Japan's Consul General Itô 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 Itô visits the University this afternoon.

Itô, 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.

He 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 Detroit in late 2000 to take his current post.

The Consulate General of Japan in Detroit was permanently established in 1993 as 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 to the work of a federal advisory council charged with ensuring that good accounting and accounting measures are used by those spending U.S. taxpayers' money.

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 to the panel, which includes John J. 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 executive for New Jersey, Rhode Island, North Carolina and Utah as well as the inspectors general for the Federal Reserve Bank, 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 Liberal Services.

Ted Kennedy Jr., who currently practices law in New Haven, Conn., will be the keynote speaker at a special dinner celebration set for 6:45 p.m. at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo. Some 200 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 L. 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 Sciences' seven academic units. Those honored will include professionals who enjoy national reputations in such fields as blindness rehabilitation, gerontology, holistic health care, occupational therapy, substance abuse treatment, the physician assistant profession, social work, and speech pathology and audiology.

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 school programs in Michigan, home to one of the nation's most permissive charter school laws and host to nearly 1,000 charter schools. The researchers found that 30 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-authored 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 doing 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.

Campus researchers find state's charter schools need more oversight

State Farm boosts financial services teaching

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 advocacy. He has been a teacher, a nonprofit advocate and public policy analyst 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 at 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.

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Campus researchers find state's charter schools need more oversight

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 critical in helping us develop our curriculum in the important area of financial planning," says HCOC Dean James W. Schmottner. "The company is investing intellectually as well as financially in our efforts. Our students and future 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. Executive-inResidence programs 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 higher education, especially in areas of primary concern to our industry," says Mark Olland, 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.

Olland, 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 the firm's past experience in hiring WMU graduates.

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

... continued on page 4

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. Schmottner, Haworth College of Business; and State Farm executives Vincent J. Trosino and Mark Olland. (Photo by Neil Rankin)
Preserving groundwater quality is focus of campus efforts to fight storm water pollution

In an effort to protect groundwater quality, the university is constructing a storm water treatment system to prevent storm water regulations from becoming effective next year. The university has undertaken several measures to address 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 reducing storm water pollution. 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 Goldwater Pond, Arcadia Creek or the city of Kalamazoo’s storm water system, and eventually into the Kalamazoo River. That makes it especially important to keep it clean and 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 researchers here and that the Michigan Department of Agriculture has been so cooperative—especially the state’s water quality team. But we have a special responsibility as stewards. When you have something so valuable, you are required to protect it as well as you can.

Members of the campus community can help in a number of ways, including not ingesting any substances released into storm drains or curb inlets as well as any suspected "illicit connections" in buildings 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 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 in the 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" have completed the first phase and are ready to tackle 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 hill during their project in 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 debris and brush off the lower part of Prospect Hill on the University’s East Campus.

Volunteers helped with the Prospect Hill cleanup effort are asked to wear long-sleeve shirts, long pants, work boots with good tread, work gloves and insect repellent. "Volunteer" trees and overgrown from the bottom half of the historic hillside, which overlooks all of downtown Kalamazoo and the site of WMU’s main campus.

The Hilltoppers are hoping to draw more than 200 volunteers for what they think will be the last day of the Prospect Hill cleanup effort. Last fall’s work brought out at least that many volunteers, who re- moved debris from the top 25 feet of the hill, which is approximately 500 feet wide.

WMU staffers Gregory Moorehead, community service awards are: Linda L. Myers, political science, and George Robeck, communication.

CORPS initiative official

Peace Corps Deputy Director John Olsen will join President Elson S. Floyd to make WMU’s new Master of International Development Administration- Peace Corps Volunteer program official at a signing ceremony from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, April 22, in the Potter 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 years overseas assignments as Peace Corps volunteers.

The signing ceremony will follow a panel discussion titled "What’s Ahead in the Peace Corps and Other 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 Helweg, anthropology; Michelle Borish, history; William B. Harrison III, mathematics; and George Robeck, communication.

Curtis-Smith looks up where "Deb'sonely, bleakly beautiful last emotion"

World-renowned pianist Bruce Levinington performed for the fourth time on April 1 in Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall along with pieces by the likes of Brahms, Beethoven and Liszt. Two of the pieces, titled "Ghost" and "Passacaglia," were their world premiere at the concert.

"Mr. Curtis-Smith takes up where Mr. Debussy’s lonely, bleakly beautiful last emotion left off," Times critic Bernard Holland in a review of the concert. "Yet these four pieces have a very romantic, almost lyrical, quality that carries thoughts coherently and convincingly from note to note."

The music of Curtis-Smith has become something of a staging ground for Curtis-Smith’s music. In September 2000, pianist Lori Szymczyk performed Curtis-Smith’s new piece at a conference of the Third Annual "Innovations in the Performing Arts," a cultural event produced by the Office of Arts and Science, Kalamazoo College, also will play host to Tang in June, when he visits their country to teach the courses needed for MBA graduates in that country, especially those who are considering the differences in their own cultures and China’s economy.

The international renown of the Haworth College of Business has been increasing 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. He sponsored Winkelski and Chi- nese profs study MBA teaching strategies

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On Campus with Ken Nelson

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

"I try to bring a lot of variety to a job, and one of the main things I try to do is to make sure that the design is appropriate for the audience it's targeted at," Simons says.

"I don't like to work too closely to the text, but rather, I try to make it look like it's just light what Western is all about," says Nelson, who has been at WMU for three years.

"Geek culture is so popular now, and it's something that people can relate to," she says. "It's a way for us to connect with our audience on a personal level."
Calendar

The master calendar maintained by the Office of University Relations for use in Western News is accessible 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.wilmithl.com/wmu/news/announcements.

APRIL 2002

4.13 Thursday

Exhibitions (through April 12), Graphic Design BFA Degree Shows for Brian Chmaciowski, Casey McElhinny, 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, Stenger Hall Gallery II, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Brownbag workshop, asthma management, R. Undhedral, Sneath 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 Central General Motors, 200 Schneider Hall, 4 p.m.

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

Opera workshop, directed by Carl Ratner, scenes from operas by Mozart, Beethoven, Dvořák and Holst, 23rd Annual Music Therapy Clinic, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Mathematics lecture, Steve Mackey, Alavi Commons, Everett Tower, 4:10 p.m.

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

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

Concert, Golden Company performing with guest artist Bobby McFerrin, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.; sold out.

*Concert, Gold Company, directed by Shreveza Zegrez, opening the Golden Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

4.14 Friday

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

*Concert, University Chorale, conducted by Joe Miller, preview of the ensemble's European tour, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Brownbag workshop, asthma management, R. Undhedral, Sneath Health Center, 157 Bernhard Center, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; to register, call 7-3263.

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4.15 Monday

*Concert, Wind Ensemble, Alavi Commons, Everett Tower, 4:10 p.m.

*Concert, Holowka, viola, Miller Auditorium, 3 p.m.

*Concert, Gold Company, directed by Shreveza Zegrez, opening the Golden Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

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 Cowen, performing contemporary big band works and jazz standards, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

4.16 Tuesday

4.17 Wednesday

Anxiety disorder screening, one-hour sessions, 105 Bernhard Center, 1 p.m.; call 7-3263 to register.

Dalton Concert 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, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

4.18 Thursday

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

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

4.19 Friday

*Film showing (through April 21), "La Chandelle Verte," Little Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

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

5.20 Saturday

*Concert, Wind Ensemble, Alavi Commons, Everett Tower, 4:10 p.m.

*Concert, Golden Company, directed by Shreveza Zegrez, opening the Golden Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

4.14 Saturday

Performance, "The Importance of Being Earnest," Shaw Theatre, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7 and 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 and 5 p.m.

*Concert, Peter, Paul & Mary, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.; sold out.

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

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

Dramatic reading in English, Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit," Le Theatre de la Chandelle Verde, Little Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

4.15 Monday continued

*Concert, Wind Ensemble, Alavi Commons, Everett Tower, 4:10 p.m.

*Concert, Holowka, viola, Miller Auditorium, 3 p.m.

*Concert, Gold Company, directed by Shreveza Zegrez, opening the Golden Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Frank Weathers, right, visited campus last month to present a Minority program. TEAMis.aimed at helping WMU recruit and retain minority students in its teacher education programs. (Photo by Neil Frankin)

Engineering designs by seniors shown April 16

An Internet-based home monitoring system, a GIF 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.

TEAM AMERICoT-

SBC Ameritech's Frank Weather, right, visited campus last month to present a Minority program. TEAM is aimed at helping WMU recruit and retain minority students in its teacher education programs. (Photo by Neil Frankin)

Charter schools...continued from page 1

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 accountability?" 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 scathing indictment of Michigan charter schools, but rather a research policy paper that wants 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 work through them, and make room for better schools."

In addition to their recently completed work, Miron and Nelson also 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 also be ordered through Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble bookstores.

State Farm...continued from page 1

For many years to come," he says, Schmott 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, chairman and 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 advertised 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, includes representatives from school districts, administrators, psychologists, counselors, social workers and coaches for the 2002-03 school year. No preregistration 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.