WMU archaeologists have been getting the dirt on residents of an 18th-century trading post, and members of the public are invited to see what they’ve dug up.

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project has set an open house from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24, to highlight the history and archaeology of Fort St. Joseph, a mission and French fur trading post in Niles, Mich.

In addition, Michigan history teachers are invited to gain hands-on archaeology experience by enrolling in a week-long class being held at the excavation site from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 18-22.

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, Fort St. Joseph Museum and Support the Fort, a nonprofit organization focused on preserving the fort’s history.

Thousands of artifacts have been found at Fort St. Joseph, which was occupied by the French from 1691 to 1761 and the British from 1761 to 1781. (Photo courtesy of the Department of Anthropology)

WMU, IBM team up to build skills required in 21st century

The Haworth College of Business and IBM announced a joint effort May 21 that will provide WMU students with free information technology resources to help them build skills required in the 21st-century workplace and allow them to mentor area high school students in the use of emerging online tools known as Web 2.0 technologies.

The initiative will provide students and teachers with a wide range of free IBM software and resources designed to build service-oriented IT and open-standards skills. The Department of Business Information Systems will use the software resources of the IBM Academic Initiative to strengthen IT education in the Haworth College of Business.

WMU faculty members are developing a new service-oriented IT education curriculum that supports the study of business intelligence, business report writing and process analysis, and modeling. When completed, these courses will be rolled out to students majoring in IT, business, accountability and marketing. Working together, IBM and WMU will help students build an integrated mix of skills that they can apply in real-world business environments.

In addition to enhancing the instruction for WMU students, IBM and WMU are teaming up to encourage local high school students to study information technology at the collegiate and post-graduate levels. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs requiring science, engineering and technical training will increase by 51 percent through 2008. This increase could lead to six million job openings for scientists, engineers and technicians.

To help students take advantage of this growing opportunity, Tom Rienzo, business information systems, initiated an IT tutoring program to connect WMU freshmen with local high school students at Kalamazoo Central High School. These informal, small-group tutoring sessions are designed to help high school students develop technology skills using Web 2.0 technologies. Through this program, high school students can also build advanced technology skills such as managing wikis, blogs and online networking programs.

“Since IBM has leadership around Web 2.0 technologies, we are looking to leverage the software resources from IBM’s Academic Initiative to expand our high school tutoring program,” Rienzo said.

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Trade with China, Asia eyed

The fourth “Facing East/Facing West Conference” will be held at the Fetzer Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, June 15, and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 16. The conference is the final event in the South Asia and China Education Program, funded in 2005 by a $160,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to the Haworth College of Business.

Directing the grant program and the concluding conference are Mustraq Luqmani and Zahir Qanshali, marketing and Roger Tang, the Upjohn Chair in Business Administration. The three will be among the conference presenters along with colleagues from WMU and other U.S. and Canadian universities as well as several key Michigan business leaders in the international arena.

The cost to attend the full event is $120 per person and includes receptions, two lunches, one dinner, cultural performances, refreshments, parking and a copy of the proceedings. The fee to attend only Friday’s keynote speaker sessions and luncheon is $50 per person. For more information or to download the conference brochure, visit www.hcob.wmich.edu/few.

Discounts offered for sports camps, Miller shows

One of the many benefits of being a WMU faculty or student member or student is receiving discounts on many of the special events that take place on campus.

As an example, children of faculty and staff members get reduced rates for summer sports camps.

This year, nine varsity athletic teams are sponsoring youth camps, and athletic teams are sponsoring discounts for summer sports camps.

For more information, visit www.michiganathletics.com/sports/camps.html.

Program geared for diabetics

Podiatric Tamara Whitaker of Kalamazoo will be the featured speaker for the second lunch-hour program sponsored this month by the WMU Diabetes Support Group. Whitaker’s talk will begin at noon Wednesday, June 20, in the conference room of the WMU/United Clinics, 1000 Oakland Drive. The free program is open to the public, and attendees are welcome to bring brown bag lunches.

WMU to showcase Gibbs House

The Gibbs House for Environmental Research and Education, 4503 Parkview Ave., will be open to the public from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 23. This will be the first time WMU showcases its model environmental home on the Lee Baker Farm.

The free event will feature tours of the property, music, refreshments and demonstrations of projects undertaken by 17 WMU Undergraduate Fellows who have participated in increasing the farm’s environmental sustainability. The demonstrations will cover topics ranging from energy efficiency and home auditing to urban gardening and solar greenhouses.

Visit www.wmich.edu/env/gibbshouse for more information.

Marketing group honors profs

During WMU’s 42nd annual Food Marketing Conference this spring, Andrew A. Brogowicz, chair of marketing, received the 2007 Adrian Tripp Distinguished Service Award while Frank Gambino, marketing, won an Outstanding Food Marketing Alumni Award.

Brogowicz, who joined the faculty in 1979 and will be retiring June 30, chaired the Department of Marketing in the Haworth College of Business for the past 16 years. He also serves as director of undergraduate business programs for the college. Gambino, who received a bachelor’s and a doctoral degree from WMU, serves as director of Food and Consumer Package Goods Marketing Program.

Singer wows festival crowd

Allison Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies, captivated audiences and captured the People’s Choice award at the May 18-20 Wildflower Arts and Music Festival in Richardson, Texas, an award-winning, multi-day, eclectic arts and music festival that draws more than 50,000 attendees.

Downey is a vocalist, acoustic guitarist and songwriter. She performed two new songs at the festival’s Performing Songwriter Competition that are slated to be included on her upcoming album, which is scheduled for release this fall. She also took the stage later with her husband, bass player John Downey, psychologist. Visit www.allisondowney.com for more information about Downey, who came to WMU in 2002.

Dancer to do research in Paris

Megan Slayter, dance, has been awarded a Gilmore Emerging Artist grant to conduct research in Paris on choreographer and dance lighting pioneer Loie Fuller. Working with a research collaborator, she will recreate the third and final dance from Fuller’s original 1896 concert, “Lily of the Nile.”

That work, along with Fuller’s “Night” and “Fire Dance,” will be performed this summer in Chicago in partnership with Momenta Dance Company. This will be the first time the three works have been performed in more than 100 years, and the performance will be included on a new DVD documentary on Fuller. Slayter has worked in the Kalamazoo and Chicago areas as a lighting designer and stage manager. She was the technical production coordinator for the American Dance Festival in 2005.

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New office established to support WMU parents, families

WMU has established a new office to engage parents and assist them in proactively supporting their students’ growth, personal development and educational success.

The Office of Parent and Family Programs serves as a contact point, liaison and information gateway for all parents, guardians and other family members of WMU students. “We hope to forge stronger relationships with parents and families of our WMU students so they feel connected to the University and can help their students appropriately,” says Shari Glaser, director of parent and family programs. “We are here to help parents and families navigate through the University, so that if they don’t know who to talk to, support and guidance is readily available.”

Among the office’s first initiatives was the creation of the WMU Family Connection, a free and open support network that keeps families informed and involved in what is happening around campus. Upon registering their e-mail address, members will receive news and information of interest and invitations to special seminars, activities and events. The Family Connection replaces the former WMU Parents Association, which was open only to dues-paying members.

The creation of WMU’s Office of Parent and Family Programs, an extension of the Division of Student Affairs, was announced last fall by Interim President Dereth H. Haenicke. WMU veteran Shari Glaser was appointed as director of the office and its outreach initiatives after serving as executive secretary and assistant to two WMU presidents and two interim presidents. Glaser joined the University in 1994. She is a graduate of Kalamazoo College.

The Office of Parent and Family Programs is located in the Faunce Student Services Building. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/parents or contact Shari Glaser at shari.glaser@wmich.edu or 387-4820.

Service

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

35 Years—Lynn M. Ross, Lawson Ice Arena.
30 Years—Janet S. Callahan, College of Health and Human Services; Charles E. Hines Jr., accountancy; Blaine D. Kalafut, public safety; and Thomas L. VanValey, sociology.
25 Years—J. Patrick Forrest, accountancy; Francies Frazier, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; and Shirley A. Vernia, admissions.
20 Years—Roger A. DeKoekkoek, physical plant-maintenance services; William Jenkins, physical plant-maintenance services; and Demetrios I. Nearchou, accountancy.
15 Years—Lori M. Kison, University Libraries.
10 Years—Andrew Rudolph Bachmann, public safety; Earl Conner, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Gaurav J. Dave, College of Aviation; William Mark Feenstra, College of Aviation; Lisa J. Knutson, Auxiliary Enterprises; Pamela A. McCartney, chemistry; Jeffrey L. Nelson, College of Aviation; and Ronald H. Stewart, intercollegiate athletics.
Five Years—Trent Hines, physical plant-maintenance services; William Jenkins, West Hills Athletic Club; Paul L. Kirk, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; and Demetrios I. Nearchou, physical plant-maintenance services.

Retirement receptions slated

The campus community is invited to attend retirement receptions for two faculty and staff members.

John “Mick” Hanley, chair of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, will be honored for his 27 years of service to WMU at a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, June 29, in 4010 Health and Human Services Building.

Judith Phelps, administrative assistant in the Office of Admissions, will be honored for her 21 years of service to WMU at a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, in the Oaklands.

Jobs

Job opportunities at WMU are announced every Monday on the human resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm and the applicant Information Service phone line at 387-3669. Applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Some 8,000 visitors expected for student, parent orientation

More than 8,000 people, including beginning students and their parents and transfer students will be attending summer orientation sessions this summer.

About 3,500 incoming freshmen and more than 4,000 of their parents are expected to be on campus during this year’s 12 two-day summer orientation sessions, which began June 4 and will run through June 29. In addition, 600 transfer students will take part in one of four one-day transfer orientation sessions scheduled between June 1 and Aug. 10.

“Orientation allows us to showcase our campus community while providing important information to incoming students who are beginning one of the most exciting and challenging phases of their lives,” says Salatha Willis, orientation coordinator. “We want new students to start right and finish strong,” and our orientation programs are one of the many ways we help them do that.”

During the two-day sessions, freshmen get acquainted with campus and what WMU has to offer. They tour campus and take care of various academic business as well as have a chance to socialize. Parent orientation includes campus tours and meetings with faculty and staff.

For details or an activities schedule, visit www.wmich.edu/parents or contact Shari Glaser.

Obituary

Julie Reynolds Tabbia, retired manager of insurance services, died May 27 at Rose Arbor Hospice in Kalamazoo. She was 55.

Tabbia came to WMU in 1995 to help start a health insurance billing program at the Sincerdose Health Center and took a medical retirement in 2007. She found professional fulfillment in her career, which began at Borgess Medical Center and included employment at Kalamazoo Neurology.

A resident of Mattawan, Mich., Tabbia is remembered for her practicality, courage, love and devotion to family, and ability to brighten others’ lives by her laugh and beautiful smile.

A memorial service was held June 1 at Better Life Story Funeral Home in Kalamazoo. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of choice.

Exchange

For sale—Bright, cheery two-bedroom home on quiet street on Kalamazoo’s east side.

Low-maintenance and economical home sits on very large, attractive lot, has one and one-half-stall detached garage and one and one-half baths, three-seasonroom, and family room. Many upgrades. Call 372-7323.
Jean Decker covers a lot of ground helping keep WMU's main campus looking good in summer and cleared of snow in winter.

An equipment operator in landscape services, Decker is well versed in the light trucks and tractors needed to perform such tasks, as well as the large implements these vehicles push and pull.

"I like to make things look better, so I try to do a good job and get as much done as I can while I'm here," she says. "I may not plant the flowers, but I deliver them."

Decker came to WMU in 1978 as a custodian and moved to landscape services three years later. She gradually worked her way up to equipment operator, and has held this position for the past two decades.

The veteran staffer is familiar with everything from the brush truck to the Bobcat backhoe, not to mention heavy-duty add-on implements such as the wood chipper, leaf vacuum, grass mower, landscape rake, hydroseeder and snowplow.

When she's not running those types of mechanical devices, Decker works on the cement crew, helping install and repair sidewalks, and she puts her shovel to good use assisting with general landscaping and groundskeeping duties.

"Snowplowing is the most difficult part of my job because it can be stressful," Decker says. "You can't always see the sidewalks, and you have to be careful because of people walking and buried hydrants and other obstacles."

But doing her job on a college campus is a definite perk.

"It's nice to work with students and to see people from different walks of life," she says. "And the campus is a more enclosed area than say, the city of Kalamazoo, so you can really see what you've accomplished and take pride in it."

Although Decker admits to being a huge TV addict, she also enjoys swimming and fishing and spending time with her family, which includes two daughters, two stepdaughters, one grandson and five stepgrandchildren.

She lives on five acres in Schoolcraft with her husband Jeffrey, a gardener at WMU, along with a miniature dachshund named Barkley and a cat named Tommy. Her stepdaughter Renee Riggins is a custodian at the University. 

IBM initiative

Schoolteachers wishing to participate in the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project may sign up for Doing Archaeology, a joint class at the fort offered by WMU and the Fort St. Joseph Museum. During the class, students will learn how to conduct a site survey, excavation, data recovery, site re- condition, artifact analysis and historical reconstruction in a field setting.

For more about the open house or class, call Carol Bainbridge, Fort St. Joseph Museum director, at (269) 683-4702. Those wishing to earn academic credit for Doing Archaeology must register for ANTH 6902 through WMU's Extended University Programs. To register, visit www.eup.wmich.edu/courses/summer_ii_2007 or contact Nassaney at michael.nassaney@wmich.edu or 387-3981.

IBM initiative

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program," Rienzo says. "The WMU, high school connection is a timely approach to IT education that will not only attract talented high school students before entering college, but also speed up their learning experience in information technology by using emerging online tools."

IBM's Academic Initiative is a program offering a wide range of technology education benefits to meet the goals of most colleges and universities. IBM is working with partner schools that support open computing standards and seek to use open source and IBM technologies for teaching purposes, both directly and via the Internet. Partner schools receive free access to IBM software, discounted hardware, course materials, training and curriculum development.

"By incorporating the latest, cutting-edge technologies into its curriculum, WMU can enhance its coursework and also help develop technology talent that can benefit both the local and national economy," says Gina Poole, IBM vice president, innovation and university relations.

Employee groups hold elections

The Administrative Professional Association and Professional and Support Services Organization have elected new leaders.

• APA president, Michelle McLaughlin, registrar; vice president, Sue Oole, Lee Honors College; treasurer, Joe Oldenhall, physical plant-utilities; corresponding secretary, Wil Emmert, research; recording secretary, and Faith Wicklund, Miller Executive board—Jacqueline Angel, Sunde; George Broomell, information technology; Byron Glick, Academic Technology and Instructional Services; Lynda Hunt, development; and Sharon Van Dyken, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

• FSSO president, Carrie Soule, financial aid and scholarships; vice president, Kindess-Tat Ross, human resources; secretary, Celeste Glasscock, human resources; treasurer, and Nancy Johnson, investment and endowment management. Members-at-large—Jennifer Clements, social work; Terri Culver, accounting; Pearl DeVries, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Carol Morris-Mier, College of Education; and Arthur Smith, information technology.

On Campus with Jean Decker

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IBM initiative

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