Japan Alumni Club Reunion

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• **(Slide #1)** Hello. It is so very good to be with you for this reunion. It is always a great day to be a Bronco, and an event with this many Broncos in one place has all the makings of a wonderful event.

• We sometimes have the opportunity to see each other on campus in Kalamazoo. The last such occasion was, of course, the memorial service for Dr. Soga just a few weeks ago. Let me start by saying how pleased we were to see you all there to celebrate that wonderful friend and mentor.

• As I said, we most frequently meet on campus. This time, I have the advantage of having been in your country for six days. I have had an opportunity to see some important locations *(name them)* so I feel more knowledgeable about this beautiful nation.

• I appreciate the opportunity to speak today and tell you about some of what's happening on campus and what we have planned for the future. One of the first things I always like to do--no matter how knowledgeable the audience, is share a few basics about Western Michigan University. I know you are alumni of our wonderful University, but I also know how fast time flies and how easy it is to lose track of new information.

• **(Slide #2)** As an institution, Western Michigan University is best described as learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged. You'll hear a lot about those three phrases because they are the three tenants of our strategic plan. Nearly all that we do falls under one of those three goals.
• (Slide #3) Please let me bring you up to date with a few stats:
  • We have more than 25,000 students
    - 20,000 undergrads
    - 5,000 graduate students
  • We're one of just 207 research universities in the United States according to the Carnegie Foundation rating system, the gold standard in higher education.
  • We offer more than 240 degree programs. 102 of those are at the graduate level, including 30 that lead to a doctoral degree.

And we're internationally known in an enormous range of disciplines. This week, for instance we will host more than 3,000 of the world's leading experts on the Middle Ages. They'll come from London, Rome, Tokyo and Melbourne and from other places around the globe, including several from Japanese universities such as Keio University.

• (Slide #4) As I said, those are the basics. I want to spend our time together today talking about
  • What the future will bring
  • Some major recent developments
  • How we're honoring the University's and the community's heritage

I'll move through this fairly quickly so there's time for questions.

First, where we're headed

• (Slide #5) Let's start with the development that will have the biggest impact on this community--the new WMU School of Medicine. As you know, this is a collaboration involving Bronson, Borgess and WMU. Last July, the infrastructure that was the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies formally transitioned into the WMU School
of Medicine. And in October, we learned the LCME has granted preliminary accreditation to the school. Development continues and recruitment activities have begun to put a class of 40-50 students in place for fall 2014.

• **(Slide #6)** Eighteen months ago, MPI Research and its Chairman and CEO Bill Parfet gave us this wonderful building to serve as a home for the medical school. It's a site with a history--it's on the very land that Bill Parfet's great grandfather W.E. Upjohn bought in 1885 to begin the Upjohn Co. Over the winter, we began renovating this former Pfizer research facility.

• **(Slide #7)** It is scheduled to be completed a year from now--just in time for faculty and staff to move in and get things ready for the 2014 entering class. In addition to faculty and administrative offices, the building will feature classrooms, lecture hall, a Simulation Center, research labs, a vivarium and--very important—sufficient room to grow in the future.

• **(Slide #8)** Our medical school will have a natural partner in our existing College of Health and Human Services. This small, highly regarded college is home to some of our most widely respected academic programs. Six of our graduate degree programs are among the top 100 of their kind in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report. Five are among the top 50, and three of those--occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and physician assistant--are rated tops in Michigan. To give you an idea of how competitive some of those programs are, let me note that it is not uncommon for us to have up to 800 students vying for one of just 45 seats in an incoming class of prospective physician assistants.

• **(Slide #9)** You may know that our College of Engineering and Applied Sciences is now located three miles south of the main campus and is surrounded by a Business
Technology and Research Park. We began that development in 1999. There are now more than 30 companies in the park, and this spring, we filled the final space with the announcement that Newell Rubbermaid is going to locate its international design center on our campus.

• **(Slide #10)** A very recent development that has been in the works for some time is a proposed alliance with the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Discussions about having a law school at WMU date back to the 1970s. Over the past three years Cooley's president, Don LeDuc, began the conversation again, at first informally, but then in earnest. We have 10 years of successful partnerships to work from--dual degree programs and shared facilities, for instance. The upshot is that as early as this summer there will likely be a Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Both boards have already approved the idea and we're working through the details now. Like our medical school, this will be a private entity within a public university.

• **(Slide #11)** The Cooley alliance will give us additional platforms in Lansing Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Auburn Hills and Tampa Bay, Fla. Our shared values will certainly mean that Cooley's current status as the largest (3,000-plus) and most diverse law school in the nation will continue.

• **(Slide #12)** Great universities are international universities. We currently welcome nearly 1,600 international students from 95 nations.

• **(Slide #13)** Our largest international representations are from:
  - Saudi Arabia
  - China
  - Dominican Republic
• India
• Japan

We will continue to grow and celebrate our international ties. We'll see more international students, and we'll have more domestic students studying abroad—joining the more than 500 who already take advantage of that opportunity. One of the remarkable assets we now bring to the table for international education is our Soga Japan Center. I want to thank you once again for the generous support you have given to this important entity.

You'll also want to be aware that our reputation in international education and our strong relations with Japan were instrumental in WMU being able to launch a special program for Japanese teachers of English. We did this in response to a request from Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We welcomed our first cohort of 10 teachers to campus in July 2011. Last year we had 14 participants, and this summer, we will welcome a similar sized group.

• (Slide #14) We continue to celebrate some of the time-honored campus traditions that you may remember from your time at WMU. There's the Homecoming Parade of National Flags.

• (Slide #15) And the annual International Festival has become so popular, we may be at the point of outgrowing the Bernhard Center location that has been its home for so many years.

• (Slide #16)
Great universities are international. That means that travel and study abroad exchanges work in both directions. A growing number of our U.S. students are taking
advantage of the opportunity to enhance their education by spending time at universities around the nation or taking part in a study or research opportunity abroad. This year, for instance, we are celebrating 50 years of student exchanges with Keio University, and 14 of our students studied here in Japan this year.

**Recent important campus developments**

- *(Slide #17)* Our celebrated School of Music will hit its 100th anniversary this year as the first university in Michigan to be named an All-Steinway Music School.

With 118 of the world-renowned pianos gracing the stages, classrooms and practice studios of the school, we are already seeing the $2 million investment by private donors have an impact, as applicants to our music programs respond positively to the quality commitment the Steinway designation demonstrates. WMU joins just over 150 top international music schools to have earned the All-Steinway designation, which requires that 90 percent of the school's pianos be designed by Steinway & Sons.

- *(Slide #18)* If you haven't been on campus recently, I urge you to take a stroll through the center of campus to see the jewel that is the new Sangren Hall. It is home to our College of Education and Human Development as well as our sociology program, reading clinic, education library and the newest teaching technology available. And the pedestrian mall in front of it has become a central gathering point on campus.

- *(Slide #19)* This is our most active classroom building and has more than 2,400 instructional seats for students. It is built to LEED gold specifications and it is already saving us more than $300,000 a year in energy costs. Next month, a rooftop
solar array will harvest the equivalent of 15 percent of the building's electrical energy usage.

• (Slide #20) Right next to Sangren is our Lee Honors College--one of the oldest and most highly regarded collegiate honors programs in the nation. Last year with the help of the college's namesakes Carl and Winifred Lee, we were able to expand and remodel the facility to better serve our students.

• (Slide #21) The Lee Honors College is academic home to nearly 1,600 of some of the most talented students in the nation. They now have a larger gathering spot, 50 percent more classroom space and state-of-the-art instructional technology.

• (Slide #22) In 2011, we opened our first new student housing built since 1965--almost 50 year ago. Western View is an apartment-style complex for upperclassmen. It fills students' desire to stay on campus and still have the advantages of apartment living. It was so successful--opening with a 200-person waiting list--that we're now finishing Phase II, which will open this fall.

Honoring our past
• (Slide #23) Right now, we're also racing toward completion of the Zhang Legacy Collections Center on Oakland Drive. This is the long-awaited new home for the WMU Archives and the Regional History Collections. It will be the repository for the incredibly important material that is now housed in an old gymnasium without climate control or any of the very basic preservation precautions that need to be taken with such important documents. The security of these materials has weighed heavily on me for some time, and I am delighted that in October the doors to this new facility will be opened for historians, genealogists, public officials and others who need to reference these historical materials.
• **(Slide #24)** The gymnasium where those archives have been housed is in East Hall the birthplace of WMU. It is located at the top of Prospect Hill on what as known as WMU's East Campus. We have made a commitment to restore--to save--East Hall and bring it to life again as an alumni center.

The University has an unwavering commitment to East Hall and Prospect Hill. The building and hilltop were gifts from this community when Western Michigan University was established in 1903 and they will remain a testament to the long-lasting partnership between this University and its home community.

Once those archives have been moved to their new home, we will move forward with our commitment to preserve the white-columned presence and lighted cupola that the Kalamazoo community created and has treasured for more than 100 years. We want future generations of Kalamazoo residents to look to the top of Prospect Hill and enjoy the same view and sense of pride Kalamazoo residents first enjoyed in 1905.

It will become a campus and community gathering place, a home for our alumni and development offices and a spot to showcase WMU's heritage for current and new members of our campus community.

• **(Slide #25)** I could continue on, but I want to stop here and make sure there's time to address your questions. I want to be respectful of your time and make sure I address the topics you want to know about, so at this point, I want to open the floor to your questions.