Floyd to present

President Elson S. Floyd will deliver a "State of the University" address Tuesday, Feb. 8, as part of WMU’s annual Academic Convocation in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The 3 p.m. event, which is open to the public, is intended to recognize excellence and academic achievement at the University. It is sponsored by the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Timothy Light, provost and vice president for academic affairs, will give the welcome at the convocation. Alumni Teaching Excellence Awards will be presented by M. Jamie Jeremy, executive director of the WMU Alumni Association, to Ronald Chase, geo-sciences, and Frank M. Gambino, marketing.

A Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award will be presented by Light to James M. Fillenbrand, speech-pathologist and audiologist. Light also will present the Outstanding Emeritus Scholar Award to Elizabeth B. Garland, emerita in anthropology.

George A. Franklin, chairperson of the Board of Trustees, will present Distinguished Service Awards to G. H. Yorgo Demetrakopoulos, former assistant to the dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, and C. Dennis Simpson, community health services and director of the Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Following the awards ceremony, Floyd will give the address. The convocation will be followed by a reception in the lobby of the Dalton Center.

At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evening, Floyd’s "State of the University" address also can be heard in a tape delay broadcast presented by WMUK (102.1), the University’s public radio station.

Franklin, who was appointed to the board in 1991, is vice president for worldwide government affairs at the Kellogg Co. in Battle Creek. He began working at Kellogg in 1967 and before joining the company, he represented it as an attorney in private practice in Washington, D.C.

Floyd has served on the board since 1987. He was an employee of the Upjohn Co. of Kalamazoo, now Pharmacia & Upjohn Inc., for 35 years before he retired in 1992 from his position as manager of community and legislative affairs. Later that year, he was named vice president for public affairs for the Kalamazoo Foundation, a position he held until his 1998 retirement.

Franklin is one of three provost candidates visiting campus this month

Campus presentations have been set over the next two weeks for three final candidates in the University’s search for a new provost to be president for academic affairs. The three candidates, the dates of their visits to campus, and the time and location of their public presentations are:

• Fred Dobney, executive vice president and provost of Michigan Technological University; Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 7 and 8; presentation at 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7, in the Kirsch Auditorium, Fetzer Center.
• Glen Hahn Cope, professor of public administration and dean of the University of Illinois at Springfield; Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 9 and 10; presentation at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, in Brown Auditorium, Schneider Hall.
• Thomas A. Storch, professor and dean of the College of Science at Marshall University; Thursday and Friday, Feb. 16 and 17; presentation at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in Brown Auditorium, Schneider Hall.

A copy of the informational packet is available at the information desk in Waldo Library and in the dean’s office. Limited numbers of each candidate’s vita will be available at the scheduled public session for that candidate.

WMU lands 747 gift from Northwest Airlines

A B747-100, will arrive at the College of Aviation’s facilities in Battle Creek at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, after making its final flight as part of Northwest Airlines. The Boeing-built plane is being given by Northwest to the college for use in its aviation programs. Transfer of the Boeing-built plane’s to the college for use in its aviation program will also make available to the college’s Aircraft Maintenance Technology students the latest in aircraft maintenance and repair.

Taking part in the event will be: George A. Franklin, chairperson of WMU’s Board of Trustees; WMU President Elson S. Floyd; Northwest’s Bill Wade, vice president for line maintenance operations; Douglas G. Routhwell, vice president and chief executive officer of the Michigan Economic Development Corp.; Ted Dearing, mayor of Battle Creek; and Northwest Capt. Chris Blendeder, a 1977 graduate of WMU's aviation program.

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Garland to be honored as University’s second ‘Outstanding Emeritus Scholar’ for decades of work in archaeology

A retired WMU professor of anthropology who has made her mark on history through continued contributions to the archaeological knowledge of Michigan has been selected as the University’s second-ever Outstanding Emeritus Scholar. Elizabeth Baldwin Garland, a faculty member from 1964-1992, will receive her award at the University’s Acaemic Convocation at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Garland is the second recipient of the Outstanding Emeritus Scholar Award, which was instituted in 1998 to recognize retired faculty members with exemplary scholarship. Criteria for the award parallel those for the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, WMU’s highest honor for a faculty member. Those criteria include having a significant body of achievement and a widespread recognition beyond the University.

Garland is being recognized for her major contributions to the field of prehistory. A teacher, researcher and field archaeologist, work that continues today, eight years after her retirement. Recognized by one colleague as “Michigan’s foremost expert for several major periods of Great Lakes prehistory,” Garland has conducted major research into the prehistoric archaeological record of Michigan. Her efforts have resulted in numerous publications, a significant collection of artifacts housed at WMU, and a number of former students who are now practicing archaeologists.

Garland joined the emerging WMU anthropology department in 1964. By 1996, she had helped establish WMU’s archaeology program and a joint field school with the American archeological society. During her career, she directed and par.

Garland

Demetrakopoulos, Simpson named winners of WMU’s annual Distinguished Service Awards

A substance abuse educator who has generated more than $13 million in grants and contracts and an administrator who recently retired after more than 34 years of service to the University have been selected as recipients of the 1999 Distinguished Service Awards.

George H. Yorgo Demetrakopoulos, College of Arts and Sciences, and C. Dennis Simpson, Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse and community health services, will receive their awards at the University’s Annual Academic Convocation set for 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. (See related story on this page.)

The two were chosen from campuswide nominations based on such criteria as: service through innovative and effective programs; service in areas that lead to the growth and stature of the University; and service that extends the impact and presence of the University into the larger community. Demetrakopoulos and Simpson will each receive a plaque and a $1,500 honorarium.

Demetrakopoulos, who retired in January after 34 1/2 years of service, began his career at WMU in 1965 as an instructor in the history department. In 1970, he became assistant director for the Medieval Institute and three years later moved into the position of assistant director of academic advising in the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1978, he became an assistant to the dean for the College, overseeing academic advising. During his tenure he was responsible

Demetrakopoulos

Simpson

(Continued on page four)
New travel instruction degree paves way for nation’s newest human service profession

 Whether it comes to driving a car or riding on a bus, the ability to travel is key to independence and often essential to a person’s quality of life. But for many people with disabilities, traveling is a problem, a struggle they face every time they leave their homes.

 To help people with disabilities meet this challenge, WMU has developed a travel instruction program that is training students to help people with disabilities travel safely and effectively.

 The program is the first of its kind in the nation and complements an existing program that trains students to help blind people with travel instruction. That very successful program, part of the University’s Department of Blind Rehabilitation, has been taken in several exercises that will expose them to the rigors of traveling with a disability, such as using a wheelchair and public transportation to travel to a destination across town or other exercises that will simulate speech or hearing impairments.

 Eight students currently are enrolled in the program. Wiener hopes to boost that number to 10 students per year with the help of a $30,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education that will pick up the in-state tuition costs for juniors and seniors plus give them a stipend for books and other expenses. To help establish the program, the Federal Transit Act also has committed $1 million to develop standards for the preparation of independent travel specialists and to develop a program leading to a certificate in travel instruction.

 When they graduate, students will be eligible for jobs at centers for independent living, independent agencies, educational programs, hospitals and transit systems. They will teach people with disabilities how to establish and maintain their orientation and travel safely in indoor areas, residential neighborhoods, rural areas, businesses and urban areas.

 Students who have enrolled in the program have unique undergraduate and graduate level educational opportunities while providing a much-needed service to people with disabilities.

 “One of the advantages of travel instruction is we’ll work with all disabilities, not just visual impairment,” says Morgan Seale, a senior who switched from social work to travel instruction when the program became available. “My biggest interest is in giving everyone the opportunity, especially those with disabilities, to travel independently and be independent in their recreation, employment and school.”

 Students also are attracted to what they believe will be a growing field.

 “I think there will be a big demand for travel instructors,” says junior Justin Latulippe. “A lot of agencies are demanding this type of experience.”

 Helping people with disabilities travel independently will become increasingly important, Wiener agrees, noting that being able to travel lets people take part in educational programs, gain employment and become a contributing member of a community.

 In addition to the Americans with Disabilities Act, several other pieces of legislation are making travel instruction a necessity. Wiener adds. One example is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which mandates that children with disabilities be taught how to travel independently. Another example is the recently reauthorized Rehabilitation Act, which deals with adults returning to work and mandates that travel instruction be provided if necessary.

 “What tends to happen in these cases is there are no travel instructors available,” Wiener says. “So they find whoever they can find—catch as catch can—unless they happen to be lucky enough to live in a city with a program that’s already up and functioning. So we’re hoping our graduates will fill that void.”

 Expert on tax treatment of health insurance will speak

 An expert on health and pharmaceutical insurance issues, Helms, is director of the Employee Benefits and Compensation Research Institute for Public Policy Research, will be the second featured speaker in the University’s “Healthy Workers” lecture series Wednesday, Feb. 16.

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 February message to the campus community is ‘Let us pump you up’

 Let us pump you up! Get your blood pressure checked at the screening site most convenient to your schedule. Check the calendar in this issue of Western News for a complete list of testing sites, dates and times.

 Take the following steps:

 • Your heart disease risk reduction plan should include all of the following.
   • Baseline cholesterol assessment by age 20; recheck every three to five years if you are in the desirable range of less than 200 mg/dl. Higher levels require more frequent evaluation.

 • Develop a taste for and select low-fat, high nutrient foods.
 • Engaging in planned cardiovascular exercise at least three times a week.
 • Taking advantage of Sincendue Health Center’s Nicotine Dependence Recovery Program, offering employees financial reimbursement for effective strategies and supportive resources.

 Trustees approve retirement plans of five

 The retirements of one faculty member and four staff members were approved by the University’s Board of Trustees at its Jan. 28 meeting. The board also approved changing the previously announced retirement date for Edward J. Pawlak, social work, to June 11, 2000.

 The faculty member who is retiring is doing so with emeriti status. Her name, years of continuous service and effective date of retirement are: Lynda J. Stillwell, theatre, 34 years, effective April 22, 2000.

 The staff members retiring are: Alberta M. Cumming, history, 20-22 years, effective Feb. 29, 2000; Michael J. Matthews, Office of University Relations, 20 years, effective Jan. 1, 2000; Philip S. Rokele, transportation services, 28-30 years, effective April 16, 2000; and Rockle, Sprick, Stillwell
16th annual Medallion competition will bring 700 top high school students to campus

More than 700 of the brightest high school seniors in Michigan and 10 other states will gather on campus over two Saturdays, Feb. 12 and 19, for the 16th annual Medallion Scholarship Competition.

These academic stars from more than 300 high schools will converge on WMU to compete for $4 million plus in four-year scholarships to attend the University beginning this fall. The event is one of the biggest scholarship competitions of its kind in Michigan.

Since the annual competition began 16 years ago, nearly 11,000 students have participated and some $76 million in four-year scholarships has been offered.

Capping off the competition are the prestigious Medallion Scholarships, which are currently worth $32,000 over four years. These awards are among the largest merit scholarships in American public higher education. In 1999, 23 students earned these top awards and, to date, 241 students have shared about $6 million in Medallion Scholarships.

As a result of the crop of this year’s high school graduating classes is invited to attend. Students had to apply to WMU by Dec. 31 and had to carry at least a 3.8 grade point average and have an American College Test score of 25 or better, along with the post higherconsider grades, courses, test scores and performance in the on-campus competition as well as leadership activities, recommendations.

Deadline nears for campus international photo contest

The deadline for the “Focus on Your World” International Photo Contest is Tuesday, Feb. 15, and faculty and staff are asked to encourage their student contacts to enter.

First prize in the contest, which was first announced last fall, is a round-trip ticket anywhere in the continental United States served by Travel Consultants, one of the campus' first-class travel agencies. Second prize, worth $1,000, will be awarded to one in the “People” category. This contest is open only to WMU students.

For more information or to secure an entry form, contact the Study Abroad Office at 7-5900.

Annual event set for Feb. 14-18 designed to honor University’s student employees

The University community will honor its student employees with the annual Student Employee of the Year awards program.

Sponsored by Career and Student Employment Services, the activities are designed to recognize the work of some 7,000 undergraduate University students employed each year—WMU’s largest employee group.

Awards reception on Feb. 17, will honor the “Student Employee of the Year” along with all the other outstanding students nominated for the award and their nominators. To be held in the President’s Dining Room at the Bernhard Center, the ceremony will recognize those students who demonstrate “reliability, initiative, professionalism and a unique contribution to our University community.”

A “Supervisor of the Year” also will be chosen from among nominees from across the campus. Dean of Students Diane Swartz will present the award.

Even if supervisors missed the Feb. 3 application deadline for award nominations, departments are encouraged to honor their student workers in other ways. Suggestions include a day off, a treat for their student’s family singing his or her praises, a silly or serious appreciation certificate or coupon booklets entitling students to a free car of popcorn, homemade goodie or a movie night with the boss.

For details on the week’s activities or more tips on how to honor student employees, contact Suzanne Holsinger in Career and Student Employment Services at 7-278.

Amazon trip will tap geographers’ expertise

The WMU Brazilian Amazonian Program is offering a field travel seminar for students interested in careers in the Amazon.

The Department of Geography is sponsoring field travel to the Brazilian Amazon, an opportunity to study Earth systems, geology, and other interest areas to the Brazilian Amazon June 12 – 27.

The WMU Brazilian Amazonian Program is a credit/non-credit program that will enable WMU students and non-WMU students to engage in the study of a rainforest and the Brazilian culture. In addition to sightseeing and shopping excursions in the cities of Manaus and Belem, travelers will have the opportunity to spend a night in a hammock, experience ecotourism along the Guana River and examine erosion as well as atmospheric changes due to excessive lumbering in the rainforest.

The program costs $2,500, and includes tuition for three academic credits at WMU, round-trip air transportation from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to and from Brazil, ground and water transportation to the field, entry activities, accommodations, meals, and various other expenses. Nearly all meals, maps and field guides, health insurance, instructional costs, and administrative expenses are included. Participants of the trip will be eligible for a travel scholarship of $1,000.

For more information about the WMU Brazilian Amazonian Program or to register, contact Barbara Peacock, geography, at 7-3415.

Staff Service Excellence Award nominations sought

We all know them—the outstanding University employees whose contributions often go unrecognized. Maybe it’s time to tell the rest of us about those fine coworkers and let them be publicly recognized for their excellence. The Staff Service Excellence Awards are a great way to do just that.

The Winter 2000 semiannual Staff Service Excellence Awards program is seeking nominations of non-faculty staff members for consideration. The SSEE program is designed to recognize University personnel who perform in true service excellence, far beyond what is expected. Up to 12 non-faculty staff members are eligible to win a $100 prize and a certificate of appreciation.

All nominations will be considered solely on the basis of the nomination form and letter of recommendation, so be as detailed as possible to describe the excellence exhibited by the nominee. Nominations may be submitted through Friday, Feb. 18 to Kitty Scheffers, human resources, by memo or by email kerry.scheffers@wmich.edu. Nominations also may be submitted using a nomination form that can be obtained from human resources by calling 7-3620.

Winners for the Winter 2000 round of awards will be announced in early March.

Compensation 2000 update: Team members discuss market pricing with colleges and departments

The Compensation 2000 team is preparing for the next phase of the process of comparing compensation for University jobs with the compensation for similar positions in relevant markets. Through the month of February, team members are meeting with representatives of each University college and department to determine job market rates that should be used for comparison. Employment and, in some cases, personal interviews. Awards will be offered by March 31.

Among the participants this year are 290 students who have perfect 4.0 GPAs or who have perfect ACT scores of 30 or higher. The highest ACT score is 36.

More than 1,000 of their parents also will be attending to participate in information sessions and other activities.

Omission on January service list noted

Due to an editing error, the name of Thomas Ramsdell, Brink Printing Services, anniversary of service to WMU.

On Jan. 7, Ramsdell celebrated his 20th service to WMU.

Mr. Fixit—It’s no exaggeration to call Tom Lentz, the building operations supervisor at the University’s Bendle and Rapids Regional Center, “Mr. Fixit.” When he’s not picking up trash, checking up on the work of contractors, he can often be found with the tools around the building making repairs himself or helping Williams to deliver a delivery at the side dock.

“Two days are the same for me,” Lentz, who began his WMU career on the main campus 10 years ago, said, “I’m doing something—repair—the chiller shop— in the physical plant. He has assumed his present duties in 1996 at the center, which functions as a conference center by day and a classroom building by night. A licensed mechanical contractor himself, Lentz coordinates the work of vendors who provide such varied services as landscaping, asphalt paving, custodial work, interior painting, roofing and satellite downlink maintenance for the 38,000-square-foot facility. “And I’ve got a great office, with a view of a beautiful wooded area with a stream running through it,” he says, with obvious pleasure, of the center’s campus-like setting. When not at work, Lentz indulges his interests in old cars and boats, including a 1957 Chevy wagon, which he calls “the working man’s station wagon, from the pre-minivan era.” He also is the owner of a couple of 1940s-era Chris-Craft speed boats.

Wanda, a teacher, enjoy taking him up north to the Traverse City area or the Upper Peninsula, pulling a 1967 tear-drop camper “that just happens to match the paint on the Chevy wagon.”

The couple, who live in Rockford, have three children, aged 19 to 21, whom they like to include on some trips whenever they can. They also own and operate a few apartments. That’s a business, Lentz says, they hope to take with them into retirement. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

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Garland
(Continued from page one)
reached in numerous excavations throughout the state, including several intensive surveys of the Kalamazoo River basin and the archaeology mitigation for the U.S. High Level Liberal Education, the creation of a "pre-law" curriculum designation and advising system for students preparing to law school, and as assistant director of the Medieval Institute, Demetrapoulos contributed significantly to the growth and development of the College of Arts and Sciences by making the biennial Medieval Conference into an annual event, increasing participation from 30 to more than 1,500 individuals from around the world.

In addition, Demetrapoulos initiated several programs and collaborations, including the development of the Kinom Boumazo Award that is part of the annual Martin Luther King Day Program. He was also instrumental in developing a plan for the College of Arts and Sciences to provide services to minority students that later became a state-funded program for that college.

"Yorgo’s primary focus was placing the students first and he would do whatever he could to ensure positive benefits for our student population," wrote a colleague in nominating him. "During his years at the University, he has affected the lives of students in ways that were always given the benefit of the doubt."

Demetrapoulos also sponsored numerous campus committees and professional organizations.

Simpson, a faculty member since 1978, is recognized for his contributions to WMU’s School of Community Health Services and the field of substance abuse services. Simpson is also the principal investigator of the SPADA program, which provides education and training in substance abuse services and has published himself as an expert in that field.

"Dem has created and maintained a standard of quality for this academic program and its efforts in education, research, community outreach and the professionalization of the field of substance abuse services which is without equal," was the nomination in nominating him for the award.

When Simpson joined WMU, the School of Community Health Services had 10 graduate students, and no grant or contract funding. The program now has several hundred student enrollees, with classes offered on campus and through distance education, and a graduate program offered in both regional centers and online. In addition, Simpson has been the principal or co-principal investigator or consultant on nearly 100 grants and contracts amounting to more than $13 million to provide substance abuse research and services.

Simpson has served as a consultant for numerous organizations including the AFL-CIO, American Council on Education, General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., National Association of Children of Alcoholics, George Mason University and University of Wisconsin. Simpson has held more than 30 elected or appointed positions. He also was the founder and president for seven years of the Michigan Consortium on Substance Abuse Education, an effort to get colleges and universities in the state to develop and offer substance abuse education.

In nominating Simpson for the award, one of his colleagues wrote: "A true individual who may live the style he lives, putting things to the right on campus and the SPADA program and its graduates is evidence of his contributions.

"This program makes me most proud about Dennis and this program he has nurtured," the colleague wrote, "that he is able to go into the world and make miracles."