Fund-raisers seeking $160,000 in this year’s drive for Greater Kalamazoo United Way

Donations already are starting to build toward the $160,000 goal for this year’s Greater Kalamazoo United Way drive on campus, which began Sept. 28 and runs through Oct. 31.

“In this short time, we will have to respond promptly to the call to give, but, given our past record of participation, I am confident we will achieve this year’s ambitious goal,” said President Haenicke in a letter sent to employees and endorsed by employee group leaders.

This year’s goal is an increase of $12,000 over the $148,069 raised for the local United Way, which supports nearly 60 local agencies providing services to thousands of individuals and families in Kalamazoo County each year.

Fund-raisers from University departments gathered for breakfast Sept. 28 in the Bernhard Center to kick off the campaign. They heard from a representative of a United Way agency and from a recipient of United Way agency services.

“I am asking everyone in the Western family to pledge their support,” Haenicke said in the letter. “We have a fine tradition of giving at our University, and I want to thank all of you who have given so generously in the past. For those of you who have not participated in the past, I ask you to consider making a campaign contribution this year.

Procedure changed for reporting sexual harassment

President Haenicke has announced a revised procedure for members of the University community who wish to report concerns or complaints about sexual harassment.

Cases regarding sexual harassment involving faculty, students and staff, including students who are employees or employment applicants, will now be handled in conjunction with concerns or complaints about sexual harassment involving students, faculty and staff, including students who are employees or employment applicants.

Previously, those issues were the responsibility of several other University officials. The changes were effective Oct. 1.

Enrollment, MLK Day on Faculty Senate agenda

The Faculty Senate will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, in the Fetzer Center. Agenda items include remarks by Provost Nancy S. Barren, a presentation on the enrollment and the freshmen class profile, an interim report from the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Committee and an interim report of the Committee to Oversee General Education.

Chormann

Taylor

Thompson

Bronco spirit

Mildred M. Houghton, right, Burnham’s dining service, recently was presented with a spirit by Stella I. Morado on behalf of Theresa A. Powell, vice president for student affairs. Last year, Houghton and her co-workers made two big Buster Broncos out of brown wrapping paper and mounted them on the walls of the cafeteria.

Since then, Houghton has changed the appearances of the two mascots to coincide with the athletic and holiday seasons. They have been everything from Easter bunnies to hockey players.

Houghton received a certificate of recognition for her contributions to promoting spirit at the University.

Three alumni selected for association’s highest award

Three WMU graduates who have gone on to successful careers in the business world have been named the winners this year’s Distinguished Alumni Awards by the WMU Alumni Association.

They are: Richard F. Chormann, a 1959 graduate who is president and chief executive officer of the Kalamazoo-based First of America Bank Corp.; S. Martin Taylor, a 1964 graduate who is president of a community and governmental affairs company for Detroit Edison; and Janet M. Thompson, a 1963 graduate who was vice president and general manager of the U.S. Golf Division of the Chicago-based Wilson Sporting Goods Co.

Since 1963, 90 men and women have received Distinguished Alumni Awards, the association’s most prestigious honor.

Three alumni will be recognized at an Oct. 22 awards dinner scheduled in conjunction with Homecoming. The event will begin with a reception at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m., in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Persons wishing to attend should make reservations at $30 for Alumni Association members and $35 for non-members by Friday, Oct. 14, with the McKee Alumni Center at 7-8858.

Chormann began his career at First National Bank and Trust-Kalamazoo in 1958, working part-time while still a student at WMU. Upon receiving his bachelor’s degree in 1959, he joined the staff of the bank’s administrative assistant. Chormann later worked in the installment loan area before transferring to the computer operations division.

In 1981, Chormann was promoted to assistant vice president of the Kalamazoo office. He was named vice president in 1986.

Chormann’s leadership abilities within a key operations division of the bank earned Chormann the title of executive vice president of what is today known as First of America Bank-Michigan in 1976. Four years later, when the bank acquired the Wayne-Oakland Bank in Southeast Michigan, he was appointed its president and chief executive officer.

Chormann returned to Kalamazoo in 1984 as executive vice president of the First of America Bank Corp., Michigan’s first multiple-bank holding company. One year later, he was named to his current position and became just the third individual to hold this office since the corporation’s founding in 1972.

Today, the First of America Bank Corp. provides a full range of financial services to more than 325 communities in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Florida. The corporation presently reports assets in excess of $23 billion, more than four times those reported in 1985. Based on net income, profitability and size of franchise, First of America is ranked among the top 35 banking companies in the United States.

Chormann’s professional acumen has been recognized on several occasions by his peers. In 1991 he was elected president of the Michigan Bankers Association. He currently is director of VISA USA Inc. He also serves in leadership positions for numerous community and civic organizations, including chairperson of the Borgess Medical Center Board of Trustees and a cabinet member for the Greater Kalamazoo United Way.

Taylor was appointed its president and chief executive officer in 1991.

Taylor began his career as an attorney for the Container Corporation of America in Chicago after earning his bachelor of science degree from WMU and his law degree from the Detroit College of Law. He returned to his home state in 1969, when then Gov. William Milliken appointed him deputy director of the Michigan Department of Commerce. Two years later, he was named director of the state’s third largest agency, the Michigan Employment Security Commission, which is responsible for managing employment services and unemployment insurance in the state.

In 1983, then Gov. James Blanchard appointed Taylor to direct Michigan’s Department of Labor while still serving as head of the MESC. This appointment enabled the administration to use a wide range of programs in employment, economic development, labor relations, labor standards and human services.

In November of the following year, Taylor left state government to become executive vice president of New Detroit Inc., the country’s first urban coalition. A year later, he was named to the presidency. From its inception, New Detroit has had significant influence on the economic and social concerns of the Detroit area. Taylor served as president until accepting his current position with Detroit Edison.

Taylor holds leadership positions with a host of civic and professional organizations, including both the Detroit and Michigan Chambers of Commerce, the Economic Club of Detroit and the Detroit Institute of Arts Founders Society.

(Continued on page four)
MINORITY FRESHMEN DAY — Minority freshmen and transfer students had an opportunity to meet members of various departments who provide assistance and support services as well as to become acquainted with student organizations during the Minority Freshmen Day Sept. 30. The event was sponsored by the Division of Minority Affairs and Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Medieval Institute director among board appointments

The appointment of a new director of the University’s world-renowned Medieval Institute was part of personnel action taken Sept. 30 by the WMU Board of Trustees.

Paul E. Szarmach, a medieval scholar from the State University of New York at Binghamton, was named to the position, effective Aug. 15, 1994. His appointment includes tenure as a professor in the Department of English.

Szarmach has been a faculty member at SUNY Binghamton since 1970, most recently as a professor of English and medieval studies. He also served as director of the Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies there for 15 years and was acting vice provost for graduate studies and research for a year. He has been a member of the SUNY Research Foundation Board of Directors since 1986.

The recipient of numerous fellowships and grants for his work, Szarmach is the author of a number of book-length publications, most recently in 1992.

The board also approved the appointment of three other persons to head units at the University. They are: Maric A. Barnhart as director of Housing and Residence Life, effective Aug. 8, 1994; William H. Fenn as chairperson and associate professor with tenure in the Department of Physician Assistant, effective Sept. 19, 1994; and Parviz Merati as chairperson of the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, effective July 1, 1994.

Barnhart has been acting director of career services since 1992. She joined the WMU staff in 1989 as coordinator of education and health and human services placement. She also has served as director of career planning and placement at Glen Oaks Community College in South Haven.

Fenn comes to WMU from the Department of Business Administration at Glen Oak College. He has been associate director of continuing education and director of the office of special programs and professional development at the University since 1992. Fenn has served as a consultant to educational organizations in the country and has been a visiting professor at a number of universities in Australia, England and New Zealand.

Merati has been a WMU faculty member since 1986. He also has been director of the Center of Excellence for Fluid Mechanics Research since 1992. Earlier this year, he became director of the Center for Advanced Tribology, one of the new research and development units established through the University’s Centers for Excellence competition. Merati replaces Jerry H. Hunklink, who has returned to the faculty.

The board also approved a promotion for Carol L.J. Hustoles from assistant general manager to associate director of the department.

Sunway College founder to get honorary degree

The University will award an honorary doctor of education degree to Dato Jeffrey Cheah, founder of Sunway College in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and president and chief executive officer of the Sunway Group. That action was approved Sept. 30 by the WMU Board of Trustees.

The exact date for the conferring of the honorary degree is to be determined.

Sunway College was founded in 1987. WMU is the only U.S. institution of higher education that is a partner in Sunway College’s “twining concept” that includes similar arrangements with universities in Australia, England and New Zealand.

Under the twinning arrangement, students complete the first two years of their degree program at Sunway College before transferring to a cooperating foreign university to complete the remaining years of their studies. WMU offers Sunway students five degree programs: business administration, computer science, mathematics, engineering, and applied and natural sciences.

There are currently more than 500 Malaysian students studying at WMU’s campus; they represent the largest contingent of students from another country. They also represent the largest Malaysian contingent at any U.S. college or university.

Sichel named president-elect of economics association

Werner Sichel, chairperson of economics, has been named president-elect of the Midwest Academy of Economics Association. He will become president of the association in 1996.

Sichel’s biggest duty will be to organize the annual Spring meeting. The meeting runs three days and includes some 50 sessions on a variety of economics topics.

Two edit new economics book published by Upjohn Institute

Sisay Asfa and Wei-Chiao Huang, both economics associate professors, are the editors of a new book published by the Upjohn Institute for Employment Research in Kalamazoo.

The new book, "Capital and Economic Development" features six papers originally presented during the Department of Economics’ 25th annual lecture series in 1992-93. The series was co-sponsored by the department and the institute.

Human capital refers to an investment in the acquisition of skills and knowledge by people, including anything that increases human productivity, such as education and training. Many studies have shown that the key to economic growth is improving human capital.

Topics covered by the six prominent economists in the book include labor population, workforce training and productivity, global competition, the effects of human capital on economic growth, and the effects of human capital on human progress.

The 164-page book is available in cloth or paper for $13 from the Upjohn Institute.

Nominations sought for faculty scholar awards

The Distinguished Faculty Scholar Companion Committee administered the 1995 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Awards.

The deadline for nominations is Thursday, Dec. 15. Up to three awards may be made each year. Those honored during this cycle will be announced in fall 1995. Each winner will receive a $2,000 biography and a $2,000 adjustment to basic salary, a plaque and an opportunity to present a lecture, exhibition or performance for the University community.

All current, continuing board-appointed persons with faculty status are eligible, including part-time as well as full-time faculty. They must have seven or more years experience as a WMU prior to nomination. No individual may receive the award more than once.

Nominees will be selected based on outstanding professional achievement. The accomplishments may be artistic, historical, biographical, scientific or technical. Wide recognition beyond WMU is essential. The award usually will be based on a body of work, but might be for a particular piece of work, and a substantial part of the achievement must have been accomplished as a WMU faculty member.

Any member of the University community, including retirees, may nominate a faculty member for the award. All nominations must be supported by a minimum of two sponsors, at least one of whom is from within the University.

Guidelines and nomination forms have been distributed on campus. For more information, persons may contact Ernst A. Breisch, history, who is chairing the committee, at 7-4657. Additional information forms are available in the provost’s office.
Accelerator personnel here for annual symposium

Technical papers and a visit to WMU’s Particle Accelerator Laboratory will be among the highlights when 50 physicists and technical experts from around the world gather in Kalamaoo Oct. 12-15 for the Symposium of Northeastern Accelerators (SNEAP). The annual event, which WMU is playing host for the first time, will attract participants from more than 120 universities and laboratories across the United States and Canada, most of them with roots at Kalamaoo’s Radisson Plaza Hotel, but the Saturday afternoon session is scheduled for the WMU accelerator laboratory in Rodd Hall.

Accelerators are machines that use electric fields to make charged particles move at high velocities. They are used to conduct fundamental experiments in atomic and nuclear physics.

During the symposium, about 20 technical papers will be presented and participated in by experts from 12 countries. Many of the talks will be given by representatives from industries that build accelerators and supply related equipment.

According to Stephen M. Ferguson, physics, who is the conference chairperson, SNEAP is an organization of engineers and scientists who operate particle accelerators. Each year they gather to exchange information on advances in the field and to discuss new equipment on the market. The gathering began in 1970 at the offices of Brookhaven National Laboratory, but the biennial meeting in Texas of people who conduct research on accelerators, Ferguson says, “but this year for the first time we are doing it in conference form — the people who keep accelerators running.”

WMU operates a six million volt tandem Van de Graaff particle accelerator that supports physics instruction and research by scientists on the WMU campus, often in cooperation with scientists at other universities and national laboratories. Nuclear physics research, materials analysis and studies of atomic collisions are among the types of work conducted in the laboratory.

The SNEAP gathering is coordinated by the Office of Conferences and Institutes. For more information about the symposium or for arrangements, persons should contact Ferguson at 7-3320.

Oncampus

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Exchange

FORSALE— Two rugs, tan rectangular, 9- by-12 foot, and braided oval, 10-by-14 foot (wood with red tones). $40 each. Call 7-2107.

Media

Parviz Rad, engineering technology, discusses the safety of America’s bridges on “Focus,” a five-minute interview produced by news services. “Focus” is scheduled to air Saturday, Oct. 8, at 6:10 a.m. on WKPM-AM 1440.

Human resources

Open enrollment ends Friday

The final day for changing hospital-medical carriers through the once-a-year opportunity of the open enrollment period is Friday, Oct. 7. Persons wishing to change for the Cooperation for Public Broadcasting, an important funding source for the station. "We don’t know how that will affect our CPR grants," Macleod says, "but we probably have even more important that we count on our listeners for support." The station has already begun soliciting previous supporters and friends for contributions before its on-air marathon. Flies have been sent to nearly every station member, encouraging supporters to return their contributions in advance.

Those supporters who do not contribute in advance may call the station at 7-5715 and pledge. Contributors may pay by sending a check, or by using their MasterCard or VISA credit cards.

WMU faculty and staff members will be able to use payroll deduction at the next pledge drive, any money contributed will be matched by payroll deduction.

WMUK broadcasts classical, folk and jazz and is a charter member of NPR. Contributions from supporters will come through again this year. "We know our listeners are out there, and I think it’s great to work with," Macleod says. "Our listeners will continue to help us grow." The station already has begun soliciting previous supporters and friends for contributions before its on-air marathon.

In addition, the WMU Foundation will provide an electronic payment plan that will enable supporters to authorize automatic transfers of funds from checking or savings accounts in scheduled increments.

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Experts focus on health care reform in talks

A series of presentations on health care reform featuring experts in the health care field will begin Tuesday, Oct. 11. The series is sponsored by the College of Health and Human Services. All four presentations will run from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Fetzer Center and are open to faculty, staff, students and other interested persons. Invited experts and the topics they will address in their lectures are:

- "Health Care Reform: Is Care In or Out?" with Donna L. Harris, professor and chief academic officer at the Michigan State University Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies, on Tuesday, Oct. 11.
- "Ethics and Health Care Reform" with Howard Brody, MSU professor of family medicine and philosophy, on Tuesday, Oct. 18.
- "Alternative to Health Alliances: The Business Regional Health Network Experience" with Carol L. Sarosik, senior administrator of the University of Michigan Health System, on Tuesday, Oct. 25.
- "Health Care Reform: Who Pays the Bills?" with Gary B. Kosovo, president of Kushner and Co. of Kalamazoo, on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

These experts will also participate in a panel discussion from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Oct. 25, in the Lee Honors College. The discussion will be preceded by a reception at 3:30 p.m. in 105 Bernhard Center. The series is sponsored by the Office of International Affairs, Asia Wine and Culture Program, Lee Honors College, Department of Political Science and Institute of Government and Politics.

Distinguished alumni (Continued from page 1)

After earning her bachelor of business administration degree from WMU, Thompson went on to earn a master of business administration degree from the University of Detroit. While working on her master's degree, she joined the Chryser Corp. as a sales representative. In 1980, she was named first woman on the company's sales staff.

Thompson went to Toyota in 1985 as a vice president of domestic sales and was later named national truck advertising manager. Two years later, she became named national account manager covering the University of Detroit. While working on her master's degree, she joined the Chryser Corp. as a sales representative. In 1980, she was named first woman on the company's sales staff.

Thompson joined Mazda Motor of America as its vice president of marketing. Here, she recruited sales representatives and in passenger cars earned her the distinction of being honored as one of Advertising Age's Top 100 National Marketers in 1992.

Thompson was promoted to vice president of sales operations at Mazda in 1993, making her one of the highest ranking women in senior management in the automotive industry. Just 10 months later, Mazda's dealers recorded their fifth consecutive month of 30,000 plus sales for the first time in company history.

In early in her career, a male colleague told Thompson if she wanted to succeed in business, she would have to play golf. Not only did she learn to play, she developed a passion for the game, which led to Mazda's increased involvement in the sports marketing arena, particularly in Ladies Professional Golf Association events.

Her involvement in Golf Magazine's Corporate Leadership Award in 1993, Thompson has served as chairperson of the Marketing Committee of the LPGA Tournament Sponsors Association and as a member of the LPGA's Commissioner's Advisory Council. The opportunity to combine her passion for both golf and business led Thompson to her new position with the Wilson Sporting Goods Co. last month.