AN ARTFUL TOUCH — Andi J. Luke, a senior art major from Dearborn, has been spending a few hours in an East Hall studio lately touching up the paintings she plans to enter in the annual Art Student Exhibition. This one is titled “Dreaming Drums.”

The juried exhibition provides an opportunity for the public to see work produced by students currently enrolled in WMU’s Department of Art classes as well as for the students to earn awards for their pieces. The show opens Wednesday, March 19, and runs through Wednesday, April 2, in the Dalton Center Multi-Media Room. An awards ceremony and reception are scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 21. Exhibition hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

WMU, museum team up to launch maritime center

Many Michigan residents may think of their state in terms of 100 years of automobile history. But a group of West Michigan historians and researchers are out to remind the public that the state also can boast of a 300-year-old heritage as a maritime power.

The lore of the Great Lakes will be the focal point for research as the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven and WMU join forces and resources to launch the Great Lakes Center for Maritime Studies.

The museum and the College of Arts and Sciences have entered into an agreement to become partners in a joint administration center dedicated to research on Great Lakes maritime issues. Research on subjects ranging from commercial fishing history to preserving the wealth of resources on lake bottomland will be among early efforts of the center. Future work could encompass such diverse areas as Great Lakes literature, geology and tourism.

“This is an important relationship for the Great Lakes region,” says Kenneth Pott, curator of the Michigan Maritime Museum. “There is nothing like it in the region. The University is linking up with the state’s officially designated maritime museum to address maritime issues in an area where such studies have long been neglected.”

Michael J. Chiappara, history, who is an expert in maritime history and material culture, agrees that the region is ripe for such an undertaking. Chiappara came to the Midwest two years ago after working extensively with East Coast museums and maritime studies programs.

“The Great Lakes is a significant maritime region that has not been studied with the kind of rigor that recognizes the profound impact the area has had,” Chiappara says. “Some good research has taken place, but when you look at the kind of concerted effort that has been undertaken by academic institutions and museums on the East and West Coasts, it really striking that no other institution has taken the lead to bring to the table the kind of intense interdisciplinary cooperation needed to fully explore the Great Lakes’ significance.”

Chiappara notes that WMU’s central location in the region, its proximity to Lake Michigan, its close working relationship with the museum and its faculty members’ expertise in a wide variety of disciplines make the University a natural partner in the project.

“We are really looking at our strengths,” he says. “We have a good core of research and teaching faculty and we have the opportunity to bring together a diverse set of scholars to work on this project.”

The goals of the center are to foster research on issues critical to understanding Great Lakes maritime history and culture, offer programs to the public that will expand awareness of maritime history in this region and provide field training for students in such disciplines as public history and archaeology.

Although the center will focus on the entire Great Lakes basin, Michigan is optimally situated to be at the center of the initiative. According to the Pott, Michigan citizens have a very natural interest in the state’s maritime background that needs to be nurtured.

“Michigan has more shoreline, more lighthouses, more Coast Guard stations and more registered national historic sites than any other state in the nation,” Pott says. “There are very few people living in Michigan who have not been affected by some aspect of maritime history.”

But despite that impact, Chiappara says, a lot of water needs to be covered before Michigan can match the kind of maritime awareness that is evident in other coastal areas.

Center sponsors lectures by maritime archaeologist

The discovery and excavation of the 300-year-old wreck of a ship that beached off the French explorer La Salle’s La Halle will be described at WMU and in Lansing during a March 20-22 visit by the marine archaeologist who leads the effort.

The Belle, the oldest French ship wreck ever discovered in the Americas, sank in 1686 in the Gulf of Mexico. The wreck was discovered in 1995 after a 17-year search by Barto Arnold, state marine archaeologist with the Texas Historical Commission.

Arnold will share details of the discovery and the ongoing excavation project with a West Michigan audience when he speaks at 8 p.m. Friday, March 21, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The following evening, he will make the same presentation in Lansing at 7 p.m. at the Michigan Historical Center’s Forum Auditorium.

Arnold’s lectures are the first public presentations sponsored by the Great Lakes Center for Maritime Studies, a joint venture of the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven and WMU. The Saturday lecture in Lansing is cosponsored by the Michigan Historical Center.

Arnold also will spend Thursday, March 20, on campus meeting with students and faculty to discuss issues such as cultural resources management, archaeological training and methodology, project fund raising and public relations, technology and professional ethics.

His free public lectures on Friday and Saturday evenings will include slides and video footage and will feature a behind-the-scenes look at an archaeological dig that has made front-page news in the scientific and popular press throughout the United States and Europe. For more information, persons should contact Michael J. Chiappara, history, at 7-4643.

Top seniors to be honored at event

The University’s top seniors will be recognized at the annual Presidential Scholars Convocation Thursday, March 20, at the Fetzer Center.

Forty-five students will be presented as Presidential Scholars, WMU’s highest honor to a senior. The convocation will begin at 3:30 p.m., followed by dinner and a program.

Seniors are nominated for the Presidential Scholar award by faculty members. They are selected on the basis of their general academic excellence, academic awards and recognition in their minor and intellectual and/or artistic promise.

The speaker for the event will be Timothy A. Pritchard, president of the Michigan Historical Society, who is president of The Right Place Program and a 1983 WMU graduate, to make the keynote address on the board. Kalamazoo County Circuit Court Judge William G. Schma will administer the oath of office.

Swearing in to precede March 14 board meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet at noon Friday, March 14, in the Cannoble Board Room of the Bernhard Center.

The meeting will be preceded by a 9 a.m. swearing in ceremony in the Bernhard Center’s Faculty Lounge for Birgit M. Klohs of Grand Rapids, Gov. John Engler recently appointed Klohs, who is president of The Right Place Program and a 1983 WMU graduate, to a three-year term on the board. Kalamazoo County Circuit Court Judge William G. Schma will administer the oath of office.

Agenda items for the meeting include a proposal to increase room and board rates an average of 3.9 percent and apartment rental rates an average of 2.9 percent for 1997-98. The new room and board rates would apply to new residents only. Rates for returning students living in residence halls who are returning for the fall semester will remain as they were for the previous academic year.

Committee meetings will precede the full board meeting. Committee meetings are open to the public.

WMU includes an arts and music major, and theatre — are accredited by the respective accrediting bodies. This means that they meet or exceed the national standards set by the disciplines’ national accrediting agency.

WMU was the only university to have both a faculty and student championed dance for formal performance at the 1996 Interna- tional Jazz World Congress.

Each year, ensembles and individuals in the School of Music’s jazz studies program earn honors at the Down Beat magazine. Since 1993, WMU has received 28 awards, more than any other college or university in the country during that time period.

The Department of Theatre is active in the American College Theatre Festival — no school in Michigan has been selected more times for regional competition than WMU. In 1969, WMU’s production of “Quilters” was selected in the national competition for performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Alumni of WMU’s art education program are the largest single group in the profession in the state.

(Continued on page four)
Women's History Month lectures scheduled

A scholar in German history will present two lectures on the women's movement in the coming week as part of Women's History Month. Gudrun Heineman, assistant professor of history at Bowling Green State University, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, in the Lee Honors College. Her topic will be "The Hour of the Woman: Gender and West German National Identity." Heineman's first lecture will be based on a chapter of her dissertation, which was published in the 1996 American Historical Review and will be illustrated by a series of unusual slides of the period. She will examine the experiences of German women in the chaotic years of the defeat of Nazism and the construction of a new West German identity. A reception will follow.

In her second presentation, Heineman will discuss methodological issues of applying a gender perspective to the study of modern political history and will consider the problems raised by the 20th century's paradoxic history. She will draw on examples from her current research on marital status and self-support of German women. Those attending are invited to bring a lunch.

Both lectures are free and are sponsored by the Department of History, Department of Political Science and Women's Studies Program. For more information, persons may contact Judith F. Stone, history, at 7-5394.

Summer job seekers can look here March 19

The student employment referral service will sponsor its annual Summer Job and Internship Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, in the Bernhard Center ballrooms.

The fair is free to students and open to employers and representatives of the local community. The fair will be focused on freshman, sophomore and junior level students. Students can register to win $50 in cash and all attending get a coupon for $5 off admission to Six Flags Great America.

Anyone attending include: WMXMI-TV, Channel 17; the cities of Detroit, Oak Park, Kalamazoo and Portage; Coca-Cola; Ford Dearborn, which operates a transition Palace of Auburn Hills; and many more. Temporary employment agencies, camps and other traditional seasonal employers will be on hand to hire on the spot. A complete list of the employers attending is available by calling 772-2775.

Campus departments planning to hire summer staff also are welcome to recruit at the fair. Contact Lucki Lynn-McKernon at the above telephone number for details.

STAYING INJURY FREE — Faculty and staff members learned how to stay injury free during a Zest for Life employee wellness program "Expert Injuries." From left, graduate assistant Jim Sweet and Doug Gie showed Zester Jelle M. Christensen, external affairs, how to stretch her back during the session, and discussed the potential of applying a treatment to the injured area.

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The University libraries are changing to Bronco card for copies beginning March 19, in 157 Bernhard Center. The libraries have implemented this new system to make it easier for patrons to use the library's resources. The Bronco card works like an ATM card and can be used to access the library's resources, including books, magazines, and online resources. The card can be purchased at the Bronco Card Center in the Bernhard Center or online at BroncoCard.com.

The Bronco card can be used for a variety of purposes, including obtaining access to the library, withdrawing books, and checking out materials. The card also allows patrons to make copies of library materials, which can be done at the copy stations located throughout the library. The cost of copying is based on the number of copies made, and there is a charge for each copy made. The Bronco card can be recharged at any time, and the unused balance can be transferred to the next card.

The Bronco card system is designed to improve access to library resources and make the library more user-friendly. The system is user-friendly and has been well-received by patrons. The Bronco card system has been implemented in a number of libraries across the country, and it is expected to continue to be used in the future.
Monday, March 18

"Flexy Day" 1997, Printing Management and Research Center, Welborn Hall, 8 a.m.; to register call 7-2800.

Concert, University Percussion Ensemble, Bronco Mall Center Stage, Bernhard Center, 12:30 p.m.

Presentation by candidate for dean of the Haworth College of Business, Michael Z. Sincoff, senior vice president for human resources and administration, DMC Corp., 12:30 p.m., register call 7-1490.

Student recital, Karen K. Huber, soprano, and Diano B. Nordlund, mezzo-soprano, Dalton Center Lecture Hall, 7 p.m.

Bertha Reynolds Society lecture, "Media Propaganda and Corporate Power," David Barsamian, creator and producer of the "Alternative Radio" program, 3512 Knauss Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Women's History Month lecture, "The Hour of the Woman: Gender and West German National Identity, 1942-1948," Elizabeth Heineman, assistant professor of history, Bowling Green State University, 2302 Friedmann Hall, noon.

Human resources brown bag luncheon for managers and supervisors, "The Family and Medical Leave Act," 157-159 Bernhard Center, 12:10-12:55 p.m.; to register call 7-3625.