University scares up a great weekend of homecoming celebration opportunities

Halloween is just around the corner, and the University is treating the campus and public to a weekend of exciting activities during its homecoming 2005 celebration. The celebration, which carries the theme “Around the World in 7 Days,” is a prelude to the annual homecoming football game, which this year pits the WMU Broncos against Kent State University at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29.

Many of the other activities taking place this weekend are free and open to the public.

- WMU students will be helping the community celebrate homecoming by participating in various zany contests Friday, Oct. 15, during the traditional Friday Festival. The free event will feature the soap box derby at noon on Ginkton Avenue in front of the Sincius Health Center, then move to Goldworth Valley for the Fritter Fest at 2 p.m. and Western Olymics at 3:30 p.m.

- Saturday’s activities will begin with the annual running of the Campus Classic, which is expected to attract as many as 1,500 runners and walkers to the central campus. The event begins at 8:15 a.m. with a 1K kids’ fun run and walk. At 9 a.m., the 5K will begin and end in front of the Bernhard Center. For more information or to register for the race, go online to www.wmich.edu/race.

- On game day, numerous Bronco fans will be revving up for the football contest by gathering in the corporate area of the tent village next to Waldo Stadium, while many others will gather at the Alumni Association’s PepFest. Due to the possibility of cold weather on Saturday, both the PepFest and annual Campus Classic race/walk awards ceremony have been moved indoors this year to the Bernhard Center.

Additional activities taking place throughout homecoming weekend include:

- The University Theatre production of “Proof” by David Auburn, which won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 27-29, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30, in the Multitorm Theatre of the Gilmore Theatre Complex.

- Alfred and Seymour’s hip-hop dancing and comedy at 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom.

- A concert by singer/pianist Ben Folds at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28, in Miller Auditorium.

- A reception and dinner program for the Class of 1955’s 50th Anniversary Reunion, 30 minutes after the football game Saturday, Oct. 29, in the Bernhard Center.

- The annual National Pan-Hellenic Council March Down at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, in Miller Auditorium.

- Hockey vs. Ohio State University at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, in Lawson Arena.

More information about the activities taking place at WMU during homecoming week, including whether admission fees will be charged, is available by visiting the WMU Homecoming Web site at www.wmich.edu/homecoming or the Events page in WMU News.

Program for gifted teens now calls honors college home

A program for gifted middle and high school students that serves 50 school districts in West Michigan has found a new home at WMU.

The Academically Talented Youth Program—known as ATYP—is now an official part of the Lee Honors College. The initiative annually serves about 150 students in eight Michigan counties with a combination of online courses and seminars offered on the WMU campus.

Students who come into the ATYP program as seventh-graders, typically are in the top 5 percent of their classes and are ready for college-level course work by the 10th grade. Typically, ATYP students will dual enroll in both high school and college courses for their last two years of high school
Public art that shocks is topic of annual Hamner lecture

Public art that sparks controversy and what such controversy reveals about American society will be the topic when Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Michael Kammen speaks at the University Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Kammen, who will deliver WMU’s annual H. Nicholas Hamner Lecture, will discuss “Visual Shock: Controversial Art in American History and Culture” in a free public lecture at 7 p.m. in 1005 Fetzer.

Kammen is the Newton C. Farr Professor of American History and Culture at Cornell University and the Cardozo Visiting Distinguished Professor at Yale University.

Part of Kammen’s talk will look at the 1960s as a pivotal point in the emergence of inconceivable or “in your face” art, says Mitch Kachun, history and coordinator of the Mary and Victor Northend Library. West Michigan specifically, the Grand Rapids community, was the scene of one such controversy in 1969, when a large sculpture by Alexander Calder, La Grande Vitesse, was installed in what is now known as Calder Plaza. The work, which generated significant controversy was the first public work of sculpture acquired with funds from the then-new National Endowment for the Arts.

Statistician to speak Nov. 3

Nationally known statistician Robert V. Hogg, professor emeritus at the University of Iowa, will visit WMU Thursday, Nov. 3, to speak about “Probability, Statistics, Gambling and Utility of Money and Insurance.”

Hogg’s talk is set for 4 p.m. in 1110 Rood and is sponsored by the Department of Statistics.

Hogg is the author of more than 70 research articles and five books, including one, “Introduction to Mathematical Statistics” written with Allen T. Craig of Iowa and WMU’s Joseph W. McKean.

These and many other campus events are described in greater detail on the WMU News Web site at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news.

Annual holiday Poinsettia sale details announced by PSSO

The annual Poinsettia holiday sale is now underway, and orders for the live plants will be taken through Friday, Nov. 18.

The Professional Support Staff Organization sponsors the sale and is taking orders for the plants in four colors—red, white, pink and marble. The cost is $9 per plant, and plants will be available for pick up from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1, in the Bernhard Center.

Order forms are being distributed on campus. Completed forms along with cash or check made out to PSSO must be returned to Celeste or check made out to PSSO must be returned to Celeste Glascok in human resources, 1300 Seibert, before 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18, to order Poinsettias in human resources, 1300 Seibert, mail stop 5217. For more information, contact Glascok at 7-3625.

Liu selected as journal editor

Yuanlong Liu, health, physical education and recreation, has been selected as the editor of the journal Measurement in Physical Education and Exercise Science, effective June 2006.

Liu, a WMU faculty member since 1998, is a fellow of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. In recent years, he has served as a member of the editorial board for MPEES, and he earned the journal’s “Reviewer of the Year” award in 2003. He also is a member of the editorial advisory board of the International Journal of Sport and Social Science.

The MPEES is a journal of the American Alliance of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and three organizations that fall under its auspices—the American Association for Active Lifestyles and Fitness, the American Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and the Measurement and Evaluation Council. The peer-reviewed quarterly journal was established in 1997.
Obituary

Gordon Smith, who managed Miller Auditorium for 16 years, died Oct. 8 in Ypsilanti, Mich. He was 75. Smith was the Miller manager from 1967 until 1983. The Kalamazoo native’s long career in the theatre industry also included several other West Michigan positions, including technical director and auditorium manager at Cheney Auditorium and technical and business manager for the Kalamazoo Community Youth Theatre. He also served as the general manager of the Greater Democrat Civic Center.

Smith was an honorary life member of the International Association of Auditorium Managers and a member of the International Society of Performing Arts Administrators.

Jobs

The following vacancies are currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by the Human Resource Services Department. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period and may contact a human resource services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 to hear the weekly Job Opportunity Program postings, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, from a Touch Tone phone.

For persons interested in faculty positions, there are openings in selected fields. A letter of application should be submitted to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

(R) Office Associate (term ends 6/30/2006; 13, Development, 05/06-4961, 10/24-10/31/05

(R) Paper Plant Operator, 15, Paper and Chemical Engineering and Imaging-Paper Pilot Plant, 05/06-4961 10/24-10/31/05

(N) Coordinator, Asylum Lake and Environmental Research, 16, Environmental Institute, 05/06-4967, 10/24-10/31/05

(N) Coordinator of Digitization Projects (term ends 9/30/06), 15, University Libraries, 05/06-4968, 10/24-10/31/05

N=New; R=Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Exchange

FOR RENT—Two- or three-bedroom apartment in downtown Kalamazoo. 1,200 square feet. Recently remodeled with huge, deluxe kitchen and bath. Hardwood and glass tile. Garage, laundry, dishwasher and air conditioning. $850 per month. Call (269) 998-3699.

MULTI-FAMILY SALE—Indoor multi-family garage sale at the Vineyards, 28201 Red Arrow Highway, Saturday, Nov. 5, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.


FOR RENT—Two-bedroom, two-bath duplex on West side close to campus. Beautiful kitchen with all appliances, including washer/dryer. No pets or smokers. Short term possible. Available Jan. 1. Call (269) 351-6527.

Service

The following employees are recognized for 35, 30, 25, 15, 10 and five years of service during October.

35 years—Joseph J. Odehnal, physical plant-utilities.

30 years—Gail Otis Birch, School of Music; Ruth A. DeYoung, Valley #2 Dining Service; and Diane A. Sovjes, Valley #1 Dining Service.

25 years—Ursula Barrett, Barnham Dining Service; and Dennis E. Boyle, Office of Information Technology.

20 years—Ruth A. Bosch, Sindecuse Health Center; Laverne Jones, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Patricia A. Putman, physical plant-building custodial and support services; William E. Rotgers, Haworth College of Business; Julie A. Scott, Office of Information Technology; Terri D. Stowers, University Libraries; and Lois J. Tolhurst, University Libraries.

Committee accepting proposals for campus cultural initiatives

The University Cultural Events Committee is accepting proposals for particular sport of activities, that will enhance the cultural environment of the WMU campus.

Proposals for fall and spring semester events are being accepted for consideration. Proposals may be submitted by students, faculty or staff. Each proposal must include all pertinent information and be endorsed by the head of the appropriate unit.

Application materials, including guidelines, preparation instructions and an application form, are available online at www.wmich.edu/cc. For further information, contact Carl Doubleday, the committee chair, at 7-4681 or carl.doubleday@wmich.edu.

WMU research aids people with communication disorders

Being able to say what you want to say when you want to say it is taken for granted by most people, but for people with severe speech impairments, communication is not so easy.

With that spirit in mind, WMU is leading a three-university research project with the help of a federal grant that will examine how people with severe communication impairments can communicate more effectively using voice output computers.

The grant, from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders of the National Institutes of Health, is for $340,000 for the first year, but subsequent funds for the next two years are expected to bring the total to nearly $1 million. The principal investigators are WMU, Kent State University and the University of Delaware will use the funding to test a model predicting the impact of voice output computer messages on the attitudes of public service providers. The model ultimately could lead to better design of assistive technology for people who rely on those computer systems for communication.

For the past five years, we have been experimenting with one type of voice output computer,” says Jan Bedrosian, speech pathology and audiology, who is the project’s lead researcher. “The computer allows for communication to be delayed in the conversation. As a second choice, the person could take the time to edit the message letter-by-letter and create the message anyway, even though it may be information or may be only partly relevant to that situation,” Bedrosian says. “When this happens, the person could choose to use the message anyway, even though it may be slightly ‘off,’ so that there won’t be a long delay in the conversation. As a second choice, the person could take the time to edit the message letter-by-letter and create a message to better fit the situation. With other choices of communication is always available.

In their previous NIH-funded project, the researchers developed a theoretical model that consists of a hierarchy of these types of message choices. In the current project, the research team will test how well this model holds up across a greater variety of message choices, settings and service providers.

Paper Tech Foundation meets today

The 48th annual meeting of the WMU Paper Tech Foundation is being held on campus today and tomorrow, Thursday, and Friday, Oct. 27 and 28.

The event will feature a keynote speech by James Works, president and chief operating officer of the George Group and author of “Fast Innovation,” a groundbreaking book that focuses on how to sustain market-leading growth through innovation.

This year’s meeting will include reunions for WMU paper engineering classes of 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985 and 1995. Current WMU students also will have a chance to talk with the industry leaders who are part of the foundation about internships, summer jobs and post-graduate employment.

FOR RENT—Two or three-bedroom apartment in downtown Kalamazoo. 1,200 square feet. Recently remodeled with huge, deluxe kitchen and bath. Hardwood and glass tile. Garage, laundry, dishwasher and air conditioning. $850 per month. Call (269) 998-3699.

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15 Years—Roy A. Middlebrooks, Bertrand Center Dining Service; Carolyn R. Noack, physical plant-recycling; Diane M. Sayers, Valley #2 Dining Service; Beth Wyant Stora, Sindecuse Health Center; Bryan K. Sutton, physical plant-maintenance services; Tony M. Thompson, physical plant-building custodial and support services; and Moon Walters, Bertrand Center Dining Service.

10 Years—Don R. Beyer, intercollegiate athletics; Susan Ann Nap, College of Arts and Sciences; Debra K. Stoyanoff, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; Kathryn A. Wright, geosciences; and Carrie Zimmerman, civil and construction engineering.

Five years—Aradhana Gupta, Development Office; Rainer B. Liebent, Sindecuse Health Center; Peggy L. Miller, human resources; Nancy S. Wilson, public safety; and Michael D. Wolfe, West Hills Athletic Club.

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On Campus with Penny Schellenberg

Whether steering a bus or being office manager for the Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations, Penny Schellenberg gets around. The former school bus driver and cashier has worked in seven areas since coming to WMU in 1987: cashering, alumni relations, the Registrar’s Office, Self-instructional Programs, study abroad, and environmental health and safety. Her last job change was in 2003, when after being laid off, she became administrative assistant in the Walker Institute.

“Except for the last one, all of those moves were voluntary and either a step up the ladder or a chance to work directly with students,” Schellenberg says. “But it’s turned out great. I love working at the institute, and I’m learning so many new people and offices around campus has helped me a lot in my current job.”

In addition to Schellenberg, the Walker Institute employs a director, four student employees and two interns. To keep the small unit running smoothly, Schellenberg is called upon to handle a variety of tasks, including supervising the student staff, doing the bookkeeping, and coordinating speaker visits.

She says the best part of the job is continually learning new things. “The reality of how harsh life was for slaves and many others has been an eye-opening,” she says. “We take it for granted that if it’s in a textbook, it’s true. It’s just amazing to me the things I thought I knew but really didn’t.”

Schellenberg lives in Scotts and enjoys spending time with her live grand-children as well as traveling and creating stained glass with her husband. The two have stayed in close touch with several international students and proudly note that the glass pieces they’ve presented to them and their families now hang in homes in India, Africa and other places around the world.

Campus visit

the faculties at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, who is the team chair, and Ralph J. Katerberg, associate professor of business administration at the University of Cincinnati.

WMU has been accredited by the North Central Association continuously since 1915. In 2001, a team of consultant evaluators visited to assess the University’s two-year self-examination, which is part of the regular reaccreditation process that occurs every 10 years. The visit resulted in WMU being re-accredited. In its final report, however, the 2001 team singled out institutional strategic planning and assessment of student academic achievement as particular areas of challenge for the institution and recommended a fall 2005 focused site visit to review progress on both fronts.

“Since that visit, the University has completed the revision of its mission and has been engaged in formulating a set of strategic goals and formalizing an assessment process designed to improve both student learning outcomes and the quality of our programs,” says Eileen Evans, vice provost for institutional effectiveness, who has coordinated the preparations for this month’s focused visit. “Since 2001, countless hours of effort have made us a stronger and more focused institution.”

Evans, whose office and responsibilities grew out of the recommendations of the 2001 site visit, says planning to address the commission’s concerns began immediately after the 2001 visit. In November 2004, a focused visit steering committee was formed, bringing together a dozen faculty members and administrators who also have served on campuswide planning and assessment committees. The steering committee compiled a report on progress in those two areas, which was sent to the commission in preparation for the focused visit. The report, which is available at www.wmich.edu/poa/ap/hlc, details the University’s re-examination of its mission and goals, implementation of the new mission statement, the current work being done to define and refine WMU’s strategic plan, and implementation of assessment initiatives across the University. The report also details program changes resulting from new assessment activities.

Using the committee’s prepared report as a guide, Hamilton and Katerberg will examine the changes over the past four years by meeting with the president and members of the administration, academic deans and campuswide committees related to assessment. They also will meet with faculty, staff and students in two open forums set for the afternoon of Monday, Nov. 7. Evans says that at the end of its visit, the team will advise President Bailey and Provost Delene of its recommendations to the commission. Formal notification of any HLC decisions will be made late in 2005 or early 2006.

Open forums scheduled

Open forums are scheduled to allow faculty, staff and students to meet with a two-person team from the North Central Association’s Higher Learning Commission when the team visits campus Nov. 7 and 8.

An open meeting for students is set for 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7, in 204 Bernhard Center. A meeting for faculty and staff will follow in the same location at 4 p.m.

ATYP

Mathematics is the focus of the advanced course work and seminars that now are ATYP staples, but other disciplines could be addressed in the future. To take part, students must achieve a minimum score of 520 on the SAT. Talented middle school students in West Michigan typically take the SAT by invitation through an annual talent search conducted by Northwestern University. McCarthy works with school districts to follow up on the results of that search and invite qualified students and their parents to consider ATYP and its benefits.

“Middle-school students come to us doing accelerated high school work,” McCarthy says. “By 10th grade, they’re ready for the challenge of college work.”

And for their final two years of high school, McCarthy notes, tuition for dual-enrolled students is covered by their school districts. Currently, WMU has just over 100 high school students who are dual enrolled.

ATYP, which began in 1981, has had an informal affiliation with WMU since 1998, when the new arrangement, which was effective at the start of the fall 2005 semester, makes ATYP an official part of the University.