Three commencement times set

The University will confer more than 2,400 degrees during commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 11. The 9 a.m. ceremony is for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts, and Health and Human Services. The 11:30 a.m. ceremony is for graduates of the College of Education and Extended University Programs. The final ceremony at 2 p.m. is for graduates of the College of Aviation, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Haworth College of Business.

Chinese consul to discuss higher education in his nation

Tongzeng Bao, consul and director of the education section for the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Chicago, will visit the campus Thursday, Dec. 2, to give a “General Review of Higher Education of China.” The talk is set for 4 p.m. in 2708 Wood.

Next issue of Western News will be published Jan. 6

This issue of Western News is the last issue for the fall semester. Western News will resume publication Jan. 6, at the beginning of the spring semester. Additional spring publication dates are Jan. 20, Feb. 3, Feb. 17, March 10, March 24 and April 7.

We wish each of you a holiday season filled with happiness and harmony and a new year graced with both the joy of great accomplishment and the warmth that comes from special relationships.

— Judi and Bren Bailey

For and about WMU faculty and staff

Faculty standouts honored with new appointments to named professorships

Two WMU professors with international renown in their respective fields have been honored with named professorships, President Judith I. Bailey announced Nov. 10.

Christian R. Hirsch, a national leader in the field of mathematics education, was named the James H. Powell Professor of Mathematics. He succeeds Nickola W. Nelson, recognized by colleagues around the country for her research, teaching and clinical work, was named the Charles Van Riper Professor of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Two engineering programs are among best in the nation

The University's graduate and undergraduate programs in engineering management have been singled out as being among the nation's best by the American Society for Engineering Management.

WMU's graduate program in engineering management is ranked as one of the top three in the nation, while its undergraduate program in engineering management technology enjoys a top-five designation. Announcements of the placings were made at SEM's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in late October.

“David Lyth and Larry Mallak lead our engineering management programs, and we are intensely proud of our engineering management students and alumni,” says Paul Engelmann, chairperson of industrial and manufacturing engineering, where both programs are housed. “The alumni from these programs have consistently held key positions throughout a variety of industries. Their contributions are important to the health and well-being of Michigan and our nation.”

Trusted to convene Dec. 10

The University's Board of Trustees will meet at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 10, in 157-159 Bernhard Center.

The board is expected to go into closed informal session at the start of its meeting. The formal public session will begin at approximately 10 a.m.

Agenda items include a formal evaluation of President Judith I. Bailey, consideration of a number of personnel items, a proposal to approve a new master's degree program and updates on both the new chemistry building and the First Year Experience being implemented for beginning students.

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For the latest news every day, visit the WMU News Web site at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/>.
First set of Make A Difference awards go to 10 staff members

Ten University staff members have been selected to receive fall 2004 WMU Make A Difference awards, and they will be formally recognized at a reception set for 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2.

The University community is invited to attend the awards reception in the Bernhard Center’s Faculty Lounge. During the event, the award recipients will each receive $250 and a commemorative certificate.

The fall recipients are: Amy Burns, College of Education; George Eskro, Career and Student Employment Services; Marilyn Johnson, Haworth College of Business; Sandra Stephens, College of Science; Robert Purk, Landscape Services; Natalia Obreiter, Military Programs; Donna Mearing, Center for Academic Support Programs; Natalie Ohbreiter, military science; Robert Purk, landscape services; Kathleen Springsteen, College of Education; Chad Stec, student affairs information services; Sandra Stevens, College of Education; and Judy Tice, Haworth College of Business.

The winners were selected by a committee of peers from the participating employee groups of AFSCME, APA, MSEA, POA, and PSSO.

The WMU Make A Difference awards program was announced this fall by President Bailey. The program is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

Up to 15 staff members may be selected in each of two semiannual award periods. Semiannual winners are eligible for one of four annual awards, with a $1,000 prize.

Szarmach praised by Polish president for building bridges

Paul Szarmach, Medieval Institute director, has been commended by the president of Poland for his efforts to build bridges between American and Polish Medievalists.

A letter from the president’s office cites Szarmach’s “outstanding service in developing a collaboration with the Polish scientific institutions” and honors him upon an Officer Cross of the Medal for Services for Poland. Also honored in the letter is fellow American Frank Turaj, a professor at American University in Washington, D.C.

Szarmach was to accept the award while in Poland for the Third Medieval English Studies Symposium Nov. 27-28 in Poznan. Szarmach also was to visit and lecture Nov. 30-Dec. 3 in Lublin.

Ponchilla one of five in state lauded for work with children

Paul E. Ponchilla, chairperson of blindness and low vision studies, has been named one of five recipients of the Caring for Children Angel Award by Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan.

Ponchilla was presented the award on Nov. 12 at the insurer’s offices in Detroit. He received the honor after being nominated for his intensive work with children who are blind or visually impaired.

Among his many activities, Ponchilla has organized sports camps for young people who are blind and visually impaired. His sports camps have become a national model.

An accomplished carver, Ponchilla also has organized summer art camps for children with visual impairments.

Woloszyk honored by national group for lifetime achievement

Carl A. Woloszyk, emeritus in family and consumer sciences, was honored with a Professional Education Award from the Marketing Education Association recently, when the group met for its annual conference in Virginia Beach, Va.

The award recognizes Woloszyk’s lifetime achievement in the field of marketing education.

In addition, the state chapter of the association has established a scholarship in Woloszyk’s name for high school seniors who intend to pursue a career in the teaching of marketing education.

Woloszyk retired in April after more than 17 years at WMU’s Institute of Detroit. He was a co-founder of cresten and technical education programs.
United Way 2004 campus campaign surpasses its goal

A Nov. 28 coffee on campus signaled the successful conclusion to WMU’s 2004 United Way campaign, which raised more than $218,000 for Kalamazoo County and neighboring communities.

The campus campaign surpassed its $210,000 goal by more than $8,000, and gifts and pledges are still coming in, according to Linda Jones, Office of the President, who served as WMU campaign chairperson.

“Gifts that are received through the end of this calendar year will count toward the University’s 2004 campaign total,” she says.

During the Nov. 28 event, WMU President Judith I. Bailey praised the campus community for its support of much-needed human services in the community.

“It is heartwarming to see the high level of support and caring that exists at Western,” Bailey said. “I am pleased to see so many faculty and staff, emeriti faculty and retirees, and students participating in our campaign.”

The efforts of AFSCME Local 1668 members who gave to the campaign and participated in United Way Day of Caring projects won particular praise from Bailey and Donald Weaver, chairperson for the AFSCME United Way leadership team.

Two student organizations that held United Way fund-raisers also were lauded. The Student Employee Board raised funds in support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kalamazoo, and business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi held a United Way fund-raiser at an exhibition basketball game.

PSSO holiday event will have a Hawaiian theme

The Professional Support Staff Organization—PSSO—will turn to a tropical holiday motif for a “Hawaiian Social” Wednesday, Dec. 15.

All faculty and staff members are invited to come and share the joys of the holiday season. The event is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Fetzer Center.

Additional details and a formal invitation are available on the PSSO Web site at www.wmich.edu/psso. Those with questions should contact Carrie Soule at 7-3625.

Check Web for closing info

With winter weather in play, faculty and staff members are reminded that campus closings are rare, and when they do occur, are immediately publicized online in WMU News. For those interested in the hiring freeze.

Service

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

- 35 years—Umar F. Abdul-Mutakallim, physical plant-building custodial and support services; and Jerry F. Fuss, Accounts Payable.
- 30 years—Robert J. Dlouhy, Career English Language Center for International Students; Kathleen A. Goyer, management; and Carole A. VanDyken, physical plant-building custodial and support services.
- 25 years—Janice S. Cleveringen, physical plant-landscape services; Stacie J. Dineen, physical plant-maintenance services; Tracie L. Shebourn, accounting; and Danny L. Stuss, physical plant-maintenance services.
- 20 years—Sharon M. Van Dyken, Haworth College of Business.
- 15 years—Ray T. Cool, health, physical education and recreation; James C. Cotton, information technology; Petronia R. Douglass, University Libraries; Nancy Emers, English; Timothy A. Ender, telecommunications; Susan R. Stapleton, chemistry; Sharaecea R. Sutton, physical plant-building custodial and support services.
- 10 years—Jerry G. Horn, Evaluation Center; Pamela Mottley, Office of the Vice President for Research; and Patti J. VanWalleck, Accounting Services.
- Five years—Bradley J. Bascin, electrical and computer engineering; Amber L. Lawrence, Center for Disability Services; Timothy B. Palmer, management; Kenneth A. Randt, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Michael P. Smith, Public Safety; Ineke F. Way, School of Social Work; Jennipher Wiebold, blindness and low vision studies; and Li Yang, computer science.

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 authorizations 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 resources staff member for assistance.

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

(R) Parking Enforcement Officer, 10, Public Safety, 04/05-4584, 11/29-12/6/04
(R) Director, Printing Pilot Plant, 19, Paper and Printing Pilot Plants, 04/05-4596, 11/29-12/4/05
(R) Office Associate, 13, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, 04/05-4606, 11/29-12/6/04
(R) Assistant Professor (term appointment, academic year, ending 8/01/2005), 130, Occupational Therapy, 04/05-4607, 11/29-12/6/04
(R) Parking Clerk, 10, Public Safety, 04/05-4608, 11/29-12/6/04
R+ Replacement WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

The last internal job posting period for December 2004 is Monday, Dec. 13, through Monday, Dec. 20. To be included in the year’s last posting, position authorizations must be received in human resource services by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8.

The first internal job posting period for January 2005 is Monday, Jan. 3, through Monday, Jan. 10. To be included in that posting, position authorizations must be received in human resource services by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21.
Academy, the University of Missouri-Rolla at the undergradu
with WMU and Old Dominion University to the University of Alabama-Huntsville, top contenders for the prize.

top program at each level wins the Found
programs at both the graduate and under

Each year since 1991, ASEM has named programs at both the graduate and under
level, the University of the Pacific took
W. Nelson, a faculty member since 1981, also serves as associate dean for research in the College of Health and Human Services. She has had a distingui
nealed in urban, rural and suburban school districts nationwide.

To bear the name of the late James Pow
Hirschl, a faculty member since 1973, is the director of the Core-Plus Mathematics
and fundamental mathematical concepts that is being taught in urban, rural and suburban

Audiology. One of his textbooks remains a
with the National Institutes of Health.

The professorship Hirsch was appointed to


and Stevens Institute of Technology were

Each year since 1991, ASEM has named

nals and their employers well.”

Engineering rankings

Continued from page 1

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