University trustees to meet in Detroit

The WMU Board of Trustees will hold its regularly scheduled November meeting from noon to 2:15 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, at Ford Field in Detroit.

The unusual meeting location is just one of many ways the University will be more visible in Southeast Michigan the week leading up to its special “home” football game Saturday, Nov. 8 at Ford Field.

United Way campaign winding down

The 2008 campus United Way campaign will officially come to an end Friday, Oct. 31. With three days of fund raising left, WMU was $56,200 short of its $225,000 goal.

All faculty, staff and retirees should have received their donation packets and are encouraged to submit their gifts or pledges to the president’s office. For additional information or replacement pledge cards, or for more information about the WMU United Way campaign, contact the WMU United Way Advisory Board at wmu-united-way@wmich.edu.

Open-enrollment period ends Nov. 14

The open enrollment period for health insurance as well as flexible spending accounts will end at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, for AAUP faculty members and for AFSCME, MSEA and non-bargaining employees. This also is the open enrollment period for health insurance for WMU retirees.

During open enrollment, employees and retirees have the option of adding eligible dependents to their health insurance, with insurance as well as flexible spending accounts for WMU retirees.

Laws may affect film presentations

University officials are urging all students, faculty and staff to beware of copyright infringement, specifically with regard to public screenings of films. Go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2008/10/0408.html for more information and a list of myths and facts associated with presenting on-campus film screenings.

Academic Convocation takes place today

WMU’s Academic Convocation at 3:30 p.m. today in the Dalton Center Recital Hall will feature President John M. Dunn’s State of the University address as well as a series of awards honoring faculty and staff achievements.

The longstanding academic tradition of gathering to honor accomplishment and focus on important University issues and initiatives is free and open to the public. A reception will be held immediately following the convocation in the adjacent Richmond Center for Visual Arts. Dunn’s address will be broadcast on WMUK-FM, the University’s public radio station, at 7 p.m. today.

During the convocation, awards will be presented to seven members of the WMU faculty and staff for outstanding achievement. Awards presented include the Distinguished Service, Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Distinguished Teaching and Emerging Scholar awards. Each of these four awards carries a $2,200 cash prize.

Scholar, teaching award recipients among honorees

Three more WMU employees have been selected to receive major awards from the University at the 2008 Academic Convocation being held this afternoon.

They are Mary Z. Anderson, counselor education and counseling psychology, who will receive a Distinguished Teaching Award, and William W. Cobern, biological sciences, and Yuri S. Ledyaev, mathematics, who each will receive a Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award.

The Distinguished Teaching Award program was launched in 2006 to honor up to three full-time faculty members each year. The WMU Alumni Association ran a similar program, the Teaching Excellence Award, between 1986 and 2001.

The Distinguished Faculty Scholar award is the highest honor the University bestows on its faculty members. Established in 1978, it recognizes those whose work is widely known beyond the University and constitutes a significant body of achievement, most of which has been accomplished while a faculty member at WMU.

Anderson coordinates the master’s degree program in counseling psychology. She was cited for such important work as developing a new teaching curriculum to meet new accreditation requirements for doctoral programs in counseling psychology. She was cited for such important work as developing a new teaching curriculum to meet new accreditation requirements for doctoral programs in counseling psychology.

Cobern continues the work he started at WMU in developing a new counseling model for counseling practicum courses. He was known for his work in developing a new counseling model for counseling practicum courses.

Ledyaev coordinates the master’s degree program in counseling psychology. He was known for his work in developing a new counseling model for counseling practicum courses.

Lt. Gov. Cherry addresses education-minded crowd


The Oct. 24 event’s other key speakers were both from WMU, Trustee William D. Johnston, president, director and chairman of the Kalamazoo-based Greenleaf Companies, and Provost Timothy J. Greene. John M. Dunn, WMU president, moderated the forum, which was sponsored by the University’s Emeriti Council.

Cherry led the statewide Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, which issued its final report in 2004. The group, known as the Cherry Commission, was charged with finding a way to double the percentage of Michigan residents with college degrees over the next decade, in light of “an undeniable link between post-secondary education and economic success in a changing economy.” The report outlined a number of challenges facing the state’s schools and made several recommendations.

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Ethicist looks at advance directives

Chris Buford, a lecturer at the University of Akron, will give a presentation on “Advancing an Advance Directive Debate” at 4 p.m. today in 210 Bernhard Center. It is part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society’s fall 2008 lecture series.

Buford will examine the formulations of arguments against the moral legitimacy of advance directives and review objections to such arguments. It has been argued that in certain cases, an advance directive carries no weight in a decision on whether to withhold treatment, because the individual in the debilitating state is not the same person as the person who created the advance directive.

Environment focus of Keystone talk

The ins and outs of the environmental services industry will be explored tomorrow when the second speaker in the 2008-09 Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Series presents “Environmental Contracting—A Local and National View.” The event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and the talk by Steve Taplin, president of Terra Contracting, LLC, at 8 a.m. in 2150 Schneider.

Taplin has more than 25 years of experience working in all phases of the environmental services industry. His experience with remediation projects involves a wide range of industries and scales. Regulations are required to monitor his presentation and may be made by calling the dean’s office at 387-5050.

WMU orchestra to give free concert

The WMU Symphony Orchestra will present its second concert of the season at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The free event will begin with a tuba solo by Deanna Swoboda, music, and continue with Brian Mast, the orchestra’s new assistant conductor, leading “Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla” by Russian composer Mikhail Glinka.

The concert will close with Symphony No. 8 in F Major, Op. 93, by Ludwig von Beethoven. One of Beethoven’s final works, the Eighth Symphony consists of four movements and possesses a light-hearted, cheery mood.

Sally Struthers stars in ‘Nonsense’

Two-time Emmy Award winner Sally Struthers will perform as Mother Superior in the 25th anniversary tour of “Nonsense” at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, in Miller Auditorium. The sassy show has become an international phenomenon, boasting more than 5,000 productions worldwide in more than 31 languages.

Tickets are on sale now. They are available online at millerauditorium.com or by calling 387-2303 or visiting the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office or Epic Center Box Office. Call 387-2312 for special group discounts.

Emeriti to learn about exchanges

The Emeriti Council’s next Wednesday’s II program will feature Dave Hargreave, emeritus in environmental studies, and Lyn Hargreave speaking at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, in Walwood Hall’s Heining Emeriti Lounge.

“The duo will present, “People to People: Ways to Experience Cultures and Exchange Friendships Around the World.” The Hargreaves will discuss their experiences traveling and living in other cultures, and provide information as to how others may become involved in international exchange programs.

Local teachers part of wetland project

Carla Koresny, geosciences, has secured a new grant from the National Science Foundation to extend her research on the growth of purple loosestrife, a perennial wetland flowering plant that has been spreading in the marsh of Kalamaoo-200’s Kleinstuck Preserve.

The $18,000 Research Experiences for Teachers grant will help pay for two additional scientists—both high school science teachers from Sturgis, Mich.—to study the effects of this transported plant on the water chemistry and survival of native plants in the marsh. If the invasive plant becomes too prevalent, it can jeopardize various threatened and endangered native wetland plants and wildlife by eliminating natural foods and cover.

Koresny received a $47,100 NSF Faculty Early Career Development grant in 2004 and has been a faculty member since 2000.

Phobias research widely recognized

C. Richard Spates, psychology, is breaking new ground in researching treatments that help people with paralyzing animal phobias.

His work has been included as a chapter in a new book for practicing professionals, the second edition of “Effective Treatments for PTSD: Practice Guidelines from the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies.”

In addition, a poster presentation on the same topic by WMU doctoral student Richard Seim and Spates won a national award at the convention of the Association for Psychological Science in Chicago.

Spates directs the WMU Anxiety Disorders Laboratory and joined the University two decades ago. He has found that treating people using doses rather than prolonged, continuous exposure to feared animals is effective and easier on those being treated.

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Faculty Senate, Haenicke Institute support Internationalization Lab

A campuswide “laboratory” to advance the comprehensive internationalization of the University’s undergraduate curriculum has been launched by the Faculty Senate International Education Council and the Haenicke Institute for Global Education. WMU has committed to participate in the American Council on Education’s Internationalization Laboratory, a two-year assessment and planning program. During 2008-09 and 2009-10, faculty members will engage in an array of activities guided by the ACE Laboratory format to develop, assess and implement strategies.

“All of our students must have the tools to know and judge the world around them whether they exercise those judgments in conjunction with business or other assignments abroad, whether they continue within the academy to study the great issues that globalization raises, or whether they simply venture into the voting booth in Kalamazoo or New York City, or anywhere in between,” says Donald G. McCloud, Haenicke Institute dean.

“Through the internationalization laboratory, our faculty will play an important role in re-examining our community and what we teach to ensure our graduates carry with them the needed perspectives and understandings to function in the contemporary world in which we so readily label as ‘globalized.’”

Both McCloud and Stephen B. Malcolm, chair of the International Education Council, will lead the campus activities that will be developed by members of the current laboratory cohort. Malcolm maintains that such participation is in perfect alignment with the mission of WMU.

“The interface between students and faculty is key to the University’s success and dynamism, Malcolm says, “and enhanced ‘internationalization’ facilitates our intent to make this interface within our University community truly ‘universal’ and ‘collegial.’”

WMU is one of seven universities and colleges ACE invited to host a laboratory this year to build on the data already collected from the 80 institutions that have participated since the program began in 2003. The University’s nationwide “lab partners” are Saint Mary’s College, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Central Connecticut State, Pacific, Purdue and Temple universities. For more information, contact Brett Berquist, Haenicke Institute, at brett.berquist@wmich.edu or 387-5890. Go to http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/1385/165 for periodic Internationalization Laboratory updates.

Panel to discuss financial crisis

A team of WMU experts will tackle the nation’s financial crisis and its impact during a panel discussion at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, in 3508 Knauss Hall.

The program, called “The Financial Meltdown and Its Aftermath: Causes, Consequences and Policy Options,” is free and open to the public. Panelists include Jon Neill, Susan Poo and James Hueng, economics, and Christopher Korth, finance and commercial law.

Speakers will talk about the causes of the crisis, its consequences for the economy and the policies being used to deal with it. The discussion will provide information about the current state of the economy and provide a forum in which to thoughtfully consider the ramifications of the crisis.

Conrad Phillip Factor, a WMU staff member, died Oct. 21 at his home in Seaman, Mich. He was 65.

Factor, formerly of Battle Creek and Galesburg, came to WMU in 1985 and retired as a plumber in the physical plant’s maintenance division in 1998.
Still time to join Broncos in Detroit area for events celebrating WMU

WMU is moving to Detroit—literally—with a series of activities and events for Metro Detroit high school students and WMU alumni, culminating with the football Broncos hosting the University of Illinois at Ford Field at noon Saturday, Nov. 8. The special “home game” for the Broncos at Ford Field will cap a week of activities being scheduled around Southeast Michigan at the beginning of November.

Ford Field activities on game day will include a pre-game party and Wayne counties; music faculty ensembles will give five performances in Detroit-area high schools; and receptions will be held for several alumni groups and donors. WMU also will participate in the Michigan Yes! Expo from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, at Ford Field, which is expected to draw 15,000 high school students.

Go to www.wmich.edu/detroit for more information, and to buy game tickets and make event reservations.

Award recipients named

Many of Anderson’s past and present students praised her for her extraordinary assistance as a teacher and dramatically affecting their careers.

“She has a knack for finding the ways to push you in the ways that you need to be pushed (and) that foster critical thinking and decision making, as well as opening new perspectives on your own scholarship,” wrote one former student who is now a practicing psychologist.

Cobern directs the Mallinson Institute for Science Education and is a science education expert who has explored the cultural component of improving science literacy. He joined WMU’s science education faculty in 1996 as coordinator of the elementary school master’s program. Since then, he has been a principal researcher in a number of science education initiatives funded by the National Science Foundation and the Michigan Department of Education.

Scholars from around the globe wrote in support of his nomination, pointing to Cobern’s groundbreaking work on world views and the impact that cultural orientation has on science learning as being among his most significant achievements.

A U.S. colleague praised Cobern’s broad contributions and the attention his work has attracted. “Dr. Cobern is a science education scholar with a solid international reputation reflecting his intellect, integrity, honesty, tenacity, cultural savvy, vision and humor,” she wrote. “…His research is both original and widely read.”

Ledyaev, an internationally known mathematician, was praised for his “great influence in the areas of control theory and nonsmooth analysis, distinguished record of publication and his consistent spirit of generosity.” His wide-ranging research, supported by grants, includes significant contributions in such areas as nonlinear control systems and global optimization problems.

A faculty member since 1997, Ledyaev has held visiting professorships at universities in five nations. Support for his work came from around the world and reflects his stature in the international mathematics community as well as his ability to communicate the essence of his work and inspire others.

A French mathematician who has worked closely with Ledyaev wrote “…while I have had a number of collaborations of high quality and repute in the course of my career, the ability, imagination and insight that Yuri Ledyaev brings to bear is second to none. I consider our joint work to be some of my best and most important…”

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