Three selected for top alumni honors

Three prominent leaders in education, government and business have been selected by the WMU Alumni Association to receive the 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The recipients are: Richard G. Haworth, chairman of the board of the office furniture manufacturer Haworth Inc., and Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, a veteran member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Richard Haworth has led Haworth Inc., through its evolution from a small company with a single-product line to a global corporation that has $1.21 billion in annual sales and employs 8,530 people in 120 countries. He has been chairman of the board since 1994.

Armed with a bachelor of business administration degree from WMU in 1964, Haworth began his career with Modern Partitions Co., now Haworth Inc., a contract furniture manufacturer founded in 1948 by his father, G.W. Haworth. Under his tutelage, the company developed a number of products that were industry “firsts.”

Haworth has been involved in numerous community and professional activities and also has maintained close ties to his alma mater, serving on the WMU Board of Trustees from 1991 to 2001 and as its chairperson in 1997.

Carolyn Kilpatrick, who earned a...
Expanded staff recognition program debuts this semester

The Staff Service Excellence Award program has been expanded and supplanted by the Make a Difference program, a new campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

As with the prior program, Make a Difference includes semiannual as well as annual award opportunities. But starting this fall, the awards will feature larger prize amounts and be presented to a greater number of non-faculty staff.

The expanded recognition program is being sponsored by the Administrative Professional Association; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1668; Michigan State Employees Association; Police Officers Association; and Professional Support Staff Organization. Employees eligible to receive Make a Difference awards must be part of the Staff Compensation System or be represented by AFSCME, MSEA or POA.

A committee representing all of those participating employee groups has been working for the past 14 months to expand the 10-year-old Staff Service Excellence Award program. Chairperson Christine M. McDowell, grants and contracts, says suggestions from employees and support from Vice President Robert M. Beam were the driving forces behind transforming the service excellence awards into the Make a Difference program debuting this fall.

"These are trying times for many staff members," Beam says. "We want to let them know that their continuing commitment and hard work are truly recognized and appreciated."

In reiterating that message, President Judith I. Bailey says staff members are the essence of WMU's success and its existence.

Sept. 23 Study Abroad Fair designed to explore global options

About 800 people are expected to turn out for the fall semester Study Abroad Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, in the South Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

Information on hundreds of programs offered by WMU and other universities and organizations across the country will be offered. On hand to answer questions will be WMU students, faculty and staff who are familiar with study abroad programs and services, including representatives from the university's Office of Study Abroad, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Some 500 WMU students study overseas each year. They may be found in more than 30 countries on six continents, and many receive financial aid that travels with them when they are abroad.

For more about the fair or international learning, visit the Office of Study Abroad on the Web at <www.wmich.edu/makeadifference>.

Pre-retirement MPSERS information session

Participants in the Michigan Public Employees Retirement System—MPSERS—are invited to a Pre-retirement Information Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, in Wile Auditorium, Kalamazoo, 1150 E. Millham Road.

Online registration for the meeting is required. To register, visit <www.michigan.gov/orcs>, select School Employees Retirement System, and then select Pre-retirement Information Meetings. If you are unable to use the online registration, contact MPSERS at (800) 381-5111.

Literary ‘gold’ goes to Blickle

A WMU faculty member is the winner of the international Eleven-Minutes-Sports Novel Contest held in connection with the Blankenesee Games in Hamburg, Germany.

Peter Blickle, who teaches German, was notified recently of the award, which coincided with the 2004 Olympic Games. The competition, sponsored by the city of Hamburg, was organized in order to revive the ancient Olympic tradition of having competitions in arts and literature simultaneous with those in athletics.

In antiquity, the Olympic Games included literature and the arts. Only since 1952 has the Olympic idea been interpreted exclusively in the athletic realm.

Blickle received his prize and a cash award for "Und Nicht Dahinter" (And Not Behind), his "11-minute novel" in which a former soccer player reminisces about his love affair with a teammate. The prize includes publication.

Two on campus honored with community arts medals

Carl Doubleday, associate director of the School of Music, and Von Washington, director of multicultural theatre, were among three area residents honored with the 2004 Community Medal of Arts at a Sept. 9 ceremony in the Dalton Center.

The annual awards are sponsored by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo to honor those who have made significant contributions to the artistic life of the community.

Doubleday, who joined the music faculty in 1966, was cited for his tireless efforts coordinating hundreds of arts events on campus for WMU and other organizations, including the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, Fontana Chamber Arts and Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

Theatre Professor Washington joined the faculty in 1989. In addition to his work as a teacher and director of multicultural theatre, he was cited for his excellence as an actor, director and playwright in productions ranging from the local stage to national television.

Pawlak publishes new book

Edward J. Pawlak, emeritus in social work, is the co-author of a new book on planning in the nonprofit and government areas.

"Designing and Planning Programs in Nonprofit and Government Organizations" is the title of the book by Pawlak, who retired from the faculty in 2000, and Robert D. Vinter, a retired faculty member in the University of Michigan. Both are active in program evaluation and community service.

The book includes case studies of planning projects, and publisher Jossey-Bass of San Francisco offers a supplementary online instructors manual through its Web site.
Robert D. Neubig, emeritus in accountancy, died Sept. 1 in Portage, Mich. He was 78.

Neubig taught at WMU for 24 years, until his retirement in 1991. Prior to coming to WMU, Neubig taught at Ohio State University, Ohio University, the University of Michigan-Dearborn and the University of Colorado.

Neubig earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Ohio State University. A Certified Public Accountant in both New York and Ohio, Neubig worked in the private sector before beginning his teaching career, working for seven years for Price Waterhouse at the firm’s offices in New York City; Caracas, Venezuela; and Baltimore.

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 resource services staff member for assistance.

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

(N) Scheduler, 13, College of Aviation, 04/05-4489, 9/13-9/20/04
(R) Technician, 15, Geosciences, 04/05-4490, 9/13-9/20/04
(R) Utility Person, F3, Dining Services, Cash Operations-Parkview Campus, 04/05-4491, 9/13-9/20/04
N= New
R= Replacement
WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
New faculty

Line Gore, Nichole Maury, Ginger Owen, Jeffrey Thompson and Mary-Louise Totton; Aviation—William Rutherford; Biological Sciences—Pamela Hoppe, Maarten Vonhof and Marta Scott; Blindness and Low Vision Studies—Robert Wall; Business Information Systems—Jufen Han and Carol Weatherford.

Chemistry—Sherine O. Obare; Civil and Construction Engineering—Jun-Seok Oh; Communication—Rebekah Farruga, Jennifer Machiorlatti, Eric Meiners and Cory Lynn Young; Comparative Religion—Kevin Wanner; Computer Science—Ala Al-Fuqaha; Dance—Carolyn Pavlik and Claudia Queen; Economics—Shohreh Majin; Educational Studies—Carmen Cominels; Electrical and Computer Engineering—Liang Dong.

Finance and Commercial Law—Thomas Edmonds; Foreign Languages—Jeffrey Angles; Geography—Kathleen Baker; Geosciences—Heather Petrovic and Mohamed, Sultan; History—Stephanie Jass and Eli Rubin; Health, Physical Education and Recreation—Suzan Ayers, Kathleen Conway and Jennifer D’Omonaque; Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering—Slobodan Urdarevik; Management—Robert Kynast; Marketing—John Idema and Michael McCardle; Mathematics—Jon Davis, Melinda Koelling, David Richter and Lixin Shen.

Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering—Muralidhar Ghatasahla and Tianshu Liu; Music—David Montgomery; Nursing—Patricia Fuehr, Joni Jones and Susan Nelson; Philosophy—Fritz Allhoff; Physician Assistant—Gayl Walker; Political Science—Martyn deBruyn, Priscilla Lambert and Gregory Neddenriep; Psychology—Eric Fox and Tina Hall.

Social Work—Richard Grinnell, Steven Smith and Yvonne Unrau; Sociology—Laura Citrin; Spanish—Michael Braun; Theatre—Daniel Berkow; Teaching, Learning and Leadership—Marlene J. Braunius, Walter Burt, Linda Haug, Dennis McCrumb, Patricia Reeves and Nancy Van Kannel-Ray.

United Way campaign set for Sept. 20 campus kickoff event

A 2004 goal of raising $210,000 will bring WMU faculty, staff, students, and emeriti and retirees together for the annual United Way campus campaign set to start Monday, Sept. 20.

The campus campaign, which will run through the end of October, is part of the annual fund-raising effort to support the Greater Kalamazoo United Way. The community campaign began Sept. 10 and is out to raise $10 million to support 77 programs offered by 35 local United Way agencies. This year’s campaign theme is “Solutions in all Shapes and Sizes.”

“By supporting the Greater Kalamazoo United Way campaign, we have an opportunity to be part of the caring that keeps our community healthy,” said WMU President Judith Bailey in an open letter to the campus community that was distributed to employees.

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