Kent County work to focus on aid for grandparent-headed families

There’s a knock on the door.

"Sometimes it happens in the middle of the night with very little warning," says Linda Damison, chairperson of family and consumer sciences and coordinator of a curriculum for grandparent support groups. "Other times there may be many messages that this is happening."

The trend has raised a host of troubling problems for both grandparents and grandchildren alike. But a new program being launched in Kent County is providing help to both urban and rural county residents being impacted by it.

The pilot program is coordinated by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Department of Teaching, Learning and Leadership with the help of $72,000 in grants from the Dyer-Ives Foundation and the Frey Foundation, which are both located in Kent County. The program will offer services at a urban Kent County Head Start site and a rural preschool site.

The new program is taking a holistic approach to the problem and will involve custodial grandparents, grandchildren and early childhood educators in a comprehensive service delivery model that emphasizes resource development. A wide range of important issues will be tackled, including managing personal well-being and finances, school and community relationships, parenting skills and legal concerns. "Economics is a big issue," Damison says. "Custodial grandparents’ incomes may not be suitable for raising grandchildren. They may find that they’re isolated, that they’re the only one in their group that has a toddler or a teen-ager that they’re parenting. They may find that there are political issues going on in the family."

"There are issues on the job, it may be harder to provide health care for children or get time off for health care. Basically, we just don’t support custodial grandparents the way we support first-time parents."

Area health care professionals can collaborate on research with faculty, grad students in new OT effort

A new program coordinated by the Department of Occupational Therapy will make it easier for West Michigan OT and allied health clinicians to do collaborative research with University faculty.

Called Clinical Research Implementation in Kalamazoo, or CLIK for short, the new program started this summer and already has three projects either up and running or in the planning stages, says Stanley Paul, occupational therapy and CLIK program coordinator.

One project now underway is being conducted in cooperation with WMU’s Center for Disability Services. It is testing ways to help people with developmental disabilities become better integrated into the community.

Center clients, working in day-activity groups, are learning skills that will help them when going to a restaurant, laundry, shopping or other destination in the community. Results will be presented in November at the national conference of the American Occupational Therapy Association in Reno, Nev.

A second project will test the effectiveness of a new eating utensil for people with Parkinson’s disease developed by Partner’s in Design Inc. of Harbor Springs. Unlike a fork or spoon, the “bilateral” eating utensil is held with both hands. University graduate students will conduct research on how well it works.

A third project will be undertaken in cooperation with the Ionia County Intermediate School District and test the effectiveness of sensory integration therapy on preschoolers classified as “pre-primarily impaired.”

The children, who have a variety of disorders ranging from developmental disabilities to emotional problems, will work on such things as balance, posture, tactile sensitivity, fine motor skills and speech. Children who undergo the therapy then will be compared to other pre-primarily impaired students who engage in regular school activities to measure the new therapy’s success. Occupational therapy graduate students will work on this research project as part of their thesis.

"Some teachers and OT clinicians are saying this therapy is working," Paul says. "We want to document whether it’s working and if it is, then the schools can use it on a larger scale."

Other plans for the CLIK program include a Web site and newsletter. Both should be in place by the end of the fall semester.

Paul, who also supervises occupational therapy students in the field work, got the idea for the program after visiting area clinics where students are placed.

"Talking to the clinicians is how I came up with it because they have a lot of ideas, but they don’t have the resources to do it," Paul says. "They seem pretty excited about it."

Paul is hoping the program will grow beyond occupational therapists to include physical therapists, speech pathologists and other allied health professionals. So far, he’s pleased with the potential the program has shown in a short time.

"For just starting in the summer, it’s gotten a pretty good response," Paul says. "We wanted to do something for the clinician. A lot of them take our students in their practice, so we wanted to give something back."
Event lets campus community members celebrate Homecoming on the run

The field is primed for campus runners who will begin the One-on-one running of the Homecoming Classic. On Saturday, Oct. 23, events include a 5K run as well as a 1K kids' fun run. The 5K run is open to students, faculty, and staff of WMU. Those competing can run as individuals or as members of three-person teams.

"The classic is yet another opportunity for the campus and community to come together to celebrate Homecoming," said Kelly Kurz, associate vice president for university relations and the race organizer. "There's something for everyone—whether you're a competitive runner or just want to take a walk around campus with your family or friends."

The events begin and end in front of the Bernhard Center. The 1K events will begin at 8 a.m. and the 5K run will begin at 9:30 a.m. Registration is $10 for adults and $5 for students. Three-person student teams can register for $10, adult teams are $20 and families can register for $15. A $5 late registration fee will be charged for entries received after Oct. 10.

Top finishers in a variety of categories will receive trophies, certificates and certificates. All runners will receive long-sleeve T-shirts, admission to a pre-game tailgate on Hyman Field and discounts on game tickets. A variety of door prizes also have been donated by local businesses.

For more information or to register, call the Office of University Relations at 7-8402.

Jamie Jeremy elected to term as head of nationwide alumni executives organization

M. Jamie Jeremy, executive director of alumni relations at WMU Alumni Association, has been elected president of the Council of Alumni Association Executives (CAAE) for a one-year term, which began Sept. 1.

As a charter member of the council, Jeremy has been a voting member of boards of directors since 1995 and served as secretary between 1995 and 1998 and as vice president last year. Staff member at WMU since 1973, she became assistant director of alumni relations in 1979 and director in 1984.

The council, founded in 1989, advances the values of self-governance for alumni associations throughout the nation and provides for the exchange of information, policies, programs and technology to enhance alumni administration, higher education and professional development.

Jeremy is the organization's 11th president and the first professional to serve in that capacity. The council includes members from 85 major public and private universities and three women have come from such universities as Arizona, UCLA, Kansas, Michigan and North Carolina.

Jeremy also is a member of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), a district in 1983-1985. In 1994, she received the district's distinguished service award in 1995.

Western News

Insurance in Asia explored

An international insurance executive with experience of the Asian life insurance market, who will off the 1999-2000 Global Business Lecture Series in the Hasbrouck College of Business with a talk on personal finance.

Jack McWhorter, regional vice president of Lincoln Financial Group's Asia-Pacific Division in the United States, National Reinsurance Co., will speak on "China and the Country's Insurance Markets."

His public address is set for 7 p.m. in 1120 Scholar's Hall.

Lincoln Financial Group is one of this nation's 40 largest corporations and has been involved in international insurance for more than 50 years.

School violence is topic of talk by FBI expert Oct. 5

From Littleton, Colo., to Kalamazoo, Mich., the issue of violence has become one of concern to students, parents, teachers, administrators and the general public.

FBI agent Roy Johnson will address that topic in a free public presentation at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, in 1035-45 Fetzer Center. The program is sponsored by the College of Education Alumni Society.

Johnson, a former resident agent in charge of the bureau's St. Joseph office, will speak on "Violence in the Schools: Profile, Prevention and Response." He also serves as a coordinator for the National Center for Analysis of Violent Crime.

Johnson has worked for the FBI since 1983, serving in Michigan, Indiana and Virginia. He is a former special agent and consultant on school violence. More information about his presentation on campus is available from Lynn Varath, College of Education, at 7-2960.
Ferreira to warm up audience for Leslie Nielsen's 'Clarence Darrow' Friday night

On a given day during the academic year, James Ferreira typically can be found in front of 260 people anyway. I do it all the time. It's just a few more people, that's all.

Thanks to Hollywood, many people are familiar with Darrow and the famous classes in front of 260 people anyway. I do it all the time. It's just a few more people, that's all.

Professor's audience

Ferreira has been asked to kick off opening night with a few remarks about Darrow, a luminary figure in many other landmark cases that helped shaped the labor and civil rights movement. The lecture will provide a great workout alternative, as it works all major muscle groups, including the heart and lungs.

Still, he has fended from the public consciousness. Ironically, many of Darrow's causes, particularly the right to teach evolution in school, are still being fought today.

Ferreira will talk about Darrow's upbringing as the son of a figure in the Underground Railroad, his involvement in the labor wars, his crusades against censorship and capital punishment, and the death penalty and the Scottsboro trial.

He will end with Darrow's final trial, the successful defense in 1926 of a black doc
tor in Detroit who was about to be lynched for murder.

"He's been the attorney for the damned," Ferreira says. "He always felt sorry for poor people who got the short end of the stick. He hated injustice, which is the same motivation that led me and many others to join the cause of civil rights.

In addition to telling people about Darrow, Ferreira is looking forward to meeting Nielsen in Detroit who was about to be lynched for murder.

"I'm looking forward to it," says Ferreira. "I hope it's a full house. I teach classes in front of 260 people anyway. I do it all the time. It's just a few more people, that's all."
**Calendar**

The master calendar maintained by the Office of University Relations 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/.

### Thursday, Sept. 23

**Art exhibition (through Oct. 5), “Major Works — Full Scale 1969-1999” by Kansas City artist Robert Stackhouse, Gallery II, Sangren Hall, weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Exhibition (through Oct. 5), “TATTOO! Art and Practice,” Ann Arbor photographer Diane Mansfield, Space Gallery, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., Oct. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Art exhibition (through Oct. 1), Photography Group Show, Craig LaCourt and Kirsten Field, Rotunda Gallery, East Hall; reception, Friday, Oct. 1, 5-8 p.m.**


**Saturday, Oct. 2**

*The Tattoo Forum, sponsored by The Associated Undergraduate Sociology Organization, Knauss Hall, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*

**Southwest Fest**

**Football vs. Central Michigan, Waldo Stadium, 6 p.m.**

### Sunday, Oct. 3

**CD Release concert, Western Jazz Quartet with Timothy Noble, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 3 p.m.**

**Faculty recital, Karen Wicklund, soprano, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.**

### Monday, Oct. 4

**Faculty workshop, Center for Teaching and Learning, “Civility in the Classroom, WMU’s Student Code,” Diane Swartz, dean of students, and David Parrott, associate dean of students, Clocktower Conference Room, University Computing Center, noon-1:30 p.m.**

**Art exhibition (through Oct. 8), Watercolor Group Exhibition, Rotunda and South Galleries; reception, Friday, Oct. 8, 5-7 p.m.**

**Faculty recital, pianist Lori Sims, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.**

### Wednesday, Oct. 6

**Center for the Study of Ethics in Society lecture, “The Dark Side of Globalization: Sweatshops and Child Labor,” Charles Kerningam, director of the National Labor Organization, 3508 Knauss Hall, 7 p.m.**

**Ten Years After the Wall lecture series, “Transforming Education for New Democratic Societies,” Elena B. Lisovskaya, teaching, learning and leadership, Lee Honors College Lounge, 4-5:30 p.m.**

**Volleyball vs. Northern Illinois, University Arena, 7 p.m.**

**Guest artist recital, St. Petersburg Room (Russia) Conservatory Faculty Ensemble, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.**

### Thursday, Oct. 7

**Board of Trustees meeting, Convocable Board Room, Bernhard Center, 9:30 a.m.**

**Retirement reception for Robert Kotecki, teaching, learning and leadership, the Oakland’s, 3:55 p.m.**

**Faculty Senate meeting, Fetzer Center, 5 p.m.**

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**Grandparents (Continued from page one)**

Children also will be a big part of the program’s focus, Dannison says. Program researchers have identified five themes common in grandparented children’s lives: grief and loss, guilt, fear, embarrassment and anger. Four-year-old children will participate in specifically designed interviews focusing on the identified themes. Additionally, child care personnel will participate in professional training to work more effectively with grandparent-headed families.

Evidence of the sharp rise in the number of custodial grandparentals is well documented. Since 1990, the number of children living in grandparent-headed households holds with no biological parent present has increased 66 percent, according to the Children’s Defense Fund. The trend affects more than two million children and 10 percent of all U.S. families.

The rise in grandparent-headed families is fueled by several issues, among them the “four Ds”—drugs, divorce, desertion and death. Others include the high rates of adolescent pregnancy and incarceration, mental illness and an increase in families affected by AIDS.

Dannison has been involved in the issue of custodial grandparents for several years and designed a curriculum for grandparent support groups that now is in its fourth printing. The guide is available to support groups nationwide.

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**March to the Millennium Lecture Series/Visiting Scholars and Artists Program, “You Make the Messiah, The Messiah Makes You,” Harris Lenowitz, professor of Hebrew, University of Utah’s Middle East Center, 3512 Knauss Hall, 7:30 p.m.**

**Concert, University Madrigal Orchestra with guest soloist trombonist Conrad Herwig, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.**

**Friday, Oct. 8**

**Hispanic Heritage Month talk, “Minorities and the News Media,” Juan Gonzalez, New York Daily News columnist, 208 Bernhard Center, 10:30 a.m.**

**Pi Mu Epsilon presentation, “Mathematical Mindsets and Toolsets,” Ed Moylan, Ford Motor Company, 3508 Knauss Hall, 2 p.m.**

**Emerging Scholars in American Studies Speakers Series, “Practicing Ethnohistory in the Americas,” Barbara Brotherhood, art, and Catherine Julien, history, Meader Rare Book Room, Waldo Library, 3:55 p.m.**

**Film showing (through Oct. 10), William Wenders' “The Buena Vista Social Club,” Campus Cinema, Oakland Recital Hall; Friday and Saturday, Oct. 8 and 9, 7 and 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 10, 2:30 and 5 p.m.**

**C. Clarence Darrow,” Miller performance starring Leslie Nielsen (through Oct. 10), Miller Auditorium: Friday, Oct. 8, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 9, 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 10, 2 p.m.**

**Saturday, Oct. 9**

**Volleyball vs. Toledo, University Arena, 7 p.m.**

**Hockey vs. Miami, Lawson Ice Arena, 7 p.m.**

**Sunday, Oct. 10**

**Faculty recital, Western Brass Quintet, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 3 p.m.**

**Concert, University Symphony Orchestra with guest soloist Anthony Rocio, cello, Miller Auditorium, 7 p.m.**

**Monday, Oct. 11**

**Art exhibition (through Nov. 2), etchings, Gladys Nilsson and Jim Nutt of Wilmette, Ill., Gallery II, Sangren Hall, weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; slide lecture on their work, Friday, Oct. 15, Room 2003, Sangren Hall, 3 p.m.**

**Art exhibitions (through Oct. 15), Go Figure — Life Drawing Group Show, Rotunda Gallery, Painting Group Exhibition, South Gallery, East Hall; reception, Friday, Oct. 15, 5-7 p.m.**

**Tuesday, Oct. 12**

**Visiting Scholars and Artists Program lecture, “What Modern Was...” designer Ruth Adler Schnee, Schnee & Schnee, Southfield, Mich., Oakland Recital Hall, 5:15 p.m.**

**Admission charged**

**Wednesday, Oct. 13**

**Performance, Celtic singers and storytellers Sheila Douglas and Sheila Stewart, 10th-floor lounge, Sprau Tower, noon-3 p.m.**

**Visiting Scholars and Artists Program presentation by designer Ruth Adler Schnee, Schnee & Schnee, Southfield, Mich., Oakland Recital Hall, 5:15 p.m.**

**Performance, Celtic singers and storytellers Sheila Douglas and Sheila Stewart, 10th-floor lounge, Sprau Tower, noon-3 p.m.**

**The Economics of Health Care lecture series, “Health Insurance and the Labor Market,” Brigitte C. Madrian, professor of economics, University of Chicago, 3508 Knauss Hall, 7 p.m.**

**Ten Years After the Wall lecture series, “The Czech Republic in Transition,” James R. Palmeri, history, Lee Honors College Lounge, 7:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, Oct. 14**

**Hispanic Heritage Month panel discussion, issues affecting Puerto Rico, location TBA, 4 p.m.**

**Center for the Study of Ethics in Society lecture, “Imperial Interaction and Ethics on the World Wide Web,” David V. Newman, philosophy, 208 Bernhard Center, 7 p.m.**

**March to the Millennium Lecture Series, “European Apocalypticism in the Year 1000,” Otto Gründler, director emeritus of the Medieval Institute, 3512 Knauss Hall, 7:30 p.m.**

**Admission charged**

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**BLACK ALUMNI REMEMBER—More than 200 graduates returned to campus for the Sept. 23-25 Black Alumni Reunion. Attending activities that included discussion sessions Sept. 25 in the Fetzer Center were, from left, session leaders Michael R. Williams, ’78, U.S. Department of Treasury, Washington, D.C.; Anitta Rutherford Orr, ’66, Detroit Public Schools; Deborah Thomas, ’73, Wayne County circuit judge; and Felix Sharpe, ’91, former assistant to Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, who is also a WMU graduate. (Photo by John Lucko)**