Project helps grandparents who become parents again

Between 1982 and 1992, Census Bureau figures show the number of grandparent-headed households in this country increased by 40 percent. Experts estimate that grandparents have stepped in to rescue more than 3.2 million of their grandchildren from faltering families, drugs, physical abuse and violent crime.

To help grandparents as they return to the role of care-givers, representatives of WMU and Kalamazoo education and social service agencies have developed a new set of materials that will be available Dec. 1 for use by grandparent support groups around the state.

The Michigan Family Independence Agency’s Strong Families/Safe Children Program awarded a $65,000 grant to the Kalamazoo area. Census figures show the number of grandparents who are care-givers may encounter.

Gap two generations wide

“When you become a parent, you have nine months to get ready and then you get an infant who sleeps 12 hours a day,” says Linda L. Dannison, co-director of the project. “For grandparents unexpectedly assuming the role of parents to their own grandchildren, the only warning may be a phone call or knock on the door in the middle of the night. And then, all of a sudden they are dealing with children of various ages and with personalities and problems of their own. We’re not talking about generation gap. We’re talking about a gap that is two generations wide.

Co-directing the project with Dannison is Ann Nieuwenhuis, director of the Kalamazoo County Extension of Michigan State University Extension. The pair worked in cooperation with the Kalamazoo County Strong Families/Safe Children Coordinating Council, which represents 30 community organizations. Also involved in the work is Kalamazoo County family and social service professionals, an area attorney and local legal service who either serve in an administrative capacity with senior service organizations or who have experience parenting their own grandchildren.

Concrete information needed

Nieuwenhuis, who worked with a local grandparent focus group that developed the idea, is preparing a curriculum to address such problems, says the eight members of the focus group were all care-giving grandparents with a clear understanding of the needs.

“They need concrete information. They need knowledge. And they need help putting it all together,” Nieuwenhuis says. “They told us their number one need is to have a course that is relevant and, while the curriculum can’t provide that, one chapter focuses on building relationships that can provide relief.

Their other major needs are information about legal and financial issues.”

While no one knows the exact number of Kalamazoo area grandparents who have a partial or total responsibility for raising their grandchildren, Nieuwenhuis says, they can be found in all segments of society and in ages ranging upward from the mid-30s.

Grandparents are called on to act as parents again when their own children die, become ill or are unable to parent because of substance abuse, mental health or other problems, Dannison notes. About 5 percent of all American families are families with children headed by grandparents.

“This is something that we’re always aware of, but it is now becoming a nationwide trend,” Dannison says. “For many of our nation’s youth, grandparents serving as custodial parents are the unsung heroes that will save our children.”

To help these unsung heroes adjust to the demands of becoming parents again, project staff members designed a curriculum that will make the growing number of grandparent support groups more effective.

Because custodial grandparents don’t have a convenient network of other parents, support groups are critical in helping grandparents negotiate the demands of being a parent again, Dannison says.

Chapters, continuing education programs and senior services centers are among the organizations that most frequently sponsor a grandparent support group.

Since grandparents are often unprepared for the financial, emotional and physical toll that is part of the second time around, the curriculum is designed to step them through the parenthood maze as well as learn to handle the emotional, physical and legal ramifications of raising children in the midst of family crisis.

Curriculum materials include both a guide for leaders of grandparent support groups as well as a textbook for group participants.

In particular in the legal areas, we’ve provided them with some things that have been a gap that is two generations wide.”

(Western Michigan University)

Libraries launch two-year project to train faculty and students in emerging technology

A two-year project designed to boost faculty and student use of the Internet and World Wide Web has been launched by University libraries and will be in full swing during the winter semester.

Helen Healy, University librarian, has been assigned to direct the Internet Training Project, which includes a series of hands-on training events designed to help individuals become aware of discipline-specific resources on the Internet and proficient in the use of those resources.

The project will prioritize a variety of formats ranging from day-long and multi-day training sessions to “e-mail in” workshops and brown bag lunch classes, classroom presentations and individual training sessions.

The focus of each session will be learning to use the Internet and the Web as a research, communication or teaching tool.

It’s “a sense of awareness and it is becoming imperative that today’s students and faculty are not only aware of the Internet and its capabilities but proficient in its use,” Healy says.

Healy says a few workshops have been offered through the project this semester, but a much wider array of events already are set for the winter semester. “Early bird” workshops, scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m., will be offered every two to three weeks this winter.

The first several will be devoted to delivering specific information about available resources in the health sciences, the sciences, on-line funding sources for research and use of the FirstSearch system databases. A series of workshops on using the Internet for teaching and research also is being developed for members of the College of Education.

Healy notes that early efforts will concentrate on faculty members and graduate students. At some later point, undergraduates also will be offered workshops tailored to their needs. Healy says she is open to suggestions for workshops on specific topics as well as scheduling one-on-one sessions.

The growing acceptance of the World Wide Web as a place to publish and the increased recognition of the Web’s uses for collaboration with colleagues at other universities is two recent developments that may lead to other workshop topics, Healy says. Another important development is the government’s use of electronic publishing.

There is an enormous amount of material being electronically published by the government,” Healy says, “and it is increasingly necessary to use the Web for access to that kind of information.”

Helen Healy is a 30-year library veteran with a background in library automation, online resources and instruction on library resources. For the past three years, she has been involved in Internet training both in Kalamazoo and for the K-12 initiative and for University computing services.

The Internet Training Project will emphasize small-group instruction and the training sessions will be carried out in cooperation with University computing services and faculty development services.

The workshop schedule will be published in the 1996-97 Faculty, Staff and Student Directory.

Did you know?
- In 1995-96, the University recycled about 1,600 tons of materials.
- In 1996-97, 1,600 tons accounted for 34 percent of the total waste stream of some 4,700 tons.
- It would cost the University libraries $46,000 to transport the recycled materials to a landfill. It cost less than $29,000 to recycle those materials.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY NEWS

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Bronco Bins

Bright yellow recycling bins soon will be springing up on campus like brown-eyed Susans. The first shipment of the new bins is enough to cover about half the campus, according to Carolyn R. Noack, recycling, shown here surrounded in her office. The receptacles, which have brown lettering that says, “Recycle,” will be phased in and more purchased as funds become available. At the top of the list to receive them are the Seiber Alumni Center Building, Schneider Hall, the Bernhard Center, the University Computing Center, Waldo Library, Miller Auditorium and Brown Hall.

Last year, the University recycled about 1,600 tons of materials (for more recycling facts, see “Did you know?” on this page).
Sixty years of West Michigan health care are explored through the words of some of the area's best-known names in medicine in a book just published by historians at WMU.

"Progress in the Practice of Medicine, 1930 to 1990," Volume 3 in the Alexander Oral History Project, was published in October by the Department of History. The book includes information compiled by the late C. Allen Alexander who, during the 1980s, taped more than 150 hours of interviews with 25 of his health care colleagues. The interviews were done with such well-known area physicians as pediatrician Frederick J. Margolis, pharmaceutical executive E. Clifford Ujohn and internal medicine specialists John Litting and Doyle E. Wilson.

Alexander, a Kalamazoo's first black surgeon, lived just long enough to see his autobiography printed before he died last December, 1995. "C. Allen Alexander, M.D., An Autobiography" was the first book in the project, three-volume series. Volume 1, "Social Changes in Western Michigan, 1930 to 1990," will be published next year. The books are being published by the support of the Kalamazoo Foundation of Kalamazoo.

Edited by Robert J. Hahn, emeritus in history, the books contain interviews with 19 physicians in various specialties, two nurses, two hospital administrators and one pharmacist in the medical industry. Their discussions cover the introduction of new diagnostic tools and improved medicines as well as advanced surgical techniques and technologies that dramatically reduced suffering and extended human life.

Upon his retirement in 1977, Alexander set out on an ambitious oral history project.

His aim was to trace the vast changes he had witnessed in his lifetime, which exactly spanned the 20th century. He taped his own memoirs as well as the interviews with colleagues in the medical profession and representatives of the various ethnic groups he had encountered in his practice.

The new book focuses on the extraordinary progress achieved in medical science and practice during the mid- to late-20th century, says Paul L. Maier, history, who is directing the oral history project. The result, he says, is a very honest portrait of 20th century medicine that will be helpful to historians and sociologists as well as those in the medical profession.

"Convinced that his medical colleagues would otherwise carry their memories of medical practice in West Michigan to their graves," Maier says, "Alexander undertook an ambitious series of tape-recorded interviews with the specialists and specialists in the field of medicine in which they responded to his penetrating questions about health care 'then and now.'"

Alexander's interview subjects range from physicians like Robert A. Fabi, Donald A. MacDonald and James B. Breneman, who are still practicing in the Kalamazoo area today, to a number of medical professionals who entered the early 1930s as young professionals in West Michigan, but a few had only ties to the area. Several have died since the mid-1980s and early-1990s, when the interviews were done. They include Alexander's close friend and medical school colleague Leonidas H. Berry, who had a distinguished career at Provident Hospital in Chicago, died just two hours after Alexander on Dec. 4, 1995.

The interviews from a decade ago, Maier notes, revealed the emergence of major problems that have become critical issues today. These include the escalating costs of medical care, deteriorating doctor/patient relations, restraint of trade by insurance companies and the government, skyrocketing malpractice insurance costs caused by litigation, and disenchantment among some doctors.

Interviews touch on topics as varied as the frequency and eventual demise of house calls, the fight against fluoridation of public water, changes in the public's perceptions of mental diseases, advances in obstetrics and the growth of such physician specialties as cardiology and family practice. The loss of duplication of medical facilities is explored in several discussions including one sure to trigger the memories of Kalamazoo area readers - the "helicopter wars" of the 1980s between the area's two major hospitals.

"The book is very impressive and there is a lot to be learned from it," according to Alexander, who is revising the history of medicine. "The patterns revealed in these interviews repeated themselves over and over again around the nation as medical care evolved from the era of the family doctor today's more specialized practice of medicine."

Despite the universal themes, Hahn says, it is relatively unusual for a community to have access to such a wealth of information on medical history as well as the personal accounts that give a clear picture of the changing roles of its medical practitioners. The two published volumes of the Alexander trilogy are available in Kalamazoo area bookstores for $24.95 each.

(Continued on page four)
Finding funding on WWW

The 25 Year Club was established by the Board of Trustees as away to recognize the valuable contributions made to the University by its employees who have committed their careers to WMU. New members receive a 25-year service pin and framed certificate, and they may choose from a selection of commemorative gifts.

New active and retired members are guests of the Office of the Vice President for Research at 7-8298.

Service

These employees are recognized for five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service to the University in November:

25 years — Richard L. Piper, logistical services
20 years — Greg J. Brown, logistical services; William A. Green, physical plant-building custodial and support services; and Janice R. Hunter, mental health therapy
15 years — William L. Jones, physical plant-building custodial and support services; and Betty L. Kirk, physical plant-building custodial and support services
10 years — Yunia Bulta, admissions and orientation; Berwin Bergman, physical plant-building services; Elizabeth A. Campbell, biological sciences; Shirley J. Campbell, archives; Barbara E. Cook, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Doreen Cooks, Henry/Hockey/Bigelow dining service; Steven Cowley, physical plant-building services; Bess Hubbard, counselor education and counseling services; Susan H. Mundo, Henry/Hockey/Bigelow dining service; Anita L. Tuns, teacher certification; Sue Ann Zampucci, nursing education development; Cindy A. Volk, residence hall facilities; and Lucille M. Johnson, physical plant-building custodial and support services.

Five years — Chad A. Avery, physical plant-building services; John R. Cobbs, physical plant-building services; David F. Florida, University communication; Nancy A. Hackett, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Vivian I. Pankey, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Randy A. Randt, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Mark L. Schmitz, video production; Robert M. Well, Sindecuse Health Center; Janice L. Wilson, College of Health and Human Services; and Joseph P. Stolzman, physics.

Recycling

With the arrival of the new Faculty, Staff and Student Residences, offices are asked to recycle their old campus telephone books by placing them in boxes near recycling bins and marking them as such for recycling.

In addition, persons who don’t plan to use the America Online diskette wrapped with the directories should recycle it for other uses rather than throwing it away.

Jobs

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the JobOpportunity Program by employment services in the Department of Human Resources. Interested candidates are encouraged to submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period, and may choose whether to continue serving as a refer- ence in securities

• How to apply for a pension
• How to compute a monthly pension
• How to apply for a pension
• How to earn service credit

Human resources

MPERS sets pre-retirement meeting

The Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System (MPERS) will play host to a pre-retirement informational seminar on Tuesday, Dec. 4, in Rooms A, B and C at the Kalamazoo Valley Intermediate School District office.

Any University employee who has a MPERS retirement plan is invited to attend. The retirement seminar will be particularly helpful to those employees planning to retire within two years. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation on these topics:

• Benefits available to survivors
• How to buy additional service credit
• How to apply for a pension
• How to compute a monthly pension
• How to apply for a pension
• How to earn service credit

Benefits available to survivors

The Kalamazoo Valley Intermediate School District office is located at 189 E. Millhafm in Portage. If the building is closed due to inclement weather, the meeting will be canceled and notification of the meeting can be addressed to Don Dimmott at (517) 322-6008. If you need additional assistance, please contact the Michigan Relay Center at 1-800-649-3777. If you have other disabilities and require special assistance, please contact MPERS at (517) 322-6000.

Media

Two faculty members will be guests in the coming weeks on “Focus,” a five-minute interview produced by the Office of Marketing, Public Relations and Communications. "Focus" is scheduled to air on these Saturdays at 6:10 a.m. on WKPR-AM (1420) with the following speakers and topics: Maureen A. Pettit, aviation sciences, on the influence of human factors on aviation safety, Nov. 23; and Joseph L. Robison, marketing, on the marketing of new safety publications about aviation. These interviews are looking for new ways to attract custom- ers, Nov. 30. "Focus" is also seen on WGVU-FM (88.5) and several other radio stations around Michigan.

Zest for Life

Is the stress of the holidays and work starting to get to you? If so, plan to attend Zest for Life’s December Expert Express on Monday, Dec. 16, from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Center.

Teresa E. Brady, a Zest for Life graduate assistant, will provide an interactive discussion and demonstration on massage. Brady is also completing her certification in massage therapy at the Kalamazoo Center for the Healing Arts.
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Western News

The master calendar maintained by the Office of Marketing, Public Relations and Communications. To view the calendar online through Galpin on the VMS/Canvas, currently, there are three calendars available: November/December events; and future events, which run from January through December 1997. To view the calendars, type the route. At the menu prompt, choose 2, Western Michigan University, then choose 5, Campus Calendar. You will find options for 1. This Month’s Events, 2. Next Month’s Events and 3. Future Events. The calendars also are available through WMU’s home page on the World Wide Web under University Information.

Thursday, November 21

*Management development workshop, “Selecting and Interviewing Employees: Effective Hiring Practices,” Fetzer Center, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; to register call 7-3232. President Haenicke’s open office hours, 3000 Seibel Administration Building, 9-11 a.m.

(22) Exhibition, painting by Jacqueline Moses, Chicago artist, Gallery II, Sangren Hall, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Exhibition, video, film and photography by Sandra Binion, Chicago artist, Space Gallery, Knauss Hall, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

(26) Exhibition, painting by Dawn Peters and Susan Murphy, BFA candidates, Rotunda and South Galleries, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, Nov. 22, 5-8 p.m.

Data base information, “The Relationship Between Course Outcomes and the Factors of Retention as Determined by Webb’s Model of Student Persistence,” Jan K. Fields, educational leadership, 3514 Sangren Hall, 1:30 p.m.

Student recital, Russell Brown Brass Quintet, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 5 p.m.

Guest artists recital, Latrada Deddico and Mikala Volcho, piano duo, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Friday, November 22

Dance showing, Dalton Center Dance Studio B, noon.

Workshop, “Electronic Sponsorship Research Resources,” Wil B. Emmert, research and sponsored programs, 2033 University Computing Center, noon-1:30 p.m.; to register call 7-4928.

Mathematics and statistics colloquium, “The Cordic Algorithms,” Don Girod, Canisius College, Commons Room, sixth floor, Everett Tower, 4 p.m.; refreshments, 3:45 p.m.

Student recital, Jessica Gardner, bassoon, and Rachel Field, flute, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 7 p.m.

(23) Women’s basketball, Western Michigan University Tournament, University Arena: Friday, WMU vs. Northern Illinois University, 6 p.m.; and Saturday, WMU vs. University of Southern California, 8 p.m.; and Saturday, WMU vs. Stanford, 2 a.m.

*Performance, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, “Madame Butterfly,” featuring Guiping Park (Mich.) public schools. She died in July gifts of $243.765. August gifts of $1,195,267. That figure is $3,321.946 more than the total for the same three-month period included $2.8 million from the late Helen Anderson, Stewart Frays of Kalamazoo. That was one of only a few attorneys in Michigan who get to people.”

Status of south Africa — Several South African activists on campus Nov. 21 to lead a five-day “Presidential Expectations of Young South Africans.” The intent of the event was to address the topic of reconstruction and development in South Africa after the legal dismantling of apartheid, according to Benjamin C. Wilson, black American studies, who coordinated the event. Wilson, right, ran through the program ahead of time with, from left: Thami Ngwuya, youth center director in Durban; Stephen L. Johnson, a WMU senior from Detroit; Justice Ngidi, mayor of Alexandria and Sandton; and Thabo Mnis, director of the Alexandra Health Clinic. The symposium, sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, was part of a series of events centered around the rising expectations of South Africa’s youth two years after the election of Nelson Mandela.

*Management development workshop, “Riding the Wave of Change: How To Build Resiliency in Times of Change,” Fetzer Center, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; to register call 7-3232.

Recital, graduate woodwind and brass quartets and the Western Winds, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

*Performance, “Marie Osmond’s Magic of Christmas,” Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4

Zest for Life Express Expo, “Massage Therapy,” Teresa E. Brady, graduate assistant, Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center, noon-12:30 p.m.

Concert, “A Choral Treasures,” Treble Chorus and Collegiate Singers, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Thursday, December 5

*Management development workshop, “Conflict Management and Mediation Skills for Managers,” Ferez, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; to register call 7-3232.

Retirement reception honoring F. Gregory Fisk, education and professional development and science studies, the Oaklands, 5-7 p.m.

*Admission charged

First quarter gifts to WMU top $4.5 million

More than $4.5 million in cash gifts was donated to the University in the first quarter of the fiscal year, according to a report presented to the Board of Trustees at its Oct. 25 meeting.

Cash gifts of $2,437,765, August gifts of $1,221,932 and September gifts of $3,051,979 brought the total of current and pending cash gifts to $5,705,676.

That figure is $3,321.946 more than the total for the same three-month period included $2.8 million from the late Helen Anderson, Stewart Frays of Kalamazoo. That was one of only a few attorneys in Michigan who get to explain to people.”

says. “Some of it is very complicated to handle in family court. We often have to educate the court, even the judge, about how to handle the legal problems that come up when a child’s parent dies.”

Other major gifts during the period included an anonymous $45,625 gift to support the Baruch S. and Helen Ham Heinz School of African American Studies; a $10,000 gift to the University of Michigan’s John W.增进?视们在的位-stringed materials that can be used to support the Carol Ann Haenicke Collection; an anonymous $41,5625 gift to support the Carol Ann Haenicke Collection; an anonymous $2.8 million from the late Helen Anderson, Stewart Frays of Kalamazoo. That was one of only a few attorneys in Michigan who get to explain to people.”

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