Campus gearing up for 2006 homecoming

This year's homecoming celebration, "Get in the Game," includes a jam-packed list of exciting events from Sunday, Oct. 8, through Sunday, Oct. 14.

This 2006 celebration will culminate at 2 p.m. Saturday with the annual homecoming football contest, which will pit the WMU Broncos against the Northern Illinois University Huskies.

WMU students will get in the spirit by holding a Homecoming Kick Off event from 8 to 10 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9, near Goldsworth Valley Pond. The event will feature live music from Universal Records recording artist Big 10-4 and appearances by WMU mascot Buster Bronco and University cheerleaders as well as football players and coaches.

Students will help the community celebrate homecoming by staging two annual public events Friday, Oct. 13, the soap box derby at noon on Gilkinson Avenue in front of the Sidencuse Health Center and the Western Olympics at 3 p.m. at the Goldsworth Valley intramural fields.

Hundreds of University and community members will kick off Saturday's events by enjoying the annual Campus Classic race/walk, either as participants, volunteers or spectators. Other Bronco friends and fans will rev up for the gridiron contest by congregating in the corporate area of the tent village next to Waldo Stadium, while many alumni will gather at the Alumni Association PepFest being staged at Kanley track from noon to 1:30 p.m.

More information about homecoming events, including cost and registration details, is available at www.wmich.edu/homecoming.

Advisory group poised to start presidential search process

The first step in the process of finding a new president for WMU was announced Sept. 26 when Trustee Kennerth V. Miller disclosed the names of campus and community members who have agreed to be part of a special Presidential Search Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees.

The names of the 12 committee members are expected to be brought to a meeting of the full board Oct. 20.

"I am delighted with the caliber of the people who have agreed to serve and thankful to them for their willingness to devote the time needed to conduct this important search, the outcome of which will have a great impact on the future of our University," Miller said in a message to the campus community. "While it is impossible to have every organization represented on the committee, I believe we have an experienced, strong and broad-based representation of the campus and community."

Miller will lead the search and serve as chair of the committee, while Trustee Larry Tolbert will serve as vice chair.

The other committee members named, along with their affiliations, are: Rosana Alsaad, chair of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee; Wil B. Emmerd, president of the Administrative Professional Association; George A. Franklin, trustee emeritus; Andrew K. Hooley, vice president of the Western Student Association; Thomas L. Kent, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Mary D. Lagerway, president of the Faculty Senate; Larry Lueth, president of First National Bank; Robert G. Miller, associate vice president for community outreach; Cindee Quake-Rapp, chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy and of the Organization of Chairs, Heads and Directors; and Paul T. Wilson, president of the WMU Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Comments about the search may be sent by e-mail to board-of-trustees@wmich.edu.
Borish documentary premieres
A documentary film featuring Linda Borish, history and gender and women's studies, as executive producer and historian has had its premier. "Jewish Women in American Sport: Settlement Houses to the Olympics," was screened Oct. 1 at a Jewish community center in New Jersey and Oct. 5 at the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in New York state.

In this first-ever film about Jewish women in American sport from the 1800s through the 20th century, Borish shares her expertise and research on American women's sport history. Borish, a faculty member since 1991, is on the Jewish sports hall of fame's advisory committee and a research associate of the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute at Brandeis University.

Sauer named to editorial board
The American Psychological Association recently tapped Eric Sauer, counselor education and counseling psychology, to serve on one of its editorial boards. Sauer was named to the editorial board of the Counseling Psychologist, which is the official journal of the Society for Counseling Psychology, Division 17 of the APA. He directs WMU’s Center for Counseling and Psychological Services in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Stoltman awarded Aussie medal
The James Park Thomson Medal by the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, Australia, has been awarded to Joseph P. Stoltman, geography and the Mallinson Institute for Science and Education. The award recognizes Stoltman for his research and leadership in the professional fields of geography and education. It is named in honor of an Australian geographer and public servant who founded the geographical society in 1885.

The medal was presented by Thomson’s great granddaughter during a July ceremony in Brisbane, Queensland, after which Stoltman gave a public talk, speaking on “Public Views and Uses of Geography: Our Subject through Different Lenses.” Stoltman, a former geography department chair, came to WMU in 1971.

Swierenga gets Gilmore grant
The managing editor of New Issues Poetry & Prose has received an Emerging Artist Grant, which is funded by the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and administered by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo. Marianne Swierenga, English, was one of five Kalamazoo County artists to receive the award in recognition of their serious commitment to advancing their work and professional careers.
The Board of Trustees approves numerous retirements, resignations

The retirements of eight faculty members, three administrators and seven staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its July 14 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of eight faculty members and five administrators.

Six 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: William M. Cremin, anthropology, 31-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2007; Ronald W. Davis, history and vice provost for international programs and academic affairs budget officer, 41 years, effective June 30, 2007; Jorge M. Febles, Spanish and chair of Spanish, 26 years, effective June 30, 2006; Marie E. Gates, nursing and director of the Bronson School of Nursing, seven years, effective Aug. 1, 2007; Eldor C. Quandt, geography, 41-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31, 2006; and Visho B.L. Sharma, professor of arts and sciences, 40 years, effective Aug. 21, 2007.

The other two faculty members retiring are: Ann E. Soukup, Sindecuse Health Center, 15-1/2 years, effective May 30, 2006; and Kathleen Young, nursing, 12 years, effective May 1, 2007.

The staff members retiring are: Gilbert L. Douglas, physical plant, 19-1/2 years, effective July 31, 2006; Maria Jonaitis, Division of Multicultural Affairs, 33-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2006; Rita K. Keller, Student Activities and Leadership Programs, 15-1/2 years, effective May 31, 2006; Ann C. Panse, University Libraries, 21 years, effective Aug. 31, 2006; Becky L. Ryder, economies, 40 years, effective July 31, 2006; Ann E. Soukup, Sindecuse Health Center, 15-1/2 years, effective June 30, 2006; and Jei H. Yoo, University Libraries, 18 years, effective Aug. 31, 2006.

The faculty members resigning are: Paula S. Brush, sociology, effective July 30, 2006; Cynthia L. Curver, teaching, learning and leadership, effective July 30, 2006; Deborah Che, geography, July 30, 2006; Fang Chen, art, effective July 30, 2006; Evelyn M. Clinger, psychology, effective Aug. 31, 2006; and Ronald W. Davis, international history and support, 41 years, effective July 30, 2006; Natalie Marrone, dance, effective July 30, 2006; and Rachel B. Whaley, sociology, 36 years, effective October 21, 2007.

The other two staff members resigning are: Nicholas A. Andreadis, dean of Extended University Programs and academic affairs, effective May 22, 2006; and Natalie E. Morton, director of diversity recruitment and retention in the Graduate College, effective May 19, 2006.

DFS nominations due soon

The Distinguished Faculty Scholar Committee is seeking nominations for the 2006-07 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 20. Up to three awards may be made each year. Those selected during this cycle will be honored in several ways as well as receive a $2,000 honorarium that becomes part of their base salary.

The DFS awards are based on outstanding professional achievements. Wide recognition beyond WMU is essential. Eligibility criteria and nomination guidelines and forms are available online at www.wmich.edu/research/distinguished.html. For more information, contact Ernst A. Breisch, history, at 7-4590 or ebreisch@sbglocal.net.

Researchers garner $3.4 million to promote literacy

WMU researchers have been awarded a $3.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to promote literacy among pre-school children in the Battle Creek area.

The three-year grant will be used to partner with the Battle Creek Head Start program to develop five Early Reading First preschool “centers of excellence.” The centers will annually serve 380 kids ages 3 and 4, ensuring that the children learn the literacy skills necessary before they enter grade school. Of children in the program, one-fourth have special needs or are English language learners and 91 percent come from low-income backgrounds.

“The goal is to give children of poverty a better start in learning how to read, because reading is everything,” says Esther Neiwlin-Haus, reading project director. “If you get to third grade and can’t read, you don’t succeed in school. We want our children to experience early success in literacy so that they will succeed academically when they enter school.”

The WMU-led effort involves a partnership between the departments of Family and Consumer Sciences and Special Education and Literacy Studies. Neiwlin-Haus and co-principal investigators Karen Thomas, Shaila Rao and Kristal Ehrhardt, also will provide professional development for teachers.

Health and Wellness Fair set; flu mist to be administered

Students, faculty, staff and emeriti are invited to attend the 2006 Health & Wellness Fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, in the Student Recreation Center.

This free event is designed to increase awareness and utilization of available health programs, organizations and resources. More than 50 exhibitors from WMU and the greater Kalamazoo area will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about available health and wellness services and employee/retiree benefits.

Fair organizers hope the event encourages and supports commitments on the part of WMU students and employees to create, improve and sustain healthy lifestyles.

The fair will feature information on stress management, social wellness, sexual health, nutrition and diet, ergonomics, weight training and exercise. Services offered will include vision and hearing screening, healthy food samples and chair massages.

FluMist (live, intranasal influenza vaccine) and meningitis immunizations will also be administered at the fair’s vaccine clinic, either free of charge or at a cost of $24 and $93, respectively.

FluMist is approved for healthy children and adults from 5 through 49 years of age, including household contacts of most people at high risk for influenza complications. However, it is not recommended for people with some medical conditions, such as pregnancy, long-term health problems or weakened immune systems.

FluMist is being administered at the Health and Wellness Fair due to manufacturing delays of injectable influenza vaccine. To accommodate those unable to utilize FluMist, rain checks for flu shots will be issued at the fair.

At the event, all University employees and their age-12-and-older dependents who are covered by the WMU insurance program can receive the FluMist at no charge to the employee. The $24 full cost of the vaccination is being covered by the employee’s WMU insurance only at the fair, but this benefit coverage will also apply to those who receive rain checks for flu shots. Rain checks will qualify all holders, regardless of insurance, to obtain flu shots when they become available at a future on-campus vaccine clinic.

For more information about the fair, call (269) 387-1759.

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WMUK’s annual on-air fall pledge drive set to begin Oct. 14

WMUK, the public radio service of WMU, will begin its on-air fall pledge drive during “Weekend Edition” on Saturday, Oct. 14.

The station is encouraging listeners to pledge before, as well as during, the drive. “We hope listeners will respond to our pre-drive mailing to help us reach our goal of $210,000,” says Gordon Bolar, development director. “Listeners can also pledge online at www.wmuk.org on our secure server. We think this is a growing trend since more listeners are listening online, getting information online and registering their opinions online.”

Mail and online contributions have already helped WMUK make substantial progress toward its goal. A Web ticker on the station’s Web site will feature up-to-date pledge results, now and throughout the drive.

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During this year’s on-air drive, the station is placing increased emphasis on acquiring new members, which Bolar says will ultimately sustain the growth of WMUK and allow it to increase its services to the community.

Funds raised will help pay for acquisition costs of high-quality programs from National Public Radio and Public Radio International. The drive also will help cover costs associated with local and regional productions.

The station is enlisting the support of more than 80 volunteers to staff the phones during the drive. “Volunteers have been the backbone of WMUK pledge drives in the past,” Bolar says. “Our volunteers are vital to our success.”

On Campus with Patty DeLoach

“I say I have my hats sitting off to the side,” says Patty DeLoach, administrative assistant for both the Africana Studies and Women’s Studies programs, now the Gender and Women’s Studies Program.

DeLoach, a 19-year veteran staffer, joined Africana studies in 1995 and started splitting her time with women’s studies a couple of years later. For a while after that, she even wore a third hat, serving as the office staff for the American Studies Program.

Now back to her initial two roles, DeLoach is involved in advising, scheduling, budgeting and purchasing activities—“everything office staff does times two.”

She works closely with the teaching faculty for her units and spends considerable time helping students, particularly Africana studies majors and minors and gender and women’s studies minors.

She says the toughest part of her dual job is also the most enjoyable.

“The two areas have two different personalities and you have to get used to both of them. But it works well. The people I work with are all very good. They’ve never had a conflict over my time,” she says. “The new Africana studies director is wonderful, and Dr. Roaberg is absolutely awesome.”

DeLoach came to WMU in 1987 when her sister Marilyn Rowe, College of Arts and Sciences, alerted her to a part-time clerical post in the psychology department. The department chair liked her ability to multitask, and she was hired on full time. DeLoach, whose brother Brian Beridon is also a WMU staffer, spent four years with psychology and another four for what was then the campus-based Association for Behavior Analysis.

When not juggling her office hats, DeLoach’s main “hobby” is religious reading and study. “I’m very spiritual,” she says. “The Lord is first and foremost in my life.”

DeLoach resides in Kalamazoo and has two daughters, Amy and Amanda; two granddaughters, and two grandsons.

Fedotov wins Fulbright grant

Violist Igor Fedotov, music, has won a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research in his native Russia. Fedotov expects to return in July 2007.

The primary objective of his stay is to continue research on music written for viola and piano by 20th-century Russian-Soviet composers.

Fedotov joined the School of Music faculty in 1998. He is principal violist of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and has performed solo recitals throughout the United States and abroad.