Aviation program taking off in Detroit high schools

While many teens may dream of boarding an airplane and being whisked away to a sunny spring break in the Bahamas, some Detroit area high school students are taking steps to put themselves in the pilot seat for future commercial flights that will take them around the world.

Twice each week, they attend classes taught by two instructors who fly a Cessna 150 airplane from Kalamazoo to the Detroit City Airport to teach aviation classes at Benjamin O. Davis Aerospace Technical High School, which is adjacent to the airport. Aviation course work and flight instruction also is offered to students at Cass Technical High School and Detroit Northern High School through a two-year-old WMU program designed to open the world of aviation opportunities to minority students and women. It is made possible by an award from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek.

The three Detroit schools have 50 sophomores, juniors and seniors involved in the program. The program also is offered at Closser High School in West Michigan's Van Buren County and at Battle Creek Central High School. Of the 74 students enrolled this year at all five schools, 58 percent are African American and nearly 40 percent are women.

Greater participation in those covers career opportunities in the aviation industry, science experiments and lessons on the principles of flight are taught each week. The second day of class is devoted to giving students flight instruction in the Cessna 150, which is part of the WMU School of Aviation Sciences' training fleet. Each participating student gets three to four hours of flight instruction. If the student decides to eventually pursue a pilot's license, that time is counted toward the 40 to 50 hours of flight time required for licensing.

"There's nothing quite like seeing the look in these kids' eyes when they actually fly a plane for the first time or make a takeoff with the assistance of the flight instructors," says Dominic M. Nicolai, who with Thomas J. McLaughlin is an aviation program coordinator for the high school program. "They get a different view of the world from 2,000 feet in the air. It's a wonderful feeling." That view, he says, can open up a whole new world of opportunity for students. About a third of the participating students come into the program because they already have an interest in and some knowledge of aviation careers. For the rest, the class is a way to try out something they've never seriously considered or even thought about.

"The goal of the program," says Joseph H. Dunlap, director of the School of Aviation Sciences, "is to address a real shortage of minorities and women in the aviation industry. When we started this effort, only about 1 percent of commercial pilots and flight engineers were black and just over 5 percent were women. We're addressing this problem by beginning our recruitment efforts early in high school. We want to get students interested in these careers while they are still in high school and provide scholarship assistance and support for them to pursue the college education they need to succeed.

Both the on-site instruction for high school students and a $300,000 scholarship fund to help students attend WMU are supported through a 1995 award to the University from the Kellogg Foundation. Nearly $41,000 in scholarship aid was awarded last year to eight women and minority students interested in pursuing aviation careers. Last year's top award of $16,000 went to Donald W. Davenport, a Davis graduate who is now a WMU freshman majoring in aviation flight science.

On April 19, 10 students recruited from SKY'S THE LIMIT — Thomas J. McLaughlin, left, aviation sciences, discusses the uses of an altimeter with Betty-Jo Savoy and William Thomas, both students at Benjamin O. Davis Aerospace Technical High School in Detroit. McLaughlin helps students understand the program that takes aviation instruction into three Detroit area high schools each week. Its goal is to open the world of aviation opportunities to minorities and women.

Did you know?

• WMU has 132,879 addressable alumni.

• A total of 69 percent of the University's students live in or near Kalamazoo, while 3 percent live in the Chicago area.

• Fifteen percent each of WMU's alumni hail from Kalamazoo County and from the Detroit area. Ten percent live in the Grand Rapids area.

A WMU faculty member has embarked upon a literary journey that could take the next quarter century of his life.

Pierre A. Walker, English, is serving as co-editor of "The Complete Letters of Henry James," one of the largest scholarly editing projects ever undertaken.

James, an American-born novelist who lived from 1843 to 1916, is the author of such works as "The Portrait of a Lady," "The Bostonians" and "The Ambassadors." During his lifetime, he wrote more than 10,000 letters, only 3,500 to 4,000 of which have ever been published.

Walker and his colleague, Greg W. Zacharias, chairperson of the Department of English at Creighton University in Omaha, have taken on the monumental task of collecting and editing all of the letters for publication. They are expected to fill 25 to 30 volumes, with the first coming out in the year 2000. At that rate, the project will take 20 to 25 years to complete.

Walker calls James "one of the most important figures in American literature" and says the project will be well worth the time commitment because of the new information it will provide to scholars around the world. Many are interested in James' letters because he corresponded with some of the best-known writers and public figures of his time. Others are intrigued by the themes James explores, such as the differences between European and American culture and the experience of being an expatriate.

In fact, those themes first drew Walker to James' writings. "I was living in France when I finished college," Walker says, "I'm partly French, partly American myself. About half of James' fiction is about problems of people from one place living in a different place. "He was American-born but lived most of his adult life in Europe and much of his childhood was spent going back and forth between Europe and America," he continues.

Walker holds his bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and his master's and doctoral degrees from Columbia University. He wrote his dissertation on the novels of Henry James and maintained his interest in the author through membership in the Henry James Society and the editorial board of the Henry James Review. He has written several articles on James and is the author of a book, "Reading Henry James in French Cultural Context," published in 1995 by Northern Illinois University Press.

In 1993, Walker attended a conference celebrating the 150th anniversary of James' birth. He and other scholars heard a presentation by Fred Kaplan, the author of a biography of James, on the many obstacles he faced in conducting research by studying his letters.

James' letters are scattered around the United States and Europe, primarily in libraries. Some are in private collections.

"Anybody who's going to do serious historical work has the imposing problem of getting around and looking at all this material, two-thirds of which has not been published," Walker says. "In most cases, you can't walk into a library and just take possession of it."

Following the conference, an advisory board was formed to look into the problem. Two years ago, Zacharias contacted Walker about serving as co-editor on the project. The two submitted a proposal to the WMU Haenicke Foundation, which agreed to publish the volumes.

Creighton has established the Center for Henry James Studies to assist with the project, which is expected to cost $5.8 million. Zacharias and Walker are seeking contributors to help 'turn back time.'

A student's view of the building. Other activities will include bowling and Twister and bingo.

The event is free, except for the food and bowling. For more information, call the Center Board office at 7-4888.

Open office hours set for Monday, April 7

President Haenicke will conduct open office hours from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, to provide an opportunity for faculty and staff members with the opportunity to stop by and visit with him on any topic of concern.

Haenicke plans to be available in his office, 3000 Seibert Administration Building. Individuals may visit without making an appointment and will not be restricted in time unless others are waiting. In that case, a time limit of 10 minutes will be imposed.

Persons may call the Office of the President at 7-2351 to make sure Haenicke is on campus prior to visiting during the allotted time.

Faculty and staff invited to help "turn back time"

Haul out those bell bottoms and polka dot skirts!

Faculty and staff members are invited to join students and experience a "blast from the past" Friday, April 11.

The event is called Promoting a "Turn Back Time" party from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Bernhard Center. Those attending should come dressed in clothing from the '50s, '60s, '70s or '80s.

Bronco Mall merchants will be turning back the clock to the '50s and '60s. A Minnetimer, a band that features Beach Boys musich, will perform on Center Stage and WMU-FM, WFXK-FM, will broadcast from the building. Other activities will include bowling and Twister and limbo.

The event is free, except for the food and bowling. For more information, call the Center Board office at 7-4888.

Faculty member commits future to enlightening the past

"So many details of Henry James' life are unable to be known because of the difficulty of getting at the primary evidence. When all this is available, it'll be possible for people to understand the man in ways that they've never understood him before."

—Pierre A. Walker


In 1993, Walker attended a conference celebrating the 150th anniversary of James' birth. He and other scholars heard a presentation by Fred Kaplan, the author of a biography of James, on the many obstacles he faced in conducting research by studying his letters.

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(Continued on page four)
Biologists lend expertise in fund-raising program

Four WMU biologists are participating in a new program to raise funds for the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy. They are among 21 of the area's top naturalists who will lead trips to favorite field sites. The trips will be "won" by residents of the region who bid on a silent auction and to provide stewardship for land already owned by the conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting natural, scenic and historic lands in nine Southwest Michigan counties.

Two current faculty members and two retirees from WMU's Department of Biological Sciences will be leading the trips. They are, along with their trip titles and dates: David P. Cowan, "Insects: Ev-0417;" Carl Engstrom, "Aquatic Invertebrates of Lake Michigan," May 10.

A brochure describing the program and trips is available by calling 324-1600. The minimum bid for one of the trips is $150. Each trip is limited to a family with children or a foursome of adults. Bids are due by Monday, April 7.

Reaching out for spring

Recent hints of warmer weather to come had some WMU employees taking care of a few "spring cleaning" chores around the campus. WMU's Landscape Services, has been high up around the University in a cherry picker pruning trees. AT LEFT: Diane C. Campbell, physical plant-building custodial and support services, lets the sun shine through cleaner windows in the walkway that connects the Student Recreation Center with Read Fieldhouse.

Book liberates stories of German and American POWs during WWII

From the tale of a German teen facing an American firing squad to the story of one World War II prisoner who saved a Japanese baseball team from incarceration and drudgery of being a World War II prisoner, a collection of stories will be published in a new book by a nationally known oral historian.

"We Were Each Other's Prisoners: An Oral History of World War II American and German Prisoners of War" by Lewis H. Carlson, history, has just been released by Basic Books, a division of Harper Collins Publishers. The 34 main narratives in the book were culled from interviews with more than 150 POWs from across the United States and Germany.

The conversations marked the first time many of the POWs had ever told anyone about their experiences. Carlson says advancing age, time to reflect and a realization that their stories could be lost forever triggered a new willingness to talk. Recent historical events such as Vietnam, the Iran hostage crisis and military efforts in the Gulf War and Somalia also have led the men to a desire to change a sympathetic understanding of the POW experience, he believes.

"It's not just the men wanted their stories told," Carlson notes. "Indeed, the very urgency with which they related their experiences left me feeling an awesome responsibility as collector and editor of their narratives. I will never forget one of them saying, 'Lew, my story isn't about me, it's about trying to understand what happened.'"

Carlson says he began the project to address a range of questions about the POW experience - what it means to become a prisoner for men whose cultures glorify individual heroism, what type of man is most likely to survive and why and what conditions in POW camps varied so widely on both sides of the Atlantic. He also wanted to explore the larger questions concerning repatriation and the long-term effects of surviving such incarceration.

"When I started this project, I thought I would be able to generalize about what kind of person survives an experience like that and discover what is the best way to survive," Carlson says of the decade of work that went into the book. "I was hoping to build a profile. Now I don't think you can do that.

Nearly 98,000 Americans were taken prisoner by the Germans during the war and almost 380,000 Germans were shipped to the United States as prisoners of the Allies. The stories Carlson selected for inclusion in the book focused heavily on the common soldiers on both sides of the conflict.

"The common man, whether German or American, seldom picks his nationality and he has few options when his political leaders determine he must serve his country," Carlson says. "The experiences of such ordinary men, who did most of the fighting and dying and who dominated the prison camps on both sides of the Atlantic, illustrate that national distinctions fall away when human beings are trapped by circumstances they neither control nor fully comprehend."

But Carlson found nothing common about the stories the veterans shared. They include the comic recollections of a recaptured German soldier who called the day of his capture his "personal liberation day" and who lived in fear that the Germans would recapitulate them.

The stories also include the horrific tale of a Jewish American soldier who was sent to a German slave labor camp as well as the account of a young American who was the subject of a 1945 Life magazine photo that Engstrom calls "the most unforgettable photo of a World War II American POW." The image of the emaciated 19-year-old who was captured on the day of his liberation as he lay in a camp hospital, weighing only 70 pounds and just days from certain death.

Besides revealing a range of emotions, the veterans' stories offer a wealth of information about POW life. Such details range from a look at a typical week's rations and the contents of Red Cross packages to the political organization within the POW camps and the reaction of surrounding civilian populations.

To organize the tales, Carlson grouped them into chapters that describe the most dramatic moments of each story. Chapter topics include the moment of capture, life in the prison camp, the myth of escape, Nazi politics in U.S. camps, the treatment of American Jewish prisoners and finally, prisoners' liberation and repatriation. More than 40 photos and illustrations also are included.

For all the former POWs, Carlson says, the war and the imprisonment was the central event of their lives, although many went years without confronting the memories. Because those stories are so infrequently told, most Americans rely on popular culture to describe what being a POW is like, he says. The inaccuracies depicted in movies and television shows only strengthen the need to have true stories shared with a general public that believes the POW experience was one of mystic and heroic elements - the stuff of John Wayne movies.

Most former prisoners understand that those popular depictions have little to do with their own captivity, Carlson says. But others those portrayals made their return home and their transition to civilian life more difficult as they tried to sort out what was important about their personal experiences. "Their legacy can be found in their strength of character and self-worth in the face of truly horrifying and debilitating circumstances," Carlson says. "There is the legacy of survival itself."

"We Were Each Other's Prisoners" is available in bookstores for $25.

Retired faculty member recounts capture and experiences in German POW camps

Robert H. Engstrom, emeritus in art, survived not only a series of German prisoner of war camps, but also an encounter with a notorious German colonel who was later accused of the massacre of 70 American POWs.

"I don't know whether he was bluffing or not, but I think the fact I had the guns to go face to face with him may have made him change his mind about shooting us," Engstrom says of his response to the colonel's questioning just after his capture. It was only years later that Engstrom learned the officer's identity and the fact that he was tried later as a war criminal.

Engstrom, who taught in WMU's Department of Art from 1957 to 1984, provides one of 34 main narratives used in "We Were Each Other's Prisoners," a new book by Lewis H. Carlson, history. Recounting his story in a chapter titled "Captured," Engstrom recalled landing on Omaha Beach just a few days after D-Day in 1944 as part of a replacement unit for earlier casualties.

He and his company awoke one December morning in a French farmhouse they thought was 10 miles behind the front only to find themselves surrounded by Germans who had parachuted in after the Battle of the Bulge began.

Engstrom watched as members of the French farm family were executed as collaborators, managed to lead ignorance when questioned by the SS colonel, survived a march through the cold as well as a brutal interrogation and spent Christmas locked in freezing box car en route to a POW camp. Later that spring, just before liberation, Engstrom survived a forced 15-day march that Carlson calls reminiscent of the Bataan Death March.

Engstrom kept a souvenir of his imprisonment — his last day's ration of bread. A photo in the book shows him today with the peppered face and the primitively used knife to divide a loaf of bread among seven POWs.

Engstrom went on to a career as a successful designer and producer of fine jewelry after the war. When the U.S. government made medals available in 1988 to all U.S. servicemen who served as POWs, he refused to endorse the backs of those medals for free to others who survived ordeals like his.
Volunteers sought for special rec hour centers

Faculty and staff volunteers are being asked to donate the next two Saturday afternoons so that students can make it to the finish line this semester.

The Student Recreation Center will be closed on Saturday, April 20 and will offer free group study rooms, open computer lab, a copier room, open recreation facilities, and snacks and beverages.

Volunteers will serve on one or more committees as members of different "race crews," such as Lap Counters (checking student IDs) and the Refueling Crew (working with food distributions). Other responsibilities include monitoring hallways and rooms and helping with equipment checkouts.

It will be nice to see students wander throughout the building and see many faculty and staff members," said Seth. "It shows them how much we care, and that we support them during a stressful time.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to see the recreation center, a crewing T-shirt, a free parking pass, sample food products primarily "freebies." Seth said it is also an opportunity for faculty and staff to see the recreation center if they haven't already done so.

Brochures have been mailed to faculty and staff members. Opportunities are available beginning at 8 p.m., 10 a.m. and midnight Sunday through Tuesday.

For more information, persons may contact Seth at 7-3765.

1,000 WMU students take to the streets in three counties for annual spring cleanup

About 1,000 WMU students will spend Saturday, April 5, volunteering for spring cleanup efforts in three counties in Allegan, Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties.

The annual spring Cleanup week is designed to target specific neighborhood projects, and is a coordinated effort involving several departments and facilities, said faculty and staff members. Opportunities are available beginning at 8 p.m., 10 a.m. and midnight Saturday through Tuesday.

Student cleanup and service work will take place in five neighborhoods in Kalamazoo and at 50 locations in Allegan County.

Student cleanup and service will work in take place in locations ranging from the yards of families to the large parking lots of the Binder Park Zoo in Battle Creek. Students also will paint a mural at the Veterans Building in Battle Creek and answer phones at an Allegan pet shelter.

"Get Rid of Graffiti," will see 50 WMU students join forces with 50 younger students from the area to sandblast off graffiti from neighborhood walls and streets. Projects in the Vine, Eastside, Northside, West Main Hill and Kalamazoo neighborhoods are specifically targeted by this effort and several others during the event.

"What can you love for a lifetime?" this year's theme of the project that is designed to encourage active volunteers. The feature of this year's activities will be a free children's cleanup in Goldsworth Valley that will offer competitive team games, a magician and balloon maker and puppet making. About 200 children from across Kalamazoo are expected to attend.

"The nice thing about this annual effort is that student involvement has increased right along with agency requests for help," says Terri Benten-Ollie, student volunteer services.

"We have enough students participating that we are sharing the work.

The event is being coordinated by Benten-Ollie and by Steven J. Veldkamp, student life. Student volunteers for the work will come from across the University, with a particularly large contingent coming from WMU's Greek student organizations. They will participate as part of their annual Greek Week celebration.

This year, we are excited that the Greek sororities and fraternities have taken advantage of this collaborative opportunity," Benten-Ollie said. Members of campus Greek organizations are helping to plan and organize the events, and Spring Into Service will be coordinated with Greek Organization Love Day, the Greek Week day devoted to community service efforts.

Selkie elected to board of education finance group

Catherine C. Selkie, educational leadership, has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the American Education Finance Association.

The organization has some 600 members, primarily in the United States but also in Canada, Central America, France and Japan. It publishes the Journal of Education Finance and an annual yearbook on current school finance topics.

The mission of the organization is to integrate the research, policy, interest and discussion relating to critical issues in education finance. It serves as a forum and information network for the exchange of ideas among financial professionals and academic researchers, program administrators and policymakers.

Jobs

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunities and Employment Information in the Department of Human Resources. Interested, eligible employees should apply in person, by telephone or by transfer online during the posting period, and may contact an employment services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

S-01 and S-02 clerical positions are not required to be posted. Persons interested in faculty positions, there are openings in selected fields. A letter of application should be submitted to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

R) Secretary I (.50 FTE; 20 Hours/ Week) Manager, Academic Services, Applied Sciences, 967-3595, 411-4797.

R) Administrative Assistant I, 411-4797.

R) Financial Aid Administrator, P-03, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, 967-757, 411-4797.

R) Manager, Faculty Resource Center, C-06, University Computing Services, 967-358, 411-4797.


R) Assistant Manager, Construction, P-05, Physical Plant-Landscape Services, 967-361, 411-4797.

Human resources

"Potential Employee Relations" will be presented by Anne E. Thompson and Doreen A. Brinson.

"Counseling and Brown Bag Luncheon meeting from 12:10 to 12:55 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in 157 Bernhard Center. The meeting will cover state and federal laws in counseling. For more information, persons may contact Michael J. Anderson, 967-3842 or e-mail your interest to michael.j.anderson@wmich.edu.

WMU to play host to counseling conference

Nearly 200 students, faculty members and clinicians from Michigan and five states will gather in Kalamazoo Friday and Saturday, April 11-12, for the 10th annual Great Lakes Regional Conference for Counseling Psychology.

The conference represents Division 17 of the American Psychological Association and will take place at the Radisson Plaza Hotel. WMU's Counseling Psychology Program is a key supporter of the conference. WMU will act as host for the event.

The conference will cover a long list of topics and a half of presentations and workshops de- signed to research and clinical topics to interest to psychologists and mental health care professionals. Pre-conference workshops on such topics as campus violence and managed care will run from 8 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Friday and will be followed by afternoon sessions and an evening dinner program. Sessions on Saturday are scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The keynote address for the conference will be presented at 2:15 p.m. Friday by Gerald L. Stone, president of Division 17 of the American Psychological Association. He is director of the University counseling services and professor of counseling psychology at the University of Iowa. His topic will be "Mental Health Issues on Campus: Policy and Practice Dilemmas." For more information and registration, contact Seth at 7-3760 or at S-Ol and S-02 clerical positions are not required to be posted. Persons interested in faculty positions, there are openings in selected fields. A letter of application should be submitted to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

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Thursday, April 3

* (10) Management development program, “Team Action: Techniques for Increased Productivity and Improved Service Quality,” Fetzer Center, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; to register call 7-3372.

* (4) Exhibition, graphic design by BFA candidates Mike Pierce, Bill Bogue and Michael Knaggs, Rotunda and South Galleries, East Hall, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, April 4, 4-5 p.m.

* (17) Exhibition, drawings, computer imaging and painting by new art faculty members Cat Crochett, Charles LeVerne and Jan Reeves, Space Gallery, Knauss Hall, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Thursday, April 3, 4-5 p.m.

* (17) Exhibition, mixed media drawings by Curtis Rhodes, art, Gallery II, Sangren Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

* Concert, GTC, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Friday, April 4

Department of Dance representations by junior BFA candidates, Dance Studio B, third floor, Dalton Center, noon.

Women’s tennis, WMU vs. Eastern Michigan University, Sorenson Courts, 1 p.m.

Student recital, Jeffery Foote, horn, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 5 p.m.

Student recital, Cori Somers, violin, Dalton Center Lecture Hall, 8 p.m.

* Concert, New York Voices, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m. (sold out).

* (6) Expedition exhibition now, University Arena, 1-9 p.m.

* Baseball doubleheader, WMU vs. Ball State University, Hayes Field, 1 p.m.

* Women’s tennis, WMU vs. Eastern Michigan University, Sorenson Courts, 1 p.m.

* Student recital, Xaviera Kigle, piano, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 6 p.m.

* 17th annual Gold Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival, closing concert, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

* Baseball doubleheader, WMU vs. Ball State University, Hayes Field, 1 p.m.

* (6) Department of Dance graduating presentations by senior BFA candidates, Dance Studio B, third floor, Dalton Center, 5 p.m.

* Student recital, Renee Carrier and Amy L. Schaub, soprano, Dalton Center Lecture Hall, 2 p.m.

* Student recital, West Michigan Trumpet Quartet, 1115 Dalton Center, 2 p.m.

* Concert, String Quartet, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 3 p.m.

* Student recital, Waldir Bertippa, double bass, Dalton Center Lecture Hall, 4 p.m.

* Concerts, Young, Hutchins and Collegiate Singers, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 4:50 p.m.

* Student recital, Rachel L. Coosaa, cello, Dalton Center Lecture Hall, 6 p.m.

* Graduate recital, Keely A. O’Hara, horn, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

* Graduate recital, Tracy Parvis, violin, Dalton Center Lecture Hall, 8 p.m.

Monday, April 7

* (11) Exhibition, graphic design by BFA candidates Kirsten Buck, Fermín Zelada and Jennifer Miller, Hutchinson Galleries, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, April 4, 5-8 p.m.

* Exhibition, “Enhancing Teaching with Technology” program, “Electronic Journals and Journals Published Electronically,” Helen Healey, University Libraries, Stewart Tower Conference Room, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; to register contact President Haenicke’s open office hours, 3060 Seibert Administration Building, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

* Walkin’ (Continued from page one) funded from foundations and other organizations, such as the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Some of the legwork on the project already has been completed. Steven Joebe, associate professor of English at Crown Vantage Paper Co. of Kalamazoo; Cindy Holton, Taylor and Son Inc. of Vicksburg; and Paula Armstrong, speech pathology and audiology.

QUARTER CENTURY OF SEMINARS—The Department of Business Information Systems presented its 25th annual Seminar for Office Personnel March 27 in the Fetzer Center. For a quarter century, the department has been offering the seminar as a way of helping people adapt to change. The focus of this year’s program was “Surviving and Thriving in a World of Change.” Standing from left, Joel P. Bowman, interim chairperson of business information systems, and keynote speaker Joe M. Miller, holder of an alumni training firm in Grand Rapids, discussed the topic with, seated from left: Kathy McNew, WMU Southwest Regional Center in St. Joseph; Diane Oppenbusen, Northwest Regional Center in Dowagiac; and Cheryl Bird, Aviation Programs at Davis and Northern.

African studies brown bag seminar, “The Repatriation of Eritrean Refugees from the Sudan,” Jennifer Miller, a WMU alumna and president of SkillSource, a consulting and training firm in Grand Rapids, discussed the topic with, seated from left: Kathy McNew, WMU Southwest Regional Center in St. Joseph; Diane Oppenbusen, Northwest Regional Center in Dowagiac; and Cheryl Bird, Aviation Programs at Davis and Northern.

Weather, a WMU alumna and president of SkillSource, a consulting and training firm in Grand Rapids, discussed the topic with, seated from left: Kathy McNew, WMU Southwest Regional Center in St. Joseph; Diane Oppenbusen, Northwest Regional Center in Dowagiac; and Cheryl Bird, Aviation Programs at Davis and Northern.

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