Massie book aims to trigger nostalgia, tell WMU’s story

Noted Michigan historian Larry Massie, recipient of three WMU degrees, is the author of a new book that traces his alma mater’s first 100 years.

"Brown and Golden Memories: Western Michigan University's First Century" was published in late September by the University and is now available in bookstores. The 276-page book includes more than 250 historical photos. They illustrate the events that shaped the school and depict the people who played a major role in its development from a tiny teachers college on a Kalamazoo hilltop to one of the nation's top-100 public research universities.

Publication of the book is part of the University's centennial celebration. The selection of Massie to write the work was a natural choice, since he's intimately...
Poet to read in Frostic series  

The Department of English’s Gwen Frostic Reading Series continues on Wednesday, Oct. 15, with a reading by acclaimed poet Claire Bateman at 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre.

Bateman is the author of four poetry collections: “Clumy,” released in spring 2003 by W M U ’s New Issues Press; “The Bicycle Slow Race”; “Fricition”; and “At the Funeral of the Ether.” She has won numerous awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship, a Robert Frost Fellowship, and, most recently, a Pushcart Prize.

Economics of war is topic  

An expert on war and state-sponsored violence in developing countries will speak on campus Wednesday, Oct. 15, as part of the Werner Sichel Economics Lecture-Seminar Series.

Wayne Nafziger, professor of economics at Kansas State University, will present “Economic Development, Inequality and War” at 3 p.m. in 3508 Knauss.

For more information about these or any other campus events, visit the W M U News Web site at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news>.

Power company exec to speak  

A University alumnus who is the senior vice president and senior production manager for the Southern Company, the country’s largest producer of electricity, will visit the W M U campus this month to deliver the annual Distinguished Political Science Department Alumnus Lecture.

Chris Womack, who earned his bachelor’s degree in political science in 1979, will speak about his experiences after leaving W M U as well as the leadership, business and political challenges he has faced throughout his career. The lecture is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, in 3301 Friedmann.

Physicist, artist to present talks  

A renowned artist and a noted physicist will be the next speakers on campus to participate in the Centennial Scholar and Artist Series. Both speakers’ presentations are free and open to the public.

Ed Gray, owner of Miskawibik/Ed Gray Studio, in Fennville, Mich., will speak on “Tradition, Honor and Respect” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, in 1120 Schneider. Oct. 16 also is the last day to view a display of Gray’s copper and pottery work in the Lee Honors College building. Until then, the exhibit will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through W ednesday and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

J. Thomas Dickinson, a professor of physics and material science at W ashing- ton State University, will speak on “The Enormous Little World of Nanotechnology” at 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, in the Lee Honors College lounge.

Centennial art to be unveiled  

A professional sculptor whose work has been included in juried and invitational exhibitions around the nation returned to her alma mater this month to unveil her sculpture commemorating the University’s 100th anniversary.

Karla W yss-Tye will unveil her sculpture during a noon dedication ceremony Thursday, Oct. 23, in front of the Seiber Administration Building. The event is part of the Centennial Scholar and Artist Series.

Fenn elected to leadership role  

William Fenn, physician assistant, was recently elected to the board of directors of the American Academy of Physician Assistants as second vice speaker of the House of Delegates. Fenn also was recently named Physician Assistant of the Year by the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants.

Fenn can add those two honors to a growing list of accomplishments. Late last year, he was appointed by then-Gov. John Engler to the Michigan Board of Medicine for a four-year term.

Jellies selected to serve on journal’s editorial board  

John Jellies, biological sciences, has been selected to serve on the editorial board of the journal Neuron Glia Biology.

N GB brings together research from the disciplines of neurobiology and physiology to effectively communicate new findings. It focuses on cell-to-cell interactions between neurons and glia, as well as other cell types. Research has shown that these cells are involved in all aspects of neural function, development and repair. Jellies has been a member of the W M U faculty since 1995.
Kalamazoo economy.


Active in the community, Ross was a consultant to area firms and community organizations. He served for two decades as a land commissioner in the federal court system.

Lindsey A. Thomas, longtime professor of dance, died Oct. 1. She was 51.

A member of the dance faculty from 1979 to 2003, Thomas was responsible for developing the jazz dance program to a level of international recognition.

She received numerous professional awards, including: Michigan Dance Teacher of the Year, 1988; the Leo “Gold Shoe” Award for excellence in jazz dance choreography, 1997; and third place in the jazz/hip hop category at the Prague Dance Festival, 2000. Thomas also received many choreographic commissions and presented professional workshops and master classes across the country.

For Sale — Two-bedroom duplex in the Berkley Street, West Main Hill area. Refinished yellow pine floors, two bay windows. 10-minute walk to campus. Apartment on second floor to rent. $97,900. Call 383-9648.

For Rent — Two-bedroom condo with new kitchen. Ground floor at Cherry Knoll. Quiet setting, five minutes from campus. $700 per month. Call Bill Green, 7-3301.

The following vacancies are currently being 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) Office Assistant (re-post), 11, Extended University Programs, 03/04-4121, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) Chairperson (tenure track, full year), 000, Philosophy, 03/04-4123, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) A assistant Professor/A associate Professor (tenure track, academic year), 03/04-4124, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) A assistant Professor (tenure track, academic year, two positions), 130, Communication, 03/04-4124 and 4127, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) A associate Professor (tenure track, academic year), 120, Communication, 03/04-4126, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) A assistant Professor (tenure track, academic year, three positions), 130, English, 03/04-4128-4130, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) A assistant Professor/Faculty Specialist I (tenure track, academic year), 130/FSI, Spanish, 03/04-4131, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) A assistant Professor/A associate Professor (tenure track, academic year), 130/I10, Comparative Religion, 03/04-4132, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) A assistant Professor (tenure track, academic year), 130, Economics, 03/04-4134, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) A assistant Professor (tenure track, academic year, four positions), 130, School of Art, 03/04-4137-4140, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) A assistant Professor (tenure track, academic year), 130, Philosophy, 03/04-4141, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) A assistant Professor (tenure track, academic year), 130, Political Science, 03/04-4142, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) A assistant Professor (tenure track, academic year), 130, Political Science, 03/04-4143, 10/6-10/13/03
(R) Instructor/A assistant Professor (term appointment ending 7/31/05; full year), 140/330, Teaching, Learning, Leadership, 03/04-4144, 10/6-10/13/03
R = Replacement • WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Open enrollment begins Oct. 13

Open enrollment for health insurance begins Oct. 13 and continues until 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31, for AAUP faculty, non-bargaining employees, retirees and COBRA participants.

During open enrollment, individuals currently insured under a WMU health plan—with the exception of retirees age 65 and over—must re-enroll in one of the two health plans being offered:
• The new Community Blue PPO plan, a preferred provider organization or
• The Indemnity Plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, previously the “University Plan,” to which substantial changes have been made.

For detailed information, visit the open enrollment website at <www.wmich.edu/hr/benefits/health/open_enroll.htm> and plan to attend one of the health insurance presentations listed there.

Sessions on long-term care set

All faculty, staff and retirees are invited to attend a presentation about long-term care insurance on Thursday, Oct. 16. Sessions on the topic will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Bernhard Center’s Brown and Gold Room.
Homecoming continued from page 1

and chief executive officer of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

Homecoming day on Saturday, Oct. 11, will lead off with the fifth Homecoming Campus Classic race/walk, which offers a certified course that begins at the Bernhard Center and showcases the WMU campus. The 1K walk and fun run begins at 8:15 a.m. Runners 5K walkers will take off from the starting line at 9 a.m.

The WMU Alumni Association’s fourth annual Homecoming PepFest for alumni of all ages will follow from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Village at H Import Field. PepFest is a perfect place for alumni and friends to gather, socialize and fire up for the 2 p.m. football game against Bowling Green State University.

Detailed information on all of the Homecoming events is available online at <www.wmich.edu/homecoming>. Registration and ticket information for the various events is available by linking to the Web sites listed for the events. The phone numbers for event coordinators also are listed.

Universitywide health, benefits fair will offer screenings, info

Faculty, staff, students and retirees will learn how to create, maintain and sustain a healthy lifestyle by attending the WMU Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

The free fair, an expansion of the University’s traditional fall Benefits Fair, will feature scores of exhibitors representing campus units and Kalamazoo-area health providers and financial institutions.

A wide variety of diagnostic assessments and interactive activities will be offered, including blood pressure, vision and hearing checks, and musculoskeletal and diabetes screenings.

Massie continued from page 1

familiar with the area’s history and has been collecting WMU lore for years. “Brown and Golden Memories” is Massie’s 17th book on Michigan history.

“In the two and a half years I spent researching and writing this book, I delved into just about every corner of this University and its archives looking for textual materials and photographs,” says Massie. “I found so many fascinating tidbits about our tradition and history. Writing this book has deepened my appreciation for WMU.”

The book is divided into six chapters. Massie uses his storytelling skills to weave together tales of student life with profiles of both legendary and little-known figures in the school’s past. Oral histories collected over the years play a major part in each chapter, as history is told through the words of track stars and presidents, faculty members and students.

The book is available at Kalamazoo-area bookstores. It also can be purchased online for $35 at <www.ur.wmich.edu/centennial/merchandise>.

O n C am pus with Jeff Rank

As a child growing up in Ohio, Jeff Rank, intercollegiate athletics, got a kick out of sports, starting with t-ball at age 6 and continuing through soccer, football and wrestling in high school.

Now, 24 years later, he’s still in the game.

As the marketing director for WMU’s Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, Rank actively promotes and markets WMU sports programs. Brochures, posters, schedule cards, and a variety of specialty items and promotional plans fall under his watch.

“Part of my job is to enhance the atmosphere for the crowd at our games,” he explains. “At a football game, it could be using the T-shirt blaster we use to propel shirts into the crowd. We’re forever coming up with creative ways to get people out to games, while making sure they have a good time.”

There’s a lot of work that goes into having fun, including game management, developing marketing plans, negotiating with advertisers and on occasion, assisting with sponsorship deals.

But it’s worth it all when a fan enjoys a game, says Rank, who traded a job at the University of Texas at El Paso to join the WMU staff about two years ago.

“I enjoy seeing people get excited and taking in the pageantry that makes college athletics so special,” he says.

For a sports fan like Rank, who enjoys running and golf, his job at WMU doesn’t feel like one.

“I don’t consider this work,” he says. “I love what I do... Sometimes I have to pinch myself in the press box, I enjoy it so much.”

Rank and his wife Kristi live in Kalamazoo with their new golden Labrador, Bo.

HE’S IN THE MARKETING GAME
(Photo by Gail Towns)