The Western Michigan University Magazine

Inside this issue

• 100 years of music
• Meet Coach Fleck
• 632,408 hours of service
Dear Friends,

The Western Michigan University community has embarked on another exciting academic year energized by new promise and built on a legacy of achievement.

Look to our School of Music, which is marking 100 years of enhancing our world through the musical arts. This edition of the WMU Magazine pays tribute to that long history.

But the School of Music’s life story is not simply about longevity. Rather, it exemplifies what this University does so well each and every day.

Our music professors, themselves award-winning and productive artists, have guided thousands of students to explore and to perfect their unique gifts. Well-known musicians, including international opera singer Susan B. Anthony and Grammy-winning audio engineer Max Wilcox, honed their talents at WMU.

Our students often perform on the world stage even before hitting such career heights. Recently, acclaimed vocal jazz ensemble Gold Company performed at a prestigious choral festival in France. By all accounts, they wowed a crowd of 5,000.

Through opportunities like these, we help students make the most of their talents—whether for the classroom as music educators, for the stage as performers or as composers producing new music. This year, we celebrate this century of success.

Also in the spirit of honoring our past, the University Archives and the Regional History Collections have a new home in the recently completed Zhang Legacy Collections Center on the Oakland Drive Campus.

The $8.7 million Zhang Center contains 30,000 cubic feet of manuscripts, maps, newspapers, photographs, diaries, government documents and other materials chronicling the history of WMU and of Southwest Michigan.

We are grateful for the generosity of alumni Charles and Lynn Zhang, along with many other benefactors, who have made this state-of-the-art facility a reality for our students, faculty and visitors today and for generations to come.

I hope that when you come to campus, the new Zhang Center and the School of Music will be among your many stops. Please visit soon.

Best regards,

John M. Dunn
President
Features

4. Musical Milestone
   School of Music celebrates 100 years

9. All-Steinway Designation
   118 reasons WMU is among top music schools

10. Jazz Studies
    A history-making beginning

19. Mending Fences
    Students build community block by block

21. Beyond Volunteerism
    Service-learning earns WMU spot on presidential honor roll

22. Legacy Secured
    Archives get modern new home

25. Legal Affiliation
    WMU, Cooley Law School join forces

26. Study in the States
    Program offers study-abroad style experience without leaving North America

28. Bronco Football Game Changer
    P.J. Fleck is football’s best hire of 2013, says Sports Illustrated

Departments

2. University News
12. Campus Quick Reads
14. Classnotes
15. Obituaries
16. Expert Insights
18. Alumni Profile
31. College News
Homecoming turns 90, features week of events and Saturday football

Homecoming is set for Oct. 7-12. Under the theme, “Fight on for Western: 90 Years of Homecoming,” the University is observing nine decades of inviting alumni, students, friends and the entire Bronco community to campus to reflect on the past and celebrate the present.

The week culminates with the annual homecoming football game at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, when the Broncos meet the State University of New York’s Buffalo Bulls in Waldo Stadium.

The week of festivities leading up to the game includes a Spirit Week competition, Distinguished Alumni Award reception, pep rally, tailgating and the 15th annual Homecoming Campus Classic race.

• Homecoming 2013 marks 50 years of the Distinguished Alumni Award. A reception is set for 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11, in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Register and pay online at mywmu.com.

• Immediately following the reception, the plaza in front of Sangren Hall will be the scene of a pep rally, with the Bronco Marching Band and new head Bronco football coach, P.J. Fleck, rousing the crowd.

• On Saturday, Oct. 12, runners will stampede through campus for the Campus Classic race. It features a 1K Fun Run and Walk at 8:45 a.m. and a 5K Run and Walk at 9:15 a.m. Top finishers in various categories win awards. Each participant has a chance to win a $500 AAA travel voucher and will receive a T-shirt and complimentary refreshments on race day. Register and pay online at the race information site, wmich.edu/campusclassic, up until 11:59 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10. Race-day registration is between 7 and 9 a.m.

• The Office of Development and Alumni Relations is hosting a tailgating party in Parking Lot 1 near Walwood Hall that is open to all. Register early by phone at (269) 387-8746 or online at mywmu.com. Online, click on the “2013 Bronco Football: 90th Homecoming” button.

To learn more about homecoming, visit wmich.edu/homecoming.

Donors give to WMU at record levels

Gifts to the University surpassed $64 million as private donors supported WMU at unprecedented levels during the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Nearly 22,000 private donors chose to support WMU with $64,871,813 in cash gifts and pledges during the fiscal year that ended June 30. The 21,944 private donors who made gifts last year included 10,996 alumni, 629 corporations and 84 foundations, as well as 10,169 private individuals and 66 other organizations.

Gifts to every part of the University, including its new School of Medicine, are reflected in the record-setting figures. And with nearly 75,000 individual gifts recorded, many donors made multiple gifts.

“There’s not a corner of the University that has not been made stronger and more vibrant by the generosity of our donors,” WMU President John M. Dunn says.

“They have strengthened student access, increased campus life options available to our students, and provided our faculty, staff and students with the tools and resources they need for discovery and public service. We are enormously grateful for each and every gift.”

One of the significant outcomes of the increase in gifts is a series of new scholarship opportunities for students. Gifts for student financial support increased by 58 percent in 2012-13 compared with the previous year. Some 29 new endowed scholarships were set up, many by alumni eager to “pay it forward” by offering current and future generations of students access to the same level of instruction they enjoyed.
University makes key hires in enrollment management, international education

Enrollment and international education are getting a boost with two recent administrative appointments.

Alumnus Christopher Tremblay, associate provost for enrollment management, was appointed in May. And Dr. Wolfgang F. Schlör, a longtime international education professional now serving at the University of Illinois, has been named WMU's new associate provost for the Haenicke Institute for International Education. His appointment begins Oct. 1.

Tremblay was formerly the assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. But he began his career at WMU working in the Office of Admissions.

In his new role, Tremblay oversees the Office of Admissions, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, the Registrar's Office and First-Year Experience Programs, which include new student orientation and Fall Welcome. His responsibilities will encompass student recruitment and enrollment.

Dr. Timothy Greene, WMU's provost and vice president for academic affairs, says that Tremblay has displayed a passion for WMU and a clear knowledge of our state and nation's enrollment environment.

Schlör has served as the interim associate provost for international affairs and interim director of international programs and studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

“'We’re delighted to have found someone with the depth and breadth of experience in international higher education that Dr. Schlör brings to this position,” Greene said in announcing this appointment.

“Our commitment to and strong track record in global engagement makes this a critical position, and I'm confident that Dr. Schlör will be an enormous asset as we move forward.”

WMU is part of massive EPA research study aimed at factors that influence air quality

WMU is one of 13 top research universities around the nation tapped to conduct a multiyear $4.3 million research effort to determine the impact of organic aerosol materials on climate and air quality.

The 13 grants announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be carried out in conjunction with other efforts funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with additional support from the Southern Co. and Electric Power Research Institute.

The goal is to better understand how atmospheric gases interact with and affect the production of aerosols—tiny particles that form and are suspended in the atmosphere and, in large quantities, are visible as haze.

WMU's grant of $387,483 will be used through late 2014 for research focused on the southeastern United States to investigate the regional climate implications of organic aerosol formation.

The principal investigator on the project is Dr. Steven Bertman, professor of chemistry, who is leading a team of researchers and students from WMU and collaborators at Oakland and Purdue universities and West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

Its work is part of an umbrella effort known as the Southern Oxidant & Aerosol Study.

“This is an unprecedented study in terms of scope,” Bertman said from his field location near Centreville, Ala.

He also says the Alabama site was selected because it is in an area of the country in which current methods of controlling smog have not worked well, despite their success in other regions.

In addition to Bertman's WMU-based team, the other 12 EPA-funded teams are led by researchers from a number of universities, including Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Wisconsin, Madison and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
It was a summer evening in the Dalton Center Recital Hall and the Western Horn Choir assembled on stage for a practice concert.

The choir was preparing for its recital at the International Horn Symposium under the direction of Dr. Lin Foulk, an associate professor who has performed in such settings as Carnegie Hall.

In crisp harmony, the hornists shared five pieces by various composers, including that of a School of Music graduate. “I just sent them a (copy) of the music a week ago,” Foulk remarked with pride to an audience of high school-age students in between activities at SEMINAR, the school’s audition-only music camp that annually attracts top young talent.

Paul Clifton, one of the horn players on stage, also would perform in a soloist contest at the symposium. Among just five horn players worldwide selected to compete, he went on to place second.

This snapshot of ordinary life at the WMU School of Music may demonstrate why there’s such pride in the school. Pick an instrument, a vocal genre, a faculty member or a student—the school’s examples of success and accomplishments are legion and long-lived.

School of Music celebrates 100 years of ‘so much talent’

Music was among the earliest disciplines established at WMU, dating back to the University’s founding as a teachers college.

In 2013, the School of Music recognizes its long history.
A century at play

This year, the School of Music marks 100 years of distinguished faculty shaping successive generations of gifted music makers. A slate of performances commemorates the centennial this fall.

“It’s an amazing place,” says School of Music Director David Colson. “There’s so much talent here.”

He’s not alone in that assessment.

The quality and number of arts performances at WMU recently helped convince a Chronicle of Higher Education journalist that colleges and universities play a critical, if somewhat unsung, role in sustaining the arts in American society.

Take the last academic year alone at WMU. Award-winning student and faculty ensembles, along with guest artists, put on some 950 concerts and events that were attended by nearly 231,500 people.

Those performances were in the orchestra pits and main stages of campus and the greater Kalamazoo community. They also were in national and international settings.

“We’re constantly traveling all over the world,” Colson says.

The acclaimed Gold Company vocal jazz ensemble performed at the Choralies Festival in Vaison-la-Romaine, France in July and August. Viola students went to St. Petersburg in Moscow for 10 days in May and the Western Wind Quintet performed in Honduras in January 2012.

“It’s a great way to spread the good word of WMU, and these opportunities for our faculty to engage in the global community really expand their horizons and help to build the knowledge in the field in a greater way,” he says.

WMU has been doing its part to keep the art of music thriving. Alumni—international opera singer Susan B. Anthony, multiple Grammy-winning audio engineer and producer Max Wilcox among them—provide more evidence.

From the beginning

Music has always been a part of WMU, intertwined with the University’s founding as a school to train teachers.

The institution was established as Western State Normal School in 1903 and it wasn’t long before a music program began taking root.

“Given the ongoing debate on the importance of the arts in public education, it is interesting to note that music seems to have been considered a basic subject in the preparation of teachers,” longtime, now-retired director of concerts Carl Doubleday observed in a 2012 retrospective on the school.

But the official founding year for music education at WMU is considered to be 1913, the year Harper C. Maybee—the longest tenured of the school’s eight leaders—was appointed director.

For decades, music education at WMU was part of teacher training, with Maybee leading the department from 1913 to 1945.
A history of making music with Kalamazoo

Celebrating the 100-year-old School of Music also means acknowledging its history of making music with and for its hometown.

“There’s no question whatsoever that this whole area would be poverty stricken in the arts if it weren’t for Western and (Kalamazoo) College,” says Dr. C.J. Gianakaris, a longtime performing arts reviewer in Kalamazoo and retired professor of English and theatre at WMU.

Soon after Harper C. Maybee was hired to lead Western’s music program in 1913, he “reinvigorated” the Kalamazoo Choral Union, a group composed of vocalists from campus and the surrounding community, according Michigan historian Larry Massie’s book, “Brown and Golden Memories.”

That kind of “town and gown” musical alliance has persisted in a variety of ways over the past century.

“We have a relationship with every arts organization in town,” says School of Music Director David Colson.

WMU music faculty, students and alumni are numbered among musicians in area performance groups.

Musicians from WMU also have helped found, lead and inspire programs that present, nurture and draw major outside talents to Kalamazoo, often in campus venues.

Included on that list is Kalamazoo’s Stulberg International String Competition, which features young musicians from all over the world.

Established in 1975, the competition is a tribute to the late Julius Stulberg, a violinist who for decades was conductor of the WMU orchestra and the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony.

And music organization Fontana Chamber Arts owes its existence in part to the late hornist and School of Music faculty member Neill Sanders. Sanders was the founder and director of the Fontana Concert Series, which eventually joined with another organization to form Fontana Chamber Arts.

Yet another prominent example of WMU’s musical alliance with Kalamazoo occurs every other year when the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival and Awards draws renowned pianists to the city and to campus to entertain arts patrons.

The late Dr. Robert Luscombe, dean emeritus of the College of Fine Arts, and former music faculty member, David Pocock, were key in the development of the festival, according to Daniel Gustin, director of The Gilmore.

The festival was founded to honor philanthropist Irving S. Gilmore’s legacy of supporting artists, particularly pianists.

WMU music faculty members continue to be involved in the festival in many ways, including in performing roles and for pre-concert talks.

“I think it’s safe to say that The Gilmore would have a difficult—if not impossible—time presenting the biennial festival and its music education program without this tremendous partnership with the WMU School of Music,” Gustin says.

School of Music Centennial Festival

Centennial gala weekend
Friday and Sunday
Sept. 27 and 29

• Christopher Biggs’ multimedia work
  Friday, 5:30 p.m.
  Outside Dalton Center Recital Hall

• Johnny Rodgers Band
  Friday, 8 p.m.
  Dalton Center Recital Hall
  (dessert reception to follow the performance)

• WMU Music Showcase Spectacular
  Sunday, 3 p.m.
  Miller Auditorium

Centennial lecture I: Andre Mika, creative executive, musician, chef and restaurateur
Wednesday, Oct. 9, 1 p.m.
Dalton Center Recital Hall

School of Music faculty chamber music concert
Sunday, Oct. 20, 4 p.m.
Dalton Center Recital Hall
(reception to follow)

University Symphonic Band
with alumni soloist David Haglund, trumpet
Sunday, Oct. 13, 3 p.m.
Miller Auditorium

Pianopalooza: Music Teachers National Association State Conference and All-Steinway school recognition
Sunday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Dalton Center Recital Hall

University Symphony Orchestra and Grand Chorus
featuring Richard Danielpour’s “An American Requiem”
Friday, Oct. 25, 8 p.m.
Miller Auditorium

Music, Mind and Medicine: Creativity and Consciousness in Clinical Care
Wednesday - Thursday
Oct. 9 - 10
Radisson Plaza Hotel, downtown Kalamazoo

Regina Carter Quartet
Wednesday, Oct. 9
7:30 p.m.
Dalton Center Recital Hall

University Symphonic Band and Grand Chorus
featuring Richard Danielpour’s “An American Requiem”
Friday, Oct. 25, 8 p.m.
Miller Auditorium

Centennial Lecture II: Richard Danielpour, Grammy-winning composer
Wednesday, Oct. 23, 1 p.m.
Dalton Center Recital Hall

University Symphonic Band and Grand Chorus
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Friday, Oct. 25, 8 p.m.
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Colson says they are interested in attracting students to the music programs that are both artistically and academically accomplished.

This fall, for instance, the school has the second largest cohort of students in the Lee Honors College of any other cohort of WMU students. It’s second only to biological sciences.

It was on Audition Day that Chelsea Helm, today a senior, realized how badly she wanted to be a part of the school.

Helm’s father is a School of Music alumnus, but she didn’t decide to audition until taking part in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival on campus.

School of Music milestones

Over the years, just as WMU as a whole evolved to offer multiple disciplines, the music program grew in scope and sophistication.

In the late 1940s, the first bachelor of music degree was awarded. In 1961, the first student to receive a degree in music therapy graduated and the first master’s degree in music was awarded in 1965.

Other major markers for WMU music include the 1967 completion of the performance hall now known as Miller Auditorium.

The school’s large music ensembles that had been performing in gyms and student center ballrooms, according to Doubleday, benefited greatly “from one of the finest auditoriums in the nation.”

But it was the completion of the Dorothy U. Dalton Center in 1982 that put all aspects of music programming under one roof, with a recital hall, headquarters and numerous practice spaces and teaching studios. The facility also is home to the College of Fine Arts administration as well as dance studies.

With the advent of Dalton, “collaboration just went crazy. It’s a pretty special environment,” Doubleday said in an interview.

Today, Dalton bustles with some 500 music students majoring in music education, music therapy and performance or a combination of these.

“There is a huge range of things one can do in the field of music through WMU,” Colson says. “You can be a composer. You can play classical music or popular music or jazz. You can be a therapist. You can be a teacher,” he says, naming just some of the possibilities.

Gifted students

Roughly 400 young musicians audition for one of the 90 School of Music slots that become open annually, as acceptance to WMU doesn’t guarantee a spot in the school.

Enrollment in the music school is selective and has become increasingly so during its history.

“The early reputation (of the school) was built more on the excellence of the faculty and our performances than it was on the excellence of our students,” says Dr. Stephen Jones, professor of trumpet and, with 42 years in the school this fall, the longest-serving faculty member still on staff.

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Soprano Chelsea Helm, ‘an incredibly diverse musician’

Though it may be hard to fathom for those familiar with her talent and passion as a vocalist and emergent teacher, at one time WMU senior Chelsea Helm was convinced that she would not pursue an education and career in music.

“I was afraid I was going to overdose on music,” Helm remembers musing while on the cusp of choosing a university and a major four years ago.

As a youngster, the West Bloomfield, Mich., native was in two school bands and in chorale. She also sang in Michigan’s All-State Honors Choir, tutored younger students in flute and danced for most of her life as well.

“Everything I did was music really,” says this daughter of music teachers.

But far from getting too much of it, since choosing to study both music education and performance at WMU, the 22-year-old jazz and opera singer has been discovering that there are no bounds.

“There is just an incredible wealth of opportunities here,” Helm says of the School of Music, which marks its 100th anniversary this year.

“I’ve been able to be so diverse as a student and that has been so crucial to my development as a musician but also as an educator.”

—Chelsea Helm says of the School of Music

American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, where she fell in love with operatic repertoire and returned to WMU to continue developing that talent.

More recently, Helm recorded a CD with her group, Four Corners, a vocal jazz quartet of WMU-trained musicians. The group’s debut album of jazz standards is due to be released this fall.

Also this fall, Helm begins her final semester at WMU, including a stint student teaching at a suburban Grand Rapids school.

“Chelsea is an incredibly diverse musician,” says Dr. Kimberly Dunn Adams, assistant professor, director of choral activities and one of Helm’s mentors.

“She’s able to sing opera as well as she is jazz. Her voice blooms and soars as a soloist, and yet blends seamlessly within a choir. She is passionate about both teaching and performing,” Dunn Adams says, calling Helm the “classic” WMU School of Music student for her creativity, entrepreneurial spirit and intelligence.

Following graduation in December, Helm envisions a career teaching and also performing jazz and opera—even though it’s not conventional to pursue both genres.

“That is something that is not only possible, but it’s something that will be really fulfilling,” Helm says. “I don’t see my possible career path to be straight and narrow, but much wider and winding. And I’m excited about it.”
School of Music is an all-Steinway school

Along with observing its 100th anniversary, the WMU School of Music is taking pride in being designated an All-Steinway Music School.

WMU is the first university in Michigan to earn this distinction.

With 118 of the world-renowned pianos gracing the stages, classrooms and practice studios of the school, University officials already see the impact of the $2 million investment by private donors.

“Prospective students note the School of Music’s Steinway piano inventory, and the new instruments make quite an impression, especially on those visiting the school for the first time,” says Dr. David J. Colson, director of the School of Music.

“The new pianos have become a point of pride for many of our current students. They are especially appreciative to have instruments on which to practice and perform that inspire their growth as musicians.”

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.

As an All-Steinway school, WMU is entitled to use the Steinway logo on its website and in recruitment materials and can use Steinway Hall in New York City for an annual event for alumni.

Steinway & Sons was founded in New York City by German immigrant Heinrich Engelhard Steinway in 1853. Steinway & Sons developed the modern piano with revolutionary designs and created 127 patented inventions to perfect the piano-making process.

By the turn of the century, the company was crafting thousands of pianos in its Astoria, N.Y. and Hamburg, Germany factories. Today, Steinway & Sons crafts approximately 2,500 pianos a year and is the choice of 97 percent of piano soloists performing at major venues worldwide.

Culmination of fundraising efforts

Fundraising to be an All-Steinway program began five years ago, according to Dr. Margaret Merrion, recently retired dean of WMU’s College of Fine Arts, and the first pianos acquired through the campaign arrived in late 2008.

The timeline for completion was driven by the School of Music’s centennial celebration, which culminates with a series of special fall concerts, including an Oct. 13 piano concert that will honor the All-Steinway designation. That event is expected to include a formal presentation by representatives of Steinway & Sons.

The funding to achieve the designation came from a variety of donors, Merrion says, but two local foundations—the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation and the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation—were among early significant donors and provided impetus for the fundraising campaign.
A giant in jazz studies

The WMU Jazz Studies Program debuted in the 1990s as the first such degree program in Michigan.

“We were a decade ahead of anyone else,” says Tom Knific, program director, a founding faculty member and accomplished bass player. “The huge schools in the state were just watching for quite a while.”

Today, the WMU Jazz Studies Program is not so alone, but it is a top-tier program.

Its ensembles, particularly the vocal jazz group, Gold Company, and faculty ensemble, the Western Jazz Quartet, are acclaimed.

Proof of the program’s virtue is found in the accolades it garners and in what graduates go on to do as instrumentalists, vocalists and educators.

Alumni are working on Broadway, in music education at other prestigious programs and with famous names such as Liza Minnelli and Sheryl Crow.

“It has just built its own critical mass,” says Knific, who two decades ago worked alongside recently retired professors Trent Kynaston, sax, and Steve Zegree, vocal jazz, to establish the program.

“We went from winning maybe one DownBeat magazine student music award every year, or every other year, to multiple awards every year in different categories,” he says.

Since 1984, WMU music students have won more than 140 DownBeat awards, placing the University’s program in the top three college-level award winners in the nation.

This year, five of the six DownBeat awards were won by WMU students in jazz. The sixth went to a classical violinist.

Pianist Fred Hersch, one of several luminaries who have served as artists in residence at the University, says he’s recommended WMU jazz to up-and-comers.

Continued on page 11
Five years ago, Niskanen was an exchange student in Holland Mich., when he played at a WMU jazz festival with his high school band. “I knew nothing about the jazz program at Western before then, and quite frankly, I wasn’t too interested until I heard that one of my all-time favorite jazz pianists, Fred Hersch, was part of the visiting faculty,” Niskanen says. He returned to Finland after finishing his exchange year, enrolled in an accelerated high school program and completed two years of curriculum in less than a year. “I was that excited to come back to the states and start my studies at WMU,” says Niskanen. “I was accepted to several big-name schools, but I quickly realized that Western was the best fit for me. WMU School of Music has a world-class jazz faculty, comparable to the top schools in New York,” says the WMU senior.

**Groomed at WMU, talented drummer plans to ‘stir it up’ in Chicago, New York**

When Christian Euman auditioned for a coveted spot in the WMU School of Music four years ago, drum set instructor Keith Hall saw something in the young Chicagoan that doesn’t come through instruction.

Though aspiring, Euman didn’t know a lot about jazz. But Hall says he was a natural at the drum set. “He did things that I had never seen before in an incoming freshman, things you can’t teach,” Hall remembers. “His natural flow around the drums, the way he touched the instrument with his sticks. The music was just oozing out of him.”

“He’s kind of blown us away from the beginning, and it’s amazing how he’s grown—that goes for his playing, his arranging and his composition,” says Hall, who is today one of Euman’s mentors.

For his part, Euman, a Billy Hart Jazz Scholar at WMU, says he came to the University driven and loves that his peers are just as “hungry” to get better at their craft. “I can say the same thing about the faculty. They just want to see you do well,” he says.

This offers a hint of the passion embodied in the WMU School of Music, which is celebrating 100 years of teaching young musicians like Euman.

With his gifts and repertoire expanded by the University’s celebrated Jazz Studies Program, the 22-year-old plans to break into the music scene in Chicago this fall, “stir it up there” and then move to New York City as soon as he can.

Known for playing with joy and abandon, Euman is interested in exploring Broadway, big band, the free jazz scene and other subgenres of jazz.

“It’s kind of hard to narrow it down because through Western, I’ve had so many different experiences that groomed me into who I am today, and I just kind of want to get a piece of every experience in New York,” he says.

Studying the genre’s greats, learning from the experienced musicians of the University’s faculty, being exposed to and getting to play with the modern day luminaries of the music industry have all boosted Euman’s confidence and skill in his years at WMU.

Jazz Studies Program Director Tom Knific “set up a lot situations for me to play with big names and because of that, I have a pretty impressive biography before I even get out in the real world,” Euman says, rattling off a few names, including tenor saxophonist Donny McCaslin, singer Mark Murphy, rising pianist Kris Bowers and Grammy-winning vocal jazz group, The New York Voices.

“There are so many experiences I’ve had that groomed me into who I am today and I definitely owe it all to Western,” he says.
WMU’s campus took on the air of an Olympic sports complex as the host for the Malaysian Midwest Games International 2013.

The annual sporting event is sponsored by members of Malaysian student organizations at American universities located throughout the Midwest.

The 2013 games drew about 800 Malaysian students from across the United States and Canada this summer.

The athletes competed in team and individual sports, including men’s and women’s badminton, soccer, basketball, tennis and Malaysia’s very own “Sepak Takraw.”

Malaysia’s ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Datuk Othman Hashim, presided at the games and awarded medals in the closing ceremony.
Won state plates

The state of Michigan offers several fundraising license plates. University plates are popular among motorists. Of the state’s 15 public universities, WMU’s plate ranks third in the number of plates issued. See the top five below. Proceeds from the “W” plate go to student scholarships. Motorists have helped raise some $930,000 so far. Learn how to obtain a plate at wmich.edu/wmuplates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Plates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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There are 180,000 WMU alumni worldwide.

123,294 alumni call Michigan home.

The largest populations of U.S. alumni outside of Michigan are in: Illinois (6,879), Florida (5,483), California (4,628), Indiana (3,623), Ohio (2,909) and Texas (2,853).

Nearly 38 percent of all WMU alumni (69,200 alumni) live in 13 West Michigan counties.

More than 28,000 alumni live in a four-county area of Southeast Michigan.

Throughout the state

WMU alumni reside in every Michigan county.
**CLASSNOTES**

*1957 - 1995*

Anthony Gianunzio, BA ’50, MA ’57, is the author of a new book titled "The Last Romanov: A Blind Date with History," published by Black Lake Press. The book is about his time as a Coast Guard gunner’s mate during World War II.

Paul Brisbane, BA ’58, recently celebrated the 50-year anniversary of his ordination as an Episcopal priest at St. Marks Episcopal Church in Coldwater, MI.

Charles P. Klass, BA ’62, presented a three-day class at WMU titled Principles and Practices of Paper Coating. He is president of Klass Associates Inc. in Madeira Beach, FL.

Richard Haworth, BBA ’64, received an honorary degree from Hope College during the Holland, MI, college’s commencement ceremony in May.

Ira A. Rutherford III, BA ’65, is the commencement speaker at Mott Community College’s commencement ceremony in May.

Mary Harmon, BA ’66, MA ’72, is the new dean of the College of Education at Saginaw Valley State University.

Roger Pfundt, BS ’66, MA ’70, was one of 22 finalists for the Bay County (MI) Sports Hall of Fame. He was head of the Essexville (MI) Garber baseball program for 25 years.

Ed Wirth, BS ’70, is entering his fifth decade as an American Red Cross volunteer in Ottawa County.

Lynne M. Farmer, BA ’71, was re-elected to the Bangor (MI) City Council.

Donald J. Para, BM ’71, MM ’72, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at California State University, Long Beach, has been appointed interim president of the institution.

Henry Meeuwsse, BA ’79, MA ’74, is this year celebrating 25 years as the executive director of the James Island Presbyterian Foundation and as associate for outreach of the James Island Presbyterian Church, both in Charleston, SC.

Mark Bielang, BS ’74, MA ’81, is the new superintendent of Portage (MI) Public Schools.

Pam Vogel Bishop, BS ’74, is the new executive director of the Columbus State Foundation for Columbus (OH) State Community College.

Rosellen Brewer, MLS ’74, has retired after 40 years of being a librarian. Her most recent position was with the Mountaine Terrace (WA) Library.

Linda Holderbaum, BS ’75, executive director of the Art Center of Battle Creek, MI, recently exhibited her collection of paintings, “Window On World Cultures,” at the Brownstone Coffee House in Battle Creek.

Karl Freed, MA ’76, was honored as the 2013 Man of the Year by WMU’s Varsity “W” Club.

Matthew Tripp, BS ’74, MA ’77, was named the chief scientific officer for Nature’s Sunshine Products Inc., headquartered in Lehi, UT.

Edith Wirthshtfer, BS ’78, was honored as the 2013 Woman of the Year by WMU’s Varsity “W” Club.

**Carol Ludlow**, BS ’80, MBA ’87, has joined Kalamazoo’s First National Bank of Michigan as vice president and loan operations manager.

**Marc Wise**, BBA ’82, a shareholder for Madsen, Hauser, Wartell, Roth & Heller PC, has been selected for inclusion in the guide, Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business, in the Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation practice area.

Gyl Kasewurm, MA ’83, an audiologist for 35 years, has launched The Hearing Bus to help audiology patients in rural communities. She is the owner of Professional Hearing Services in St. Joseph, MI.

Michael McCready, BS ’83, State Rep., who represents a portion of the West Bloomfield Township in the 40th House District, has been named 2013 Outstanding Alumni by Oakland County Community College.

Kim Worden, BS ’83, MA ’90, has received the Kalamazoo Network Glass Ceiling Award for her contribution to athletics and leadership. She is a WMU Hall of Fame and set a winning record as WMU’s head softball coach.

Sue Foune, BS ’85, has been appointed as the public services director for the City of Kalamazoo.

Chris Luettgen, BSE ’85, has been named a TAPPI fellow for 2013. TAPPI is the leading association for the worldwide pulp, paper, packaging and converting industries. Luettgen is a senior research and engineering manager for Kimberly-Clark in Roswell, GA.

Tim Murphy, BS ’87, has written a series of cookbooks for men in the character of his alter ego, Flannel John. The series was published by Unbridled Books.

**Wayne Gagne**, BS ’87, was named to the Central Collegiate Hockey Association All-Time Team as a part of the CCHA’s Celebrate the Legacy initiative. He was elected to the WMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001.

**Scott Hines**, MBA ’89, has been promoted to vice president of lending for Kalamazoo County State Bank.

Kirk Brumels, MA ’90, PhD ’05, was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Michigan Athletic Trainers ‘Society. He is the associate professor of kinesiology and program director of athletic training education at Hope College in Holland, MI.

Thomas R. Slusarczyk, BSE ’90, has joined the office of hiscoc & Barclay as a corporate and securities attorney in its Syracuse, NY, office.

**Jay Larson**, MBA ’91, has been appointed to the Michigan Board of Architects by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder.

**Wise**

**Baird**

Alpena, MI, was recently elected to the board of directors of the National Association of School Principals.

**Scott Pierangeli**, BBA ’94, has been appointed by Michigan Attorney Gen. Bill Schuette as Kalamazoo County Public Administrator.

**Lauren Kerekes**, BBA, was named the 2012 International Member of the Year Award by the Association of Women in the Metal Industries at its April International Board of Directors meeting. She is the regional controller for Worthington Cylinders.

**1995 - 2010**

Jodi Havera, BBA ’97, a certified public accountant, has joined Ship-Pac Inc. as a finance manager in its Kalamazoo office.

**Stefanie (Doty) Wilson**, BS ’97, was one of 22 finalists for the Bay County (MI) Sports Hall of Fame. She was a MAC champion in the pentathlon at WMU and set records in four events.

**Jennifer (Hanes) Cooper**, BBA ’98, is the owner and artistic director of Rhythm Dance Center in Belmont, MI.

Chris Hodshire, BSW ’98, is a visiting assistant professor of the Psychology Department at University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Odis Jones**, MPA ’99, has been named executive director of Detroit’s Public Lighting Authority.

**Kristin Koch**, BS ’99, MA ’01, recently opened a private audiology practice, Evolution Hearing, in Charlottesville, VA.

**Nate Smith**, BS ’00, MA ’07, is the new chief financial officer of Rees-Puffer Intermediate School in Muskegon, MI.

**Maurice D. Ware**, MA ’00, is the new executive director of the Children’s Home in Winston-Salem, NC.

**Corey Helgesen**, BS ’01, is the new K-12 principal for Litchfield (MI) Community Schools.

Amy Hussar, BS ’01, was installed as the first female commander of the Elijah B. Hayes American Legion Post No. 168 in Patterson, CA.

**Andrew McLean**, BS ’01, is the co-owner of Michigan Mobile Canning, the state’s first mobile canning line.

**Kelly BERTCH**, BS ’02, MA ’11, is the new principal of Indian Prairie Elementary School in Kalamazoo.

**Kelly (DeLong) Henry**, BS ’02, MA ’08, is the new girls varsity basketball coach for Portage (MI) Central High School.


**Carrie Collins-Faddell**, MPA ’04, is the new executive director of the United Way of Cayuga County, NY.

**Betty Grove**, BSN ’05, a nurse practitioner, joined the acute care team at Bronson Lakeland in Paw Paw, MI.

Andrew Haan, BA ’13, has been appointed associate director of the Michigan Office of Urban and Metropolitan Initiatives by Gov. Rick Snyder.

**Matt Morgan**, MSA ’05, a certified public accountant, has joined First National Bank of Michigan as a controller. He is based in the bank’s downtown Kalamazoo office.

B. Reynolds, PhD ’05, is the new dean of liberal arts at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Helen Banks, BA ’64, had her short film accepted to the Cannes Music Festival’s Short Film Corner.

**Kelly Daniels**, PhD ’07, is the author of the memoir “Cloudbreak, California,” published by Owl Canyon Press. She recently read from his book at the Michigan News Agency in Kalamazoo.

Jennifer Moss, BFA ’07, was named the first artist in residence for the Society for Contemporary Crafts in Pittsburgh.

**Dylan Patterson**, BS ’07, is the new assistant principal at Kalamazoo Central High School.


Heidi Egloff, BS ’09, was recently accepted for residency training in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Craig Jablonski, BBS ’09, is the president of CDD Marketing Group LLC and is director of practice development at Comprehensive Urology, a division of Michigan Healthcare Professionals PC, both in Royal Oak, MI.

**Suzanne Otten**, BBA ’09, is an administrative assistant in the Kalamazoo headquarters of CMS Group.

**Nathaniel Rose**, BS ’09, is a winemaker for Brengman Brothers Winery on Michigan’s Leelanau Peninsula.

**2010 - 2013**

**Joshua Tabbia**, BBA ’10, is co-owner of Already Dead Tapes, which specializes in recording and releasing new music on cassette.

Siera Hammond, MA ’11, is a new trooper with the Michigan State Police. Stationed at the Brighton post, her patrol area is Livingston and Washtenaw counties.

David Kool, BS ’11, is the new boys basketball coach for Jenison (MI) High School.

**Dallas Walker**, BA ’11, has signed a three-year contract with the San Diego Chargers as a tight end.

**Lauri Tabbia**, BS ’12, starts a new job this fall as kindergarten teacher at Jackson Elementary School in Chesteron, IN.
Over-stimulated by today’s circus of gadgets? De-stress your home

Many people lead stressful lives, which makes it even more important for their homes to be places of inner peace and healing.

Today’s gadget-filled, fast-paced world can sometimes be a little too stimulating, and that means it’s even more important for people to make their homes less stressful, says Dr. Kathy Lewis Ginebaugh, a WMU associate professor of interdisciplinary health services.

“We lead pretty stressful lives,” Ginebaugh says. “Outside our homes, we’re constantly called upon to make adjustments to our world. When driving or at work, we have a lot of distractions, a lot of things we’re trying to do at once. Multi-tasking is sort of the norm now, although multi-tasking tends to take a toll on people in a lot of ways.

“So if your home can be a place where you’re not doing as much of that, where you’re able to relax and have some down time, it can be very helpful in restoring a sense of inner calm,” she says.

Turning off smart phones and other electronic gadgets is a good way to de-stress a home, Ginebaugh says.

“One of the most important things is to limit the amount of electronic devices that you have turned on,” Ginebaugh says.

“Certainly, we all have tons of them in our houses. A lot of people have a TV or a radio or computer or whatever that is positive for them,” Ginebaugh says.

Other ideas to de-stress the home include de-cluttering, bringing in light during the day and dimming light at night, incorporating nature and appropriate decorating.

“Many people talk about trying to make the home a place of tranquility and surround themselves with things that are positive for them,” Ginebaugh says.

“For some, it could be artwork, it could be pictures, it could be just how they decorate the home—things that are positive for them,” Ginebaugh says.

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Alumna Mary Neff is JetBlue Airways’ vice president of supply chain.

At WMU, the Port Huron, Mich., native was in the Delta Gamma sorority, led the student chapter of the Project Management Institute and learned some of the ropes of interior space planning by working in facilities on a residence hall remodel at the University.

Armed with a faculty member’s job tip and a drive all her own, Mary Neff graduated from Western Michigan University in 1994 and never stopped advancing.

That’s because she never stopped learning, says Neff, who began her career in corporate interior design and is today a vice president at JetBlue Airways, leading supply chain and process effectiveness for the New York-based air carrier.

Though consumers may most readily focus on their flight crew when taking a plane trip, these are hardly the only professionals involved in successful flights from airports.

Neff oversees the procurement of about a billion dollars worth of products that JetBlue needs to operate. Except for fuel, utilities and landing fees, “supply chain buys everything from office supplies to engines,” she says.

In the nearly 20 years since leaving WMU, Neff’s career has landed her in quite a different place than where it took off.

Guided by her professional ethic to learn various facets of whatever industry she’s in and a willingness to take on more, she’s used her skills in design and project management in a variety of corporate settings, including automotive, health care, information technology and for the past 12 years, aviation.

“As long as you’re confident in what you do, you can learn about anything else,” Neff says.

With an ethic to always learn, alumna airline executive finds the sky’s the limit.
She majored in interior design and minored in marketing, securing her first job in Detroit following graduation.

“I know this company in Detroit that is looking for some good designers,” Neff says a WMU instructor and mentor told her. “That really launched my career... Thanks to her pushing me in that direction, I got into space planning as a corporate designer.”

This Detroit job for a Steelcase affiliate led to Neff securing positions as a designer for major automotive companies. She then moved on to space planning for the health care and information technology industries.

“I was a pretty good relationship person, so I worked a lot with the end user and the client. I just naturally fell into the process where I was getting my hands into everything,” she says.

Getting her hands into everything has been a custom that’s marked Neff’s career and marshaled her advancement.

She broke into the aviation industry in 2000, taking on successive and increasingly complex project management roles for Delta Air Lines’ facilities. At one point, Neff was promoted to a position in which she managed the daily functions of some three million square feet of headquarters space.

“I was completely expanding my horizons and was a manager now. I was making sure all the projects on the headquarters were getting done,” she says. “I would know what leaders were leaving by the fact that their parking space was in contention.”

Then came Sept. 11, 2001, a tragedy for the nation in lives lost that also put the airline industry in financial upheaval.

“After 9/11, there was no money and no projects. So they moved me into supply chain and I said, ‘I have no experience with supply chain.’ They said, ‘but you know how to work with people. You know how to work with processes and you know how to execute.’”

At Delta’s Atlanta headquarters, “I renegotiated half a billion in contracts, including with the people who fuel planes, the people that clean the planes, caterers and others. All of that had to be renegotiated so we could get better pricing,” she says.

In the years that followed, Neff took on ever-increasing management responsibilities at Delta before being courted and hired away by JetBlue.

Before her current role in supply chain, Neff managed several large-scale transition projects at JetBlue, coordinating its move to a new terminal at John F. Kennedy International airport for one and overseeing the relocation of JetBlue’s corporate headquarters to Long Island, N.Y., in another.

Her career trajectory has taught Neff, and she tells others, “never lock yourself into what you thought you were going to do.”

“I learned so much in my last 12 years in aviation. I have filled so many different roles that have nothing to do with interior design or interior architecture. And I’m a much better leader for it.”

James S. Rolfe, BS ’50, MA ’56, March 5, 2013, in Kalamazoo
Janet G. (Rountree) Sippell, BS ’57, April 3, 2013, in Ann Arbor, MI
Donald L. Thorson, BS ’57, Feb. 7, 2013, in Oakland Township, MI
Richard Trudell, BS ’57, MA ’61, June 6, 2013, in Kalamazoo
Rodney M. Beck, BBA ’58, June 6, 2013, in Houston, TN
George W. Becker, BA ’58, MA ’59, June 13, 2013, in Fort Myers, FL
Jon L. Giest, BBA ’58, June 15, 2013, in Beverly Hills, FL
Jesse W. Hepworth, BS ’58, MA ’59, Dec. 21, 2012, in Muskegon, MI
Eugene S. Jaglowski, BS ’58, July 16, 2012, in Rockford, MI
Suzanne (Kislig) Leffel, BS ’58, March 16, 2013, in South Haven, MI
Erma L. Sizeland, BS ’59, MA ’58, Jan. 4, 2013, in Tekonsha, MI
Ellen E. Weaver, SC ’58, Oct. 1, 2012, in Rochester, MI
Donald K. Alexander, MA ’59, April 4, 2013, in Providence, PA
Gary L. Demond, BBA ’59, Nov. 19, 2012, in Saugatuck, MI
Audrey J. Emmons, TC ’52, BS ’59, April 4, 2013, in Quincy, MI
Ronald T. Gielczyz, BS ’59, Feb. 13, 2013, in Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Norman W. Ginebaugh, BBA ’59, Jan. 26, 2013, in Grand Rapids, MI
Hilma M. (Pulver) Houts, BS ’59, MA ’63, Jan. 22, 2013, in Lawton, MI
Joseph F. Novy, BBA ’59, April 4, 2013, in Portland, OR
Cyril M. Pombier, MBA ’59, Feb. 26, 2013, in Cape Coral, FL
Roger P. Shepler, BS ’59, Jan. 25, 2013, in Goshen, MI
Phyllis J. (Watling) Bodolay, TC ’51, BS ’60, June 3, 2013, in Coldwater, MI
Alvaretta M. (Heydon) From, BS ’60, Feb. 18, 2013, in Coldwater, MI
Mary V. (Smith) Montgomery, BS 60, March 16, 2013, in Edwardsburg, MI
Carl A. Ninke, BBA ’60, April 1, 2013, in Myrtle Beach, SC
Keith Robertson, BS ’60, MA ’64, May 30, 2013, in Plymouth, MI
Drake E. Onstead, MA ’61, Jan. 19, 2013, in Warsaw, IN
Samuel L. Yoder, MA ’61, Dec. 23, 2012, in Groden, IN
Howard W. Cook, MA ’62, Feb. 4, 2013, in Largo, FL
George J. Howard, MA ’62, Feb. 15, 2013, in Seminole, AL
Dale F. Naramor, BBA ’62, June 10, 2013, in Marshall, MI
Daniel M. Bauer, BS ’63, MA ’64, May 4, 2013, in Troy, MI
Robert E. Crain, BS ’63, March 6, 2013, in Manchester, MI
Winifred E. Crandall, MA ’61, June 15, 2013, in Coldwater, MI
Lloyd C. Dick, BBA ’63, March 1, 2013, in Cincinnati
Bette K. (Adams) Harrington, BBA ’63, MA ’67, Jan. 17, 2013, in Richland, MI
Jerry J. Petranek, BS ’63, March 17, 2013, in Sierra Vista, AZ
Jerrete A. (Kulaja) Schrock, BS ’63, Dec. 21, 2012, in Lewed, KS
Marlene J. Davino, BA ’64, Nov. 30, 2012, in St. Joseph, MI
Julian B. Freund, BA ’64, May 10, 2013, in Chesterton, IN
Dorothy M. (Jones) Grabemeyer, BS ’64, March 15, 2013, in Downieville, MI
Henry F. Haak, BBA ’64, Feb. 23, 2013, in Owosso, MI
Jean C. (Poland) Nace, BA ’64, Nov. 1, 2012, in Scottsdale, AZ
Patricia A. Prentice, BA ’64, March 28, 2013, in Muskegon, MI
Evelyn E. (Cetus) Rogers, BA ’64, May 18, 2013, in San Fernando, CA
Mary L. Weimeister, MA ’64, June 18, 2013, in Kalamazoo
Jane S. Hutchins, MA ’65, Jan. 28, 2013, in Gobles, MI
On an overcast Saturday in June, WMU junior Gillian Asque and two other students painted the overhangs on Kelli Heyboer’s home.

It was one in a flurry of home improvement and landscaping projects here and at other residences in Kalamazoo’s Oakwood neighborhood.

Some of Heyboer’s neighbors also were part of the crew, as was a team of youths from Lakeside Academy, a center for troubled youth.

To be sure, the projects helped beautify the area and improved properties.

But their work was about so much more than this.

The students and residents were building relationships and community with one another under the auspices of a Kalamazoo nonprofit called Building Blocks. The organization is linked to a WMU social work course that teaches students community-organizing skills.

The organization, founded in 1995, originally partnered with Kalamazoo College but in recent years linked with WMU.

“Building Blocks was created as a way to enable and prepare students to provide organizing energy for (neighborhood) associations representing the low-income neighborhoods in Kalamazoo,” says Dr. Kim Cummings, who is the instructor for the special topics course that partners with Building Blocks.

Continued on page 20
What we’re working to do is connect people at the street level and to create networks of residents who live on the same street, and can continue to advocate for their street” if or when problems in the neighborhood arise, he says. Students, in turn, learn leadership and community-organizing skills—recruiting the residents, planning the projects with them and encouraging them to take on increasing responsibilities. In the field, they work under the guide of a knowledgeable neighborhood resident who acts as a site supervisor.

“Students spend eight to 10 hours per week doing fieldwork. In essence, it’s an internship that is incorporated within a regular course,” Cummings says.

Starting in May, 13 WMU students began organizing residents at a total of seven sites in three Kalamazoo neighborhoods—Edison, Oakwood and Vine. Each site received $4,200 from Building Blocks that was divided up among households in the form of $300 to $600 stipends used to purchase materials and tools.

Heyboer said that the helping hands this summer were wonderful and remarked that, “we live in a time when neighbors don’t know neighbors. We live in such a busy time.”

Students and residents in the Oakwood neighborhood saw pretty immediate indications that their efforts were paying off. Just a few weeks into the fieldwork, students learned that residents had begun helping each other with home improvement projects when the Building Blocks teams weren’t around, of people were great about it. They were really receptive,” she says.

Lockett one day wants to start a nonprofit agency that would serve low-income families and she says this course gave her insight into the how much work and dedication this future enterprise will involve.

Cummings says the course is intense, “both in terms of the hours of service that students are expected to perform and the centrality of the service-learning experience in the course as a whole.”

“The students have the out-front responsibility. They are planning workdays. They are organizing meetings. They are responsible for the key elements of the project and as such, they have to be very responsible,” he says.

Students are expected to put in at least five hours a week working to organize residents and additional hours preparing for meetings and then facilitating meetings.

Resident Wonda Rhymes says Building Blocks came to her area of Oakwood at a fortuitous time. There were several repairs her home needed, including stabilizing an increasingly wobbly fence that posed a safety hazard.

“I was thinking, ‘Where am I going to get the money to do this?’ This (help from Building Blocks) came right at the nick of time,” Rhymes says.

Her wooden fence was reset into the ground with concrete footings. Rhymes, her neighbors and other Building Blocks volunteers went on to work together on other projects that spruced up her property.

Meanwhile, she helped her neighbors with their rehab projects.

“It’s like one hand helps another and that’s important. I love it,” she says.
After dedicating her spring break to service-learning projects, WMU senior Devine Loving is convinced that every student should have these kind of experiences.

“I’m a better person for it,” says the 20-year-old aviation maintenance major.

Thousands of students at WMU are involved in some kind of service learning throughout the year, so much so that the University has garnered national recognition for it.

WMU service-learning, community work win national praise

The Corporation for National and Community Service named the University to a select list of the nation’s colleges and universities that earned a slot on the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll With Distinction.

The Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities.

The honor roll was announced in Washington, D.C., at the American Council on Education's annual national conference. Just 100 schools around the nation earned “with distinction” status in the annual awards program that was established in 2006.

In Michigan, only three schools earned the recognition. In addition to WMU, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor were honored. Kalamazoo College was singled out as a finalist for one of five Presidential Awards this year.

“This is a marvelous community that has embraced service learning and helped us build that concept into our academic and extracurricular programs for students,” says WMU President John M. Dunn.

“It is no coincidence that both WMU and Kalamazoo College have been able to build a culture of service on our campuses. This is an area in which we will continue to seize opportunities for the benefit of both our students and the communities we serve.”

The Corporation for National and Community Service oversees the Honor Roll in collaboration with the U.S. departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact and the American Council on Education.

Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors, including the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service learning is embedded in the curriculum, the school’s commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships and measurable community outcomes as a result of the service.

Highlighted in this year’s WMU application were several initiatives that both provide measurable service to the community and opportunities to train the next generation of professionals.

According to Shawn Tenney, WMU’s director of service learning who submitted the application for the award, service-learning opportunities have been rapidly expanding, and the campus culture of service has strengthened in recent years.

By the numbers

• 18,200 students involved in community service
• 632,408 total community service hours performed by students
• 5,200 students engaged in academic service-learning experiences

“Service learning is decades-old at WMU,” Tenney points out. “Establishing the Office of Service Learning has helped centralize service efforts, and good communication allows us to better share our story.”

This is the fourth time WMU has been named to the overall President’s Honor Roll and the first time it has been honored in the “with distinction” category of honorees.

Examples of service-learning experiences WMU students have participated in:

WMU’s Children’s Trauma Assessment Center, which provides more than 3,000 screenings and 270 assessments annually on children from 11 counties to assess the long-term impact of trauma, provides practical training to 40 WMU students in the health disciplines;

The Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, which for 11 years has provided affordable counseling for community members and enhanced training for master’s- and doctoral-level students, while serving about 300 clients annually; and

The Fort St. Joseph archaeological project, which since 1998 has seen WMU students and faculty members partner with the city of Niles, Mich., to uncover and offer the public an opportunity to explore the once-lost site of one of the region’s earliest colonial outposts, a military and fur-trading fort on the St. Joseph River.
‘Purpose-built’ archives preserve the past for generations to come

There is a space in the new Zhang Legacy Collections Center called the “isolation room,” a receiving area where newly arrived documents will be examined before being filed among 30,000 cubic feet of material already archived in the center’s storage facility.

Documents, photographs, newspapers and other articles from generations past are handled with care to preserve them for generations to come.

“In the isolation room, we examine materials for mold, bugs and for mildew. We don’t want anything contaminating” what is already stored, explains Dr. Joseph Reish, dean of University Libraries.

“They’ll be treated in that room. Plus they’ll be put in containers that are acid-free and will not harm the paper,” Reish adds.

The isolation room is just one feature of this recently completed $8.7 million facility designed to house the University Archives and Regional History Collections, which had been resident in the retrofitted gymnasium of East Hall for the past two decades.

Its new home, located on the Oakland Drive Campus, is named for alumni Charles and Lynn Zhang, who have provided generous funding for this project along with the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, Dr. Frederick J. and Katharine D. Rogers, and others.

Construction started in the summer of 2012 and wrapped up just before classes resumed for the 2013-14 school year. A formal grand opening is set for Oct. 18.

Green built

The archives building is designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design silver certification. Its “green” attributes include a geothermal heating and cooling system, LED lighting, an underground stormwater retention system, rain gardens and other water-conservation features.
Inside the Zhang Center are treasures for historians, students, genealogists and researchers of all kinds. The histories of WMU, Southwest Michigan and its people are chronicled in thousands of manuscripts, newspapers, photos, maps, diaries and many other materials.

The archives also serve as a depository for the region, as designated by the Michigan Historical Commission in 1962. These holdings include tax rolls, court records, township minutes and other public records from 12 counties.

‘Purpose-built’

In all, the archives consist of 30,000 cubic feet of material and about 100,000 volumes.

“This is a purpose-built building,” says Dr. Sharon Carlson, director of the archives.

“We have strict environmental humidity controls, so the collections will be far better stored and this will contribute to the preservation of these materials. Paper typically needs a constant temperature and a constant relative humidity,” she says.

The center’s 6,000-square-foot storage vault is kept cool by a geothermal heating and cooling system.

This storehouse contains shelving units that are 32 feet tall and span more than 50 feet, end to end. Staff is trained to operate a lift to retrieve items for public use.

To further protect the integrity of the archival material, every window in the facility filters ultraviolet rays. So when items are used in the public reading room or handled in staff areas, they are protected from the glare of sunlight.

The center also was designed to be environmentally conscious, with geothermal heating and cooling, water conservation systems and other “green” attributes.

*Continued on page 24*
Continued from page 23

Systems like these are long-desired vast improvements upon the archives’ former headquarters at East Hall, its home since 1990 after moving from the basement of Waldo Library.

‘An active scholarly center’

The archival program at WMU dates back to the 1950s.

When Dr. Willis Dunbar, chairman of the history department and one of Michigan’s leading historians, recommended establishing these collections more than a half century ago, “he was probably thinking it would support students getting master’s degrees in history,” Carlson says.

However, students from geography, journalism, art and many other disciplines use it. The collections also serve the community at large.

Dean Reish thinks of the center as a conduit for teaching and learning, especially for the humanities and social sciences.

“This is not a warehouse,” he says. “This is an active scholarly center.”

Reading through diaries, old maps, pomological society reports and newspapers, Dr. Cheryl Lyon-Jenness has used the WMU archives extensively for books she’s authored on horticultural history.

“One of the wonderful things about having a new, state-of-the-art facility for those invaluable resources is that it reflects their importance, that these things need to be preserved and that we need to do it in the best possible way,” says Lyon-Jenness, WMU professor emeritus of history.

“That’s what history is about, having those kinds of resources to work with. It’s just a wonderful thing. There’s nothing quite like that.”

“We are honored to provide our support for WMU’s Legacy Center, which will provide safe and accessible accommodations for innumerable historical collections in our commitment to support the local community. We believe that this building will better serve both academia and the general public in the pursuit of knowledge. The preservation of our history is an endeavor crucial to maintaining the security of our future.”

—Charles and Lynn Zhang, alumni and benefactors
WMU, Cooley Law School take steps to affiliate

WMU is set to become one of fewer than the 90 universities in the nation with a law school and a medical school.

Building on more than a decade of cooperation that has led to a number of joint degree programs and shared facility initiatives, WMU and the private Thomas M. Cooley Law School have agreed to join forces, a decision that would allow the law school to become the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

In July, the WMU Board of Trustees approved this affiliation with Cooley, following a period in which the possible venture was explored.

Informal talks between the leaders of the two schools had been underway for about three years, and late in December, both sides agreed to take a number of exploratory steps, with each organization reviewing the impact the affiliation would have on its stakeholders, accreditation, financial responsibilities and growth potential.

In April, trustees affirmed their support and asked that final agreements be brought back for their review in July.

Under this board-approved arrangement, both schools retain their independence, governance structure and separate fiduciary responsibilities. While Cooley will carry WMU in its name, it will remain an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) entity.

WMU is affiliating with an institution that is the nation’s largest law school. Cooley has five campuses in two states, and offers Juris Doctor and advanced Master of Laws degrees.

Currently, there are 82 public universities with law schools accredited by the American Bar Association. With this agreement, WMU becomes No. 83.

WMU President John M. Dunn says that the benefits accrued from this distinction will pay dividends to the University’s students, faculty and staff for years to come.

“The opportunity is made even more intriguing by the common mission and values of our two institutions,” Dunn says.

Both schools promote academic theory and its practical applications as well as foster an academic culture that is inclusive and accessible. And both schools have long traditions of collaboration and community engagement.

“Cooley Law School and Western Michigan University share common educational and public service philosophies and have a long history of cooperation. An affiliation with this great University is an especially good match,” says Cooley President and Dean Don LeDuc.

The next steps in the affiliation process will be for the schools’ respective accrediting agencies to review the name change agreement that is part of the affiliation accord.

That is expected to take place this fall.

Founded in 1972, Cooley Law School has graduated more than 17,000 students. It has campuses across Michigan in Lansing, Auburn Hills, Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor, and its new campus in Tampa Bay, Fla.

Formal ties between Cooley and WMU have been strong for more than a decade.

2002—Cooley and WMU partner when plans are announced to open a Cooley branch in WMU’s Graduate Center in downtown Grand Rapids (Cooley now has its own facility near the center).

2002—WMU and Cooley launch a joint Juris Doctor/Master of Public Administration degree program.

2008—WMU and Cooley launch a joint JD/Master of Business Administration degree program.

2011—The schools launch their third dual-degree partnership, providing West Michigan with its first-ever JD/Master of Social Work program.
Study in the States

Students don’t just read about places like historic battlefields in a new program offered by the honors college, they explore them.

A unique program launched by the Lee Honors College takes students far from home to encounter other cultures, ways of living or experience places of special import—and they don’t leave North American soil.

Called “Study in the States,” these study-abroad style, faculty-led courses are set primarily within the United States, sometimes more than a thousand miles from campus, and tend to showcase the country’s diversity in people, places, culture or history.

Students have visited memorials to the Sept. 11 terrorist attack sites.

In Texas, students studied business, culture and economic development in San Antonio, Austin and Houston, one of the country’s fastest-growing urban triangles.

Others have toured historic battlefields out east.

“I hear from students that it’s less intimidating than study abroad,” Dr. Carla Koretsky, honors college dean, says of the program. “I’m really surprised by how many of our students haven’t traveled beyond southwest Michigan. This can be eye opening for them.”

When the courses began in the summer of 2012, Koretsky accompanied students on a trip that included New York City.

Several of the students had never before been to a major metropolitan area.

“I think it was important for them to see that not everybody lives the same kind of life that they do... Maybe television gives us the impression that everywhere in the U.S. is the same,” she says.

Courses also have sent students, led by faculty experts, traveling in Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington D.C., Wisconsin and even Montreal.

In one of the first courses offered, “9/11 Memorials and Monuments,” students visited areas directly impacted by the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. They went to “Ground Zero” in New York, to Shanksville, Penn., where Flight 93 crashed, and also to the Pentagon.

For the academic aspect of this trip, students wrote reflections about the balance and the tension between freedom and security. Most of the students were in elementary school when the attacks occurred.

“Some of the students commented that they vividly remember school being cancelled, but that the clearly upset parents and teachers would not tell them what happened,” Koretsky says.

Other students recalled learning what happened on Sept. 11, but at that age had trouble understanding what it meant for them.

“As they have become adults, they have grappled with the conflict between desires to balance freedom and security,” she says.
The educational element is strong with these courses, which are capped at 10 students and last one to two weeks. Students pay tuition for the course, but the honors college covers travel expenses, lodging, meals and other costs.

Alyson Wiley, a recent graduate who was one of the first to take part in Study in the States, had learned about battlefields during her schooling, but had never been on site.

The course she took, “Journey to Hallowed Ground,” focused on the Civil War and the country’s founding.

Among other places, she and peers traveled to Gettysburg, to the Antietam National Battlefield and they kayaked the Potomac River after dark during the summer of 2012. The trip was led by recently retired honors college dean Dr. Nicholas Andreadis.

“We talked about John Brown’s raid (at Harper’s Ferry) and to get an idea of what that looked like at the time was really interesting,” Wyley says. “Mapping out Gettysburg was really interesting. We went on horseback riding trips through the fields of Gettysburg.”

As part of the trip, each student studied and did a presentation on a Civil War veteran from their hometown.

“Some of those stories aren’t sweet, but we took them to places that are the stories of America,” Andreadis says.

Study in the States was Andreadis’ idea. The program has been positively received and just completed a second year of being offered. Plans are for it to continue.

“We think it’s going to just blossom,” he says.

wmich.edu/magazine
DYNAMO TAKES BRONCO FOOTBALL
Even before game one, already creating a buzz, WMU’s new football coach P.J. Fleck was deemed “Best New Hire of 2013” by *Sports Illustrated*.

Forget the microphone.
He doesn’t need one.

P.J. Fleck, the man entrusted with turning around the Bronco football program, has a few points to make for University movers and shakers and members of the general public, and he doesn’t need amplification to get his message across.

When Fleck was introduced to the Board of Trustees earlier this year, it was clear he wanted to impress upon all the good news about Bronco football.

“There is a new energy. There is a new passion, pride and purpose within your football program,” Fleck said with the fervor of a minister before a crowd of would-be converts at a revival.

“I am truly honored to be your head football coach. And the reason why I say that I’m honored, is because there is a certain energy with me that you’re not going to get with everybody else.”

Amen.

“You will be represented in a first-class fashion,” Fleck continued and by the time he finished, he had put on a show and probably picked up a few followers.

No stranger to good performances, Dr. D. Terry Williams, former longtime chairman of the WMU Department of Theatre, speaking to the board on another matter, put it this way: “If the University Theatre ever does a production of ‘The Music Man,’ the lead, Harold Hill, requires a person of tremendous passion, energy, stage presence and charisma. I would cast the coach.”

Those words pretty much sum up P.J. Fleck. But Fleck isn’t selling musical instruments with a shyster’s eye for suckers. He’s selling hard work and determination to a group of some 100 young men and exhorting them to believe in themselves.

It’s clear the coach has impressed his young charges.

“I love him,” senior quarterback Tyler Van Tubbergen says without hesitation.

*Continued on page 30*
He also was wide receivers coach for Rutgers University and the National Football League’s Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Fleck also played in the NFL as a wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers.

It’s that wide-ranging experience, in addition to his passion, energy and work ethic, that Fleck thinks will make him successful. In particular, players will be drawn to his having played in the Mid-American Conference, as well as professionally in the NFL.

“He’s really energetic. He brings a lot to the table. He’s keeping us on our toes. He’s trying to change the mentality that we’ve had around here for a while. So I’m glad they hired him. I think he’s an awesome guy, and I’m looking forward to seeing what we can do this season.”

Time will tell if the new coach is successful. But the 32-year-old Fleck, making his debut as a head coach, has ringing endorsements from a number of high-profile colleagues in the ranks of both college and professional football.

“What an exciting time for the WMU Broncos,” says Jim Tressel, former national champion head coach at Ohio State University, where Fleck served as a graduate assistant in 2006.

“P.J. Fleck will bring energy and enthusiasm that will ignite the Brown and Gold across the land. He is one of the outstanding coaches in America. Excellence will be the standard on and off the field.”

“Greg Schiano, head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, says, “P.J. Fleck is a very talented, caring young coach. He will be a huge success at Western Michigan.”

Even Sports Illustrated has noticed, recently naming Fleck “Best New Hire of 2013” in part because of the “buzz” he created even before a game was played.

Though Fleck lacks experience as a head coach, he has an impressive résumé in other regards. A wide receiver for the Northern Illinois Huskies, Fleck returned to his alma mater as wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator.

That drive goes back to Fleck’s blue-collar values and the boundless energy that radiates from his slender, modest frame. Raised in Sugar Grove, Ill., his dad is a former Chicago cop turned Terminix man, while his mom is a teacher’s aide.

‘Row the Boat’

“We talk about heart work within our program,” Fleck says. “It’s a little bit different than hard work. Everybody works hard. They punch the clock from nine to five. They do their job. Heart work is just doing it with a purpose, pride and passion. Doing it with your heart.”

‘Row the Boat’

That attitude helped spawn Fleck’s signature slogan, “Row the Boat.” It’s a phrase that has become a mantra for both Fleck and his players.

“It’s a very simple saying, but it has a very complex meaning,” Fleck explains. “If we can all row the boat in the same direction, same speed, same power, same efficiency from point A to point B, we’ll all get there as fast as we want to get there. If one person stops rowing, we’ll zigzag and it will take us longer. If one side of the boat stops rowing completely, we’ll end up in a circle and there will be a new football coach in four years.”

Fleck says his coaching philosophy emanates from his playing days.

“My main philosophy is, ‘a hungry dog is a dangerous dog,’” Fleck says.

“I was always the shortest, the weakest, the youngest, the slowest growing up. So I always played with kids that were older than me, bigger than me, faster than me. But I always knew I could outwork them.”

Though he’s taking over a program that has shown occasional promise, but often struggled over its 107-year history, Fleck says he can get the job done.

“I wouldn’t have taken the job if I wasn’t confident,” he says. “I’ve always been the king of the too’s. I’ve always been too small, too short. Same thing with this. I’m too young or too inexperienced. I love that challenge.”

Continued from page 29
College of Aviation
Newly acquired high-altitude training device promotes flight safety

The College of Aviation recently installed a device called a normobaric chamber that can safely simulate the high-altitude conditions that induce hypoxia—oxygen deficiency.

When flying at high altitudes, a pilot may experience hypoxia if cabin pressure is lost. Knowing a person’s individual symptoms of hypoxia is an important part of pilot training, says Steve Jones, the college’s executive director of flight operations.

Jones says that the advantages of a normobaric chamber over a hypobaric chamber (military services have traditionally used hypobaric chambers for training) include its portability and that it doesn’t carry the risks associated with barometric pressure changes.

The walls of the normobaric chamber are made of plastic sheeting. If a problem develops unexpectedly, the chamber doors can simply be opened to immediately restore normal breathing air.

Jones says that not only will College of Aviation flight science students get this valuable training, but other flight departments from companies outside WMU also will be able to participate.

Haworth College of Business
Sales program again lauded for excellence

The sales and business marketing program once again has been named to the Sales Education Foundation’s list of top university sales programs, identifying it as one of the leading programs for preparing and placing top talent in professional selling roles.

The WMU program is one of fewer than 20 universities in the country, and the only one in Michigan, that offers a sales-focused business major to its students. With more than 250 students, the program also is one of the largest in the nation.

For 2012-13, the business college reported that more than 90 percent of the sales and business marketing graduates surveyed were employed full-time within six months of graduation.

According to the Sales Education Foundation, or SEF, more than 50 percent of college students in the United States enter sales careers, but a majority of them fail due to lack of professional preparation. The WMU sales program is providing its students the skills needed for success.

“Overall, our excellent students, faculty, curriculum and facilities form the strong foundation from which the SBM major has prospered to become one of the premier sales programs in the country,” says Dr. Steve Newell, professor of marketing and one of the members of the sales faculty.

College of Fine Arts
New dean has long experience in arts education

Daniel Guyette, formerly dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts at Western Washington University, has been named dean of the WMU College of Fine Arts.

Guyette has a professional theatre background in addition to his career in higher education. He brings 24 years of experience in teaching and administration to the position, including nine years as a dean, overseeing two fine arts colleges.

Guyette replaces Dr. Margaret Merrion, dean of the college for the past 13 years who retired at the end of June.

“We’re thrilled to have found a new dean who has extensive experience in fine arts education and academic leadership as well as significant professional experience in the arts,” says Dr. Timothy Greene, WMU provost and vice president for academic affairs.

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College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Veteran educator, administrator named interim dean

Dr. Edmund Tsang, associate dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, was named interim dean of the college, effective on July 1.

Tsang will lead the college while a national search is undertaken to find a new dean to replace Dr. Anthony Vizzini, who departed WMU at the end of June to become the vice president for academic affairs at Wichita State University.

The search committee is led by Dr. Earlie Washington, dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

Tsang, a professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, has served as associate dean for undergraduate programs and assessment in the engineering college since 2001.

He came to WMU from the University of South Alabama, where he had been a faculty member in mechanical engineering since 1980.

Graduate College

Grad lands job heading FSU Entrepreneurship and Small Business Institute

Dr. Zella Jackson Hannum, one of WMU’s first graduates from the Michigan Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate fellowship program, has been hired to lead Ferris State University’s Entrepreneurship and Small Business Institute.

MI-AGEP is a fellowship program to advance graduate students who are traditionally under-represented in higher education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields as well as the fields of social, behavioral and economic sciences.

In addition to WMU, the alliance includes the graduate schools at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University and Wayne State University.

Jackson Hannum received her doctorate in Interdisciplinary Evaluation from WMU’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences in June 2012.

As director of the FSU institute, she focuses on innovation and supporting students and entrepreneurs in the community by providing educational, research and networking resources.
College of Education and Human Development
Ohio University scholar named dean of education college

An experienced academic administrator with a track record in strategic planning, program development and international education has been selected as the new dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

Following a nationwide search, Dr. Ming Li, formerly interim executive director of the Center for International Studies at Ohio University, will take the reins of programs now part of WMU’s original academic discipline. He brings a 10-year history of academic management to the task. Li replaces Dr. Walter Burt, who has served as dean on an interim basis since October 2012.

“Dr. Li’s wide-ranging experience in higher education has given him a perspective and set of skills that dovetail beautifully with this University’s mission and values,” says Dr. Timothy J. Greene, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

“As dean of our education college, he will have the opportunity to use all of those skills as he guides our education disciplines into the future and helps build an even stronger reputation and international profile for some of our foundational programs.”

Lee Honors College
New dean ‘ideally suited’ for the role

Dr. Carla M. Koretsky has been appointed dean of the Lee Honors College. Koretsky, a professor of geosciences, has served as honors college associate dean since 2012 and replaced Dr. Nicholas Andreadis, who retired in June.

“During her time as associate dean, Dr. Koretsky has shown leadership and developed a real rapport with the students who are part of our honors college,” says Dr. Timothy Greene, provost.

“She has really shown herself ideally suited to the role of dean, and her interactions with the search committee and during the public presentations reinforced the reputation she has established,” he says.

Koretsky came to WMU in 2000 and has been a faculty member in the environmental studies program as well as the geosciences department. She focuses on aqueous geochemistry and biogeochemistry.

An active researcher, Koretsky received the University’s Emerging Scholar Award in 2007, was associate chair of the geosciences department in 2006, helped to establish a new interdisciplinary geochemistry major and was the geosciences graduate advisor from 2004 to 2012.

College of Health and Human Services
Alumni honored by national physician assistant group

A national professional organization has singled out two alumni of the College of Health and Human Services’ Physician Assistant Program as recipients of two of its top 2013 honors.

Jeffrey Callard, a 1988 WMU alumnus and resident of Fenton, Mich., was named 2013 Outstanding Physician Assistant of the Year by the American Academy of Physician Assistants. James Earle Canfield, a 1990 alumnus who lives in Grand Rapids, Mich., was selected as the 2013 Humanitarian Physician Assistant of the Year.

Both were honored at the AAPA’s 41st annual conference in Washington, D.C., in May. The event attracted some 7,400 PAs, students, exhibitors and guests. The awards are part of the organization’s Paragon awards made to the group’s top professionals.

Callard was honored for his work that helps physicians better understand the role of physician assistants and for promoting policies that maximize team performance in the emergency room.

Canfield, who is retired after more than 20 years as a physician assistant, was honored for spending his lifetime helping people in the developing world through medical mission work.