Homecoming crowds expected for ‘Greatest Show’

WMU students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends will be treated to a spirited series of Homecoming events Saturday, Oct. 16, through Saturday, Oct. 23. With “The Greatest Show of the Century” as the theme, the 1999 Homecoming week celebration promises to offer a little something for everyone. Among the many events open to the public are musical shows, athletic contests, traditional student-oriented Homecoming activities, a community service campaign, and, of course, Homecoming football games.

Two named 1999 Distinguished Alumni

Two chief executives, one in aviation and one in higher education, have been selected to receive 1999 Distinguished Alumni Awards from the WMU Alumni Association.

Brian E. Barents and Barbara A. Mieras will join a select group of just 105 other WMU alumni who have been recognized for their professional achievement since the program’s inception in 1963.

They will be recognized at a Saturday, Oct. 23, awards dinner being held in conjunction with Homecoming.

Barents of Wichita, Kan., is president and chief executive officer of General Aerospace Corp. in Fort Worth, Texas. He also has served as president and chief executive officer of Learjet Inc. Barents earned his bachelor’s degree in economics and psychology from WMU in 1964.

Mieras of Grand Rapids, Mich., became the fifth president of Davenport College of Education in 1999, and oversees a system that enrolls 15,000 students. Mieras earned three degrees from WMU—a bachelor’s degree in business education in 1972, a master’s degree in business education in 1974 and a master’s degree in communication in 1984. She earned her doctoral degree at Michigan State University.

Trustees give Floyd high marks for first year’s job performance as University’s president

University trustees praised WMU President Elson S. Floyd’s job performance Oct. 7, describing his leadership abilities as the “gold standard” and awarding him a 6 percent salary increase.

Acting at its regular meeting, the board unanimously approved a formal evaluation of Floyd, who took office Aug. 1, 1998, and boosted his salary to $185,500 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year. The increase is retroactive to the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

“IT is evident that your management style is right for this University,” said Trustee Richard Haworth of Holland, read- ing from a statement prepared by the board’s evaluation committee, which he chaired. “You lead with wisdom, enthusiasm, vision, compassion and obviously, boundless energy.”

Citing improved relationships with the Kalamazoo community and other colleges in the area, the statement praised Floyd for his “friend raising” talents as well as the fundraising he already has embarked on in preparation for an upcoming capital campaign.

“We believe that you are responsible for the continued growth of pride in Westmeck (home to welcome guests and rally fans for the Ball State University Cardinals in a grand Middle School Mathematics Reform Foundation to fund a project in mathematics education, a major research area at the University. The award will fund the Michigan Middle School Mathematics Reform Project, a four-year collaborative effort designed to assist Michigan school districts in aligning their middle school mathematics programs with new state and national recommendations. Dr. Robert Laing and Dr. Ruth Ann Meyer, both professors of mathematics and statistics, direct the project along with Dr. Mark Jenness, se- nior research associate in WMU’s Science

Grants hit $83 million mark at year’s end

Grants to WMU reached a record-breaking $83.5 million during the 1998-99 year, according to a report presented to the Board of Trustees at its Oct. 7 meeting. The total represented 6 percent increase over the previous record total of $31 million set last year.

“The $51 million CATIA engineering software award an- nounced in Novem- ber greatly exceeded this year’s grant to- tal,” said Donald E. Thompson, vice presi- dent for research and dean of the Graduate College. “But in addition to the new develop- ment, this was a tremendous year in re- search growth and scholarship for our fac- ulty. We had more successful proposals and more large grants than ever before.”

The year-end total reported to the board included grants compiled during June, the final month of activity for the 1998-99 year. Grants during that month alone to- taled nearly $6.2 million and included awards in several areas for which the Uni- versity has established a research and pub- lic service track record.

“We’ve reached a point where we’ve established a strong reputation in a number of areas,” Thompson says. “Funding agen- cies know what we can do and they know we do it well. We’ve moved into an elite group of universities that have established themselves as preferred researchers in certain areas.”

The June awards included a new $767,291 grant from the National Science Foundation to fund a project in mathematic- es education, a major research area at the University. The award will fund the Michi- gan Middle School Mathematics Reform Project, a four-year collaborative effort designed to assist Michigan school dis- tricts in aligning their middle school math- ematics programs with new state and na- tional recommendations. Dr. Robert Laing and Dr. Ruth Ann Meyer, both professors of mathematics and statistics, direct the project along with Dr. Mark Jenness, se- nior research associate in WMU’s Science

(Continued on page four)
Klein lecture will focus on Yugoslav politics, views of leading Milosevic opponent

An Eastern European economist and early Slovakian Milosevic critic who has been involved in Yugoslav politics since the days of Tito will speak on campus Wednesday, Oct. 20.

Branko Horvat will describe "Two Strategically Interconnected Paths: Transformation in a Free, public lecture that will focus on political and economic changes in his native Croatia and throughout Eastern Europe. His address, set for 7:30 p.m. in 3508 Knapps Hall, is this year’s George Klein Memorial Lecture on Eastern Europe and also is part of a fall lecture series that is focusing on Eastern Europe 10 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

For several decades, Horvat has been a leading economic thinker in Eastern Europe. A native of Slovenia, he was one of the first in the country to study and write on the economic history of Yugoslavia. As an expert in the Western tradition of economics, he is one of the most influential and controversial economists in Yugoslavia’s socialist system.

The George Klein Lecture is named for a longtime member of the Department of Political Science who was an internationally known expert on Balkan politics and Eastern European political systems. Klein, a WMU faculty member for more than 23 years, served as dean of the Graduate College.

For more information about Horvat’s visit, contact Tanner at 7-5685.

Teaching forum offered

University educators are invited to celebrate their involvement in the learning community during the All University Forum on Teaching and Learning Thursday, Oct. 28.

Hosted by the Center for Teaching and Learning, the forum will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. in 157 Bernhard Hall. The University faculty, administration and graduate students are invited to attend.

The program will include reflections on the journey of teaching, the personal and professional rewards of the active involvement of senior administrators, according to Linda M. Delene, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"We're thrilled to have this wonderful, truly museum-quality collection," Kehew says. "In addition to their spectacular beauty, these specimens will prove highly useful in our classes. Students and faculty alike will benefit from Jim Duncan's generosity."

Valuable mineral collection to be dedicated Oct. 21

The 336-piece mineral collection of a distinguished local collector will be dedicated at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, in the main lobby of the Miller and Meeks Building. The public dedication begins at 4:30 p.m. at the department’s L.H. Stier Memorial Museum of Geology in the lobby of Rood Hall.

"We’ve melded the administrative responsibility for research and graduate study and strengthened the role of the associate dean with the addition of Richard Wright as a senior administrator," said Thompson of the appointments. "Richard brings great depth and breadth of experience in research and higher education to this role.

The appointment of Viji Murali, whose assignment was announced in September, also was approved, effective Nov. 1, 1999; Michael S. Pritchard as senior associate dean of the Graduate College, effective June 30, 1999; and Eileen B. Evans as assistant dean of the Graduate College, effective the day he assumed his current position. NW

The new administration also includes the appointment of Viji Murali, whose dual position of vice president for research and graduate education, along with Evans as assistant dean of the Graduate College, also effective June 30, 1999. NW

"We’re hoping for strong mail-in pledges ahead of time for "Morning Edition" and two hours of "All Things Considered." But it only airs one hour a day for "Morning Edition" and two hours a day for "All Things Considered." We’re worried about people who are going to give, but they’re not going to give until the last minute," Pientka says.

During the fall fundraiser, WMUK is collecting mail-in pledges ahead of time in hopes of reducing the length of the on-air solicitation.

Mail-in pledges typically account for 20 percent of the station’s fund drives and already have been mailed in for this year’s fall fundraiser.

Rising NPR program costs send WMUK's fall fund-raising goal climbing to $220,000

Soaring costs for National Public Radio programs are forcing University radio station WMUK-FM to ask for more money in its annual fund drive.

This year’s goal is $220,000, up $20,000 from the $200,000 goal the station has had the past four years. And the goal will be set even after NPR programming costs jumped 15 percent above last year’s figures.

On-air phone pledging for the drive is set for Oct. 16-22. As in the past, the station is collecting mail-in pledges ahead of time instead of having to think of ways in hopes of reducing the length of the on-air campaign.

"We would have been glad to keep the goal where it has been," says Floyd Pientka, station program director, "but we had to pick up the slack to give people a way to give money to their favorite programs."

Pientka says NPR has changed its pricing structure, resulting in added costs for the station. "The idea behind the pricing changes was to assess based on the size of the market WMUK serves, which is one of the smallest markets in the nation. NPR now is assessing costs based on how many listeners stations actually have and the radio network has become very adept at measuring that number."

In particular, the station’s "Morning Edition" program "Car Talk" has become very expensive, Pientka says. The program still costs less overall than "All Things Considered," but it only airs one hour a day for "Morning Edition" and two hours each weekday plus two hours each weekend for "All Things Considered."

But the fall fundraiser, which helps fund drives and already by 1990, is collecting mail-in pledges ahead of time in hopes of reducing the length of the on-air solicitation.

Mail-in pledges typically account for 20 percent of the station’s fund drives and already have been mailed in for this year’s fall fundraiser.

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Distinguished Service nominations due

The Fall 1999 seminannual Staff Service Excellence Awards program is under way and the committee is seeking nominations of non-faculty staff members for consideration.

The SSEA program recognizes WMU personnel who perform in true service excellence, not only exceeding normal job expectations. Nominees are selected by a group of employee peers, rating non-faculty

All nominations will be considered solely on the basis of the nomination packet. Persons making nominations should include as much detail as possible to demonstrate the excellence evidenced by the nominee. Nominations may be submitted through Friday, Oct. 22, to human resources, by memo or email to tracey.willavize@wmich.edu, or by using a nomination form that can be obtained from human resources and posted at C-7360. Winners for the Fall '99 round will be announced in early November.

Service

These faculty and staff members are recognized for five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service in October.

10 years—Dean K. Hoisler, University budget

25 years—Susan K. Boersma, speech pathology and audiology; Amniree Cox, Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance; Stephen M. Ferguson, physics; Pamela G. Liberakis, and orientation; Carol Pinel, physical plant-landscaping grounds maintenance.

20 years—Eileen J. Boven, physical plant-food services; Alberta M. Cumming, history; Shelia A. Johnson, Sindecuse Health Center; Mable Moncrief, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Carol M. Moss, Student Health Center chairman Carol Mounjoy, student financial aid; Carolyn J. Wiley, Valley I dining service; Gary Wunderli, physical plant-garden services.

Five years—Crista Boyle, Valley I dining service; Kristin K. Dias, Valley III dining service; Sharon M. Dwan, academic counseling, planning; Gary M. Custer, auxiliary enterprises.

Human resources

Stress control is on menu

Are you hoping to reduce the stress in your life this year? The Employee Assistance Program is offering a stress management seminar from 12 to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, in 157 Willett Hall (R)." Financial strategies sessions set

Faculty and staff are invited to attend "Financial Strategies for a New Century: Tips From America's Experts," a live national teleconference sponsored by TIAA-CREF from 12:45 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, in the Patney Auditorium, Fetzer Center. A panel of noted investment experts will discuss the best ways of preparing for your retirement and your family by attending one of the four educational seminars TIAA-CREF is presenting on campus Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Nov. 3 and 4. Sessions are set for 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 1:30 to 3 p.m. on each day in 211 Bernhard Center. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend and learn about this new benefit option. And, watch your home mailbox for more information and an invitation to the seminars from TIAA-CREF.

Jobs

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Opportunity Program by employment services in the Department of Human Resources. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period and may contact this office in person, by telephone, or by email to secure these positions.

Replacement

Hustoles appointed WMU general counsel

The appointment of Carol L. J. Hustoles as general counsel for WMU was approved by trustees Oct. 7.

Hustoles, whose appointment was effective July 1, will serve as chief legal counsel for the University and report directly to the president. He will be responsible for providing legal advice, assistance and representation to the WMU trustees, administration, faculty and staff in all legal matters relating to the University. If you would like to take advantage of this service, call 387-IRDC to schedule a private, individual appointment at the Student Recreation Center. Appointments are available between 12 and 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. A 30-minute session is $20, a 60-minute session is $35, and a 90-minute session is $50.
Executive funds scholarships for minorities

Increasing the diversity of those entering finance careers is the goal of new full scholarships established by the president of Greenleaf Asset Management Inc. and the University's Haworth College of Business.

William D. Johnston, the president of Greenleaf Asset Management Inc. of Kalamazoo, made a commitment of $352,000 to the WMU Foundation to establish the Greenleaf Asset Management Scholarships. Each four-year scholarship covers all tuition and living expenses for students majoring in finance. Two scholarships will be given per year for the next several years to students from underrepresented groups.

Johnston established the scholarships to address a critical issue in business-to-business recruiting efforts could not identify students in high school and fund them for four years while they learn about the opportunities available and how to prepare for careers in finance. He's delighted that Bill Johnston, a University alumnus, will become a partner to introduce students to these exciting opportunities.

Johnston is an alumnus of WMU, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1970 and a master's degree in 1974. He is a member of the University Foundation Board of Directors.

"We decided to work with WMU's Haworth College of Business to attack the problem directly," Johnston says.

Dean James W. Schmotter, Haworth College of Business, says that despite the efforts of many committed people in industry and education, the lack of diversity in some areas of business, such as finance, is a problem that has not yet been solved. The Greenleaf Asset Management Scholarships are a step in addressing this issue.

As we enter the new health care business, businesses must look more like the rest of America in terms of their employees' background," he says. "These new scholarships are important because they enable us to identify students in high school and fund them for four years while they learn about the opportunities available and how to prepare for careers in finance. I'm delighted that Bill Johnston, a University alumnus, will become a partner to introduce students to these exciting opportunities."

Schmotter is an alumnus of WMU, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1970 and a master's degree in 1974. He is a member of the University Foundation Board of Directors.

Open house set for prospective grad students

A Graduate Program Open House will be held Thursday, Oct. 21, for persons contemplating pursuing a graduate degree. The event, which is sponsored by the Office of Admissions and Orientation, will take place from noon to 2 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. in the West Ballroom Suites of the Bernhard Center.

"The open house will be a source of information about the graduate programs, research and career development programs offered through WMU," says Dean John Fraire. Fraire notes that representatives from all of the University's departments that offer graduate programs will be in attendance, providing informational materials and answering questions. In addition, he says, staff members from the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, Counseling and Testing Services, Career and Student Development, Teacher Certification and the Graduate College will also be on hand.

High marks

(Continued from page one)

In the statement, the board praised Floyd for "making remarkable progress" in reaching the Board's objectives set for him when he was hired. It singled out Floyd's successful resolution of issues surrounding the construction of a new engineering research center, and the speedy settlement of the contract between WMU and the American Association of University Professors.

The board's statement concluded with its thanks to Floyd's wife, Cindy, for serving as "an outstanding ambassador for WMU." Floyd thanked the board for its positive evaluation and credited the board's leadership and the University community with much of the year's success.

"The leadership that you all have provided has been immeasurable and for that I remain in your debt," Floyd said. "You laid out for me a very ambitious agenda. It is only, though, with the help of the superb team around me that we've been able to accomplish as much as we have in this, my first year."