Registrar candidates to make presentations

Two finalists for the position of registrar will be on campus this month to meet with members of the WMU community and make public presentations.

Susan O'Flaherty, senior advisor to the U.S. Department of Education, will be on campus Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 7-8. Her presentation is set for 2 p.m. Nov. 7. Jerry Montag, registrar at Northern Kentucky University, will be on campus Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 16-17. His presentation is set for 2 p.m. Nov. 16. Both candidates will make their presentations in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium.

O'Flaherty has worked since 2004 at the Department of Education, where she oversees the Direct Loan Division, disbursing about $400 billion in student loans annually. Previously, she served WMU for eight years as director of financial aid and scholarships and as executive director of student services. The latter position included oversight of the Registrar's Office. Her background also includes financial aid positions at the University of Colorado-Boulder, California Polytechnic State University, Adelphi University and the University of Bridgeport. Montag has served in his present position at GVSU since late 2006. Prior to that, he served two years as the registrar at Oklahoma State University and four years as registrar at Rice University.

His background also includes positions as director of admissions and records at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock and Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Neb., as well as registrar at Florida International University and the Florida Institute of Technology. Visit www.wmich.edu/provost/registrar to review both candidates' vitae.

PSSO holding annual fundraiser

The Professional Support Staff Organization is again holding its annual poinsettia sale fundraiser. Orders for 2011 are being accepted through Wednesday, Nov. 23.

Poinsettias are $10 each and are available in seven colors: red, white, pink, burgundy, marble, jingle bells and Monet. Visit www.wmich.edu/pssos to download an order form. Orders must be picked up by the 3 p.m. deadline will be donated.

$30,000 fellowships open to professionals, new grads

WMU will host two West Michigan informational meetings Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 9-10, for technical professionals interested in earning a $30,000 stipend to return to school for a master's degree and a chance to launch a new career as a mathematics or science teacher.

The University is one of six Michigan colleges and universities offering the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship Program. Part of a national education reform effort, the graduate fellowship program offers a stipend and a chance to spend a transformative year earning a master's degree and teaching in a high-need middle or high school classroom.

The fellowship program is aimed at mid-career professionals and new graduates who hold bachelor’s degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

Representatives from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation will be on hand to answer questions about the program and application process during informational meetings slated for:

• Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 6:30 p.m. in 203 of the Kendall Center (the WMU-Battle Creek facility), 50 W. Jackson St. in Battle Creek, Mich., and

• Thursday, Nov. 10, at 6:30 p.m. in 2030 of the Fetzer Center on the main campus.

Now in its second year, the program this year will offer up to 15 fellowships at WMU and a similar number at each of five other Michigan universities. Jan. 10 is the deadline to apply to begin the program in late spring 2012. Visit www.wmich.edu/wwteachingfellowship.org/faq/michigan.php for more information.
One-woman show headed to WMU

“Pigeon,” a one-woman theatrical production by pianist, singer, musicologist and composer Claudia Stevens will be presented for free at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, in the Dorton Center Recital Hall. The show is about famed scientist, environmentalist and animal rights champion Dame Miriam Rothschild.

The play spotlights Rothschild, the well-known British naturalist, chemist, inventor and environmental activist. It celebrates the precious nature of all life, using drama, music and audience interaction to explore the problem of suffering and human indifference.

Annual health expo slated for Nov. 9

WMU’s Health and Wellness Expo ’11 will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 9, in the Student Recreation Center’s indoor tennis courts. This free event for members of the University community, including retirees, allows attendees to learn about the health and wellness resources available to them at WMU and in the community.

The Sindicuse Health Center will be holding a meningitis vaccination clinic during the expo, which will also feature chair massages, exercise equipment demonstrations, giveaways and a wealth of information about everything from dental health, nutrition and diets to ergonomics, safety and financial wellness.

WMU’s open enrollment period is under way

The open enrollment period for WMU health insurance, life insurance and Flexible Spending Accounts began Oct. 31 and will continue through 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18.

Open enrollment for health insurance is available for WMU retirees, benefits-eligible non-bargaining employees, and employees who are members of the American Association of University Professors, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Michigan State Employees Association, and Police Officers Association.

During open enrollment, employees and retirees have the option of adding eligible dependents to their health insurance.

Insurance elections made during the 2011 open enrollment period are effective Jan. 1. Visit wvmich.edu/hr/open-enrollment to review the detailed information mailed to employees and retirees in October.

Employees who wish to participate in an FSA in 2012 must enroll or re-enroll during the 2011 open enrollment period. FSAs offer an opportunity to use pre-tax dollars to pay for dependent-care expenses or qualified medical expenses that are not covered by insurance. Current as well as new participants must submit an FSA enrollment form to Human Resources by the deadline.

New book looks at the double horror of the Holocaust and sexual abuse of children

A new book that looks at the double horror of the Holocaust and sexual abuse of children will be presented for free at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, in 2028 Brown Hall. The talk, “Our Own Worst Enemies: How We and Our Government Created, Extended and Exacerbated the Health Care Mess,” will be presented by Charles Phelps, formerly with the University of Rochester.

Religious tolerance focus of talk

A religious tolerance talk titled, “Towards Tolerance: Religious Pluralism in America,” is being offered from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 16-17, in the Trimpe Building’s Multicultural Center. The presentation is part of the Real Talk Diversity Series as well as the Comparative Religion Lecture Series.
Events set for International Education Week, Russian Festival

Numerous countries and cultures will be highlighted during WMU’s International Education Week, set for Monday through Saturday, Nov. 14-19.

“International Education: Inspiring Students Locally to Succeed Globally” is this year’s theme for the week, which precedes the 2011 Kalamazoo Russian Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, in the Fetzer Center. More than 1,000 guests, performers and vendors from Russia, the Russian Embassy in Washington D.C., and throughout the Midwest are expected to attend.

Along with crafts, food and children’s activities, the festival will feature artistic and cultural exhibits; lectures; readings and performances by WMU faculty members as well as guest speakers and artists; a silent auction; and two exhibition halls full of vendors.

Two on-campus events will lead up to the festival: a recital at 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall by renowned baritone Carl Ratner and pianist Vera Danchenko-Stern, and a poetry reading incorporating photos of Russia at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, in Brown Hall by Judith Rymai, English. Visit www.russianfestival.org for details.

IT SHALL RETURN—WMU’s iconic trolley replica that has stood in front of the Bernhard Center since 2003 was moved Oct. 11 so it can be repaired. The replica, created by engineering students in honor of the University’s centennial celebration, has suffered considerable water damage. A new group of students will inspect and fix the trolley under the direction of Fred Sikins, industrial and manufacturing engineering. Plans call for the replica to be put back in front of Bernhard this spring after undergoing some design and materials changes to improve its weather resistance. (Photo courtesy of Facilities Management)

‘Dancing’ fundraiser scheduled

The University’s annual fundraiser Dancing with the WMU/Kazoos Stars returns to Miller Auditorium at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, with a Latin dance focus.

The WMU dance department and Partners in Dance hope to raise $15,000 for dance scholarships. The event features local celebrities competing to see who is the best ballroom dancer and includes live music, dance instruction, entertainment and refreshments.

This year’s celebrity dancers include Susan B. Anthony, WMU alumna and international opera diva; Andy Dominianini, news anchor at WWMV TV3; Lori Moore, morning host at AM 590 WKZO; and WMU’s Nick Andreadis, dean of the Lee Honors College and Greg Rosine, vice president of government affairs and university relations.

To make a reservation to attend, contact the Department of Dance at (269) 387-5830. The cost is $75, of which $50 is tax-deductible.

Obituaries

Fern Berner died Oct. 11. She was 84.
Berner joined the staff in 1972 and retired in 1993 as a clerk in Printing Services. Memorials may be made to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

Herma E. Breisch died Oct. 25. She was 85.
Breisch joined the faculty in 1967 and within a year, became head of University Libraries’ serials department. She retired in 1989 as an emerita in University Libraries. Survivors include her husband of 66 years, Ernst A. Breisch, emeritus in history. Visitations will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, in St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 247 W. Lovett St., Kalamazoo. Funeral services will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, at St. Luke’s. Memorial gifts may be made to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

Marian Marks-Custer died Oct. 30. She was 87.
Custer joined the staff in 1968 and retired in 1989 as a custodian in custodial and support services.

Evelyn Ann Erickson died Oct. 13. She was 83.
Erickson joined the staff in 1978 and retired in 1989 as coordinator for the Merze Tate Center in the College of Education and Human Development.

Memorial gifts may be directed to Alzheimer’s Disease Research, 22512 Gateway Center Dr., P.O. Box 1950, Clarksville, MD 20871; Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan; or the Westwood United Methodist Church.

Howard Wolpe died Oct. 25. He was 71.
Wolpe was a member of the political science faculty from 1967 to 1972 and was named WMU’s first distinguished visiting professor in 1993.

After leaving WMU, he served four years in the Michigan House of Representatives and 16 years in the U.S. House, where he was credited with helping pass the federal anti-apartheid act in 1986.

Wolpe was named Presidential Special Envoy to Africa’s Great Lakes Region under President Bill Clinton, and later served in the U.S. Department of State as Special Advisor to the Secretary for Africa’s Great Lakes Region. He also served as director for the Africa Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.
Deadline for MLK activity proposals is Nov. 18

Those interested in staging an event as part of activities celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.’s life and legacy are asked to submit an application to have their event become a sponsored MLK program.

The deadline to apply for funding grants as well as publicity assistance to support projects honoring King is 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18. Programs can be funded up to $500, but proposals must contain a detailed budget. Faculty, staff, students and other program organizers are expected to volunteer their services.

This year’s Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration is being held throughout the spring semester beginning Friday, Jan. 13. The annual celebration is held in cooperation with the Northside Ministerial Alliance, Kalamazoo College and the city of Kalamazoo.

Previous activities have included lecture, film presentations, panel discussions, book readings, a brown bag lunch series and a poetry slam.

Members of the WMU community seeking funding will be notified if their proposal has been approved for assistance. Whether seeking funding or not, those planning to hold MLK-related events during the spring semester are asked to submit proposals for each of their events so that they can be included in the University’s publicity for the 2012 celebration.

Visit the MLK website at www.wmich.edu/mlk for an application form for proposals, along with submission guidelines.

For more information, call the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at (269) 387-6313.

Campus Aerobathon event to benefit local United Way

Spend a day punching your abdominals, getting your kicks or just climbing the walls to benefit the United Way. Any or all of those activities await at the WMU Aerobathon from 12:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, in the first floor gym of the Student Recreation Center.

Tickets are available at the SRC service desk and cost $5 in advance or $7 on the day of the event. The workout schedule includes: 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., TurboSport; 1:15 to 2:15 p.m., Amazing Abs; 2:15 to 3:15 p.m., Zumba; 3:15 to 4:15 p.m., TurboKick; and 4:15 to 5 p.m., Cyclefit or Butts and Guts. The climbing wall also will be open from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

To date, WMU’s campus drive has generated more than $242,100 of its $300,000 goal. On-campus fundraising will continue through Friday, Nov. 11. Contact www.wmich.edu/united-way for information on making a gift. Contributions can be made as one-time donations by cash, check or credit card, or as pledges, payable by payroll deduction, credit card or direct billing from United Way.