



Western NEWS

www.wmich.edu/wmu/news

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New Web site puts faculty's expertise online for media use

A new Web site has made it easier for the media and others to find WMU experts who can address topics varying from acoustics to zebrafish.

The WMU Experts Guide Web site, at <www.experts.wmich.edu>, is an electronic version of the University's Experts Guide, a publication featuring the names, credentials and contact information for more than 400 WMU faculty and staff willing to address a variety of topical issues. The Web site provides users with a keyword-searchable method to access the information in the guide, which was compiled by the Office of University Relations and printed last fall.

In addition, the WMU Experts Guide Web site also allows WMU faculty and staff members to update or submit information for the Experts Guide online.

Ohio finish set for air race

Two WMU women aviators are competing this week against some of the nation's top women pilots in a cross-country air race with roots that date back to 1929 and competitors that included Amelia Earhart.

Jo-Elle Warner, a flight instructor in aviation, and Michelle Homister, an April aviation graduate from Dowling, Mich., are competing against more than 30 teams from around the nation in the 2001 Air Race Classic that began June 26 in San Diego and concludes Saturday, more than 2,200 miles later, at Sporty's Airport in Batavia, Ohio. They represent WMU's second entry in the 72-year-old classic air event. Warner was part of a two-woman team that competed last year.

Daily updates from Warner and Homister are available as a "flight log" online at the WMU News Web site at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news>.

Team readies Sunseeker for July race

For most drivers, failing to time their speed so they cruise uninterrupted through a series of traffic lights is a momentary annoyance. For entries in this year's American Solar Challenge, who have more than 500 energy-sapping traffic lights to negotiate, it could mean the difference between winning or losing—or even finishing the race.

That's just one set of challenges members of WMU's Sunseeker team are facing as they prepare their entry for a grueling, 2,300-mile, cross-country solar car race that begins July 15 in front of Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry and ends 10 days later in Claremont, Calif. The WMU team has one of some 30 to 40 vehicles from around the world being readied for the biennial solar race. This year's course along historic Route 66 is the longest ever and may be the most difficult.

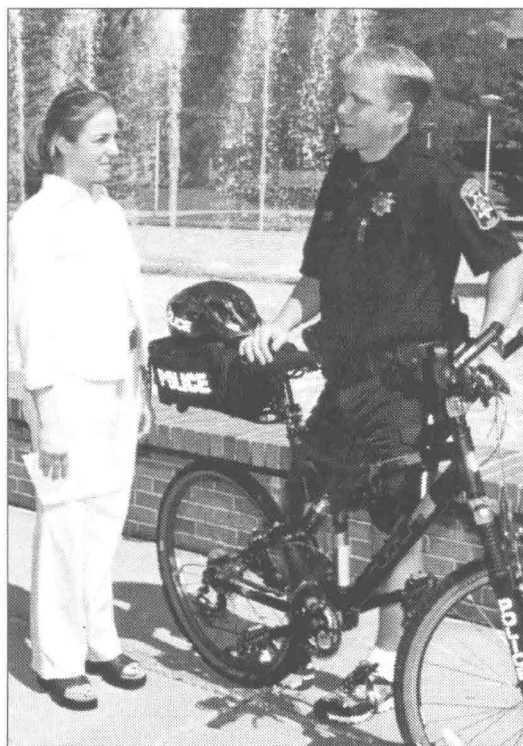
"The challenge for most teams this year may simply be finishing the race," says Dean Daniel Litynksi, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. "Reliability and endurance will be the real keys to success."

Sunseeker team leader Geoffrey Klein, a recent graduate from West Seneca, N.Y., agrees and says team members are preparing for the physical challenges before them.

"The sheer length of the race is the biggest test," Klein says. "Every team will be wondering if its car and team are strong enough to do it."

In addition to being ready to negotiate traffic lights without making a series of stops, the team is preparing for a trek through the intense summer heat of the Arizona and New

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BIKE PATROL HITS THE PAVEMENT—

Police Officer Brian Alofs meets more folks in a week, these days, than he used to in a month. Talking here with Jen Stutz, sophomore elementary education major from Mackinaw City, Alofs took a quick break recently from his duties as one of WMU's first bicycle patrol officers. Alofs and colleague Andrew Bachmann traded in their patrol cars for mountain bikes last month, thanks to support from the Kalamazoo office of Liberty Mutual Group, Alfred E. Bike, the Division of Student Affairs and the WMU Bookstore. The bikes are already inspiring interaction between the officers and members of the campus community. "Everyone wants to come up and check out the bikes and say hi," says Alofs, who will be patrolling the campus on two wheels through the summer and fall. "The bikes definitely make us more approachable."

(Photo by Neil Rankin)

BOT learns of \$13 million in grants

More than \$13 million in grant funding was awarded to WMU during the first four months of 2001, according to a report presented to the University's Board of Trustees at its May 30 meeting.

A total of \$13,306,034 was received for the months of January, February, March and April, bringing the total of grants received by the University since the July 1 start of the fiscal year to \$21,467,811.

Of the 152 grants awarded to WMU during the four-month period, more than half were for research efforts at the University while a quarter were for public service initiatives.

The largest single grant received was a \$1.89 million award from the Michigan Department of Corrections to C. Dennis Simpson, Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse and community health services, and James Kendrick, community health services. They will use the funding to continue providing residential substance abuse treatment in state prisons. Simpson and Kendrick also received two additional grants totaling \$426,500 from that agency to provide substance abuse treatment services for prisoners, parolees and probationers.

The Evaluation Center received a number of grants, including three awards from the National Science Foundation. Arlen Gullickson, the center's chief of staff, received two NSF grants, including a \$373,034 award to continue developing methods for assessing the impact and effectiveness of Advanced Technological Education centers and \$326,580 to develop materials training and support services to improve the national evaluation of science and mathematics. The NSF also awarded \$335,584 to Jerry Horn, principal research associate at the center, to assess student achievement and reform efforts in science and mathematics education. In addition, Gary Miron, also a principal research associate, received \$300,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to evaluate that state's charter schools.

Carol Sundberg, director of the Center for Disability Services, received three grants totaling nearly \$1.38 million from Kalamazoo Community Mental Health Services to provide daily living services to developmentally disabled adults.

A number of other grants were reported to the board, including the following awards.

- An award for \$503,100 from the Michigan Department of Community Health to

Sharon Anderson and Alise Saul, Center for Community Asset Building, will be used to work with the Benton Harbor Boys and Girls Club to improve educational achievement and high school completion rates in Benton Harbor schools. Anderson and Osama Aabudayyah, construction engineering, materials engineering and industrial design, also received a previously announced grant for \$399,996 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

- Kate Kline and Theresa Grant, both mathematics and statistics, received \$364,267 from the National Science Foundation to provide professional development support to Southwest Michigan school districts using the "Investigations in Number, Data and Space" mathematics curriculum.

- The National Computational Science Alliance awarded Dewei Qi, paper and printing science and engineering, \$360,000 to access computational time on the Gray PSC T3E supercomputer at the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center.

Doctoral student Slone will spend year at Thai university

D. Jason Slone, a doctoral student in comparative religion, will leave next month to teach for nearly a year at a university in Bangkok, Thailand.

Slone has accepted an invitation by Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University to serve as a lecturer, teaching courses in Theravada Buddhist philosophy. In addition, he will supervise master's theses for students in that university's international graduate program in Buddhist studies.

Slone will use his time there to gather cross-cultural data for his dissertation on the effect culture has on how people think.

"Teaching in Thailand will allow me to experience firsthand how Buddhism is practiced in a Buddhist culture, which in turn will help me write my dissertation," Slone says. "In addition, it will enhance my teaching of world religions to undergraduate students in the West."

Slone will leave in July and be accompanied by his wife, Brooke, also a WMU student. Brooke Slone, who is working on a bachelor's degree in elementary education, will teach part time in an American school in Bangkok.

Friesner gets teaching award

Scott Friesner, English, was selected as a Teacher Recognition Awardee in the United States 2001 Presidential Scholars Program. Friesner was chosen for the honor after being identified by Presidential Scholar recipient and Mattawan High School graduate Dominik Rabiej as the teacher "who most inspired and challenged him."

Friesner has worked with Rabiej through WMU's Academically Talented Youth Program and recently taught the student again in an English 320 course. Friesner received his award in Washington, D.C., during the Presidential Scholars' Recognition Week ceremonies, June 26-July 2.

Friesner admits he was very surprised by Rabiej's nomination of him for the award. "Dominik's genius is in computing, so it's very interesting to me that this student, who has unbelievable computing skills, picked an English teacher for the award. I was actually stunned," he says. "Dominik is simply in love with learning."



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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 2001 publication dates are: May 3, May 17, May 31, June 14, June 28, July 12, July 26 and Aug. 9. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail (cheryl.roland@wmich.edu).

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Jobs

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 at 7-3669 for up-to-date information on the Job Opportunity Program and vacancies available to external applicants.

(R) **Instructor** (academic year, term ends 8/4/02), I40, Business Information Systems, 00/01-2451, 6/26-7/2/01

(R) **Coach, Women's Track** (term ends 6/30/02), C02, Intercollegiate Athletics, 00/01-2453, 6/26-7/2/01

(R) **Assistant Director, Medical Services**, 16, Intercollegiate Athletics, 00/01-2454, 6/26-7/2/01

R = Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Web watch

How many alumni live in Oakland County? What are WMU's top 10 high schools for student recruitment?

The answers to these and a host of other questions are now just a mouse click away, thanks to a new Web site posted by the Office of Academic and Institutional Planning, the office charged with collecting and analyzing data for the University.

The new site includes all tables and charts from the 2000-02 Fact Book, an annual publication previously available only in a printed version with limited distribution.

The site went online earlier this month at <www.wmich.edu/apid>.



OUTSTANDING SERVICE LEADS TO LUNCH AND AN AWARD 'TO GO'—

Provost Fred Dobney, right, congratulates three of the four winners of this year's Staff Service Excellence Awards who were honored at a June 20 luncheon. Receiving \$1,000 and a framed certificate were, from left: Dan L. St. Clair, physical plant-maintenance services; Carolyn Hornev, Career and Student Employment Services; and Mary Swartz, Traverse City Regional Center. The fourth winner, Alicia Yeagley, communication, was not able to attend. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

Sunseeker

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Mexico deserts and the challenge of climbing through the lower end of the Rocky Mountains. Such extreme terrain conditions for the 2001 race led the team to decide against building a new vehicle and, instead, bring one of WMU's most popular and reliable solar race cars out of retirement. Sunseeker 95, which finished in eighth place in 1995, is being re-engineered, fitted with a new solar array and renamed Sunseeker 295.

The vehicle will emerge from WMU

Vehicle Design Labs next week to take part in the WMU Formula Sun Grand Prix, the final qualifying events for the American Solar Challenge. All of the entries for this year's race, which include many of the nation's top engineering schools, are expected on the WMU campus July 9-13 for a week of vehicle testing and road trials mandated by ASC to ensure the entries are ready for the race.

According to team leader Klein, the Sunseeker 295 entry will face those tests with larger honeycombed solar array panels that are lighter and easier to work with than in previous years. The array has a total of 702 photovoltaic solar cells to collect energy from the sun that can be stored in the car's battery system. That battery system also has been redesigned so that it now includes three lead-acid battery boxes housing a total of 10 batteries.

Despite modifications, Klein expects Sunseeker 295 to weigh in at about 750 pounds, the weight of Sunseeker 95. The vehicle is just over 20 feet long, 6.6 feet wide and a low 3.3 feet in height.

For more information about Sunseeker or about the WMU Formula Sun Grand Prix, visit the team's Web site. Updates will be posted daily during the July 15-25 race at <www.wmich.edu/sunseeker>.

Exchange

FOR SALE—Home with two extra lots, 10 minutes from campus, Milham and 12th Street area, Portage Schools; 4 bedrooms, 2 and 1/2 baths; kitchen and bath renovated, along with new furnace and appliances in 1998 and new roof in 1996; \$159,900; call Michele Moe at 7-5085 or 371-1097 for more information.

FOR SALE—Antique school desk, attached seat, \$75; chest, 4 drawers, light color hardwood, excellent condition, \$100; Sears Best deluxe painting kit, \$10; "Spray-Doc" garden sprayer, \$20; call 372-5752.

FOR SALE—Two burial crypts at Mount Ever-Rest Memorial Park's East Chapel Garden. Will sell at cost for \$1,600. Call collect, (480) 986-0703.

New certificate program will boost nonprofit groups

Nonprofit organizations looking for trained entry-level professionals will get a hand in that effort from a new certificate program being offered by WMU beginning this fall.

The American Humanics program, which is affiliated with the national organization of the same name, is designed to prepare students to work in the nonprofit sector by giving them background and skills in how those organizations operate.

"Many of our graduates don't want to work in business, they want to be in the public sector, but there's no program that prepares them for working in nonprofits. They simply don't know how these organizations work," says Associate Dean James

A. Gilchrist, College of Arts and Sciences. "The American Humanics program will give them what they need to succeed in that arena."

WMU's program, which will be housed in the University's School of Public Affairs and Administration, is being structured in accordance with competencies outlined by American Humanics Inc., a national alliance of colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations. Headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., American Humanics is the only national nonprofit organization that prepares students for entry-level professional positions in the nonprofit sector. The organization, which has established partnerships with more than 15 national youth and human services organizations, provides curriculum structure, leadership opportunities, internships and financial aid.

With the program's inception at WMU, the University will join more than 70 other colleges and universities affiliated with an American Humanics program. WMU is the only higher education institution in the state to offer the program. The University also offers a certificate program in nonprofit leadership and administration at the graduate level.

"With more than 11,000 new entry-level professional job vacancies reported annually by the nonprofit partners of American Humanics, the employment potential for these students is very good," Gilchrist says, noting that employment at Michigan nonprofits has more than tripled since 1986.

Students in the American Humanics program will combine course work in their major with several classes on concepts

unique to the nonprofit sector, including the historical and philosophical foundations of nonprofit organizations, youth and adult development, nonprofit board and committee development, and fundraising principles and practices. In addition, students will be required to complete an internship of 300 hours with a nonprofit organization. Upon completion of requirements, students will receive a certificate from American Humanics Inc.

During the initial stages of development for the program, University officials approached nonprofit leaders in Kalamazoo, Calhoun and Kent counties and were met with enthusiasm for the effort.

"I think this program is very important," says Janet Barker, executive director of the Girl Scouts of Glowing Embers Council and a member of the curriculum committee for the program. "Working with a board-governed agency that is not income generating is a new concept for a lot of people. This program will give students knowledge of nonprofits' way of being. It also will link WMU more closely to the community at large, especially to the nonprofit agencies."

This link to the community's nonprofit agencies also will be important in teaching the program's classes, says Gilchrist.

"The input of executive directors of United Way agencies in Kalamazoo, Calhoun and Kent counties truly helped shape the curriculum," he explains. "Not only will many of their agencies provide internships and learning experiences for students, but these nonprofit professionals to help us teach the program as well."

Trustees meet July 6 to consider tabled items

The WMU Board of Trustees is expected to tackle finance issues when it meets at 12:15 p.m. Friday, July 6.

Included on the agenda are recommendations on increases for tuition, room and board, and vehicle registration rates, all of which were tabled at the board's May 30 meeting.

The meeting of the full board in the Connable Board Room in the Bernhard Center will be preceded by meetings of the board's two standing committees in 204 Bernhard Center. The Budget and Finance Committee will meet at 11 a.m., while the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting is slated for noon.

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>.

JUNE

Thursday, June 28

Mathematics and Statistics colloquium, "Empirical Spectral Analysis of Random Number Generators," David Zeitler, mathematics and statistics, Alavi Commons, Everett Tower, 4:10 p.m.

JULY

Wednesday, July 4

Independence Day, WMU offices closed, no classes.

Friday, July 6

Meeting, Board of Trustees, Connable Board Room, Bernhard Center, 12:15 p.m.; preceded by Budget and Finance Committee at 11 a.m. and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee at noon in 204 Bernhard Center.

Monday, July 9

WMU Formula Sun Grand Prix (through July 11 on campus), vehicle testing in Miller Auditorium Parking Ramp and on Knollwood Avenue, Parking Lot #76, 9 a.m.-noon and 1-6 p.m. Event continues July 12-13 at GingerMan Raceway in South Haven, Mich.