Volunteers needed for goalball event

Some 80 volunteers are needed to help stage the 2011 John Bakos Memorial Goalball Tournament Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 26-27. No previous knowledge of goalball is necessary.

The tournament is the Midwest regional goalball competition sponsored by the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes and the Michigan Blind Athletic Association. Every year, it attracts the nation’s top teams, whose members include players from the U.S. National Goalball Team.

Contact Mary Lou Brooks, volunteer coordinator, at marylou.brooks@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3415 or (269) 744-7486, or Luke Patterson, tournament director, at lukuspg@gmail.com or (269) 832-4930.

Registration open for CPR classes

The Office of Health Promotion and Education is offering a four-hour training course that provides certification in child, infant and adult CPR; choking; and automated external defibrillation.

The last two scheduled sessions are set for 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, and 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, March 11, in the Sincerus Health Center.

The course costs $40 for WMU students and faculty and staff members and $45 for community members. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. Call (269) 387-1261 to register. Visit www.wmich.edu/healthcenter for more details.

CMU wins spring blood challenge

The University and local communities raised almost 71 percent of their 546-unit goal in last month’s annual spring blood challenge between WMU and Central Michigan University. CMU took top honors, raising nearly 87 percent of its 257-unit goal.

Locally, cold temperatures during the two-week challenge may have dampened turnout; but the event collectively allowed the American Red Cross to bank 610 units of blood, enough to save 1,830 lives.

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High schoolers invited to College Goal

College Goal Sunday will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, in Schneider Hall for area college-bound high school students and their families.

The event is one of more than two dozen such events being held at sites around the state to help high school seniors fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid, or FAFSA, and submit it in time to ensure eligibility for maximum benefit.

It is critical that high school seniors and their parents be aware of these College Goal Sunday events,” said Bryan Taylor, president of EduGuide. “Students must complete and file a FAFSA in order to secure financial aid and should file by the March 1 priority date to ensure eligibility for federal and state programs.”

Debel named trustee; Miller reappointed

Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed Dana Debel of Ann Arbor to the WMU Board of Trustees and has reappointed Ken Miller of Kalamazoo.

Both appointments are for eight-year terms and were announced Jan. 25. William Martin of Battle Creek is the trustee who is leaving the governing board.

Debel, director of state and local government affairs for Delta Air Lines, served as a policy director for former Gov. Jennifer Granholm from 2003 to 2007, primarily in the areas of environmental and energy policy. She earned both a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and a master’s degree in business from Michigan State University.

Miller, a Kalamazoo business leader, has been on WMU’s governing board since 2002 and served as its chair in 2008 and 2009. He is principal partner in Havrico, an investment management firm, and owner of the Millennium Restaurant Group. Miller earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business from WMU, and received the WMU Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009.

Renewed effort to boost STEM leadership statewide

Michigan’s four flagship universities and nine top community colleges are embarking on a newly expanded collaboration to accelerate statewide development of leaders in science, technology, engineering and math—known as STEM programs.

At a Feb. 3 kickoff event on the Lansing Community College campus, the institutions announced the reauthorization and expansion of the Michigan-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. In addition to remarks from leaders of alliance partners, the event included comments from National Science Foundation officials and displays of projects showcasing the work of STEM students.

The Stokes Alliance is part of a national initiative named for an Ohio political figure who spent 30 years in Congress championing the causes of civil rights and social and economic justice. WMU, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University established the Michigan Stokes Alliance in 2005, with support from the National Science Foundation.

The four universities committed to significantly increase the number of under-represented minority students graduating with degrees in science, technology, engineering and math.

““This effort allows us to capitalize on the fact that the development of human capital is all about talent and helping talented young people contribute to our society in ways that tap their true potential,” WMU President John M. Dunn says of the initiative. “Rep. Louis Stokes championed that idea during his years in public service, and the success we’ve seen over the past five years is a tribute to that vision.”

Michigan’s newly expanded Stokes Alliance is positioned to accelerate workforce development in fields crucial to the state’s technology economy. During Phase I of the program (2005–10), award of baccalaureates in STEM fields increased by nearly 50 percent. In Phase II, a 100-percent increase is expected, as nine of Michigan’s top community colleges are joining the alliance.

The new institutional partners are: Grand Rapids Community College; Kalamazoo Valley Community College; Kellogg Community College; Lake Michigan College; Lansing Community College; Madonna University; Muskegon Community College; Schoolcraft College; and Washtenaw Community College.

Among the school presidents participating in the Stokes Alliance kickoff event were, from left: Mary Sue Coleman, U-M; Lou Anna Sman, MSU, and John W. Dunn, WMU. (Photo by Harley J. Seeley, courtesy of Michigan State University College of Engineering)
Black History Month event slated
The contributions of African-American patriots will be the focus of an event from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, in 158 Bernhard Center being held in conjunction with Black History Month. Vietnam veterans Glenn Charles and Buddy Hannah will share their experiences during a talk covering their service and how the military impacted their lives.

Both speakers are longtime residents of the Kalamazoo community. The event will include refreshments and is being sponsored by WMU Army ROTC and First-Year Experience.

Panel explores moral philosophy
Moral philosophy outside academia will be examined in a panel discussion at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in the Bernhard Center’s Brown and Gold Room. The event is part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society’s spring season.

Titled “Ethics for Everyone: Taking Moral Philosophy Outside the Academy,” the discussion will be wide ranging, covering university instruction, research by faculty, programming, compliance and codes of conduct.

The program also will cover how ethics can have an impact beyond university walls and other questions.

Serving on the panel will be WMU’s Michael Pritchard and Fritz Allhoff, philosophy; Jeff Dean, executive editor for academic and professional publishing giant Wiley-Blackwell; and Jesse Steinberg, director of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh, Bradford.

Playwright is next in Frostic Series
The Gwen Frostic Reading Series continues its spring 2011 season with an event by accomplished WMU playwright Steve Feffer, English, at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in 105-107 Bernhard Center.

Feffer has received wide recognition for his plays and has won a number of national playwriting awards. He teaches creative writing at WMU and in the University’s Prague Summer Program, and serves as chair of the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival’s National Playwriting Program for Region Three.

Upcoming Frostic series readings are March 15, with poet Nancy Eimers; March 31, with poet Richard Kavvatos; and April 7, with poet Jerome Rothenberg. All readings start at 8 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Art show features folk tale images
Images of folk tales are brought to life and depicted in a mixture of light and dark in an exhibit of works by artist Nancy Strope on the second floor gallery of the Health and Human Services Building.

Strope has taught English and general studies at WMU and earned a master’s degree from the University. Her exhibit is titled “Once Upon a Time: Scenes from Childhood—Folktales Revisited.”

The exhibit will be on display until March 14. The pieces in the display reveal Strope’s perspective of the dark and light sides of familiar folk tales.

Viewing is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday as well as 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Bad weather in recent weeks prompted cancellations of several major campus events, most of which have now been rescheduled.

• The talk on “Changes and Challenges in Community Banking” by former Ameri- can Bankers Association chairman Arthur C. Johnson will now take place at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, in Schneider Hall’s Brown Auditorium. Those planning to attend the talk should register no later than Monday, Feb. 14, with Shawna Cassada at shawna.cassada@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6059.

• The WMU Career Fair has been re- scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. Recruiters from some 130 employers are expected to participate.

• The meeting to gather input on and share information about developing a more appropriate facility to house Archives and Regional History Collections has yet to be rescheduled.

Retirement reception
The retirement reception for Pamela Lib- erackis, admissions, that was postponed due to inclement weather has been rescheduled for 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in 1040 Fetzer Center.

Jobs
Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers- at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Administrator named to state council
Penny D. Bundy, admissions director, has been appointed to serve on the statewide council associated with the ACT college entrance exam. Membership on the council puts Bundy in a leadership role relative to ACT issues in Michigan. She started her three-year term this month.

ACT is an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides a broad array of assessment, research, information and program management solutions in the areas of education and workforce development. It is dedicated to helping individuals attain their educational and career goals through assessment programs with solid research foundations.

Bundy came to WMU in 2006 after accumulating 19 years of recruiting and retention experience. Prior to joining WMU, she had served Ball State University for 11 years, most recently as associate director of admissions for high school and college relations.

Prof produces new poetry collection
Richard Kavvatos, English, has completed a new book, “Scorpio Rising: Selected Poems.” The book was published by Carnegie Mellon University Press and is scheduled to be released this month.

Culled from six previous collections, “Scorpio Rising” is the culmination of Kav- vatos’s 35-year career. His early poems reflect a harboring childhood on the highways of America as his parents fled the FBI, while his later works meditate upon his own American identity as he raises bicultural, bilingual daughters.

Kavvatos has written 12 books of poetry, fiction and non-fiction. He has been teach- ing at WMU since 2002 and is the founding director of the University’s Prague Summer Program. A former Fulbright Fellow, he has received numerous grants and awards.

NSF division selects chemist as fellow
Sherine O. Obare, chemistry, has received an American Competitiveness and Innovation Fellowship from the National Science Foundation’s Division of Materials Research. Obare, a WMU faculty member since 2004, focuses her research on nanoscale materials, sensors and environmental remediation.

The ACI fellowship program was established in 2008 to identify and promote high-risk, high-payoff research that is expected to lead to innovations and, thus, enhance American competitiveness in the global economy.

ACI fellows are selected from among a group of recent NSF awardees whose pro- jects have already risen to the top via peer review and received federal funding. The selection criteria also includes a demonstrated effort to broaden the participation in scientific research by women, members of under- represented minority groups and persons with disabilities.
New aviation program takes off next fall

The latest training initiative for future air-traffic controllers is scheduled to take flight this fall at the College of Aviation. The college is home to the third-largest aviation program in the country and is based at the W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, Mich. It will be admitting a limited number of students into its new air-traffic control program for the 2011-12 academic year.

The program was developed in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration and is designed to prepare students to report directly to the FAA’s Oklahoma City academy and bypass an initial five-week basic course.

WMU was asked to join the FAA’s Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative network last April, making it one of 36 schools in the nation to offer AT-CTI training—the only one in Michigan. Launched in 1996, the FAA’s AT-CTI aims to help recruit candidates for terminal and air-traffic controller positions.

Although jobs are not guaranteed to AT-CTI graduates, about 41 percent of FAA new hires over the past five years have attended such a program.

To ensure students’ future success, WMU is integrating the AT-CTI training with its existing four-year aviation programs. This will give WMU AT-CTI program graduates the opportunity to follow multiple career paths without returning to the classroom.

Tom Thimes, manager of aviation recruitment and outreach, says WMU plans to focus on training controllers to work in towers, control ground movement and handle local traffic, but also to offer specialized courses so students get experience in all facets of air-traffic control.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the federal government employs about 9,300 of all air-traffic controllers. In March 2009, the average yearly salary of U.S. air-traffic controllers was $109,000.

International Space Station focus of Engineers Week talk

“Design Challenges and Status of the International Space Station” will be the keynote topic when engineers from across southwest Michigan convene at WMU Tuesday, Feb. 22, for the 32nd annual Engineers Week Dinner.

The keynote talk will be presented from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. by Daniel P. Dennies, a metallurgical engineer and director of Southern California Operations for Engineering Systems Inc.

His presentation will be preceded by a social hour, dinner and awards ceremony from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Registrations are required by Monday, Feb. 14, for the event, which is taking place in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom as part of National Engineering Week Feb. 20-26.

Dennies has participated in the International Space Station project, and will discuss the station’s systems and partners, assembly status, and major design challenges. He has more than 30 years experience in aerospace- and aircraft-related industries.

Visit www.wmich.edu/engineereweek to register or obtain more information.

Board of Trustees grants development, sabbatical leaves to 35 faculty members

The WMU Board of Trustees granted 34 leaves during its Dec. 17 meeting. Approved were a professional development leave effective spring 2011 for Kristin Stylian, history, and 33 sabbatical leaves for 2011-12. Sabbatical leaves went to:

- JoAnn L. Arkin, marketing; Nora Berrah, physics; Maira Bundza, University Libraries; Quanoch Chen, business information systems; Sue Ellen Christian, communication; Lisa Minnick, English; Mustafa K. Liu, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; John S. Petrovic, mathematics; Andrew Ellis, English; Robert Wall Basri Mukherjee, economics; Amy Naugle, psychology; John S. Petrovic, mathematics; Judy L. Moonert, music; development office; Jan M. Prange, Facilities Management-power plant; Betsy Drummer, Haworth College of Business; and Valerie A. Young, WMU Bookstore.

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during February:

- 30 Years—Lewis D. Hamilton, Development Office.
- 25 Years—Douglas T. Alick, information technology; Carol J. Black, financial aid and counseling psychology.
- 20 Years—Linda D. Baird, Development Office; Jeffery M. Carr, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Doris E. Evans, Technology-landscape services; and Darrell D. Junkins, Facilities Management-power plant.
- 15 Years—Scott Austin, College of Aviation; Betsy Drummer, Haworth College of Business; and Christopher D. Jackson, biological sciences.
- 10 Years—William A. Emmett, Facilities Management-transportation services, and Kim Stevens, Extended University Programs-Traverse City.
- Five Years—Katherine Lawton Bates, student activities and leadership programs; and Scott Garrison, University Libraries; Lynn A. Mohney, Auxiliary Enterprises; and Valerie A. Young, WMU Bookstore.

Obituaries

Joseph Shalom Ellin, emeritus in philosophy, died Feb. 4 in Kalamazoo. He was 74.

A renowned scholar, Ellin joined the WMU faculty in 1962 and retired in 2004 after some 41 years of service, but continued teaching after his retirement. He served as department chair and took on numerous other leadership roles while at the University.

A memorial service and interment at Mountain Home Cemetery will be arranged in about a month by Harper Funeral Home in Kalamazoo. Memorial contributions may be made to Temple B’Nai Israel or the Fontana Society of Kalamazoo.

Nora H. Faires, professor emeritus of history, died Feb. 6 at her residence. She was 61.

A well-known social historian, and cultural historian of migration, Faires joined the WMU faculty in 2000 and had a dual appointment in gender and women’s studies. She chaired the Canadian Studies Initiative for eight years and retired Dec. 12 after 10-1/2 years of service.

At Western News press time, funeral arrangements were pending through the Janow- iak Funeral Home. Keep checking www.JanowiakFuneralHome.com for details.

Jo Rachel Turner McMenemy, a retired staff member, died Nov. 22 in Kalamazoo. She was 84.

McMenemy came to WMU in 1966 and retired in 1983 after 17 years of service. She was a secretary in the business and finance area.

Robert “Bob” F. Overmyer Sr., a retired staff member, died Jan. 23 in Kalamazoo. He was 89.

Overmyer was a public safety officer for almost 20 years at WMU to 1967 and retiring in 1986.
WMUK names Gordon Bolar general manager; hires underwriting manager

As WMU’s online presence has grown, so has Kirk Sundling’s career at the University. A staff member since 2008, Sundling recently assumed the Extended University Programs position of assistant director of online education.

Online Education works with approximately 40 academic departments to support the development and delivery of online and hybrid courses and programs, ranging from general education courses to complete degree and certificate programs.

“Assistant director,” he recalls, “is in charge of making sure things are running well.”

A Mechanical Engineering Technology degree from Western Michigan University, Sundling moved to the Extended University Programs department in 2009 as assistant director.

Sundling chairs the Administrative Professional Association Events Committee and participates in WMU’s wellness programs, working out at least an hour six days a week.

Still time to help WMU win organ donor challenge

WMU is competing with 18 other colleges and universities in Michigan in a contest to see which school can get the most people to sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry by Thursday, Feb. 24.

Led by the Student Nurses Association, this is WMU’s seventh year competing in the event. The University registered about 72 people in last year’s challenge.

Anyone who wishes to give the gift of life while supporting WMU in the University Challenge can visit www.giftoflifemichigan.org/go/school and register to become an organ donor. Select the “school/college” option when asked where you heard about organ donation, then choose “Western Michigan University” from the drop-down menu.

Creating artificial nose is nothing to sneeze at

The development of a very sensitive artificial nose that can be used to detect a variety of substances at extremely low levels will be the subject of a talk Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 4 p.m. in 1720 Chemistry Building. Suslick will discuss “The Optoelectronic Nose: An Adventure of Molecular Recognition” during the free talk, as well as present a seminar for students, faculty and staff.

During Phase I, alliance scholars engaged in opportunities such as a pre-first-year program to prepare for rigorous curricula as incoming freshmen, undergraduate research assistantships, and internships and cooperative education experiences.

Phase II will continue those activities, in addition to building collaborations with the new community college members of the alliance.