Architects recognize visual arts facility

WMU’s Richmond Center for Visual Arts has been named the winner of the 2008 Honor Award from the Detroit chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The award was announced at the group’s annual gala late last fall.

“The beauty and exceptional nature of the Richmond Center are apparent to those of us using the building, and it’s affirming that the architectural profession recognizes its grace, function and quality,” says Margaret Merrion, dean of the College of Fine Arts.

Praising the craftsmanship and attention to detail apparent in the structure, judges in the annual competition called the center “a strong structural and architectural form which accommodates a sense of movement and provides strong linkages to its surroundings.”

“It is truly an honor and privilege to receive an award for the design of the Richmond Center,” says Bob Varga of SmithGroup, principal designer of the facility. “The project

Key players in the Richmond Center project on hand for the Honor Award presentation included, from left, Chris Purdy, project manager; Bob Varga, principal designer; WMU Dean Margaret Merrion; and Russ Sykes, SmithGroup principal. (Photo courtesy of Detroit AIA chapter)

--- continued on page 4

Government reform expert employs research in Iraq

Matthew S. Mingus, public affairs and administration, will take a break from the college classroom and put his knowledge to work by serving as an advisor to develop Iraqi local and provincial governments for the next year.

Mingus, a 2005-06 Fulbright Research Chair at the University of Ottawa’s Centre on Governance, will serve as a governance advisor for the U.S. Department of State in Iraq for 2009. He left Jan. 21 to start mandatory training in the Washington, D.C., area and should be on the ground in Iraq by mid-February. He expects to return to his campus teaching career in April 2010.

Mingus, a 10-year veteran of the WMU faculty and director of the School of Public Affairs and Administration, will take a yearlong unpaid leave to take a post with the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team based at Camp Taji in Iraq. His fellow team members include U.S. Foreign Service officers and specialists in political affairs, governance, economic development, education, health, and the rule of law.

“I will return with a better understanding of world conflict, at the very least,” Mingus says. “I’m looking forward to a break from academia and particularly the chance to put some of my research ideas on democratic reform to the real-world test.”

Mingus says that his team’s purpose will be to develop a strong sense of local control and to help local officials advocate for their needs at the national level, through the develop-

--- continued on page 4

WMU faculty, staff take part in MLK Day activities

WMU faculty and staff were well-represented at area MLK National Day of Service activities this past Monday. The day’s participants included communication Professor Mark Orbe, center in ObamaZoo T-shirt, and WMU students, who volunteered at the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission.

(continued on page 4)

Trustees set meeting dates for 2009

The WMU Board of Trustees has a 2009 schedule that includes meetings on Wednesday, Feb. 4; Thursday, Sept. 17; and Friday, Nov. 6. The board also plans to meet in April, June and July. Those dates will be announced later. Meetings usually take place in the Bernhard Center.

Kaml named interim EUP official

Craig Kaml has been named interim associate provost for Extended University Programs and will lead that unit while the University conducts a national search for a new associate provost to oversee WMU’s branch campuses and distance education initiatives. Kaml’s appointment was announced this week by Provost Timothy Greene.

Kaml has served since 2007 as director of distance education, a department in EUP that includes Academic Technology and Instructional Services. Prior to that, he served as director of ATIS since 2002. Kaml replaces Dean Darrell Johnson, who left WMU last month to accept a position at Ohio State University.

W-2 forms available through GoWMU

Copies of 2008 W-2 forms became available through the My Self Service channel in GoWMU beginning Jan. 20. For those employees who do not retrieve the electronic version, copies will be mailed to their homes no later than Jan. 31. By clicking My W-2 in your My Self Service channel, you also can view, print or e-mail copies of your W-2 forms from 2005, 2006 and 2007. Send questions to payroll-dept@wmich.edu.

Venue change for WMU, MSU game

The Nov. 7 football game between WMU and Michigan State University, originally slated for Ford Field in Detroit, will now take place at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing, Mich. The date will remain the same for the game, which is a non-conference road contest for both teams. For more information, contact grants-services@wmich.edu or 387-4707.

--- continued on page 4
Inauguration chance to promote government jobs

Crowds of more than 2,500, mostly students, came together at Miller Auditorium Jan. 20, to witness Barack Obama's historic inauguration the 44th U.S. president. Jan. 20, to witness Barack Obama's historic inauguration the 44th U.S. president.

WMU personnel on hand will be students who have studied or worked abroad, professors who coordinate programs and courses around the world, and study-abroad advisors. Also participating will be representatives from non-WMU study- and work-abroad programs conducted worldwide.

Social Justice lectures start Jan. 26

The third annual Social Justice Lecture Series opens Monday, Jan. 26, with a talk on “Free for All: The Case of Free Public Higher Education in the United States” by Adolph Reed from the University of Pennsylvania. All the lectures and are from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium. This year’s theme is “Knowledge, Power and Social Justice: Educating Children Placed At-Risk.” The series will continue with presentations on Feb. 9 and 16, March 9, 23 and 30 and April 6.

What do bacteria say over dinner?

How one of the tiniest life forms on Earth communicates will be discussed during a presentation called “Bacterial Dinner Conversations” from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, in 1220 Chemistry Building. The talk will be given by Michael Whitely, WMU’s 2009 Bach Visiting Lecturer.

Gold Company salutes Motown

Gold Company will celebrate the hits that launched a musical revolution in two special tribute concerts featuring a special appearance by Kalamazoo’s own Motown stars, the Velvetelettes. “Gold Company Celebrates Motown and Beyond” will begin at 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, in Miller Auditorium.

Inauguration celebration

Merling Trio celebrates CD release

The Merling Trio, WMU’s acclaimed strings and piano ensemble, will perform at 8:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event is a CD-release concert for “Postcards in e” and comes at the same time that the trio is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Tickets are available at the door or in advance from the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office.

Exchange

Services provided—House sitting, dog sitting, house cleaning, elder care (such as running errands and providing meals). Available 24 hours a day, References available. Call 998-1349.

Professor honored for service

Jack Ruhl, accountant, has won an award for his assistance to hospice, which provides services for patients and their families facing life-threatening illness. Ruhl is the 2008 recipient of Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan’s Holt Award for his efforts in providing client care, companionship and family respite to hospice clients. The award is the highest honor that the organization gives to volunteers.

Ruhl began volunteering with hospice in 2003 and was cited in part for consistently serving the organization and its clients nearly every week since his very first day. In addition to serving on the Ethics Committee and raising funds, he has worked with 26 different clients and made 279 visits to these clients, driving 3,473 miles and putting in 587 volunteer hours or an average of 2.1 hours per visit.

Emerita co-writes health-related book

Shirley N. Sparks, emerita in speech pathology to early intervention for children for today’s working environment, and is the 304-page work builds on the authors’ experience in the field of early intervention. It gives readers a fresh approach to home visiting for children with disabilities and their families.

Rubin, an assistant professor at WMU, is a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Berlin and a visiting scholar at the Zentrum für Zeitgeschichtliche Forschung. His book is available online at uncpress.unc.edu, barnesandnoble.com, boarders.com and amazon.com.

Historian pens work on East Germany

Eli Rubin, history, has written a book that focuses on the history of East Germany through its production and use of plastic. Published in November by the University of North Carolina Press, “Plastics and German Democratic Republic,” investigates links between communism and the retooled post-war chemical industry as they relate to the consumer population of East Germany.

Eli Rubin, an assistant professor at WMU, is a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Berlin and a visiting scholar at the Zentrum für Zeitgeschichtliche Forschung. His book is available online at uncpress.unc.edu, barnesandnoble.com, boarders.com and amazon.com.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.
Nearly $500,000 in energy costs avoided during winter recess

Building temperature setbacks and other measures taken during the winter recess helped the campus avoid nearly $484,440 in energy costs.

With the campus closed from noon Dec. 24 until Jan. 5, campus Physical Plant employees went to work dialing down thermostat temperatures in some 70 percent of campus buildings—74 locations—the work could be done automatically, using a campus building automation system that includes 3,000 thermostats and 90,000 monitoring points.

Students to manage $500,000 foundation portfolio

A select group of students has been hired to manage a $500,000 portfolio of WMU Foundation funds and will gain remarkable hands-on experience in their major field of study.

The group will act as the large cap manager of the portfolio. Members of the student-managed investment fund competed for the opportunity by enrolling in an upper-level course in the Department of Finance and Commercial Law in the Haworth College of Business.

This learning approach will better prepare students for investment careers by allowing them to direct the fiduciary management of investment assets.

Students will manage the portfolio under the guidance of alumnus Len Harrison, a principal at LVM Capital and a chartered financial analyst, who is teaching the class. Decisions to buy, sell or hold will be made by the students, and fund performance will be reported each semester.

Aviation dean leaving academia

Aviation Dean David M. Powell is leaving the University for a position in the private sector, and the departure will trigger a nationwide search for his replacement.

Both Bachmann and Vossen stress that being involved in an active shooter situation is similar to the chance of being struck by lightning during one’s lifetime—about 1 in 5,000. Importantly, they note, survival mindset strategies also can apply to fires, tornadoes and other more likely situations.

For more information or to schedule the seminar, contact Cam Vossen at 269-387-0678. Visit www.esem.wmich.edu for more information about WMU’s emergency preparedness, health and safety activities.

Obituary

John "Jack" E. Shaw, celebrated track and field coach for 32 years, died Friday, Jan. 9, at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo.

He was 70.

Shaw was inducted into the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997 after leading the Bronco men’s track and field team to six Mid-American Conference outdoor championships and five MAC cross country titles.

He joined the University in 1970, and during his career was named MAC Coach of the Year in outdoor track six times, five times in cross country and once for indoor track. A four-time recipient of the Central Collegiate Conference Coach of the Year award, in 1995 he also was named NCAA District IV Coach of the Year.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the WMU Foundation. Indicate in the memo section of the check that it is designated for the Jack Shaw Memorial fund and mail to: WMU Foundation, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo MI 49008-5403.
Some 4,000 student workers at WMU and their supervisors will be recognized during Student Employee Appreciation Week, Monday through Friday, Feb. 16-20.

The observance pays tribute to WMU’s largest employee group for the many ways its members contribute to the University. This year’s theme is “Grat the Reins of Your Future.” Activities slated include announcement of the student employee and supervisor of the year.

Nominations are being accepted through Friday, Feb. 6, for the Belleville Student Employee of the Year award and the student Supervisor of the Year award. The 2009 recipients will be announced during a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in the Bernhard Center’s West Ballroom.

Career and Student Employment Services, which sponsors Student Employee Appreciation Week, encourages all faculty and staff members to submit nominations for the two awards and to thank their student workers in some way during this special appreciation week.

To go to www.wmich.edu/career and click “Nominate a Supervisor or Student for Employee Appreciation Week” to access the nomination forms. Go to www.wmich.edu/career/docs/seaw%202008%20certificate.doc to download a certificate-of-appreciation template that can be used to honor student employees.

Upon request, career services will provide small appreciation gifts, while supplies last, and a list of suggestions for ways to thank student workers. Gift requests must be received by Feb. 6.

For more information, or to obtain a gift request form or recognition ideas list, contact Brenda Case-Parris at brenda.case-parris@wmich.edu or 387-2745.

Nominations sought for employee, supervisor awards

Student workers being hired

International Admissions and Services is now recruiting international student orientation leaders for fall 2009. This is an excellent opportunity for students to learn how to build cultural bridges and experience intercultural teamwork.

Leaders hired for the fall 2009 semester will also be eligible to work during the spring and summer 2010 terms, as needed. They will work with a large group of newly admitted international students and must be available 24 hours per day during the program.

Leaders are paid $500 for the fall 2009 orientation. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9. Go to http://international.wmich.edu/content/section/2007/177 for eligibility information and an application form.

Architects recognize

continued from page 1

represented a true collaboration between WMU and SmithGroup that resulted in an outstanding design solution that embodied the spirit and mission of the art school.”

Completed in 2007, the Richmond Center is a 44,000-square-foot structure that houses WMU’s Frostic School of Art and a variety of public exhibition spaces. It completes the West Campus arts village that consolidates WMU’s visual and performing arts.

SmithGroup did the architectural work and CSM Group of Galesburg, Mich., was the construction management firm.