Governor recognizes College of Fine Arts

The College of Fine Arts is one of only 12 Michigan artists and arts organizations being honored this month with a Governor's Award for Arts and Culture.

The college has won the annual “Guvvy” award in the category of arts education and will be honored at a Nov. 29 gala at the newly remodeled Detroit Institute of Arts. The award to WMU recognizes the College of Fine Arts for “demonstrating extraordinary student and educator support and commitment to advancing arts education,” according to ArtServe Michigan, which coordinates the annual awards program, now in its 22nd year.

“The Governor’s Awards for Arts and Culture embody the spirit of creativity and innovation that is Michigan’s legacy,” says Gov. Jennifer Granholm. “The awards are an opportunity to showcase how Michigan artists, arts educators, cultural organizations and their supporters foster the inventiveness and originality that is critical to Michigan.”

President John M. Dunn will accept the “Guvvy” award on behalf of the University. Also attending will be other WMU officials and Charles Elliott, a local arts advocate who nominated the college for the award.

“The College of Fine Arts at WMU has a public mission to elevate the human condition through the arts,” says Margaret Merskin, dean of the college. “This award affirms that we are achieving our mission.

For and about WMU faculty and staff

WMU promotes good health at the Health Fair

WMU community members educated themselves by attending the campus Health and Wellness Fair Nov. 7. Top right photo: Vice President Lowell Stank, business and finance, learned a few colonies by testing some of the exercise equipment on display (photo by Mike Lanka). Top left photo: Kathy Lewis, counseling and testing center, took a free hearing test, plus learned about the many other WMU Unified Clinics services that are 100 percent covered by the Community Blue PPO insurance plan. They include evaluation and diagnosis of hearing and communication problems, annual gynecological exams, mammography screening referrals, family substance abuse counseling, eye exams, visual aids use and care training, and speech and language therapy. For details, visit www.wmich.edu/unifiedclinics and click on “WMU Employee Information” (photo by Jeanne Baron).

WMU receives history award for Fort St. Joseph work

WMU has received one of the state’s highest awards for its archaeological exploration and educational efforts at the former Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Mich.

The University’s departments of Anthropology, Geosciences and History were recognized by the Historical Society of Michigan with one of this year’s 15 State History Awards. WMU received the award jointly with the Fort St. Joseph Museum in the educational programs category. The State History Awards are the highest recognition presented by the state’s official historical society and oldest cultural organization.

The award praised WMU and the Fort St. Joseph Museum for their excavation of artifacts at the 18th-century mission and French fur trading post and their creation of a wide range of programs to teach the public about the post’s history.

“Western Michigan University and the Fort St. Joseph Museum have deepened our understanding of Michigan’s rich colonial French history through their programs at the Fort St. Joseph site,” read a statement from the Historical Society of Michigan.

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project was initiated in 1998 to identify, investigate and interpret the physical remains of Fort St. Joseph, one of the most important Colonial outposts in the western Great Lakes. WMU has conducted its annual archaeological field school at the site since 2002 in partnership with the city of Niles, the Fort St. Joseph

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Around Campus

Real-world evaluation

The Evaluation Cafe scheduled for Nov. 20 has been canceled. In its place will be a program at noon, Wednesday, Nov. 21, in 4405 Ellsworth on “Real World Evaluation: Working Under Budget, Time, Data and Political Constraints” with Jim Rugh, formerly of Care International.

Final research workshops set

The final two workshops offered this fall by the Office of the Vice President for Research will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on two Wednesdays in the Bernhard Center’s Faculty Dining Room.

First up will be “Developing an Evaluation Plan for Your Project” Nov. 28. It will be followed by “Agency Updates—NEA and NEH” Dec. 5. Register at www.wmich.edu/research/workshop-registration.

2007 United Way campaign

WMU entered the final stages of its 2007 United Way campus campaign with a sense of accomplishment this week.

Faculty, staff, emeriti and retirees have contributed $232,671 in gifts and pledges, exceeding the initial $215,000 goal, and donations continue to pour in daily.

“The WMU campaign has been an overwhelming success,” says United Way campaign associate Craig Smith, “We hope to see the giving continue as long as there are people in our community who are experiencing hardships.”

The campus community is invited to celebrate the success of this year’s campaign, from 3 to 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Refreshments will be provided, and a raffle will be held for everyone who turns in pledge cards to the President’s Office by Friday, Nov. 16.

“The response we received this year from WMU faculty, staff, emeriti and retirees has been more than generous,” Smith says. “The sound leadership and investment of time and effort by President Dunn, Bob Smith, RFC, and 367 WMU donors who increased the amount of their gifts from last year. More than 600 faculty, staff, emeriti and retirees have contributed to this year’s campaign.

PSSO schedules holiday social

The reservation deadline is Friday, Nov. 30, for the Professional Support Staff Organization’s annual holiday social event. The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, in the Fetter Center. It will include a buffet lunch, and the community emphasis will be on the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. Monetary donations and nonperishable food items will be accepted. The cost to attend is $12 for members and $13.50 for nonmembers. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit www.wmich.edu/psso for details.

Dafur refugee fund-raiser set

A public dance to raise money for displaced refugees from the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, will be held from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites in downtown Kalamazoo. The event is sponsored by WMU’s Peace Jam Mentors with the support of such organizations as the Radisson, radio station WFGR 103.3 FM and the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.


Fetter plans lunch with Santa

The Fetter Center invites all WMU faculty and staff to sign up for a family buffet “Luncheon with Santa” from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. The cost is $8 for those 10 and under and $13.50 for those 11 and up. Call 387-3232 to reserve a table. Complete event details, including menu items, are available online at www.wmich.edu/fetterechlaus/holiday_luncheon.html.

Latvian ministers recognize staffer

Dace Copeland, College of Aviation, has received a Certificate of Commendation from the Republic of Latvia’s cabinet ministers for her work as chair of the World Federation of Free Latvians Education Board. The honor was awarded during the ministers’ Oct. 30 meeting in recognition of her significant work in helping maintain the Latvian language and culture outside of the Republic of Latvia.

The Cabinet of Ministers is Latvia’s highest executive body. Its Certificate of Commendation expresses the republic’s recognition of outstanding contributors in the fields of economics, science, education, preventative health, local government, culture, sport, national defense and politics. Copeland has been a WMU employee since 1982. She received Latvia’s Cross of Recognition in 2005.

Emeritus receives national honor

Arlen Gullickson, former Evaluation Center director and emeritus in counselor education and counseling psychology, received the Alva and Gunnar Myrdal Award for Cumulative Contributions to Evaluation Practice during the annual American Evaluation Association conference Nov. 7-10.

The award is given to an evaluator whose contributions to the field of evaluation have been substantial, sustained over a number of years and cumulative.

The AEA is a professional association of evaluators devoted to the application and exploration of program evaluation, personnel evaluation, technology and many other forms of evaluation. It has some 5,000 members representing all U.S. states and more than 60 foreign countries. Gullickson, an emeritus researcher in the Evaluation Center, served the center as director from 2002 until his retirement this past June.

Educator part of U.S. delegation

James Bosco, emeritus in educational studies and WMU coordinator for the Kalamazoo Promise, is an invited member of a U.S. delegation that is visiting Scandinavia Friday through Saturday, Nov. 9-17. The delegation of senior U.S. educators and policymakers is focusing on the role of technology in improving teaching and learning in Scandinavian education systems.

The trip’s organizer, the Consortium for School Networking, has organized the trip because it ranks high on international education comparisons and use of technology in educational institutions. Delegation members are participating in a series of high-level talks with key members of the Finnish, Danish and Swedish ministries of education.

For sale—

Two pairs of Boston DSi 460 in-wall speakers. 6 1/2” woofer and 1” tweeter. $225 per speaker. Asking $100 a pair. Call Deanne Molinari, 345-3467.
Provost search begun; three input forums set

The national search for WMU’s next provost and vice president for academic affairs has just been launched, and WMU community members are encouraged to meet with the Provost Search Committee next week and provide input on the qualities needed in the University’s next provost.

The committee has scheduled three hour-long public forums at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, in 157-159 Berhard Center to gain campuswide input.

The 17-member committee is headed by Dean Earl Washington, College of Health and Human Services. The group was appointed by President John M. Dunn and is being assisted by an executive search firm from Atlanta.

A Web site has been set up at www.wmich.edu/provostsearch to provide information on the search process and offer a means of contacting the search committee.

Waldo retains status as Michigan Documents Depository Program library

Waldo Library is among only 11 libraries in the state to be designated a Michigan Documents Depository following an extensive revision of the depository program earlier this year.

The Michigan Documents Depository Program, operated by the Library of Michigan, is the primary way the state disseminates information to its citizens. Under the revision, the depository libraries have been reduced from 54 to 11, while the primary format for acquiring and preserving state documents has been changed from print to electronic media.

As one of the 11 libraries that successfully bid to retain its depository designation, WMU’s Waldo Library will continue receiving physical copies of Michigan’s core documents as well as documents that are still issued in print form.

Michael McDonnell, head of Waldo Library’s government documents and map section, notes that most state publications are now digital rather than print publications, and a growing number of state documents are only being published on the Internet.

Although the new depository program concentrates on preserving digital documents, McDonnell says it also includes more emphasis on outreach, training and education, with depository libraries playing a bigger role in those three areas.

“In light of many recent events at both the state and federal levels, citizen interest in the workings of their government has risen,” McDonnell says. “It’s important for libraries to keep working to make government information easily available to all of us. We hope that the new Michigan Documents Depository Program will focus on education as well as access to help in this effort.”

In addition to being a state depository library, Waldo Library also is a depository for federal documents. Federal holdings consist of a collection of paper, microfiche and CD-ROM copies of publications from the executive, judicial and legislative branches of government. Most of this collection dates from 1963, the same year Waldo was designated as a Selective Depository Library, Waldo Library also is a state documents depository for federal documents. Federal holdings consist of a collection of paper, microfiche and CD-ROM copies of publications from the executive, judicial and legislative branches of government. Most of this collection dates from 1963, the same year Waldo was designated as a Selective Depository Library.

In addition, the library became a depository for United States Geological Survey maps in 1969 and its Archives and Regional History Collections was designated by the Michigan Historical Commission in 1962 as a State Archives repository for the public records of 12 counties in southwest Michigan.

Trustees approve three faculty, two staff retirements

The retirements of three faculty members and two staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Oct. 12 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of two staff members.

All of the faculty-member retirements are from the branch campus in Berrien Springs.

The three faculty members whose names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are:

Mary Jo Peterson, associate professor of family and consumer sciences, 16-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2008; Peter J. Schmitt, professor of history, 43 years, effective April 30, 2008; and Ronald J. Winter, associate professor of health, physical education and recreation, 38-1/2 years, effective April 26, 2008.

The staff-member retirements approved were for: Joyce L. DeRight, director of admissions and advising for the College of Education, 35-1/2 years, effective Jan. 25, 2008; and Richard A. Reames, director of the Paper Pilot Plant, 18-1/2 years, effective Feb. 11, 2008.

The staff members whose resignations were accepted are: Nicole C. Bingham, assistant director of Student Activities and Leadership Programs, effective Sept. 6, and Ann L. Klobucar, medical technologist in the Sincduse Health Center, effective Sept. 28.

Faculty invited to branch out by teaching at branch campuses

Extended University Programs has issued a call for proposals from faculty members interested in teaching at WMU’s branch campuses.

Proposals for course and program offerings are being accepted for fall 2008 and should be submitted by 4 p.m. Nov. 30. Those submitting proposals will receive a response no later than Tuesday, Jan. 15.

EUP is seeking to expand academic offerings at the University’s branch campuses in Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Muskegon, Southwest Michigan (the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph area), and Traverse City.

The effort aims to expose off-campus students to more of the University’s exemplary faculty members. To encourage faculty members to consider signing up, a group of incentives has been assembled called the EUP Advantage.

The advantage includes a revenue share for an instructor’s academic department and associated college as well as scholarships for students who enroll in the new offerings. Specific delivery locations will depend on the courses and potential student interest in the subjects being taught.

Faculty members may develop offerings that explore creative delivery modalities or focus on more traditional programming, such as special topics courses and summer or weekend institutes or programs.

Trustee search begun; three input forums set

The search for WMU’s next trustee and vice president for academic affairs has just been launched, and WMU community members are encouraged to meet with the Trustee Search Committee next week and provide input on the qualities needed in the University’s next trustee.

The committee has scheduled three hour-long public forums at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, in 157-159 Ber-hard Center to gain campuswide input.

The 17-member committee is headed by Dean Earl Washington, College of Health and Human Services. The group was appointed by President John M. Dunn and is being assisted by an executive search firm from Atlanta.

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The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and 5 years of service during November.

35 Years—Mary E. Ramlow, Evaluation Center, and David B. Schneider, physical plant-maintenance services.

30 Years—Bonnettea K. Kibby, physical plant-building, custodial and support services.

25 Years—David Bonselaar, physical plant-maintenance services, and James R. Hult, public safety.

20 Years—Patty J. DeLoach, Africana Studies; Victoria Kennedy, physical plant-maintenance services; Thomas A. Kortine, public safety; Johnny L. Paige, Berhard Center; Cheryl P. Roland, university relations; Nicholas Stoken, physical plant-landscape services; and Laurie A. White, information technology.

15 Years—Melinda Lockett, College of Health and Human Sciences, and Jacqueline J. VanZelst, public affairs and administration.

10 Years—Kevin Boot, physical plant-building custodial and support services; David Evans, information technology; Gary J. Miron, Evaluation Center; Suzanne J. Nagel-Bennett, Division of Student Affairs; Anantha K. Sankey, physical plant-maintenance services; Arnold S. Taylor, information technology; and Jonathan Wessell, information technology.

5 Years—Glen E. Harris, campus facility development; Vance G. Harris, public safety; Patricia A. Knight, College of Health and Human Services; and Rebecca A. Spanjer, College of Education.
Human Resources

Faculty positions are now being posted and processed online using the same system used for the past six months for staff positions.

Human Resources will be scheduling training sessions on the system, which was developed and implemented by a campus team over about a year to ensure a smooth transition. The team was composed of Michele Cole, College of Education; Tammy Miller, institutional equity; and Tanya Bellamy, Krista Cekola, Christen Crowley and Mary Jo Ward, Human Resources.

Visit www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu for more information and instructions for using the online application system.

Annual Turkey Trot 5K race is Thanksgiving tradition

One of the state’s longest running races will be held on campus at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 17.

The event, the 44th Turkey Trot 5K road race, is a 3.1-mile run/walk through the WMU campus that begins outside the east entrance to the Student Recreation Center.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, runners are encouraged to bring a canned food donation to the race to benefit a local food charity. Runners may still register for the race for $20 at the recreation center’s indoor tennis courts the morning of the event.

The race moved this year from Thursday evening to Saturday morning due to an increase in community participation. But timing is not the only change that’s occurred over the years. Initially, the winning prize for an individual was a duck and the second prize was a chicken. By the 1960s, the third prize of a dozen eggs was added. The race also started out much shorter at a mile and a half.

For more information about this year’s race and awards, visit the University Recreation Web site at www.src.wmich.edu.

Governor recognizes CFA

Past recipients of Michigan’s “Guvvy” awards include playwright Arthur Miller; actor Elmore “Dutch” Leonard; authors James Earl Jones and Lily Tomlin; filmmakers Jerry Bruckheimer and Lawrence Kasdan; jazz violinist Regina Carter; and Motown icons, Aretha Franklin, Smokey Robinson and the Four Tops.

On Campus with Gordon Bolar

I know everyone doesn’t live for fund drives, but I like the energy and enthusiasm that came with them and I really enjoy the chance to interact with our volunteers and get feedback,” says Gordon Bolar, development director for WMUK-FM, the University’s public radio station.

Bolar’s main responsibilities are coordinating WMUK’s marketing efforts and semianual pledge drives as well as strengthening the station’s relationships with its volunteers and community partners.

A longtime listener, viewer and supporter of public broadcasting, Bolar began his professional career as a college-level theatre teacher, then worked as the performing arts coordinator for the Louisiana State Arts Council. He became professionally involved in public broadcasting after moving to Alaska and volunteering for a public radio station in Sitka.

“I experienced just how important this service is to people in that state and around the country,” Bolar says.

As a result, he spent the next 11 years working in development at public radio and TV stations—the first nine in Alaska and the next two in Grand Rapids, Mich. Next came an eight-year stint as development director for the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. But Bolar returned to his public broadcasting roots in January 2000, when he joined WMUK.

“There’s a real community feeling here. People in this community support the institutions they treasure. They write the checks and they volunteer,” he says. “The fit between WMUK and the community is amazing. We partner with many organizations, and people appreciate the arts, news and other programming we provide. We serve our listeners and they support us.”

WMUK also benefits from an outstanding staff with many years of longevity and experience, Bolar adds, noting that many staff members are musicians.

“They’re not just a disembodied presence behind the microphone,” he says. “They’re immersed in the life and keep their skills up as performing artists.”

Bolar lives in Kalamazoo with his wife, Ely. He spends most of his free time either golfing and fishing, or “thinking about” golfing and fishing.