Holiday reception planned

Faculty and staff members are invited to the annual holiday reception sponsored by President Elson S. Floyd and the WMU Board of Trustees from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, in the South Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Supervisors are encouraged to arrange work schedules so those staff members who wish to attend the reception sometime during the afternoon may do so.

Trustees to meet on Dec. 8

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet Friday, Dec. 8, at 11:30 a.m. in the Coralyme Board Room of the Bernhard Center. Proceeding the meeting of the full board will be these committee meetings in Room 204 of the Bernhard Center: the Budget and Finance Committee at 8 a.m., the Academic and Student Affairs Committee at 11 a.m. The meetings are open to the public.

Rapper, activist Chuck D to speak at MLK convocation

Described as "the conscience of rap" and an outspoken proponent of sharing his music over the Internet, Chuck D will be the keynote speaker for the University's celebration of the late Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Chuck D, co-founder of the group Public Enemy and spokesperson for the National Urban League, Rock the Vote and the Partnership for Drug-Free America, will be the featured speaker during the MLK Convocation, scheduled for 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in University Arena. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit WMU's MLK committee Web page at http://www.wmich.edu/mlkday.

Broncos capture MAC title

WMU will be adding to its championship banners in University Arena. On Nov. 25, the volleyball Broncos won their eighth Mid-American Conference championship since 1988. The MAC championship match was Bronco head coach Cathy George's 300th career coaching victory.

The WMU team earned an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament and will play the University of Northern Iowa in the tournament's first round. That match is scheduled for a 5 p.m. CST start on Friday, Dec. 1, at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Four Broncos have been named to MAC All-Conference Teams for the 2000 season. Junior middle blocker Zakia Pope and senior outside hitter Monyka Paul were MAC First-team selections. This is the second consecutive year that two Broncos have been chosen for the six-player all-conference first team.

In addition, junior outside hitter M'Miya McGuire was selected for the honorable mention team and sophomore setter Ashley Ritter was chosen for the All-MAC Second Team.

WMU Shoreline Erosion Research Gets Boost from Federal Funding

WMU research aimed at "de-watering" eroding shoreline bluffs on Lake Michigan is one of three projects that will receive funding from a $2 million federal appropriation recently signed by President Clinton.

Ronald B. Chase, geosciences, and Alan Kehew, chairperson of geosciences, will receive funding from money set aside for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in an energy and water appropriations bill for 2001. The bill allocates $2 million for the Corps' National Shoreline Erosion Control Development and Demonstration Program.

WMU's project, which will focus on stopping the movement of existing landslides on shoreline bluffs between South Haven and Saugatuck, will receive an unspecified amount from the allocation. Because some of the best exposed and most unstable soil slopes in the U.S. exist along the Great Lakes shoreline, the WMU project was one of three designated by the Corps as "PRIORITY 1" status; the other two are in New Jersey and Texas.

According to Kehew, the researchers will use a variety of technologies, including vertical and horizontal wells, to attempt to draw water from the bluff soil. During the past three years, a team led by Chase and Kehew and funded by the U.S. Army Research Office's Terrestrial Sciences Program documented the significant role ground water plays in causing shoreline erosion. The researchers determined that removal of the water from the ground could be a more effective and less costly and environmentally intrusive method than methods currently being used to try and stop erosion. If the research is successful, it will have far-reaching effects, as it could provide an effective mitigation technique that can be used elsewhere.

"Getting this funding means we will be able to complete the work we started with the Army Research Office and take it to a new level," says Kehew. "More importantly, however, it will hopefully lead to decreasing the bluff recession rate along Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes.

Chase and Kehew are in the process of submitting a budget to the Army Corps of Engineers that will determine the amount of funding they will receive for the project. The researchers expect that amount to be between $200,000 and $400,000. They will also be meeting with the corps during the next few months to develop a detailed design for the de-watering project.

Weinger works to repair war-ravaged lives

Rebuilding a society torn apart by seven years of bloody civil war would be a huge undertaking for even the wealthiest of nations. Now imagine being an impoverished Third World country with limited resources and facing a problem so dire that many of your young boys had been forced to fight in those wars and were turned into marching soldiers. Then, after hostilities ceased, they were cast onto the streets into a life of survival of the fittest.

That's the scenario Susan Weinger, social worker, stepped into earlier this year when she volunteered to go to Liberia to take part in a new program aimed at helping teen-agers whose lives had been shattered by civil war and who had taken part in a no-holds-barred form of conflict.

"I saw the youth wholeheartedly. They were trying to rehabilitate the training and intensive counseling to 50 ex-combatant teen-agers. The program will provide an effective mitigation technique that can be used elsewhere.

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Weinger works to repair war-ravaged lives

Weinger was undeniably apprehensive about her assignment. Not only would she be working with an unlawful band of potentially violent youths, she also would be transported to a country known for political unrest, extreme poverty, hard living conditions and woefully inadequate health care. She wondered if her life would be in danger simply by walking down the street. She soon found she had little to fear.

"I was very afraid to go to Liberia," Weinger admits. It's politically unstable, there are health hazards and dire living conditions. But I found that the youth and the staff were hopeful about starting this program. The staff was committed to making a difference in the lives of these youth. They gave their hearts and soul to help them take a positive turn in their lives. And I saw the youth courageously trying to redirect themselves toward a path of social inclusion and contribution.

"I'm not saying it all went smoothly. But I witnessed that out of this terrible destruction of their society, staff members were still able to exude a strong humanity, believing in and accepting these youth wholeheartedly. They were trying to rehabilitate the trainees and the trainers were hoping to be integrated back into their society and do something for their country."

Weinger's trip to Liberia was through the American Refugee Committee, which was looking for volunteers to provide staff training and intensive counseling to 50 ex-combatant teen-agers.

More than 1,800 will be awarded degrees

The University will award 1,864 degrees in commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 9, that will also honor Sen. John J.H. Schumers. President Elson S. Floyd will preside over three ceremonies in Miller Auditorium.

The first, at 9 a.m., is for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Aviation, and the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Father Kenneth Schmidt of St. Thomas More Parish in Kalamazoo will give the invocation and the benediction.

The second ceremony, at 11:30 a.m., is for graduates of the College of Education and the General University Studies Program. The Rev. David Ness of the First Evangelical Covenant Church of Crystal Rapids, Mich., will give the invocation and the benediction. His niece, Carm M. Ness, is graduating with a doctoral degree in counseling psychology.

The third ceremony, at 2 p.m., is for graduates of the College of Health and...
McCracken will be incubator's first home

Researchers with great ideas for future businesses will find a valuable new resource on the fifth floor of McCracken Hall in January when a regional incubator for new high-tech and life sciences oriented businesses is established. The incubator, called the Innovation Center, is a new program of the WMU School of Business, and is aimed at developing a new business enterprises in the region, is an initiative of Southern Michigan'sBusy to create a regional economic development organization for the region. Last spring, WMU received a $5 million grant from the Michigan Legislature to establish the incubator facility in Southwest Michigan.

Because a number of businesses have expressed immediate interest in participating in the incubator, the Innovation Center will begin operation earlier than expected this winter in facilities within WMU's McCracken Hall. Western Michigan University President John G. Imig has reached an agreement with WMU to launch the center on campus until a permanent location is established.

Those eligible for this inducement are:
- Henry H. Beam, management; Gail Ots Birch, marketing; Joel P. Bowman, business administration; Ronald G. Canale, physical plant building and support services; Susan K. Carson, speech pathology and audiology; Margaret J. Corbin, intercollegiate athletics; Ruth A. DeYoung, Valley dining services; Robert J. Dluhos, CELCIS; Judy K. Dorn, dormitory and dining facilities; Stephen M. Ferguson, physics; Chuck J. Forman, physical plant building and support services; Kathleen A. Goyer, management; Brenda S. Grim, Brink Printing Services; Barbara L. Harris, teaching, learning and leadership; Arthur W. Hoadley, mechanical and aerospace engineering; Leander C. Jones, NBER and American studies; Pamela G. Keeler, CELCIS; Timony McPherson, CELCIS; Elizabeth Lockett, Office of Institutional Equity; James F. McCarthy, music; William L. Brown, Brink Printing Services; Frank Peck, physical plant building custodial and support services; Donald P. Penkman, logistic and support services; Paul A. Pingel, physical plant building custodial and support services; Elizabeth A. Rhodes, accounting; Steven C. Rhodes, communication; Darril A. Salisbury, CELCIS; John C. Shieh, computer science and information technology; James R. Sanders, educational studies; and the Evaluation Center; Nancy K. Shus, physical plant building and support services; Diane A. Sopies, Valley I Dining services; Hasel L. Starcher, College of Health and Human Services; Carole A. Vandyken, physical plant building custodial and support services; Thomas G. Waltz, physical plant building custodial and support services; James E. Wilson, black American studies; Brian L. Wilson, music; and Paul L. Yelavich, college and community services.

The Development Office's donor relations and a recommendation that it be given a federal evaluation of the 10 summer programs. The award presentation took place at HUD's Grand Rapids office. The work will be performed June 30 at the 33rd International Horn Symposium and in August at the Fontana summer residence during the "Sultane to Neel" concert.

Andersen gets HUD award

Sharon L. Andersen, Center for Community Asset Building, was recently honored with a national award for her work in community outreach.

She received a "Building Better Communities" award Nov. 14 from Andrew Cuomo, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The award presentation took place at HUD's Grand Rapids office.

The award recognizes the KBV's efforts to bring the University's resources to bear on the challenges facing Southwest Michigan communities, was honored for her "outstanding contributions to the infusion of best practices in community-based outreach programs."
On Campus with Stephanie Harvey

When WMU athletes talk of local schools or participate in fund-raising events in the community, it’s a near certainty that Stephanie Harvey, director of public relations for intercollegiate athletics, is behind them. Harvey, who transferred to WMU for a little more than a year, has taken on the task of putting WMU athletes in very public places. “I work to connect the Kalamazoo community to athletes at WMU,” she explains. “If I find as many ways as I can for our athletes to represent WMU, I’m happy.” Harvey finds volunteer opportunities for student athletes, as well as coordinates WMU’s Care about Kids program. In addition, she arranges appearances for Buster Bronco and the WMU dance and cheerleading teams. “We want to be a strong and visible influence in the community, and we especially want to work with different community agencies to expose youth to other sports,” she says. Harvey is at home in this athletic atmosphere, having grown up watching school girl’s basketball in Burton Harbor, a brother who coaches men’s basketball at the University of Missouri and a sister who is a color commentator with the WNBA’s Houston Comets. The “athletic member of the family,” she didn’t escape the sports bug. “I was choosing the path that led me to coming to WMU. Harvey received a master’s degree in sports administration at Grambling State University, interned at the PGA Tour, and worked at the University of Nevada, as a public relations officer at the headquarters of Naval Technical Training Command, and from 1996 to 1998 as a technical educational services division for Education Access and the government of East Pakistan.

From 1952 until his retirement, Giachino served as chairperson of WMU’s Department of Engineering Technology. Active in professional organizations, he was president of the Michigan Council for Educational Development and also served as vice president and research chairperson of that organization.

Sindecuse has plenty of flu vaccine to go around. “We’ve got 85 for most people and are available to faculty, staff and emeriti as well as their eligible family members. No appointment is necessary for these shots, which begin at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. any day of the week except Thursdays, when the morning walk-in hours don’t begin until 9 a.m.

Internal job postings are online

Employees can now go online to review WMU’s internal job postings. The list is updated on Tuesdays. There are two ways to access the online internal postings:

• Go to <www.wmich.edu>/internal/. Click the “employment” link on the gold bar at the bottom of the page. Click “Facultystaff Positions” under “Jobs.” This will bring you to the “Job Vacancies at WMU” page. You’ll find some important notes about the application process. Scroll down and click the “Internal Applicants” link.

• Go directly to the “Job Vacancies at WMU” page at <www.wmich.edu/hir/default.aspx>. Scroll down and click the “Internal Applicants” link.

The site is user friendly and allows you to select postings in specific areas. Get in the habit of regularly checking the University’s internal postings. You never know when the perfect job for you will become available.

Transfer application revised

There is a new Transfer Application that should be used starting immediately for all internal job applications. If you need to apply for a job, please complete the Transfer Application to apply for an internal job posting, or if you’d like to keep a supply of the new Transfer Applications on hand, please contact human resources at 7-3626.

Human resources

MPERS issues 1999-2000 personal account statements

The Michigan Public Schools Retirement system issued account statements for December to the home address of active members.

The statements reflect wages and services hours reported by the University, members’ personal contributions, service credit payments received, and all adjustments to accounts.

If you have any questions about the information on your statement, or if you are an active member of MPERS and do not receive your statement before Jan. 1, please contact the Michigan Office of Retirement Services by calling 1-800-381-5111 or by sending an e-mail to <MPERSCustomerService@state.mi.us>.

‘Lunch and Learn’ how to visualize good decision making

Every day, we make decisions. Some decisions are made easily, but others require a great deal of thought and time. What are the ramifications? Who is affected? What is the best possible course of action? At the next Lunch & Learn, Mitchi Rose will share techniques you can use when faced with tough decisions. Join Rose in room 3150 from 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, in the Faculty Dining Room of the Bernhard Center as she discusses using visualization and your intuitive digestive to make decisions. Those attending are welcome to bring their lunch.

Weinger housed in a rural camp about an hour’s drive from Monrovia providing camp services. The program, which sought to retrain the youths and reintroduce them back into society, was put in place in February. In addition to much-needed socialisation skills, the youths were taught agriculture and various trades that would help them lead productive lives. Living arrangements and camp facilities were abysmal, Weinger says. There was no running water or electricity. The camp had more than 10 buildings, but all had been bombed and only a few had their walls intact. Two of them had been re-roofed, with one serving as a boys’ dorm and classroom and the other as a staff boarding house with meals and extracurricular activities.

The teen-age trainees slept on the floor with only a thin plastic mat between them and the concrete. Clouds of mosquitoes swarmed in at night. The kitchen was outdoors, with only a torn plastic sheet covering the cooking area. The weather in Liberia is rainy and raindrops often diluted the food. “It rains some days,” Weinger says. “On other days, it rains harder.”

Pencils, pens and paper were in short supply. Weinger one day observed 22 students writing the flag of Liberia sharing one red and one blue crayon. During vocational sessions in carpentry or agriculture, 15 students would share one red and one blue crayon. For games, the youths used what they could find, such as utilizing bottle caps as checkers.

Weinger created a closed bond with the young trainees. In addition to being hard workers, they were fun to be around and had a lot of confidence in themselves. Through Weinger’s love for the boys and did many activities with them, she developed the boys could have a more lasting impact during her short one-month stay by working with staff on program development and training. Liberians, by nature, are very honest with their feelings, Weinger says. More than once, she was told in no uncertain terms that her strategies from the West would not work with Liberians. Though expressing their doubts, her hosts were open-minded and enthusiastically welcomed her ideas.

Weinger hopes to go back to the country and volunteer again with the program. Up until today, she is working to raise donations for it.

Cash donations will be used to purchase mattresses, shoes and books, as well as board games and sports equipment. These are the items both counselors and the boys said could not be made up. Cash should be made out to the American Refugee Committee and may be mailed to Weinger at 2528 Loraine Ave., Kalamazoo MI 49003. For more information, call Weinger at 7-3190 or 344-4318.
Preparations for WMUK’s 50th anniversary celebration will shift into high gear this winter

Klose, who has held his current position since 1998, was previously an editor and foreign correspondent with the Washington Post and also was director of U.S. International Broadcasting and president of Radio Free Europe.

Before the April event and Klose’s visit, new developments at the station and plans for a number of special activities will put a semester-long focus on the anniversary, according to station manager Floyd Piekstra. The developments and activities are intended to showcase the station’s historical and continuing role in delivering quality programming to the University and the entire Southwest Michigan region.

Localism and local service are at the heart of our mission," says Piekstra. "In the coming months and years, we’ll be moving into Webcasting and other technical enhancements, but content and service to the community will remain our bottom line."

Preparations for marking the anniversary already are underway and activities will become increasingly public as winter semester unfolds.

• A student music competition is now being organized to select an original musical composition to mark the anniversary. The work will be performed at the gala.

• The station will commission a piece of visual art, created by a WMU student for the anniversary. The work will be displayed in the station’s lobby.

• Banners noting the anniversary will begin appearing on campus and in the Kalamazoo community over the winter.

• A short video on WMUK, its history and the people behind the scenes is now being prepared to show to campus and community organizations.

• A redesigned Web site will be launched in the coming months and will include special pages as an extension of campus events and station programming as well as continually updated local and national news.

• The station will launch its first underwriting initiative in the coming months. Through it, businesses and foundations will be able to support WMUK programming and receive on-air acknowledgment.

Starcher to be feted

The University community is invited to attend a Wednesday, Dec. 6, reception marking the retirement of Hazel Starcher, assistant to the dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

The event is set for 4 to 6 p.m. in the Fetzer Center.

Starcher, a 1994 recipient of the University’s Faculty Recognition Award, has been a WMU employee since 1960. A staff member in the College of Health and Human Services since its inception in 1976, Starcher will retire Dec. 31.

Stamm reception set

A reception to mark the retirement of Carol L. Stamm, associate vice president for academic affairs, will be held Monday, Dec. 4.

The University community is invited to attend the event, set for 4:30 to 5 p.m. in the Artrium of the Gilmore Theatre Complex.

Stamm, who has been in her current position since 1990, is a member of the management faculty since 1981. She will retire Jan. 2.

Commencement

Continued from page 1

Human Services, the College of Fine Arts, and the College of Health and Human Services.

The 2001 winter semester will bring an intense focus on WMUK-FM, the University’s public radio station, as the campus and surrounding communities prepare to celebrate the station’s 50th anniversary of service to Southwest Michigan.

WMUK, Kalamazoo’s first FM station and one of the founding consortium of stations that launched National Public Radio in 1971, will mark 50 years of broadcasting on April 11 with a gala black-tie event on campus. Kevin Klose, president and chief executive officer of NPR, will be the guest speaker at the event.

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Commencement

Continued from page 1

Human Services, the College of Fine Arts, and the Haworth College of Business.

The Rev. James Lemon, pastor of the Gilmore Missionary Baptist Church in Kalamazoo, will give the invocation and the benediction.

Schwalm will receive an honorary doctor of public service degree at the 9 a.m. ceremony. The senator, who is serving his fourth consecutive term in the Michigan Senate, is receiving the award "in recognition of his years of service to the people of the state of Michigan."

This semester, 1,424 graduates will receive bachelor’s degrees, 419 will earn master’s and specialist degrees, and 21 will be awarded doctoral degrees.