New address honors WMU founding

It's in the same location but, effective April 20, the University has a new mailing address. The move, which includes a number that's already familiar to WMU fans.

The University's new official address is 1903 West Michigan Ave. It's a postal designation destined to be reinforced over the coming years as WMU heads into a centennial celebration, said President Elson S. Floyd.

"This is a wonderfully appropriate way to begin preparation for our centennial celebration," said President Elson S. Floyd in announcing the move at the April 20 meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees.

"From now on, all of the University's mail and publications will bear this reminder of the rich heritage that we as a University community continue to strive to honor," Floyd said the idea was first proposed to him in a note from Leo Stevenson, finance and commercial law. That note sparked a University initiative that eventually involved two city officials and the U.S. Postal Service to assure that the address could and would be viable.

"We worked with Kalamazoo city officials and the U.S. Postal Service to assure that the address could and would be viable," Piper said. "We had to be sure that no official building or city site bore that address and that the postal service would know how to get there and would be able to ask us to look up the address for the future.

While there is no building that bears the address, 1903 West Michigan Ave. falls at the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation funds to boost math reform

Four Michigan foundations are contributing a total of more than $1.3 million to support a statewide effort based at WMU that is helping school districts implement new middle school math programs.

The Middle School Mathematics Reform Project, dubbed MMRP, has received more than $4 million in state and federal support, most of that coming through a four-year $3.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation in 1999. To that will be added a total of $1,352,680 in private support from the four foundations.

The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation leads the list of private funding with a commitment of $1 million. Contributing $100,000 is the Dow Coming Foundation, and the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation has given $50,000. All three are based in Midland. In addition, the Steelcase Foundation of Grand Rapids has pledged $202,680 in support for MMRP in Kent and Ottawa counties over the next three years.

"We are extremely grateful for this generous support," says WMU President Elson S. Floyd. "It serves as a ringing endorsement of the important work being done in our state in mathematics education reform and teacher training.

"I am personally grateful to The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation for its leadership in support of this project," Floyd notes.

Walker will oversee continuing education programs

Alan G. Walker has been named vice provost of academic affairs for continuing education at the University, effective July 1.

Walker's appointment was approved at the April 20 meeting of Trustees.

Walker is currently director of development in the Division of Continuing Education at Louisiana State University, where he has served as director of the Fire and Emergency Training Institute. As development director, he has helped lead an interdisciplinary effort to establish a new international center for emergency management.

He also served for seven years as a program director for the Division of Continuing Education at the University of Kansas and as a curriculum and program developer with the Idaho State Division for Vocational Education.

Walker earned an associate degree at the College of Southern Idaho in 1982; bachelor's and master's degrees in 1984 and 1988, respectively, from the University of Idaho; and a doctorate in higher education policy and administration from the University of Kansas in 1999. He is the author of numerous papers and trade journal articles and was selected for an International Inaugural Visiting Fellowship in 1995.

Walker will oversee WMU's continuing education efforts, which include program offerings at eight regional centers and study sites around Michigan. He will report to provost and vice president for academic affairs and tenured professor of history, effective July 1.

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He has been active at the national level in educational reform movements, currently serving on the Holmes Group/Holmes Partnership national board of directors. He also has been involved in curriculum development work in English and active with the National Council of Teachers of English.

England, who also will be a tenured professor of teaching, learning and leadership, replaces Frank Ropley, who announced last year he is stepping down from

Freshman admissions closed for second time

For the second time in as many years, the University has closed admission to its freshman class because of record numbers of student applications.

The decision to close admissions this year was made 10 days earlier than last year, when skyrocketering numbers of students seeking admission prompted the University to close admissions for the first time in its history. The class of beginning freshman that enrolled for the fall 1999 semester brought in 4,262, an increase of 18 percent over the previous year's record numbers.

Admissions officials report that the number of freshman applications this year is up another 7 percent. The rate of students making deposits and the number of students reserved space for summer orientation sessions also are up substantially.

Everett Tower closed for remodeling work

On May 1, Everett Tower was closed for removal of asbestos and remodeling.

The remodeling will include painting and the installation of new ceilings, lights, carpet, and interior signage. Work is scheduled for completion by Aug. 1.

The departmental offices in Everett have been relocated temporarily to Rood Hall and will remain open. The Department of Physics office is located in 2202 Rood and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics office is located in 3375 Rood.

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)
Medievalists to focus on Vikings, vamps and Java script at weekend congress on campus

They’ve come by plane, train, automobile and Viking ship. Nearly 3,000 medieval scholars have descended upon Kalamazoo for the 35th International Congress on Medieval Studies that begins today on campus.

The congress, which runs through Sunday, is the largest gathering of medievalists in the world. Sponsored by the Medieval Institute, the gathering attracts historians, art curators, military strategists, monks and nuns from around the globe.

According to Paul Szarmach, Medieval Institute’s president and the congress’s general chairman, the event “has grown and grown.” This year the gathering will feature presentations of more than 1,700 papers in 562 sessions, two concerts, a film festival and a special performance of “Morte d’Arthur.”

One of the congress’ highlights will be the launching of a Viking ship.

But not everything at the congress is from the days of yore. While cyberspace was not even imagined in the Middle Ages, it figures prominently in this congress. From a special demonstration of the PhiloBiblon databases, an advanced electronic resource for research on medieval literature, to teaching medieval studies via distance learning or using multimedia to teach Chaucer, the computer’s impact on the study of things medieval will be discussed and experienced.

It won’t all be about new technology; there’s plenty of the old to talk about, too. In a session on “Medieval Technology,” scholars will address medieval watermills, windmills, steam engines or Viking longboats, and modern equivalents such as wind turbines or solar panels.

Medievalists to focus on Vikings, vamps and Java script at weekend congress on campus

Two WMU emeriti are among the top 100 food and beverage industry leaders of the last century according to the Michigan Food and Beverage Association.

Richard Neusch, emeritus in marketing, and William O. Haynes, emeritus in mathematics and statistics, were named to the Food and Beverage Association’s (MBFA’s) “Century Club.”

In addition to lectures and presentations, there will be time for music and outside tours of the congress site. For the complete list of such events, check the Medieval Congress’ Web site at www.wmich.edu/medieval.

Registration for the congress will continue through the event. There is no registration fee for WMU faculty, staff members and students or for county residents.

Retired food marketers lauded by industry professionals

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Selection criteria included pioneering activities, innovations, dedication, number of years in business and impact on the industry.

“This list represents the best of the best,” says Edward Deeb, president of the 3,200-member MBFA. “We honored Dick and Bill in recognition of their leadership in evolving the University’s food marketing program into the outstanding success it is today. They persuaded the industry to sup-

Port the curriculum and provide corporate scholarships, and they were key figures in launching the high-level in-state graduate program in the 1970s. However, they were also key in start-up and development of their curriculum as it evolved over the years. This has made them a valuable resource for our members.”

Retired food marketers lauded by industry professionals

Neusch and Haynes have taught for a combined total of more than 70 years at WMU, and their work has had an impact on the food industry.

“Dick and Bill have made substantial contributions to the development of the college’s food marketing programs,” says Robert E. O’Reilly, chair of the Department of Consumer and Retailing. “Their knowledge and experience have been invaluable to the department and to the industry.”

Johnson praised as ‘star’ local volunteer

A University computer administrator is being recognized twice this spring for his volunteer work.

Robert L. Johnson, information technology, is a finalist for the Seventh Annual Governor’s Service Awards, to be presented Thursday, May 18 in Lansing. On Wednesday, April 19, Johnson also received a STAR Award from the Volunteer Center of Greater Kalamazoo.

As a volunteer, he has run the Chicago Marathon with a blind athlete; provided food, clothing and shelter for fire victims; and headed a $3.7 million capital campaign.

The finalists for the Governor’s Service Awards were announced last month by Gov. John Engler and the Michigan Community Service Commission. Johnson is one of five finalists in the Adult (56-55) category. He will attend the Governor’s Service Awards dinner, where overall winners in each of 15 categories will be announced.

The statewide recognition program acknowledges the contributions made by individuals, organizations and businesses in service and volunteerism, and honors those who volunteer to serve others is exemplary. Nearly 300 individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations were nominated this year for Governor’s Service Awards.

The STAR Awards honor Kalamazoo volunteers who demonstrated exceptional commitment of time, creativity, dependability and impact on their nominating organizations. STAR is an acronym for Sharing Time And Resources. Johnson received one of 12 STAR Awards.
Top fine arts students converge on campus for 38th annual Michigan Youth Arts Festival

More than 8000 of the state's finest young artists will gather on campus Thursday through Saturday, May 11-13, for the 38th annual Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

The festival honors Michigan high school students gifted in dance, drama, instrumental and vocal music, visual arts, creative writing, and film/video. Unique to the state of Michigan, the festival began in 1963 as a simple screening of young musicians. Today, it is a comprehensive arts spectacular, culminating in a nine-month search for the finest artistic talent in Michigan high schools.

More than 60,000 students across the state became involved in the adjudication process that results in some 800 students being invited to participate in the annual three-day festival.

This is the 16th year WMU has served as host to the event, which is sponsored in part through funding from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs; Western Michigan University; the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo; Bank One of Michigan; Pison Iota Xi, Eta Omicron Chapter; Howard Printing; Plainwell Paper; Squires Crandall Voss & Lewis; Jays Foods; D & W Food Centers; and the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Michigan.

McCullum has been on the faculty of Bank One's vice-president and region head for contributions and community relations, has been a festival advisor for the past five years and is the current honorary chairwoman for the 38th festival.

Board approves McCullum's appointment

The Board of Trustees April 20 officially approved the previously announced appointment of Robert McCullum as head men's basketball coach, effective March 21.

McCullum comes to WMU from the University of Illinois, where he had served since 1996 as an assistant coach, helping the squad advance to the NCAA Tournament appearances in the past four seasons.

Previously, the Birmingham, Ala., native had served on the coaching staff at Kansas State University and Western Michigan University of Florida, where he spent six seasons.

He also has served as an assistant coach for the University of North Florida, University of Alabama and University of Alabama in Birmingham.

McCullum played two years of basketball as a student at Seminole Junior College in Sanford, Fla., then transferred to Birmingham Southern and graduated from there in 1976. He received a master's degree in secondary education from the University of Alabama in 1980.

May 12 is the deadline to nominate employees for this year's Staff Service Excellence Awards

The Staff Service Excellence Awards selection committee is seeking nominations for the 2000 annual awards.

Up to four non-faculty staff members may be selected to receive a $1,000 cash prize and be recognized in the OBV. The winners also will be honored at a luncheon and have their photos displayed in the Seibert Administration Building.

These awards are the pinnacle of the Staff Service Excellence Awards program and are reserved for the most outstanding staff members who have exhibited true excellence in service and dedication to the university during the past year.

Nominations should include as much detail as possible explaining how the staff member has exhibited a level of excellence that reaches far beyond his or her job responsibilities. Nominations are due the fifth day of May.

Any regular, part- or full-time, non-faculty staff member can be nominated for these awards, as long as the employee has been nominated for, or won, a semiannual Staff Service Excellence award for an annual award.

Web Watch

I Video of each of the April 22 Commencement ceremonies will be available until May 20 through the Commencement Web site at www.wmich.edu/commencement.

I More WMU News now includes news stories grouped by academic college. You can link to a compilation of the most recent news stories relating to each of the colleges and schools.

WebWatch_wmich.edu/WMUNews

Jobs

I The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by employment services.

I Community and regional careers.

I The College of Arts and Sciences.

I Office of the President.

I Office of the Provost.

I Office of the University Secretary.

I Office of General Counsel.

I Office of Communications.

I Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance.

I Office of the Vice President for Planning and Community Affairs.

I Office of Human Resources.

I Office of the President.

I Office of the Provost.

I Office of the University Secretary.

I Office of General Counsel.

I Office of Communications.

I Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance.

I Office of the Vice President for Planning and Community Affairs.

I Office of Human Resources.

Compensation 2000 is the University's project to design and implement new compensation and performance management systems for clerical, technical, professional and administrative staff.

Compensation 2000 is an in-house project with the goal of developing a new approach to compensation, one that is equitable and fair to all employees. The project is being implemented through a series of workshops and seminars that will be held throughout the fall semester.

WMUK's spring fund-raising campaign ends after just four days, brings in $115,104

Public radio station WMUK-FM has closed the books on another successful spring fundraiser, wrapping up on-air pledging for the drive on a closing day that exceeded all expectations.

On campus...

WMU alumni and friends were thrilled to hear that the 38th Michigan Youth Arts Festival, sponsored by WMU, was again a tremendous success.

This year's festival was held on the campus of Western Michigan University, with more than 8000 students from across the state participating in the event.

The festival, which has been held annually since 1963, is one of the largest arts festivals in the world. It features a wide range of events, including concerts, dance performances, visual art exhibits, and writing competitions.

The festival is a major event in the lives of Michigan students, providing them with a unique opportunity to showcase their talents and receive recognition for their hard work.

In addition to the events on campus, the festival also features a variety of off-campus events, including art shows, music concerts, and dance performances.

The festival is sponsored by WMU and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, with support from a number of other organizations.

The festival is a major source of revenue for WMU, and the proceeds from the festival are used to support the arts programs on campus and in the community.

The festival is an important part of WMU's commitment to excellence in the arts, and it is a source of pride for the university and its students.

The festival is also an important part of the larger Michigan arts community, and it is a source of pride for the state of Michigan.
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Walker earned an associate's degree at the College of Southern Idaho in 1982; bachelor's and master's degrees in 1984 and 1988, respectively, from the University of Idaho; and a doctoral degree in higher education policy and administration from the University of Kansas in 1999. He is the author of numerous papers and trade journal articles and was selected for an International Inaugural Visiting Fellowship to England in 1995.

Walker will oversee continuing education programs

Alan G. Walker has been named vice provost of academic affairs for continuing education at the University, effective July 1.

Walker's appointment was approved by the Board of Trustees April 20 meeting. Also at the meeting, the board officially approved the previously announced appointment of Fredrick J. Dobney as provost and vice president for academic affairs and tenured professor of history, effective July 1.

The University's Board of Trustees April 20 approved the appointments of David A. England as dean of the College of Education; Margaret Merrion as dean of the College of Fine Arts and Richard A. Wright as dean of the College of Aviation.

Wright's appointment was effective May 1. England and Merrion will assume their new positions July 1.

England is currently professor and head of the School of Curriculum and Educational Leadership and associate director of teacher education at the University of Kentucky. Previously, England served as associate professor of curriculum and instruction at Louisiana State University, where he also served as associate dean for academic affairs and associate dean for teacher education. In addition, he served as director of the LSU University Writing Project for four years and remains a consultant to that effort. His background also includes a faculty position at Western Virginia University.

England earned bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary education in 1968 and 1973, respectively, and a doctoral degree in English education in 1976, all from Indiana University.

He has been active at the national level in educational reform movements, currently serving on the Holmes Group/Holmes Partnership national board of directors. He also has been shown in curriculum development work in English and active with the National Council of Teachers of English.

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The decision to close admissions this year was made 10 days earlier than last year, when skyrocketing numbers of students seeking admission prompted the University to close admissions for the first time in its history. The class of freshmen enrolled for the fall 1999 semester hit 4,426, an increase of 18 percent over the previous year's record numbers.

Admissions officials report that the number of freshman applications this year is up another 7 percent. The rate of students making deposits and the number of students reserving space for summer orientation sessions also are up substantially.

"Quite simply put, our University continues to enjoy a superb and growing reputation among students and their parents, and they are responding to that reputation in record numbers," says President Elson S. Floyd. "While such popularity is a wonderful affirmation of the strength of our undergraduate offerings, it has reached a point where we must close admissions to preserve the quality of our programs as well as the level of service our students expect and deserve.

The move primarily affects graduating high school seniors heading for college this fall and will not impact the admissions prospects for transfer students or graduate students, according to Dean John Fraire, admissions. He says certain exceptions to the closed status will be made for students

(Continued on page four)

Western Michigan University

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www.wmich.edu/wmu/news
Friday's Latin event set to 'Let the Ludi begin'

Let the games begin.

That phrase will be uttered when nearly 500 Latin-loving high school students converge on the campus tomorrow for "Ludi Occidentales MM," which means Western Games 2000. They're out to prove that the venerable language of Latin is not dead.

According to Robert Griffin, foreign languages and literatures and organizer of the event, this year's games or "Ludi" mark the 50th anniversary of the biennial activity, which provides a fun, educational way for students to study the language of Latin. The event, which begins at 9:30 a.m., doesn’t feature games in the traditional competitive sense. Instead, the activities are meant to be entertaining and loads of fun as well as a real tribute to the teachers who have generated so high a level of language skill and interest.

The day's concluding event will feature Griffin himself leading a sing-along of "Villanum Tunum," or "Old McDonald Had a Farm," with the familiar chorus of "ee-i-ee-i-oo!"

A total of 12 schools from Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Portage and Vicksburg will participate. Only three schools attended the first Ludi in 1989 and Griffin says the event continues to grow in popularity every year.

"The growth truly shows that Latin is far from a "dead" language," he says. "It is very much alive."

New dean's position

Merrion currently is dean of the College of Fine Arts and professor of music at Ball State University, a position she has held since 1990. She joined the Ball State faculty in 1986 as associate dean. Previously, she was faculty member at the University of Northern Iowa for eight years, serving as assistant and associate professor, supervisor of clinical experiences and coordinator of undergraduate and graduate studies.

Merrion, who began her career as a music educator in the Chicago public and parochial schools, earned a bachelor's degree in music education in 1976 and 1979, respectively, from the University of Southern California. She also completed Harvard University’s management development program in 1989.

The author or co-author of five books, Merrion has written on such topics as instructional strategies for music education and creative drama and music activities for teachers. She also is active in a number of professional and arts organizations. She currently serves as student representative of the National Association of Schools of Music, the National Association of Schools of Music, and the National Association for Schools of Art and Design.

Merrion replaces Robert H. Luscombe, who retired last year. Her appointment includes a tenured position as professor of music.

Wright currently serves as WMU's associate vice president for research and, since January, also has served as interim dean of the College of Aviation. He has been a member of the university's administration since 1993, when he was appointed associate vice president for academic affairs and with a concurrent tenured position as a professor of philosophy. He also served in 1999 as interim vice president for information technology before moving to his current post in the research office late last year.

Prior to coming to WMU, Wright was director of the Biomedical and Health Care Ethics Program at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center and professor of biomedical ethics and research there from 1989 to 1993. He also has been a faculty member at the University of Toledo and at the Medical College of Ohio. His higher education background includes extensive work with curriculum development and computer-based instruction as well as student recruitment and retention.

Wright earned a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is also an author of several books and a number of articles on topics ranging from African philosophy to medical ethics.

Wright is replacing James Crehan, whose return to the faculty was approved by the trustees in January.