Board to elect officers Feb. 18

The election of officers for 2005 and the swearing in of one of its two new members top the agenda when the WMU Board of Trustees meets Friday, Feb. 18. The meeting in Rooms 157-159 of the Bernhard Center will begin at 8 a.m. when Judge William Schuma administers the oath of office to Trustee Larry Tollbert of Kalama-zoo, who was appointed to the University’s governing board last month by Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Trustee Dennis Archer, the board’s second new member, will not be able to attend the Feb. 18 meeting and will be sworn in in April.

Following the brief swearing-in ceremony, the board will adjourn to a closed informal session before taking up its formal agenda in a public session expected to begin at about 9 a.m. Besides reports on gifts, grants and personnel moves, items on the agenda include an update on the Business Technology and Research Park, a report on the College of Education and a proposal to approve amendments to the constitution of the Western Student Association.

Urban edge is Sichel series topic

Economic development with an urban edge will be in the spotlight Wednesday, March 9, during the Werner Sichel 2004-05 Lecture-Seminar Series on Regional Economic Development: Current Issues.

The speaker will be Edward (Ned) Hill, senior research scholar in the Urban Center and professor in urban studies and public administration at Cleveland State University. His presentation, titled “Nine Rules for the Practice of Economic Development,” is at 3 p.m. in Room 3508 Knauss.

Hill writes about economic development and urban public policy and is editor of Economic Development Quarterly, which is dedicated to publishing research on the development of the American economy. In spring 2001, he published Ohio’s “Competitive Advantage: Manufacturing Productivity,” a study of the manufacturing sector’s continued importance to the economic health and well-being of the state’s economy. He also is coordinating national research projects on the competitive advantage of urban land.

For more information, call Bassam Harik, chairperson of economics, at 7-4356.

Next Western News is March 10

Because of spring break, there will be a three-week period before the next issue of Western News is published March 10.

The deadline for submitting information for that issue is 5 p.m. Friday, March 4.

To stay abreast of what’s happening on campus in the meantime, visit the University’s minute paper, WMU News, which is updated each weekday and can be found at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news>.

Berrah gets DOE funds for nanoscale work

A WMU physics professor will continue her research at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory using a new $564,000 federal grant that will help her unravel the mysteries of nanosystems that are the bridge between gas-phase matter and solid-state matter.

Nora Berrah will use the U.S. Department of Energy funding to conduct her research over the next three years at the Advanced Light Source, a research facility located at the Berkeley laboratory in California. Berrah has been working at that facility for a number of years and led a team of international scientists who developed a sophisticated experimental research post there.

Her new funding will allow her to lead a WMU-centered team of postdoctoral and graduate students as they use the Advanced Light Source photon beam as a probing agent in an effort to understand the electrical and magnetic properties present in a relatively new area of study—metal clusters and their ions. The properties of those clusters change as a function of cluster size, she says, and little is currently known about them.

“A fundamental understanding of those clusters,” she says, “will ultimately allow us to manipulate their properties and make a system that can be tailored to our needs.”

Enrollment strategy to feature ‘Three Rs’ and return to basics

“Recruit, Renew, Retain” was the mantra shared with a crowd of more than 250 faculty and staff members Feb. 10, as University officials introduced a new vice provost for enrollment management and a new enrollment strategy to feature “Three Rs” and return to basics.

For more information, call John Beacon, vice provost for enrollment management, at 7-1090.

Three Rs’ and return to basics — continued on page 4

that enthusiasm with students. Today is all about renewing ourselves and reaching out to students. Focused leadership and attention to both graduate and undergraduate enrollment is at the heart of the University’s enrollment management strategy, she said.

John Beacon, who began as vice provost for enrollment management Feb. 1, laid out his philosophy and contrasted an enrollment management approach with continued on page 4
Frostic series' Feb. 23 event will feature acclaimed playwright

Playwright OyamO, a prominent influence in the growing canon of African-American playwriting, will read from his work at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, in the Little Theatre as part of the Gwen Frostic Reading Series.

At noon earlier that day, OyamO will be interviewed live on WIDR, 89.1 FM, WMU's student-run radio station.

OyamO has been noted for paving the way for what is becoming a new theatrical genre with work that, according to some critics, has the capacity to disturb even the most complacent audience members. His critically acclaimed play "I Am a Man" was optioned by HBO, and TriStar Pictures has contracted him to work on "Ota Benga, the Pygmy in the Zoo."

OyamO's numerous awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, an Ohio Arts Council Award, a McKnight Foundation Award, three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and numerous award nominations in Los Angeles; Chicago; and Washington, D.C.

Shen share's expertise at Harvard

Shen share has received two awards from the Spencer Foundation and one National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship to study issues related to teacher retention. Symposium organizers say the goal of the event was to understand the state of inquiry around the issues of teacher recruitment and retention, identify areas of consensus and gaps in knowledge on the topics, and create a network of experts to foster continued communications between the pre-eminent researchers in this field.

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Boyle is author of essay collection

"Mud Between My Toes," a novella of 25 humorous essays by Toby Boyle, information technology, has been released by PublishAmerica and is available through major online book retailers and selected Kalamazoo-area bookstores.

The book is described as a "menagerie of outrageous silliness" in the publisher's summary of the book.

"Toby Boyle dissects the peculiarities of life with a sharp, satirical scalpel," according to the summary. "No one is safe, from aliens to Yeti, automobiles to zoo sex, and everything in between. He may have an obsessive fascination with Julie Andrews, but that is just the tip of this hilarious iceberg."

Boyle is a systems programmer and part-time instructor at WMU. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 1984 and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing in 1998, both from WMU.
Obituary

The University recently learned of the death of Gerald L. Bodine, assistant professor emeritus of teacher education. He was 94.

Bodine, a Milwaukee native, retired from WMU in 1977. He came to the University in 1957 as an assistant professor and the coordinator of laboratory experiences.

Previously, he was an associate professor and education department chairperson at Kalamazoo College from 1951 to 1957 and served as that institution’s registrar from 1952 to 1955. He also was an instructor at the Milwaukee Vocational and Adult Schools from 1937 to 1948 and an assistant principal in the Milwaukee Public Schools from 1934 to 1936.

Bodine was a member of several professional organizations, including the Association for Student Teaching, National Council for Social Studies and American Association of College Registrars and Admission Officers.

He earned a bachelor’s degree from Wisconsin State College in 1937 and a master’s degree from Northwestern University in 1941 and did doctoral work at Northwestern as well as studied in Europe in 1950.

‘Her Story’ is luncheon topic

WMU’s Women’s Network continues its brown-bag luncheon series, “Her Story,” with a presentation on noon Thursday, Feb. 24, in Room 159 of the Bernhard Center. The program features Carmen Cornielie, educational studies, and Dona Leavone, ombudsperson.

“Her Story” features real women with real careers talking about their professional choices and experiences. Those attending are welcome to bring their own lunch or to purchase a meal in the Bernhard Center cafeteria or at one of the food vendors in the Bronco Mall.

Previous presenters in the series include President Judith Bailey; Provost Linda Dele; Athletic Director Kathy Beauregard; Provost Eileen Evans; and Barbara Liggett, public administration.

Service

The following employees are celebrating 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service to the University during February.

40 years—Gerald Hardie, physics.

35 years—Frederick G. Schulz, Campus Facility Development.

30 years—Margaret J. Corbin, Davis dining services.

25 years—Daniel D. Miller, physical plant-maintenance services.

20 years—John P. McDevitt, public safety; Patricia K. Rice, physical plant-building custodial and support services; and Berniece J. Tabb, Customer Account Services.

15 years—Sheila Bair, University Librarians; Sherrill D. Babbo, physician assistant; Rebecca S. Cook, physical plant-maintenance services; Carla V. Joyner, physical plant-landscape services; and Malcolm R. Malott, human resources.

10 years—Sandra R. Bastian, information technology; Kathy Dziepak, Center for Disability Services; Stephanie L. Jones, Registrar’s Office; and Susan A. Standish, sociology.

Five years—Brenda L. Chapman, Student Health Center; Carrick D. Craig, Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel; Charles Heyning, information technology; Kristin E. Kenz, College of Fine Arts; Jennifer L. McVey, Auxiliary Enterprises—General Administration; Michael E. Osborn, physical plant-maintenance services; David H. Schrader, College of Aviation; Mia L. Soule, business information systems; Robert E. Taylor, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Contra D. Thomas, Davis dining services; and Amy M. Vorpagel, information technology.

Nominations due for 2005 distinguished alum awards

The WMU Alumni Association is seeking nominations for its 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 4.

Each year, a committee of Alumni Association Board of Directors members selects a maximum of three people to receive the award, which is the Alumni Association’s most prestigious honor.

Those nominated must have: received at least one degree from WMU; achieved a high level within their chosen field of endeavor; participated in civic activities as well as activities supporting WMU; and given distinguished service to their profession, their community and/or WMU.

Nominations must include a completed nomination form and current resume or biographical sketch.

Details and nomination forms are available online in the “Awards” section of the WMU Alumni Association Web site at <www.wmich.edu/alumni>. For more information, call the association at 7-5895.

Jobs

While a campuswide job freeze remains in effect, the following vacancies have been approved for posting as positions that are essential for the continued operation of the unit represented. All position authorization letters must have the approval of a WMU vice president to be posted during the hiring freeze.

Vacancies are posted through the Job Opportunity Program by human resources. 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.

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 to hear the weekly job postings.

(R) Clerk (Repos), 10, Registrar’s Office, 04/05-4582, 2/14-2/21/05

(N) Director, Student Academic and Institutional Research, Z2, Office of Institutional Research, 04/05-4684, 2/14-2/21/05

(R) Principal Research Associate (term ends 4/4/2008), Q04, Evaluation Center, 04/05-4685, 2/14-2/21/05

(R) Administrative Assistant, 14, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, 04/05-4687, 2/14-2/21/05

(R) Office Assistant, 11, Educational Studies, 04/05-4688, 2/14-2/21/05

(R) Senior Clerk, 11, WMU Bookstore, 04/05-4689, 2/14-2/21/05

(R) Coordinator, Alumni Relations (term ends 6/30/2007), 14, Office of Alumni Relations, 04/05-4690, 2/14-2/21/05

(R) Coordinator, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, 04/05-4691, 2/14-2/21/05

(R) HRIS Data Clerk, 12, Human Resources, 04/05-4692, 2/14-2/21/05

(R) Office Assistant (FTE, 30, 20 hours per week), 11, Teaching, Learning and Leadership, 04/05-4693, 2/14-2/21/05

(R) Finance Assistant, 12, Accounts Payable, 04/05-4695, 2/14-2/21/05

N= New R= Replacement WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Self-instructional unit becomes Individual Learning Programs

Beginning with Summer Registration Feb. 14, a popular academic program assumed a new name: Self Instructional Programs is now called Individual Learning Programs.

Except for the name, everything else about IL Programs remains the same. It continues to offer students the opportunity to take courses without limitations of time and place. Courses are developed and approved by University faculty and meet the same high standards as the traditional face-to-face courses. Some courses are paper-based—called ILP; or Individual Learning-Paper—many of the courses are supplemented by the Web and are identified as ILW, or Individual Learning-Web. Others use videotape and e-mail. Students have approximately nine months to complete courses and may register at any time.

For additional information, visit the ELI Web site at: <http://dde.wmich.edu/eli/index.html> or e-mail <dleinfo@wmich.edu>.
Goalball tournament will attract top teams, needs volunteers

Area residents can see many of the world’s top goalball teams in action at WMU this month or volunteer to help stage the annual tournament.

As in previous years, the best teams in the United States and Canada will take part in the 22nd Annual United States Association of Blind Athletes Midwest Regional Goalball Tournament Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 26-27, in the Student Recreation Center. Teams are expected from Arizona, California, Colorado, Tennessee, Ontario, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Indiana, as well as several teams from Michigan. Competition runs 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday. Games on Sunday will be the semi-final and final rounds and will run 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Among the competitors will be WMU students and graduates who represented the United States in the 2004 Paralympic Games in September in Athens, Greece. The U.S. women won the silver medal, while the U.S. men won the bronze in the highly competitive Paralympics. The WMU teams will be among the favorites at the tournament.

The tournament is one of the largest contests of its kind in the United States. A total of eight women’s and 12 men’s teams are expected. Admission is free. Goalball is similar to hockey or soccer, but is played exclusively by visually impaired or blindfolded players. Teams of three athletes on each side of a volleyball-sized court launch a ball at speeds of more than 30 mph at the opposing side’s goal. The athletes are blindfolded to put all players on an equal footing, and four bells encased in a basketball-sized ball help the athletes track its location.

People are welcome to watch or are invited to volunteer. As many as 50 to 60 volunteers—often WMU students—are needed. Volunteers do not need to know anything about goalball prior to volunteering and may choose from among three sessions: 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday or Sunday or 1:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday. Volunteers may work one, two or all three sessions.

To volunteer or for more information, call or e-mail Sherry Gordon at 7-3276 or sdgordon@voyager.net, or Paul Ponchilla, blindness and low vision studies, at 7-3449 or <paul.ponchilla@wmich.edu>.

Berrah continued from page 1

Berrah, a fellow of the American Physical Society since 1999, was named a WMU Distinguished Faculty Scholar in 2000. In 2002 at Berkeley, she received the David A. Shirley Award for Outstanding Achievement at the ALS. In addition to her research, Berrah serves her discipline as a member of the national Committee on the Status of Women in Physics, an advisory group that counsels physics departments at universities around the nation on how to create and sustain a working environment that is welcoming to women scientists.

Enrollment management continued from page 1

the more traditional focus on admitting new students.

Enrollment management, he said, is a campuswide plan to recruit and retain students that is coordinated across reporting lines and recognizes students as customers. The focus needs to be as much on retention as on recruitment.

“We’re losing one of every four students we admit,” he noted, referring to first-year retention rates.

WMU’s long-term plan will include clearly defined recruitment and retention goals, use of financial assistance to meet goals, carefully targeted communications that use a common theme, development of a prospect pool, and careful evaluation and tracking of efforts.

Gail Straus, senior consultant with the Chicago consulting firm Lipman Hearne, introduced what she called a back-to-basics plan that will focus on “the three Rs—Recruit, Renew, Retain.” She told the audience that a campuswide committee has developed 18 solid strategies ready for immediate use.