Stabenow to present campus talk
U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow will speak on “Women in Politics” from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Monday, March 17, in the Fetzer Center’s Kirsch Auditorium. The talk is open to the public free of charge, but seating is limited. Stabenow made history in 2000 when she became the first woman from Michigan elected to the U.S. Senate. Go to www.wmich.edu/women's for more information about Women’s History Month and WMU’s Gender and Women’s Studies Programs.

Open house to accept walk-ins
Area high school juniors and their parents are invited to attend WMU Spotlight from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 15. This annual open house features current WMU students taking attendees on a guided tour of the main campus so they can get a feel for what life at the University is like. In addition, prospective students and their parents will have a chance to check out a typical residence hall as well as the Student Recreation Center. Walk-in registration and pre-registration check-in for the 2008 WMU Spotlight will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the second floor of the Bernhard Center. Free parking is available all day at all metered spaces on campus property. Go to www.wmich.edu/admissions/wmuspotlight for information about advance registration and other event details.

Trustees meeting set for March 18
The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Tuesday, March 18. The board usually meets in 157-159 of the Bernhard Center. Details and key agenda items will be posted online at www.wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date.

Save the date for Detroit events
WMU is scheduling a week’s worth of activities in the Motor City this fall to showcase the University and reconnect with alumni and friends living in the Detroit area. The events will be centered around the Nov. 8 football game at Ford Field against the University of Illinois. Home of the NFL Detroit Lions, Ford Field was the site of the 2006 Super Bowl and is the annual venue for the Mid-American Conference championship game and Motor City Bowl. Some 40,000 WMU alumni reside in Southeast Michigan, and more than 8,500 students or about one-third of the student body hail from this area.

Free tickets needed for Dunn inauguration
Guests from around the state and nation will join with the WMU community to celebrate the inauguration Monday, March 24, of Dr. John M. Dunn as the University’s eighth president. The ceremony, set for 4 p.m. in Miller Auditorium, will formally install Dunn as president, a position he assumed last July following a nationwide search led by the chair of the WMU Board of Trustees, Kenneth Miller. Miller will preside over the ceremony, which will include remarks by Dunn as well as brief comments by a number of University officials and guests.

The inauguration is open to the public, but those planning to attend must secure a complimentary ticket from Miller Auditorium by calling 387-2300. The event will begin with a formal academic procession that will include WMU faculty, staff and administrators as well as invited guests from a number of institutions. Political and business leaders from around the state, county and city also will be in attendance.

Prior to coming to WMU, Dunn served as interim chancellor at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Before accepting that appointment, he held the position of provost and vice chancellor at SIUC. Dunn’s career also has included academic leadership positions at the University of Utah and Oregon State University.

An educator for more than 30 years, he is internationally known for his research and writing about the long-term health of individuals with disabilities. Dunn is the author of more than 50 professional papers and book chapters. He also is president this year of the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

WMU Day at the state Capitol to highlight programs, people
Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of WMU are organizing a first-of-its-kind display of pride and achievement at the Michigan Capitol during a daylong event Wednesday, May 28.

Members of the WMU community are planning to meet with lawmakers and have displays, simulations and performances on the front lawn of the capitol in Lansing. Organizers of WMU Day at the Capitol say the purpose of the event is to engage legislators and policymakers on the importance of WMU and the contributions the University makes in providing an educated workforce and advancing the state’s economic development.

Grant available for faculty to explore heading study-abroad programs
Generous funding for WMU faculty interested in gaining first-hand experience of what it’s like to develop and lead a short-term, summer study abroad program is being offered through a new grant provided by the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Wednesday, March 19, is the deadline to apply for this faculty discovery grant, which offsets the cost of participating in one of 17 Summer 2008 study abroad programs led by WMU faculty. Up to 75 percent of expenses will be covered for eligible participating faculty members. Some of the programs from which faculty members may choose are specific to a major while others offer classes in a range of disciplines. The programs run from two to six weeks, offer varying levels of academic credit and are conducted in some of the world’s most interesting destinations, including Alexandria, Egypt; Beijing; Sao Paulo, Brazil; London, Prague, Czech Republic; Quebec; and Tokyo.
Public mock trial demo tonight

WMU’s mock trial team is taking its case to the public at 6:30 tonight in the Bernhard Center’s Brown and Gold Room, offering a free public presentation in preparation for taking part in national competition this weekend. The team finished fourth during its regional tournament and will be competing at the national level Friday through Sunday, March 14-16, in Waukegan, Ill.

Francophone films and Sunday

Two internationally known filmmakers are taking part in WMU’s seventh annual Francophone Film Festival, which is running through Sunday, March 16, in the Little Theatre, University Web site.

Two internationally known filmmakers are taking part in WMU’s seventh annual Francophone Film Festival, which is running through Sunday, March 16, in the Little Theatre, University Web site.

Senior Prom now in 20th year

The campus community and area residents will be able to relive prom night for the 20th consecutive year during the annual Senior Prom from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, March 20, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. The semi-formal event is a fun-filled nostalgic evening that brings hundreds of senior citizens together with WMU students, faculty and staff for a night of Big Band music and swing and ballroom dancing. Admission is free.

Economics lecture goes global

Joseph P. Joyce, professor of economics at Wellesley College will speak on “Global Justice: An Economist’s Perspec- tive” from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, in 3508 Knauss. The talk is a Wener Sichel Economics Lecture-Seminar Series presentation.

University Webmasters invited to monthly meetings

WMU’s Webmasters’ User Group is open to all permanent, temporary, contract and student employees who have design and/or publishing responsibilities related to a University Web site.

The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next gathering is slated for March 16, in the Little Theatre, University Web site.

WMU’s Webmasters’ User Group is open to all permanent, temporary, contract and student employees who have design and/or publishing responsibilities related to a University Web site.

The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next gathering is slated for March 16, in the Little Theatre, University Web site.

Reception set for Weese

Tori L. Weese, information technology advisor through the U.S. Fulbright senior specialist program, has been teaching and acting as a curriculum advisor to American studies seminars as well as graduate students in American civilization at Minoufiya. In addition, she is also an authority on social studies curricula. She was at Minoufiya University and the universities of Notre Dame and Central Florida. After completing her doctorate, she was named director of WMU-Lansing and a year later also took over as director of WMU-Battle Creek. She was appointed EUP dean in 2006 following a stint as the division’s associate dean.

Fulbright takes professor to Egypt

Katherine Joslin, English, recently returned from a university in Egypt, where she has been teaching and acting as a curriculum advisor through the U.S. Fulbright senior specialist program. Joslin is a former director of WMU’s American Studies Program and an authority on social reform and peace activist Jane Addams. She was at Minoufiya University, lecturing to undergraduate and graduate students in American civilization and literature and comparative literature. While in Egypt, Joslin also attended American studies seminars as well as consulted with faculty who would like to develop an American studies graduate certificate at Minoufiya. In addition, she conducted a needs assessment of that school’s American literature curriculum, advised faculty on methods for enhancing the content of their American literature and culture courses, and gave a lecture on Addams at Misr International University.
Miller, Martin elected to lead WMU Board of Trustees

Kenneth V. Miller of Kalamazoo and William J. Martin of Battle Creek, Mich., have been elected to serve for 2008 as chair and vice chair, respectively, of the WMU Board of Trustees.

The election took place at the annual meeting of the trustees, which this year was held Feb. 15. All officers serve one-year terms. Miller replaces Dan Pero of Dimondale, Mich., who will remain on the board, while Martin replaces Miller as vice chair. Both men were appointed trustees in 2002.

Miller is vice president and chief operating officer of Havico, a Kalamazoo investment management firm, which he has co-owned since 1983. He also is owner of the Millennium Restaurant Group, which owns and operates several restaurants in southwest Michigan, and is a former director of the WMU Foundation.

Martin, also an alumnus, is chief executive officer of the Michigan Association of Realtors as well as a former state representative. Michigan lottery commissioner and Michigan Department of Corrections director.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during March.

35 Years—Rodney Wade, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.

30 Years—Carol L. Farrance, residence life; Michael P. McDonnell, University Libraries; and Michele C. McLaughlin, Registrar’s Office.

25 Years—Janice VanDerkley, associate vice president for business and finance.

20 Years—John M. Barney, physical plant-maintenance services; Willie J. Harrell, physical plant-maintenance services; Hans J. Kruissel, physical plant-maintenance services; Yvonne R. Rumery, information technology; Richard A. Santman, physical plant-maintenance services; and Barney Stockwell, physical plant-maintenance services.

15 Years—Mary L. Brooks, geography; Dale A. Hagens, physical plant-utilities; David A. Locke, physical plant-maintenance services; Donna C. Mearing, Center for Academic Support; Dawn M. Nelson, grants and contracts; William G. Rantz, College of Aviation; Laura Rietkerk, student financial aid and scholarships; and Andrea B. Smith, teaching, learning and educational studies.

10 Years—Christine Christoph, dining services-valley #1; Brenda J. Kuijlen, dining services-valley #1; Terrie L. Lewnfield, dining services-valley #1; Juanita L. Page, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Mary Jo Ward, Human Resources; and Sherri Yehia, civil and construction engineering.

Obituary

Ruth J. Chapman, a former WMU Dining Services staff member, died March 1. She was 83.

Chapman, a Kalamazoo-area resident for most of her life, came to WMU in 1979. She was a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Chapman retired in 1990 after more than 10 years of service to the University.

Elaine A. Albert, emerita in English, died Dec. 17 in Kalamazoo. She was 98.

Albert came to WMU in 1964 as a part-time instructor and was appointed assistant professor of English six months later.

She taught courses in children’s literature, writing and the English language. She did some of her teaching in Marshall and Muskegon, Mich., through what was then the Division of Continuing Education. Albert retired in 1979 after 24 years of service to the University.

Ollie J. Drennan, a former WMU faculty member and administrator, died Feb. 12 in Kirksville, Mo. He was 82.

Drennan served from 1971 to 1975 as dean of the College of General Studies. He left the University in 1976 to accept the Rieger Black Distinguished Professor of Physics and Natural Science Chair at Northeast Missouri State University, where he completed his teaching career in 1993.

Drennan came to WMU in 1964 as associate professor of physics. He was appointed associate professor and science area chair one year later, then appointed professor in 1967.

Clayton A. Holaday, emeritus in English and a former administrator, died Feb. 14 in Kalamazoo. He was 89.

Holaday came to WMU in 1956 as assistant professor of English and was promoted to professor in 1964.

In addition to his faculty appointment in the Department of English, he served as director of scholarships and student loans from 1963 to 1968. Holaday retired in 1980 after 24 years of service to the University.

University digitizes historic book on African Americans

A historic book on African Americans in Michigan is now available worldwide to anyone with access to the Internet, thanks to the digitizing efforts of WMU’s University Libraries.

The 1915 edition of “Michigan Manual of Freemen’s Progress” has been fully digitized, including photographs, charts and searchable text, and is available for download as PDF files.

“We are extremely pleased to have this unique primary source available for our students to use,” says Marion Gray, chair of the Department of History. “It is also wonderful that, thanks to Western’s Digitization Center, we can make such a resource available to students and scholars virtually anywhere in the world.”

The project was a collaborative effort by Mitch Kachun, history, and Sharon Carlson, Archives and Regional History Collections, who worked with the WMU Digitization Center.

The goal of the project was to have comprehensive access by history students and colleagues to this out-of-print book in the classroom and for research anywhere. Financial support came from the history department’s Burnham Macmillan Endowment and the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research and Teaching Awards program.

WMU students came through Feb. 23, raising some $7,000 for Special Olympics during an icy effort that had participants wading into Goldsworth Pond for the University’s first Polar Plunge. The fundraiser, organized by the Western Student Association and Special Olympics Michigan, brought in more than twice its $3,000 goal.

President John M. Dunn issued a challenge to WSA and other groups to join in the effort that had participants wading into Goldsworth Pond for the University’s first Polar Plunge. The fundraiser, organized by the Western Student Association and Special Olympics Michigan, brought in more than twice its $3,000 goal.

“Top photo—President John M. Dunn issued a challenge to WSA and other groups to join in the effort that had participants wading into Goldsworth Pond for the University’s first Polar Plunge.”
On Campus with Erika Carr

Erika Carr is changing the lives of hundreds of Michigan youths. As director of the GEAR-UP/College Day Program in the Division of Multicultural Affairs, Carr and her regular staff of two professional and 10 student employees are acquainting 1,600 eighth and ninth graders from 10 schools in six districts with the benefits of college—regardless of where they choose to enroll.

Carr has participated in a program called “Traveling with an existing course allows faculty members to become acquainted with the broad spectrum of programs and groups, including those from its main Kalamazoo campus and its eight branch campuses across the state.

Transportation to and from Kalamazoo and box lunches will be available for those who register to attend. A Web site with more details and an opportunity to register online will be available by the end of March.

For more information, contact Donna Marks at donna.marks@wmich.edu or 387-2072.

Two chances left to attend concerts by top vocal jazz artists

WMU’s “Vocal Jazz Week” runs through Saturday, March 15, with two more great public events still to take place in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Curtis Stigers with special guest Tri-Fi will perform at 8:15 p.m. Friday, March 14, and the University’s award-winning Gold Company will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 15. Tickets for these Dalton events may be purchased by calling 387-4689 or at the door.

The concerts are part of what Gold Company director Stephen Zegree calls “Vocal Jazz Week.” The week runs through Saturday. It includes special performances, in addition to numerous activities associated with the Gold Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival, which is in its 28th year and brings high school ensembles from several states to campus.

Faculty grant

Stephen Malcolm, biological sciences, leads one of the programs in which faculty members may participate under the faculty grant: Biology in Belize.

“Traveling with an existing course allows faculty members to become acquainted with experiential learning in a new place and dispel anxieties that might exist about the logistics of leading and mentoring students abroad,” Malcolm says. “It’s also a great way to generate ideas about new courses and new possibilities for existing courses or programs.”

Go to http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/1082/453 to learn about eligibility requirements or apply for a faculty grant for summer study abroad.

Tech machine, public discussion focus on race as social, not genetic distinction

WMU is hosting a unique technological experience that allows participants to visualize themselves with the facial characteristics of people of different races.

The Human Race Machine, a booth similar to an instant-photo booth, takes a person’s picture and digitally enhances it to show how faces look when taking on the characteristics of any of six different races—African, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic, Middle Eastern and Native American.

Two chances left to attend concerts by top vocal jazz artists

The Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations is making the machine available to the public in 107 Bernhard Center today from noon to 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 9 p.m.; Friday, March 14, from noon to 1:30 p.m.; and Monday, March 17, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The public also is invited to a free session from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday in 212 Bernhard Center that will include the showing of an excerpt from “Race: The Power of an Illusion” and a discussion focusing on educational programming, after which participants will have an opportunity to use the Human Race Machine.


Talk to address ethics, science

World-renowned bioethicist Adrienne Asch from Yeshiva University will speak on “Ethics and Science: Lessons From Bioethics” from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, in the Fetzer Center.

Capitol day

WMU is the first university to have a front-lawn capitol presence for such a broad spectrum of programs and groups, including those from its main Kalamazoo campus and its eight branch campuses across the state.

For more information, contact Donna Marks at donna.marks@wmich.edu or 387-2072.