Coffee shop open in Bronco Mall

Beaner's Coffee has opened with full beverage service in temporary accommodations in the Bernhard Center's Bronco Mall. Hours for the newest mall store are weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The permanent home for Beaner's is under construction directly behind the temporary spot and will open with full service, including pastries, later this summer.

Western News June 21, 2007
For and about WMU faculty and staff

Collaboration saves campus bus service

WMU students will continue to enjoy the same level of bus service they've had in recent years, thanks to a new public-private partnership hammered out in late May.

"We've preserved the total package. The major change in bus service students will see this fall will be a slightly different look to some of the buses they ride," says Lowell P. Rinker, business and finance. "With a lot of student input and terrific collaboration between Kalamaazoo Metro Transit and the WMU staff, we've managed to put together a bus package that even enhances the service level a bit and still stays within the fiscal constraints we outlined at the beginning of this process."

The new arrangement will bring the private bus firm Indian Trails into the picture to provide service around the main campus and transportation to and from the Parkview Campus. The frequency on those routes will increase.

Metro Transit will continue service on the Solon-Kendall and Lafayette routes as well as the Lovell and West Michigan routes, and students will continue to have free systemwide access on Metro Transit buses. Metro Transit will also continue service to the College of Health and Human Services and provide shuttle service for football and basketball games. Completion of the Metro Transit portion of the arrangement is pending approval by the Kalamaazoo City Commission.

Rinker says the results of a student ridership survey his staff helped student groups conduct made it clear just how critical many students view the service provided under the current contract.

He notes the deal negotiated is for a one-year period, which will give the University and its transit partner an opportunity to make adjustments at the end of the initial contract. Rinkers says the new agreement brings some immediate changes to WMU business offices, which will now be responsible for administrative support for all on-campus bus routes.

Haenicke revives colorfully attired picnic for international students

Despite near 90-degree heat, dozens of international students from some 16 nations joined Interim President Diether H. Haenicke for a picnic June 15 at the Gilmore House. Haenicke, decked out in Bavarian attire, chatted with many attendees, including, from left, Hulin Lee of Malaysia, Marina Stasran of the Ukraine and Israel, and Was Nguyen of Vietnam. With the end of his second presidency fast approaching, Haenicke revived a campus tradition he began during his first 13 years at the helm—inviting international students to attend a picnic with the president and wear the traditional clothing of their home nations. (Photo by John Jacko)

Michigan educators honor longtime WMU administrator

Provost Janet L. Pisaneschi is the 2007 recipient of the Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award from Michigan's American Council on Education. Michigan Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education.

During a June 12 awards ceremony in Lansing, Mich., Pisaneschi became only the sixth Michigan woman to receive the coveted annual award created to "recognize women who have distinguished themselves by providing outstanding leadership to women in their institutions, in their profession and in society at large."

Pisaneschi served for 17 years as dean of WMU's College of Health and Human Services before agreeing to serve for a year in her current post. She will retire at the end of this month. Pisaneschi was lauded for the role she played in leading the health and human services college to national recognition for the quality of its program; for leading the creation of WMU's Unified Clinics, which serve the West Michigan community; and creating WMU's Bronson School of Nursing. She was also praised for recruiting other strong women to serve in leadership roles, and for her own distinctive leadership style.
Performance space named for former theatre chair

The Multiform Theatre in the Gilmore Theatre Complex has been designated the “D. Terry Williams Theatre,” marking Williams’ many contributions to both the WMU and Kalamazoo communities.

The new name, as well as the privately funded D. Terry Williams Endowment for Theatre Student Enrichment, was announced during a May 25 celebration of Williams’ 25-year career at WMU.

Williams joined the theatre department in 1982 as chair and held this post until returning to the faculty in 2004. He oversaw the department during its rise to the ranks of America’s top undergraduate training programs and the dramatic enhancement of its reputation in theatre circles around the world. In addition, the unit Williams led for so long has now been selected for the American College Theatre Festival’s regional competition more times than any other university in Michigan.

Off-campus and distance learning units recombined

Two units that primarily serve off-campus students are being reunited into a single administrative unit, effective immediately.

The Extended University Programs division, which oversees courses offered at eight branch campuses around Michigan, and Academic Technology and Instructional Services, which offers online courses, have been realigned, with ATIS brought under the EUP administrative structure.

The two academic units were united prior to 2003. Bringing them together again is expected to create a more seamless and cohesive organizational structure that will enhance the University’s ability to serve audiences away from the Kalamazoo campus.

Craig Kaml, ATIS director since 2002, will continue to head online efforts and will report to Darrell Johnson, EUP dean.

Doctoral fellowships awarded

Four doctoral students have been named recipients of Dissertation Completion Fellowships for the 2007-08 academic year.

The Graduate College announced the fellowships in May.

The four award recipients, along with their departments and faculty advisor, are: Travis Bruce, history, Larry Simon advisor; Arus Harutyunyan, a native of Armenia, political science, Emily Hauptmann advisor; Gale Newell, English, Kathleen Newell advisor; and Nathanael O’Reilly, English, Gwen Tarbox advisor.

Economist wins federal grant

Susan Pozo, economics, is the co-recipient of a $138,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institutes of Health to study “Remittances and Risk: Evidence from Mexican Migrants.” Pozo spent the 2006-07 academic year as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Michigan. The film, titled “Vol. 3. Illegal Art,” was produced by the duo as part of the “Copyright, Culture (remixed)” series. The series is a volume set of short films that explores the impact that increasingly restrictive copyright laws have on fair use and the creation of culture.

The “Illegal Art” episode highlights the traveling art show “Illegal Art: Freedom of Expression in the Corporate Age.” It was among the Michigan films featured at the festival, which celebrates independent film and filmmakers and is one of the leading destination film festivals in the Midwest.

Pozo will be working with Catalina Amuedo Dorantes of San Diego State University, who received a doctoral degree from WMU 1998. Pozo will examine how the repatriated earnings of immigrant workers are influenced by risks they face. Pozo spent the 2006-07 academic year as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Montevideo in Uruguay, examining remittances issues in South America. Her current research also focuses on precautionary saving, insurance and migration, and measurement of currency crisis.
Four staff members earn annual Make a Difference awards

Four exceptional employees have received WMU’s annual Make a Difference award, which comes with a $1,000 prize.

In addition to the cash prize, the four will receive framed certificates and be honored at a July 25 luncheon.

The 2007 award recipients are: Luann Bigelow, accountancy; Frances Buell, physical plant-landscape services; Laura Ciccantell, Academic Support Center; and Margaret Springer, College of Health and Human Services.

The Make a Difference awards recognize WMU’s most outstanding staff employees — those whom each of our faculty and staff members would like to obtain feedback from due to their generosity and creativity of their time and talents, making the University an even finer place to work and study.

Make a Difference is a campuswide recognition program for staff members. Up to 15 semianual award winners are selected each fall and spring. Each year’s top four annual award winners are selected from among those year’s semianual winners.

More information about the Make a Difference award program is available online at www.wmich.edu/makeadifference.

Board of Trustees accepts retirements, resignations of numerous faculty, staff members

The retirements of six faculty members and nine staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its June 7 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of six faculty members.

Five of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeriti status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Paul J. Eenigenburg, professor of mathematics, 39-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31, 2008; Diane B. Hamilton, professor of nursing, 14 years, effective May 1, 2008; Alan C. Isaac, professor of political science, 41-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2008; Willie Mae O’Neal, assistant professor of University libraries, 19 years, effective May 31; and Lindsey Willhite, assistant professor of foreign languages, 42-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2008.

The other faculty member retiring is S. Hossein Mousavinezhad, professor of electrical and computer engineering, 25 years, effective June 30.

The staff members retiring are: Janet S. Callahan, administrative specialist in the College of Health and Human Services, 30 years, effective July 2; Dorothy M. Davis, custodian in physical plant-building, 25 years, effective June 30; and nine staff members were approved by the Board of Trustees.

Additional resignations and effective dates of retirement are:

- The faculty members resigning are: Alberta M. Bee, instructor of nursing, effective April 8; Callahan; Orta; Potgiesser; and Washburn.

- The fourth annual Steve Zegree Vocal Jazz Camp will be held Sunday through Friday, June 24-29, and will feature free, public performances nightly on campus and in downtown Kalamazoo. Monday through Thursday, camp participants will appear on stage at the Union Cabaret and Grill, 125 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. Performances take place between 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. There is no cover charge and all reservations are necessary. The camp’s free closing concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

- WMU also will host the ninth annual Corps de Ballet International Teacher Conference June 24-28. Notable participants will include a guest master teacher at the Juilliard School, an international dance writer, a digital media specialist and a composer and dance scholar.

- The conference will encompass a wide range of master classes, presentations, panel discussions and workshops dedicated to gaining perspective on the art of classical ballet in the 21st century. For more information, visit www.corps-de-ballet.org.
On Campus with Kim Smith

Kim Smith applies herself at work.
As an application processor in the Office of Admissions, Smith deals with dozens of details day in and day out.

“The best part of my job is that I get to talk to parents, students, high school counselors—a lot of different people,” Smith says. “It’s always fun to tell them, ‘Yes, you’ve been accepted.’ You can hear on the other end of the phone that they’re so excited about coming to Western.”

Before that day arrives though, Smith has to make sure the applicants she assists have submitted all the necessary materials and meet WMU’s entrance requirements. She also has to send out checklists, request transcripts and incorporate each student’s data into Banner, the student information system.

“By the end of the day, I’ve been staring at a computer screen so long I can’t see anymore,” Smith jokes. “The real challenge is in the fall, when tons of applications are coming in. We’re trying to get all of the applications processed in a timely manner, and parents and students are calling to learn the status of them.”

Smith came to WMU in 1981 as a secretary in the housing office. She joined the Graduate College two years later and worked her way up to processing applications and conducting graduation audits.

When she moved to the admissions office in 1994, Smith was working part time while raising a daughter and two sons. Then three years ago, daughter Rachel applied to WMU and was accepted. Smith put in an application too, and landed her current post as a full-time undergraduate applications processor.

“Admissions is the first department people talk to, so I try to give callers good service,” she says, adding that her unit is a good place to work. “I supervise some student workers, and it’s neat that I’ve gotten to know them. We also have a great professional staff. We work hard, but we have a lot of fun.”

Smith lives in Scotts with her husband, Rob. She’s active in her church, enjoys gardening and camping, and “loves hanging out with friends and family.” That family connection includes her cousin, WMU staffer Gail Kurtz, who encouraged Smith to seek employment at WMU more than 25 years ago.

University trustees take action on variety of issues during last month’s board meeting

Members of the Board of Trustees acted on a range of items during their June 7 meeting, including various personnel items.

Trustees approved the appointments of Ajay Samant as associate dean of the Haworth College of Business, effective July 1, and Susan Caulfield as director of academic collective bargaining, effective July 1. Samant replaces David Burnie, who will be returning to the finance faculty. Caulfield replaces Jay Wood, who was tapped as interim chair of statistics, effective July 1.

The other chairs approved are: David Ede, comparative religion, effective Aug. 1; William S. Kern, economics, effective July 1; Timothy McGrew, philosophy, effective July 1; and Mercedes Tasende, Spanish, effective July 1. The board also OK’d Gary Mathews as interim director of social work, effective July 1, and David Cohen as director of music with tenure, effective July 1.

In addition, trustees approved a minor in Arabic as well as combined two existing math programs to create a Master of Science in Applied and Computational Mathematics. They also promoted and granted tenure, effective with the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year, to scores of faculty members. These scholars are listed in June stories posted online at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/links/archive.

Exchange


For sale—21-year-old home on quiet street near campus. One and one-half stories, three bedrooms, two baths, granite/cherry throughout, highly energy efficient, Kalamazoo schools. $146,500. Call 345-7488 or (269) 353-0897.

For sale—Four-bedroom traditional home one mile west of campus. One and one-half baths, 1560 sq. ft., two-car attached garage, solar heating panel, air conditioning, 2-year-old roof, new water heater. Large, beautifully landscaped back yard. One-family owned, well maintained, 42 years old. Near Arcadia school. Call 375-2569.