company. Honorary chairman for this year's festival is William Anderson, director of the new Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries. Appointed by Gov. John Engler in August 2001, he recently retired from a 33-year career in higher education, including 21 years as president of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Ill., and West Shore Community College, located between the cities of Muskegon and Manistee.

"Arts implant a spirit and enrich the human soul," Anderson says. "Broad cultural interest keeps life interesting, helps us be more discerning and builds a capacity for openness and receptivity for differences of all kinds."

YWCA to honor three from WMU at 'Women of Achievement' event

Three University women will be honored this evening at the YWCA's Women of Achievement Award Celebration.

Later this month, Kathy Bottum, Arts and Sciences Dean Elise Jorgens and hon- or student Shanna Dietz will be recognized at a luncheon Thursday at the Radisson Hotel Boardroom for their accomplishments in helping to recognize the community's outstanding women and to increase awareness of their accomplishments.

Bottum is one of the YWCA's four Women of Achievement for 2002. A staff member at the University since 1988, Bottum has been an athletic director since 1997. She is currently one of only seven women athletic directors in Division I-A.

Bottum oversees 20 teams with 500 student athletes, almost evenly divided between men and women. In 2000, she was cited as one of the top 20 women administrators in the nation by Steve Martin of Sports Business Journal.

"Kathy's outgoing, enthusiastic and charming personality consistently contributes to her success," said her nominator.

"She seems to possess genuine qualities, however, is a woman who is a capable, dynamic administrator and whose leadership qualities reach far beyond Kalamazoo." Bottum is active in a number of regional and national sports organizations, and she is currently chairperson of the NCAA Olympic Sports Liaisons Committee. In addition to her professional activities, Bottum is chair of the women's sports volunteering committee, having donated her time to a number of community organizations.

The YWCA's Women of Achievement event, sponsored by the YMCA Women's Opportunity Award April 6 from the American College of Greece, was named one of the top 50 women administrators in the nation by Steve Martin of Sports Business Journal.

The daughter of two Latvian immigrants, the relationship was celebrated at a luncheon early last month.

Marking the occasion were, from left, WMU President Elson S. Floyd; Michael B. Mins, chaplain of industrial and manufacturing engineering, Theresa B. Lowrey, the 2002 Clas- sifying Scholarship winner, and Clasising President Bill Hancock. (Photo by Neil Raneki)

Birmingham, Wiest join staff in key campus catering and conference service roles

WMU has landed two experienced service professionals for its catering and conference divisions.

Sarah L. Wiest is the University's new catering manager, replacing Shanty Glaser, who has moved to a new position in the Office of the President. Kathleen M. Wiest has replaced Les Roberts, who retired at the end of 2001, as conference su- pervisor in the Fetzer Center. Both women recently began working in their new positions.

Brigham oversees conferences and department, which employs three managers, six supervisors and some 130 student serv- er. She comes to WMU from the Anaway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Mich., where she worked since 1990 as a confer- ence manager for concession services.

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Birmingham oversees conferences and department, which employs three managers, six supervisors and some 130 student servers. She comes to WMU from the Anaway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Mich., where she worked since 1990 as a conference manager for concession services.

In that role, she coordinated sales for private and corporate events, coordinating clients from initial site inspection through payment ar- rangements. Brigham also has experience as an events planner in Grand Rapids and as a staff member at Walnut Creek Country Club in South Lyon, Mich.

Wiest manages logistics for the Fetzer Center's conference clients, a job that includes oversight of building management, individu- al equipment and food service. She also manages two services offices. In addition to her position at WMU, Wiest worked for 22 years at Michigan State University's Kellogg Bio- logical Station in HICKORY CORNERS, Mich. From 1985 to 2000, she was the education program coordinator and assistant confer- ence manager there.

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Newly retired Seiler feted for lifetime's work

Thomas H. Seiler, emeritus in English and medieval studies, has been honored as one of the first recipients of WMU's Outstanding Service to Medieval Studies given by the Centers and Regional Asso- ciation, a standing committee of the Medieval Academy of America.

Seiler received the award April 6 at the Medieval Academy of America's Annual Meet- ing in New York City. CARA consists of more than 900 medieval pro- grams across North America, and the award is given to recognize individuals who have provided leadership in develop- ing, organizing, promoting and sponsoring medieval studies.

Seiler, who retired in January after more than three decades at WMU, was honored for his many contributions to the field of medieval studies, including serving as managing editor of the University's Medieval Institute Publi- cations. Seiler is credited with making Medieval Institute Publications, the journal Society for Engineering Education's Specialized journals, Studies in Iconography and The Yearbook of Langland Studies. He was the co-editor of "The Study of Chivalry."

Copeland leads U.S. Latvians

Dace Copeland, College of Engineer- ing and Applied Sciences, has been elected president of the American Latvian Association.

Copeland was elected April 27 at the ALA Congress annual meeting in Covington, Ky. She will serve for one year, becoming the first woman presi- dent. President's office will be held in the Kalamazoo legislature. The daughter of two Latvian immigrants, Copeland grew up speaking Latvian and has spent much of her adult life transmitting that knowledge to others. She taught at Kalamazoo's Latvian Saturday school for 25 years, serving as the principal for 10 years during that time.

Copeland became active in the ALA's national organization three years ago when she was elected vice president/first vice president and served three consecutive terms as director of the ALA Education and Scholarships Division.

Engineering educator honored

Joshein Moussavinezhad, chairperson of electrical and computer engineering, was honored in a ceremony for his contributions to the cause of engineering education.

He received the Distinguished Service Award, recognizing individuals who have made significant and sustained leadership and service to the North Central Section.
The following vacancies are currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by the Human Resource Services Department. Interested beneficiaries and eligible employees should submit a job application form 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 7-3769 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 now available, but will be posted in the future. For persons interested in future 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 at 7-3769 for up-to-date information on the Job Opportunity Program and vacancies available to external applicants.

(R) Office Associate, 13, Center for Teaching and Learning, 01/02-2934, 5/6-5/13/02
(R) Assistant Professor/Instructor (terminal position), 8/1/03, 180/GGOC, School of Music, 01/02-2935, 5/6-5/13/02
(R) Web Manager, 19, Office of University Relations, 01/02-2971, 5/6-5/13/02
(R) Parking Enforcement Officer, 10, Public Safety, 01/02-2939, 5/6-5/13/02
(R) Parking Enforcement Officer, 10, Public Safety, 01/02-2939, 5/6-5/13/02
(R) Carpenter, ST2, Plant-Maintenance, 1/22-2940, 5/6-5/13/02
N=Now R=Replacement WMU in an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Obituaries

Robert H. Anderson, emeritus in chemistry, died March 6 in Kalamazoo. He was 77.

Anderson retired in 1989 after 32 years at the University. Prior to coming to WMU, he was an assistant research specialist at Rutgers University for two years.

He was active in the American Chemical Society throughout his career, serving as chairman and treasurer of the Kalamazoo section. He also was active in the Michigan Academy and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

A native of Kansas, Anderson earned his bachelor's degree from Baker University and his master's and doctoral degrees from Columbia University.

On Campus with Connie Bashaw

Connie Bashaw has the look of someone who knows what she is talking about. That's because Bashaw, who sits on the first floor that students — and chancey, parents — see when they walk into WMU's Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Office.

"At WMU, it's a great place to work, given that one of her well-defined talents is "always being in a good mood."

"When you talk to someone who is in and having a bad day, it’s important to meet someone who is smiling and speaking nicely to you," says Bashaw. "That interaction alone can change your day."

In her current position, and in previous jobs, Bashaw has been able to do what she enjoys the most: talking to people and helping them.

The Galesburg native joined the WMU community in 1988 as a receptionist in Paper and Printing Science.

"I really loved it there," she says of her experience with students from places like Korea, Indonesia, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and other parts of the world. "When the international students came in, they spoke very little English. I enjoyed working to understand what they were saying and helping them with their needs."

She recalls one particularly moving experience during her CEBS days.

"A special moment was when I was working with an Iranian student, and part of it happened in a great place to work with," she says. "If it weren't for them, I would have failed from the start."

When she wasn't busy watching out for others, Bashaw watches birds, either at her home in Paw Paw or in the woods. She also enjoys reading romance novels.

Families sought to be hosts to University's international students

CEBS, the Career English Language Center for International Students at WMU, is seeking University employees interested in hosting international students through its homestay program.

Students stay with families for one two-month session, a four-month semester or for a time that is mutually agreeable to the student and the family. Homestay hosts provide breakfast and dinner. A private bedroom is necessary, but bathroom may be shared.

Host families are compensated $450 per four-week period. For information call 624-1526 or e-mail to <homyestay@wmich.edu>.

Hearing screenings offered by HH5 clinic

In keeping with May being Better Hearing and Speech Month, free hearing screenings and hearing aid consultations are being offered to WMU faculty, staff and students through the Christian Medical Studies physicians and nurses.

The screenings are being offered by the Christian Medical Studies, Speech and Hearing Clinic, part of the College of Health and Human Services. The screenings are being provided pending availability of funding for the program.

Hearing screenings test separate people into two groups those who have no apparent hearing loss and those who need further evaluation. Hearing aid consultations provide an opportunity to discuss the possibility of hearing aids.

Screenings will be conducted in the Audiology Clinic on the fourth floor of the WMU United Clinics at 1000 Oakland Drive. Half-hour appointments are now available between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays through June 19.

Testing is conducted by or under the supervision of an audiologist, who holds the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

For an appointment, call 2-8047 and ask to schedule a free hearing screening or hearing aid consultation.
Fulbright awards take two to distant lands

Mangla relishes return to native land, chance to give back to Pakistani youth

When Inayat U. Mangla submitted his application last summer to go to Pakistan as a Fulbright scholar, he had no idea what a political upheaval would happen in his native country.

Post Sept. 11, with Fulbright offer in hand, he's more excited than ever about heading to the Islamic republic to study and teach fine arts at the Lahore University of Management Sciences, known as LUMS, and the final five months in Islamabad. In addition to the teaching, he viewsthe project as away for him to give back.

"It's my chance to repay the Pakistani people for the 'brain drain' that happens so often in developing countries when their most educated citizens leave for the West," he says. "I've spent three decades in North American universities as an artistic artist and I've made my mark around the globe, and I'm looking forward to returning to challenge the minds of Pakistani youth. There are scores of first-rate minds that need fresh direction and technical know-how. That should be good for all of us for a safer world."

Established in 1946, the Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational program sponsored by the U.S. government. Designed to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries," the Fulbright Program has provided more than 250,000 participants—chosen for their leadership potential—with the opportunity to observe each others' political, economic and cultural institutions, exchange ideas and embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world's inhabitants.

Bensley will go to South America to help school's health promotion program

Robert J. Bensley, health, physical education and recreation, has been granted a Fulbright to work at the University of Port Elizabeth in South Africa.

From February through July 2003, Bensley will work with the staff members of that university's student Union Council and help them develop a university-wide personal health curriculum. In addition, he will teach various workshops on health promotion issues, and explore ways to use Internet-based technologies for health behavior change. The goal, he says, is to "help to shape the way people live and help them develop a university wide personal health curriculum."

"It's my chance to apply what I now know about the Internet to a situation that mimics the United States 10 years ago is exciting," he says. "It is like stepping back in time but bringing all the knowledge you learned along with you with." Bensley says his eight-months in South Africa will also work to establish linkages between the University of Port Elizabeth and Western Michigan University for future health promotion research and education.

Bensley says he views the international program as offering "a whole new avenue for learning to faculty members." He joins the ranks of more than 94,000 U.S. "Fulbrighters" who have participated in the program over the past 56 years. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Under a cooperative agreement with the National Council for International Exchange of Scholars, Western Michigan University administers the administration of the Fulbright Scholar program for faculty and professionals.

Grunder award goes to illustrated medieval Bible text

A two-volume book that examines more than 24,000 small illustrations contained in versions of the Bible created for French royalty during the Middle Ages has been awarded a prestigious international medieval studies scholarship from WMU.

British researcher John Lowden, a reader in the history of art at the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London, received the 2002 Otto Grunder Prize for his book, "The Medieval Bibles Moralisees, Volume I and II." The $5,200 prize is named for the former director of the Medieval Institute, host to the world's largest annual gathering of scholars of medieval studies.

This year's event was held on campus May 2 through 5 and attracted some 3,500 participants.

Lowden's wife, Joanna Cannon, also a reader in the history of art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, won an Otto Grunder Scholarship for her book, "Kalamazoo: The Making of the Bibles Moralisees," which was published by the Institute in 2001. The book is devoted to the manuscripts on which these manuscripts were conceived and produced.

The Bibles Moralisees are considered one of the most complex efforts at biblical illustration ever undertaken. Created for French royalty between the early-12th and late-15th centuries, the manuscripts are eight drawn images, often quite small, accompanied by brief biblical text and moral strategies. Only seven of the Bibles Moralisees survive intact and the pages of those contain more than 24,000 images.

"The Making of the Bibles Moralisees" is significant for its new approach of investigating how these books were produced," says Paul Stambach, director of the Medieval Institute. "Many images, medieval texts and pages are looked at from a literary point of view. Lowden examines the Bibles Moralisees from the viewpoint of the scholar who used the manuscript's images to produce a written text." The book was published in 2000 by Pennsylvania State University Press. "The Making of the Bibles Moralisees" was chosen as the Otto Grunder Prize from a field of nearly 20 submissions.

College of Education honors nine for outstanding contributions

Whether they are working with the government in Latvia or with teachers at a local elementary school, faculty, staff and students from the College of Education are helping to shape the way people live and learn, and several of them were recently honored for their contributions to Western's "human rights and economic health, not to mention the virtues of democracy, a carrot to help these nations implement the values of democracy, a leader in health promotion and wants to establish academic health and well-being classes across the curriculum.

Bensley says he views the international program as offering "a whole new avenue for learning to faculty members." He joins the ranks of more than 94,000 U.S. "Fulbrighters" who have participated in the program over the past 56 years. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Under a cooperative agreement with the National Council for International Exchange of Scholars, Western Michigan University administers the administration of the Fulbright Scholar program for faculty and professionals.

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