



# Western NEWS

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## Japan's Consul General Ito to speak on campus this afternoon

Business relations between the world's two largest economic powers will be the focus of discussion when Japanese Consul General Makato Ito visits the University this afternoon.

Ito, who serves at the Japanese consulate's Detroit office, will discuss "U.S.-Japan Economic Relations" at 4 p.m. today, Thursday, April 11, in 2000 Schneider. An informal reception will follow his presentation, which is part of WMU's Japanese Business Speaker Series.

Ito began his diplomatic career when he joined Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs after graduation from Nagoya University. His service to his country has taken him from Tokyo to Thailand, Brazil and Canada. The diplomat's first tour of duty in the United States was as the deputy consul general at the Japanese consulate in Los Angeles. After returning to Tokyo for several years, he arrived in Michigan in late 2000 to take his current post.

The Consulate General of Japan in Detroit was permanently established in 1993 in recognition of the growing number of Japanese businesses and residents in Michigan and Ohio.

## Stufflebeam on federal panel

A WMU researcher will bring his expertise in professional standards development to the work of a federal advisory council charged with ensuring that good auditing and accounting measures are used by those spending U.S. taxpayers' money.



Stufflebeam

Daniel L. Stufflebeam, director of the Evaluation Center, has been appointed by the U.S. Comptroller General to the National Advisory Council on Government Auditing Standards. Stufflebeam is one of 10 new members appointed by Comptroller General David M. Walker to three-year terms on the 22-member panel.

The council is charged with working with the General Accounting Office to revise and guide the implementation of federal auditing standards, which are used in audits of federal, state and local government programs as well as in audits of entities that use federal funds. The GAO is an independent, nonpartisan branch of Congress designated to study the programs and expenditures of the federal government. It investigates how taxpayer dollars are spent and reports to Congress and the heads of executive agencies about ways to make government more effective and responsive.

Serving on the advisory council with Stufflebeam are the chief auditing executives for the states of Arizona, New Jersey, Rhode Island, North Carolina and Utah as well as the inspectors general for the Federal Reserve Board, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of Energy. Also on the council are a number of city, corporate and major accounting firm representatives.

## HHS gala to feature talk by Ted Kennedy Jr.

A Kennedy family scion who has devoted his career to being an advocate for the civil rights of people with disabilities will headline a gala 25th anniversary celebration Friday, April 12, for the College of Health and Human Services.

Ted Kennedy Jr., who currently practices law in New Haven, Conn., will be the keynote speaker at a special dinner celebration



Kennedy

set for 6:45 p.m. at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo. Some 250 community leaders, University administrators, and health and human service professionals as well as WMU alumni, faculty and staff are expected to attend the event, which is by invitation only.

Dean Janet I. Pisaneschi will preside over the evening's activities. Other highlights of the celebration will include recognition of 24 outstanding alumni from among the College of Health and Human Services' seven academic units. Those honored will include professionals who enjoy national reputations in such fields as blind rehabilitation, gerontology, holistic health care, occupational therapy, substance abuse treatment, the physician assistant profession, social work, and speech pathology and audiology.

At the celebration, Kennedy will deliver the college's annual Burian lecture, named for the late William A. Burian, who became the first dean of the college when it was established in 1976. Kennedy's address is expected to focus on health care policy in such areas as rehabilitation and social services.

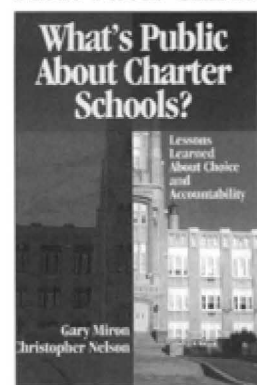
Since losing one of his legs to bone cancer in 1973 at the age of 12, Kennedy has devoted much of his personal and professional life to enhancing opportunities for those with disabilities. He has been a teaching fellow on disability policy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and served as executive director of Facing the Challenge, a nonprofit advocacy and public policy office on disability issues.

He serves on the National Policy Committee of the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund and was recently appointed by Connecticut Gov. John Rowland to serve on the board of that state's Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. A member of the research faculty of Yale University's School of Medicine, Kennedy has focused recently on the study of environmental factors that lead to disease and disability. He also is active in addressing the problem of pediatric lead poisoning, one of the leading known causes of mental retardation.

## Campus researchers find state's charter schools need more oversight

When it comes down to access and equity, student achievement, efficiency and oversight, Michigan's 184 charter schools often come up short.

So say Gary Miron and Christopher Nelson, authors of the new book "What's Public About Charter Schools? Lessons



Learned About Choice and Accountability." For the past five years, Miron and Nelson, researchers based in WMU's Evaluation Center, have been analyzing evidence from charter schools in

Michigan, home to one of the nation's most permissive charter school laws and host to nearly 60,000 youngsters enrolled in the public-private hybrid schools. Michigan's reform also is unique in comparison to other states' efforts in that 75 percent of Michigan's charter schools are operated by private for-profit companies.

In addition to presenting findings from their research, the noted charter school experts also weigh in on the current issue of whether Michigan should lift its cap on the number of university-authorized charters, now limited to 150 schools.

The charter school movement in Michigan grew too quickly to allow school founders and authorizers to get it right, the authors say. And legislators should not be too quick to lift the cap. Instead, policymakers ought to examine carefully the reasons for poor performance in charter schools, and close weak schools in order to make room for others with promising ideas.

"What we've learned is that charter schools, on the whole, are not working well in Michigan," Miron says. "This doesn't mean categorically, however, that charter schools don't work."

Instead, the problems with Michigan's charter schools—from a lack of diversity among students to paltry gains on standardized tests—are ones that can be fixed.

"The ultimate reason for charter schools to exist is to build achievement," says

Nelson. "What we're saying is let's look at the evidence and reassess what we're doing."

The researchers, who also have conducted studies of charter schools in Illinois, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Ohio, offer an array of findings that point to the failings of charter schools in the areas of diversity, access for students with special needs, test scores and professional opportunities for teachers.

## State Farm boosts financial services teaching

State Farm Insurance Company is contributing \$25,000 to support instruction in financial planning services in the University's Haworth College of Business.

"State Farm's generosity is crucial in helping us develop our curriculum in the important area of financial planning," says HCOB Dean James W. Schmotter. "The company is investing intellectually as well as financially in our efforts. Our students and business stakeholders will be the beneficiaries of this investment by State Farm."

One-half of the State Farm contribution will provide \$12,500 in annual support for the State Farm Professor of Financial Services in the Department of Finance and Commercial Law. An additional \$6,000 will support three scholarships for minority students pursuing studies in the area of financial planning services. The gift also will support a State Farm Executive-on-Loan, who will serve as an adjunct professor in the business college, and a State Farm Insurance and Financial Services Executive-in-Residence program. Executives-in-Residence will spend two to four days each on the WMU campus engaged in workshops and roundtable discussions with students.

"State Farm has a long history of supporting

At the same time, Miron and Nelson found that Michigan's charter schools fare better when it comes to customer satisfaction. The research suggests charter school students, parents and teachers seem generally happy with their schools' curricula.

The architects of the reform believed that charter schools could promote change in traditional public schools by developing and sharing innovations. "Our findings

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higher education, especially in areas of primary concern to our industry," says Mark Odland, a vice president for operations with the company. "We look forward to our partnership with Western Michigan University, and we realize that our loaned executives stand to learn a lot from this experience just as we expect the students will."

Odland, who is based in Marshall, Mich., and is a member of the advisory board for the Haworth College of Business, says one of the primary motivations for the gift is his firm's past experience in hiring WMU graduates.

"They have been among our top employees, and we look forward to recruiting at

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LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR—Gathered during the State Farm gift announcement are, from left, Ed Edwards, chairperson of finance and commercial law; Dean James W. Schmotter, Haworth College of Business; and State Farm executives Vincent J. Trosino and Mark Odland. (Photo by Neil Rankin)



# Chinese profs study MBA teaching strategies

The international renown of the Haworth College of Business MBA program and the accomplishments of one of its faculty have lured two Chinese scholars to the University for a two-month visit.

Nie Fengying and Wei Xiu Fen arrived last month to consult with Roger Tang, the Pharmacia Chair in Business Administration, and to observe American MBA teaching methods. Nie and Wei are involved in planning one of their nation's first agribusiness master's programs, which will be taught in Beijing and Tianjin, China. The program is being planned in cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and is sponsored by Winrock International, a nonprofit organization that supports projects worldwide to increase economic opportunity, sustain natural resources and protect the environment.

"WMU is very experienced in MBA education, and both Dr. Tang and the University's program are famous in China," says Nie, who is an associate professor and deputy director of the Department of Information Research at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing. "We have come here to learn directly from Professor Tang and to observe the U.S. teaching style. In the U.S., MBA classes are smaller and students interact with the professor more than in China, where it's mostly lecture format. In my country, we don't always have a lot of case studies to share with our students. Here, the MBA students not only learn the knowledge intellectually, but they also get hands-on experience in how to handle real business problems."

Nei and Wei, who is an associate professor at Tianjin Agricultural College, also will play host to Tang in June, when he visits their cities to teach two management accounting courses in the agribusiness program, which will be launched in May. During their

stay in Kalamazoo, the Chinese scholars will be working with Tang to develop his course material.

"With the Chinese economy growing so quickly, there is a great need for MBA graduates in that country, especially those who are



Roger Tang, accountancy, meets with Nie Fengying and Wei Xiu Fen of China.

fluent in both English and Chinese and who understand the differences in the cultures," says Tang, who was born in China, educated in Taiwan and the United States, and who will teach the courses in Chinese. "Some people estimate that there's a demand for as many as

350,000 MBAs right now. That may even be a low estimate. If you consider that there are more than 100,000 foreign-owned enterprises operating in China right now, and if each of them needed just three MBA-level executives, that alone would account for the reported demand. Today, even U.S. universities are producing only about 180,000 MBAs each year, and China educates only a few thousand. The expansion over the next decade will be huge."

## Preserving groundwater quality is focus of campus efforts to fight storm water pollution

In an effort to protect groundwater quality and to be ahead of the curve when storm water regulations become effective next year, the University has undertaken several initiatives to eliminate storm water pollution on campus. Faculty, staff and students are being asked to help.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has granted the University's request for a Voluntary Storm Water Discharge Permit, which certifies WMU's plan for managing its storm water system. Having the permit will make it easier to transition to new regulations expected in Michigan next year as part of the Clean Water Act, according to Groundwater Education Specialist Jill Winkler.

The University's storm water system includes outdoor catch basins, curb inlets, roof drains and some 18 miles of underground piping. Unlike the sanitary sewer system that drains faucets and toilets, water in the storm system is not treated—it drains directly into Goldsworth Pond, Arcadia Creek or the city of Kalamazoo's storm water system, and eventually into the Kalamazoo River. That makes it especially important that nothing but rain water run into the storm system, Winkler says.

"Anything we put into that storm water system can affect other life, and it also becomes part of the groundwater we drink,"

she notes. "We are fortunate to have so many more creeks, rivers and lakes in Michigan than in other states. We have a special responsibility as stewards. When you have something great, you're required to protect it as well as you can."

Members of the campus community can help in a number of ways, including reporting any substances released into storm drains or curb inlets as well as any suspected "illicit connections" in buildings: drains that should go to the sanitary sewer system but are inappropriately connected to the storm system instead. People are being asked to call Environmental Health and Safety if they suspect an illicit connection or if they see people dumping materials into the storm system. Faculty, staff and students also should use caution never to send anything into the storm water system themselves, including motor oil, soap, car wash water or pesticides.

The Division of Environmental Health and Safety, which is handling the storm water initiative, offers a number of services, including cleanup of hazardous waste spills, collection of certain chemical waste and training for employees on proper handling of hazardous wastes. For information or assistance, call 7-5590.

## Hilltoppers prepare to take on 'Phase II' of Prospect Hill cleanup initiative this Saturday

Volunteer members of a group dubbed "The Hilltoppers" will complete the second half of a project they began last fall by spending Saturday, April 13, removing debris and brush from the lower part of Prospect Hill on the University's East Campus.

After making a significant dent in the overall project last October, the group will be out again at 8 a.m. Saturday to finish the task of cleaning more than a decade's worth of shrubbery, "volunteer" trees and overgrowth from the bottom half of the historic hillside, which overlooks Kalamazoo and is the site of WMU's original buildings.

The Hilltoppers are hoping to draw more than 200 volunteers for what they are calling "Phase II" of the Prospect Hill cleanup effort. Last fall's work brought out at least that many volunteers, who removed debris from the top 25 feet of the hill, which is approximately 500 feet wide.

WMU staffers Gregory Moorehead, alumni relations; Mary Lou Brooks, blind

## Signing ceremony to make WMU-Peace Corps initiative official

Peace Corps Deputy Director Jody Olsen will join President Elson S. Floyd to make WMU's new Master of Development Administration-Peace Corps Option program official at a signing ceremony from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, April 22, in the Fetzer Center on the WMU campus.

Olsen and Floyd will sign an agreement establishing the program, which will prepare students to work in the public or nonprofit sectors of developing countries or for international development organizations. Students enrolled in the program will fulfill two-year overseas assignments as Peace Corps volunteers.

The signing ceremony will follow a panel discussion on "The Role of the Peace Corps in International Development," which will feature Olsen, former Peace Corps volunteers and WMU faculty members.

The 7 p.m. panel discussion and the signing event are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Paul Clements, political science and MDA-Peace Corps Option director, at 7-5699, or the Department of Political Science at 7-5680.

## Nine arts and sciences faculty members earn college honors

Nine WMU faculty members are the first to be recognized for their research, creative activities, teaching and service in a new awards program in the College of Arts and Sciences.

They received their awards, which included a certificate and \$500 to be used for travel or research costs, earlier this semester. Three awards each in the categories of teaching achievement, research and creative activity, and professional community service were given. The nine recipients were chosen from 18 nominations made by other members of the college's faculty.

The winners of the Teaching Achievement awards are: Dwayne Channell, mathematics; Jil C. Larson, English; and Peter Renstrom, political science.

The winners of the Research and Creative Activity awards are: Arthur W. Helweg, anthropology; Michelle Kominz, geosciences; and M. Scot Tanner, political science.

The winners of the Professional Community Service awards are: Linda L. Borish, history; William B. Harrison III, geosciences; and George Robeck, communication.

## Curtis-Smith lauded in NYC

Curtis Curtis-Smith, music, recently received a glowing review of his recent composition "Twelve Etudes" in the *New York Times*.

World-renowned pianist Bruce Levinston performed four of the etudes on April 1 in Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall along with pieces by the likes



Curtis-Smith

of Brahms, Debussy and Liszt. Two of the etudes, titled "Ghost" and "Passacaglia," were given their world premiere at the concert.

"Mr. Curtis-Smith takes up where Debussy's lonely, bleakly beautiful last music ends," wrote *Times* critic Bernard Holland in a review of the concert. "Yet these four pieces have a voice of their own. One hears ideas at work and a momentum that carries thoughts coherently and convincingly from first note to last."

The music hall has become something of a staging ground for Curtis-Smith's work. In September 2000, pianist Lori Sims, music, premiered seven of the etudes in her Lincoln Center debut. Holland also praised Curtis-Smith's work in a review of Sims' concert.

## Bosco feted for ed tech work

James Bosco, educational studies, recently was honored by the Consortium of School Networking for his contributions to the successful integration of



Bosco

technology in education for secondary and post-secondary schools.

While attending the CoSN's annual K-12 conference in Arlington, Va., Bosco was honored by Deb DeVries, one of the three co-founders of Making It Happen, a program that highlights the dramatic role educators are having on the learning process by using technology and rewards those individuals for their commitment and innovation.

Bosco was honored for his efforts to assist schools in using the latest in educational technology to improve student learning and achievement.

He is the former chairperson of the consortium and also has served as chairperson of the Technology Standards for School Administrators, a coalition of national, state and local education groups.



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DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding the publication date. Spring and summer 2002 publication dates are: May 9, May 23, June 6, June 20, July 11, July 25 and Aug. 8. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail ([cheryl.roland@wmich.edu](mailto:cheryl.roland@wmich.edu)).

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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** (terminal position ending 8/3/03, academic year), I40/I30, Political Science, 01/02-2902, 4/8-4/15/02

(R) **Assistant Professor** (terminal position ending 4/13/03, academic year), I30, Theatre, 01/02-2903, 4/8-4/15/02

(R) **Assistant/Associate Professor** (tenure track, academic year), I30/I20, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, 01/02-2904, 4/8-4/15/02

(R) **Assistant/Associate Professor** (tenure track, academic year), I30/I20, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, 01/02-2905, 4/8-4/15/02

(R) **Police Radio Dispatcher**, 14, Public Safety, 01/02-2906, 4/8-4/15/02

(N) **Post-Doctoral Research Associate** (terminal position ending 8/31/02, fiscal year), Q02, Psychology, 01/02-2908, 4/8-4/15/02

N= New

R= Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

## Service

The following employees will be recognized for 35, 30, 15, 10 and five years of service to the University during April.

**35 years**—Peter W. Krawutschke, foreign languages and literatures.

**30 years**—James Mort, assistant vice president for business; and Lowell P. Rinker, assistant vice president for business.

**15 years**—Terry R. Bettiga, physical plant-maintenance services; Arlene K. Buchanan, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Eugenia Buchanan, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Gilbert L. Douglas, physical plant-maintenance services; Mark Guilbault, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Timothy M. Holysz, physical plant-landscape services; Jacqueline R. Mills, cashiering; Richard Nabors, physical plant-maintenance services; Rosalie J. Nelsen, Development Office; Valerie K. Simmons, physical plant-landscape services; Curtis Steward, physical plant-maintenance services; and Jacqueline Wadsworth, Bernhard Center dining service.

**10 years**—Shannon R. Penny, occupational therapy; Pamela D. Ross, community health services; and Karen L. Severson, music.

**Five years**—Kathryn S. Corder, Academic Planning and Institutional Data; Kathy D. Gerow, University libraries; Charlotte L. Giscombe, Academic Skills Center; Robert W. Hampton, Employee Assistance Program; Janice K. Jaroneski, University Recreation; James Knowles, intercollegiate athletics; Daniel Joseph Miller, public safety; and Lori Niswander, dance.

## On Campus with Kim Nelson



SHE'S A DESIGN FORCE ON CAMPUS  
(Photo by Neil Simon)

In a cozy, corner office tucked away on the third floor of Walwood Hall, Vincent van Gogh and Darth Vader join forces to inspire graphic designer Kim Nelson.

A calendar featuring Impressionist painters and a mock poster of the intergalactic villain are just part of Nelson's office décor in University Relations, where she creates everything from vivid posters advertising campus events to intricate brochures promoting the latest in technology and research.

"We handle the visual image of the University, and reflect in the best light what Western is all about," says Nelson, who has been at WMU for three years.

A native of Kentucky's rural Appalachian region, Nelson has worked in graphic design for 12 years. Before coming to WMU, she worked for an advertising agency and a design firm and also worked on the design staff at the University of New Orleans.

Nelson, who says she loves working in the university setting, works with a variety of on-campus clients to promote events, programs and more.

She was the design force behind the WMU Foundation's 2002 keepsake calendar as well as its most recent annual report. She has worked to help create promotional materials for the Business Technology and Research Park, admissions, graduate student recruitment efforts and numerous special events.

Nelson admits that while she gets "the biggest rush during the design process," her work can be very challenging at times.

"The hardest thing about what I do is that it's subjective," she says. "When I create something for a specific assignment, people typically give me their feedback from a personal perspective."

"I've had people look at a design concept and say 'I really like it, but . . . ' and they might not like the shade of blue I chose to use, or the font or the way the letters are arranged."

On many of her projects, Nelson faces the challenge of pleasing multiple collaborators, committees and sponsors.

"As the designer, I have to be able to strike a balance between what's important to everyone involved in what's being created," she says.

A mother of two—Natalie, 2, and Nick, 4—Nelson has no problem striking a balance between work and home. When she isn't in the office, she and her husband Mark enjoy camping, hiking, inline skating and traveling.

## Obituaries

University officials have received word that **Dorothy McCuskey**, emerita in educational leadership, died in December at her home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She was 95.



McCuskey

McCuskey was a faculty member from 1957 until her retirement in 1973. During that time, she served as president of the WMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors and was a member of the board of directors of the National Association for Supervisors and Curriculum Development.

Prior to coming to WMU, she was a member of the U.S. Navy Reserves and taught at West Texas University, the University of North Carolina and Bowling Green State University.

She earned a bachelor's degree at the College of Wooster, a master's degree from Radcliffe College and a doctoral degree from Yale University.

**Edward A. Gabel**, emeritus in physical education and first swimming coach at the University, died Feb. 16. He was 94.

Following 25 years of service to WMU, Gabel retired in 1972. Two years later, he and the school's first hockey coach, Harry W. Lawson, were honored when the two halves of a new athletic facility were named Lawson Ice Arena and Gabel Natatorium for the respective pioneer in each sport.

Gabel began the men's swimming team as a club sport in 1956. The following year, it was elevated to varsity status. Gabel coached the team until 1970, compiling a dual-meet record of 105-49-2 and leading WMU to Mid-American Conference championships in 1963 and 1964.

Gabel earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and a master's degree from the University of Michigan. He was inducted into the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1987.



Gabel

**Mary L. Dawson**, health, physical education and recreation, died April 2 after battling cancer. She was 53.

Dawson, whose expertise was in the study of human movement, played a pivotal role in creating the exercise science emphasis on the undergraduate and graduate levels. An active researcher, she helped the department establish and maintain its laboratory facilities. She also was active on departmental, College of Education and University committees. From 1990 through 2001, she served on 46 of her department's thesis committees, chairing 31 of them.

Dawson graduated from WMU with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1969. She continued her education at Indiana University, where she earned a master's degree in physical education and a doctoral degree in biomechanics.

Prior to joining the WMU faculty in 1979, she taught at Indiana University, Kentucky Wesleyan College and in the Battle Creek (Mich.) Public Schools.

This year, she earned the WMU Alumni Association's annual Teaching Excellence Award. Details regarding services will be announced later.

**Sherrie M. Pearson**, an environmental control computer electronics specialist in physical plant, died March 30. She was 53.

A native of Lansing, she was a graduate of Michigan State University and Lansing Community College. Pearson joined the WMU staff in August 1999.

## Campus asked to go 'APES' for exercise

To promote the importance of physical activity, WMU will offer APES, "All People Exercising Simultaneously," to the campus community at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, in the common area between the Read Fieldhouse and Student Recreation Center.

The event, modeled after a similar program for children, is designed to draw participants from across campus for a 15-minute aerobic workout led by WMU gymnastics coach Terry Casperson.

"APES is the first step for students, faculty and staff who want to improve the quality of their lives," says Debra S. Berkey, chairperson of health, physical education and recreation. "The goal is to get as many people as possible exercising in one place to combat public enemy No. 1: physical inactivity."

The event is being organized by national honorary organization Phi Epsilon Kappa; University Recreation; and the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

## Exchange

**FOR SALE**—Ford Focus ZTS '00, green four-door sedan, auto, AC, CD, keyless. 23K. Below Blue Book at \$11,500. Call 7-8423.

## APA/PSSO luncheon set for April 19 in the Bernhard Center

The registration deadline for the annual APA & PSSO Spring Luncheon is tomorrow—Friday, April 12.

Members of the two employee associations—the Administrative Professional Association and the Professional Support Staff Organization—will gather from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 19, in the North Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Both organizations will present their annual member awards at the event.

A presentation by Laughter Works'

Kay Caskey of Lawton and Laurie Young of Decatur will be part of the event. The presenters operate a consulting business that emphasizes the use of humor as a coping device in stress management.

Collections for the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission and Kalamazoo Animal Rescue will be taken at the luncheon.

Reservations, with payment of \$10.25 for APA and PSSO members and \$12 for nonmembers, must be received by Kathy Wright, geosciences, by 5 p.m. Friday.





TEAM AMERITECH—SBC Ameritech's Frank Weathers, right, visited campus last month to present a \$50,000 check from the company's charitable giving arm to Dean David A. England, College of Education, for use in the Teacher Education Assistance for Minorities program. TEAM is aimed at helping WMU recruit and retain minority students in its teacher education programs. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

## Engineering designs by seniors shown April 16

An Internet-based home monitoring system, a GPS device for those with visual impairments and a new design for office work environments are among the projects that will be showcased on campus at the 30th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects Tuesday, April 16.

The event, set for 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Bernhard Center, will feature the work of 150 graduating seniors in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The 64 projects they have completed represent their solutions to real problems facing business and industry.

Nearly 30 corporate and agency sponsors, ranging from Argonne National Laboratory to the Whirlpool Corp., were involved in the April 2002 round of projects.

## Charter schools

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suggest that charter schools have largely not been successful in developing innovative practices. They are, however, proving to be a lever for change as they compete with districts for students," Miron says.

Increasingly, the traditional public schools are changing the way they relate to parents by adopting new programs, employing more marketing tactics and sharpening their missions, largely in response to the pressure brought by charter schools. Therefore, the change that is occurring is due to competition and not the replication of innovative programs which were found to be lacking in most charter schools.

While much of the book focuses on findings, it also presents readers with fundamental policy dilemmas associated with charter schools.

"How do you balance satisfaction versus achievement gains? Or quality versus equality?" Nelson asks. "And just how much value does choice carry? The charter school movement is a politically ambidextrous one," he says, referring to conservatives who see them as a precursor to vouchers, and on the other hand, liberals who view charter schools as a more palatable choice. "We're going to be talking about them for a long time."

Ultimately, "What's Public About Charter Schools?" is not a wholesale indictment of Michigan charter schools, but rather a resource for policymakers nationwide who want to learn from Michigan's experience.

"While we researchers are dealing with the many questions posed by the presence of charter schools," says Nelson, "it's up to the decision-makers and consumers to forget about the sacred cows, admit where there are problems and weaknesses, and make room for better schools."

In addition to their recently completed work, Miron and Nelson last year were awarded a \$400,000 federal grant to study charter schools nationwide and identify factors that drive their success and failures.

Miron and Nelson are affiliated with the WMU Evaluation Center, an international leader committed to advancing the theory and practice of evaluation in education and human services.

The new book is published by Corwin Press Inc. of Thousand Oaks, Calif. It is available at the WMU Bookstore and can be ordered through Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble bookstores.

## State Farm

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WMU for many years to come," he says.

Schmotter announced the gift during a recent visit to the University by senior State Farm executive Vincent J. Trosino, who was in Kalamazoo to deliver a presentation as part of Haworth's Distinguished Speaker Series. Trosino, who spoke on the subject "Leadership and Integrity in Business, Government and Societal Institutions," is president, chief operating officer and vice chairman of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co.

## Teaching jobs Friday's focus

A variety of job opportunities for teachers will be showcased at WMU during the 14th Annual Teacher Placement Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, April 12, in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

The event, which is free and open to the public, is designed to recruit teachers, administrators, psychologists, counselors, social workers and coaches for the 2002-03 school year. No pre-registration is required.

The job fair is being sponsored by the Van Buren Intermediate School District, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and the College of Education and Career and Student Employment Services at WMU.

## 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>.

### APRIL 2002

#### 4.11 Thursday

Exhibitions (through April 12), Graphic Design BFA Degree Shows for Brian Chojnowski, Casey McLellan, Matt Travis and Amanda Voss; East Hall Galleries, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, April 12, 5-7 p.m.

Exhibition (through April 19), photography by faculty members Wendy Babcox and Cybele Clark-Mendes, art, Sangren Hall Gallery II, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Brown-bag workshop, asthma management, Ric Underhile, Sindecuse Health Center, 157 Bernhard Center, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; to register, call 7-3263.

Business lecture, "U.S.-Japan Economic Relations," Japanese Consul General Makato Ito, 2000 Schneider Hall, 4 p.m.

Ethics lecture, "Convergence of Chaos: Stakeholder Theory, the Ethics of Competition and the Implications for Antitrust Law," Norman Hawker, finance and commercial law, 157 Bernhard Center, 7 p.m.

Opera workshop, directed by Carl Ratner, scenes from operas by Mozart, Verdi, J. Strauss, R. Strauss and Poulenc, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

\*Performance, "The Importance of Being Earnest," Shaw Theatre, Thursday-Saturday, April 11-13, 8 p.m.

\*Amateur Night, amateurs from the WMU community perform comedy, music or other talent for prizes, Bernhard Center Ballroom, 9 p.m.

#### 4.12 Friday

Teacher Placement Day, Bernhard Center East Ballroom, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mathematics lecture, Steve Mackey, Alavi Commons, Everett Tower, 4 p.m.

Dance lecture and performance, multimedia choreodrama, Trudy Cobb, dance, Dalton Center Dance Studio B, 6 p.m.

\*Film showing (through April 14), "No Man's Land," Little Theatre, Friday and Saturday, 7 and 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 and 5 p.m.

Concert, 34th Annual Spring Conference on Wind & Percussion Music, guest conductor and composer Thomas C. Duffy, featuring marimba soloist Judy Moonert, guest high school bands and the University Symphonic Band, Miller Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

\*Concert, Gold Company, directed by Stephen Zegree, opening the Gold Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

#### 4.13 Saturday

Prospect Hill Cleanup, Hilltoppers, Prospect Hill, 8 a.m.; to volunteer call 7-3456.

Men's tennis vs. Ball State, Sorensen Courts, 1 p.m.

\*Concert, Gold Company performing with guest artist Bobby McFerrin, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.; sold out.

\*Concert, Peter, Paul & Mary, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

#### 4.14 Sunday

Dramatic reading in English, Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit," Le Theatre de la Chandelle Verte, 1021 Brown Hall, 3 p.m.

Concert, University Concert Band conducted by William Pease, performing works by Holst, Thomas Duffy and Jack Stamp, Miller Auditorium, 3 p.m.

#### 4.15 Monday

Exhibitions (through April 19), Graphic Design BFA Degree Shows for Ashley Day, Jun Ku Kang, Brian Rensberry and Shannon Sadler; East Hall Galleries, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, April 19, 5-7 p.m.

Brown-bag workshop, "Immigrants and Their Cross-Border Earnings Flows," Susan Pozo, economics, 301A Ellsworth Hall, noon.

Concert, 23rd Annual Music Therapy Clinic Concert, clients of the Music Therapy Clinic, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 7 p.m.

#### 4.15 Monday continued

Theatre, Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit," performed in French, Le Theatre de la Chandelle Verte, Little Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

#### 4.16 Tuesday

30th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects, graduating seniors from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Bernhard Center, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Concert, University Jazz Lab Band, directed by Scott Cowan, performing contemporary big band works and jazz standards, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

#### 4.17 Wednesday

Anxiety disorder screening, one-hour sessions, 105 Bernhard Center, noon and 5:30 p.m.; call 7-3193 to register.

Dalton Convocation Series, Annual School of Music Honors Convocation, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 1 p.m.

Softball doubleheader vs. Michigan, Ebert Field, 2 p.m.

Presentation, "How to Access Census 2000 Data," Waldo Library Classroom B, 3 p.m.

Concert, Collegiate Singers, conducted by Joe Miller, Dalton Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

#### 4.18 Thursday

Mathematics lecture, "Local Regulation of Ill-Posed Problems," Aaron Cinzori, Alavi Commons, Everett Tower, 4:10 p.m.

Concert, University Chorale, conducted by Joe Miller, preview of the ensemble's European tour, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

#### 4.19 Friday

\*Film showing (through April 21), "The Business of Strangers," Little Theatre, Friday and Saturday, 7 and 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 and 5 p.m.

New Sounds Festival (through April 20), featuring music composed by School of Music students, Dalton Center Multimedia Room, 8 p.m.

Performance, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, "German Requiem," Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.; prelude, 7 p.m.

#### 4.20 Saturday

Men's track vs. Central Michigan and Bowling Green, Kanley Track.

Women's track vs. Central Michigan and Bowling Green, Kanley Track.

Softball doubleheader vs. Ohio, Ebert Field, 1 p.m.

Men's tennis vs. Northern Illinois, Sorensen Courts, 1 p.m.

#### 4.21 Sunday

Softball doubleheader vs. Marshall, Ebert Field, 1 p.m.

43rd Annual Concerto Concert, University Symphony Orchestra, featuring Concerto Competition winners David Bassin, piano, and Aleksandra Holowka, viola, Miller Auditorium, 3 p.m.

#### 4.22 Monday

Final exams (through April 26).

Exhibition (through April 26), Stacey Hovanec, BFA Painting Degree Show, East Hall Galleries, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, April 26, 5-7 p.m.

Finals Finish (also April 23), Student Recreation Center, 7-11 p.m.

#### 4.26 Friday

Commencement, College of Arts and Sciences, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

#### 4.27 Saturday

Commencement, Miller Auditorium; Haworth College of Business and General University Studies Program, 8:30 a.m.; colleges of Aviation, Engineering and Applied Sciences, Fine Arts, and Health and Human Services, 11 a.m.; and College of Education, 1:30 p.m.

\*Admission charged