Kent County work to focus on aid for grandparent-headed families

There's a knock on the door.

"Sometimes it happens in the middle of the night with very little warning," says Linda Dannison, chairperson of family and consumer sciences and developer of a curriculum for grandparent support groups. "Other times there may be many messages that this is happening."

The trend has raised a host of troubling problems for both grandparents and grandchildren alike. But a new program being launched in Kent County is providing help to both urban and rural county residents being impacted by it.

The pilot program is coordinated by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Department of Teaching, Learning and Leadership with the help of $72,000 in grants from the Dyer-Ives Foundation and the Frey Foundation, which are both located in Kent County. The program will offer services at a urban Head Start site and a rural preschool site.

The new program is taking a holistic approach to the problem and will involve custodial grandparents, grandchildren and early childhood educators in a comprehensive service delivery model that emphasizes resource development. A wide range of important issues will be tackled, including managing personal well-being and finances, school and community relationships, parenting skills and legal concerns.

"Economics is a big issue," Dannison says. "Custodial grandparents' incomes may not be suitable for raising grandchildren. They may find that they're isolated, that they're the only one in their group that has a toddler or a teen-ager that they're parenting. They may find that there are political issues going on in the family."

"There are issues on the job, it may be harder to provide health care for children or get time off for health care. Basically, we just don't support custodial grandparents the way we support first-time parents."

Area health care professionals can collaborate on research with faculty, grad students in new OT effort

A new program coordinated by the Department of Occupational Therapy will make it easier for West Michigan OT and allied health clinicians to do collaborative research with University faculty.

"We want to document whether it's working, to test how well things work," Paul says. "They seem pretty excited about it."

One project now underway is being conducted in cooperation with WMU's Center for Disability Services. It is testing ways to help people with developmental disabilities become better integrated into the community.

Center clients, working in day-activity groups, are learning skills that will help them when going to a restaurant, laundry, shopping or other destination in the community. Results will be presented in November at the national conference of the American Occupational Therapy Association in Reno, Nev.

A second project will test the effectiveness of a new eating utensil for people with Parkinson's disease developed by Partner's gotten a pretty good response," Paul says. "We wanted to do something for the clinic. A lot of them take our students in their practice, so we wanted to give something in return."

OUT FOR BLOOD—With the WMU/CMU rivalry foremost in everyone's mind, President Floyd made his sentiments clear. He's out for blood—but in the very best sense. Floyd checked in at the Read Fieldhouse Red Cross blood drive site to donate blood under the watchful eye of Nancy Large, a member of the Red Cross collections staff. The drive, the annual "Blood Challenge," pits WMU's campus community against its counterpart in Mount Pleasant in a race to donate the most blood. The WMU drive continues through tomorrow, with donation sites set up at Miller Auditorium from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. today and at Read tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

Kalamazoo police to help keep post-game peace in Kalamazoo neighborhoods

About 65 WMU students are expected to serve as additional "eyes and ears" for Kalamazoo police to help maintain order after the football game with Central Michigan University this Saturday at Waldo Stadium.

The student volunteers are the major component of Peace 'N It Together, an initiative of the Division of Student Affairs that has successfully helped reduce excessive partying in neighborhoods around campus in years when the WMU/CMU game is played in Kalamazoo.

"As students, we care about the community we live in and want to help out," says Laura Knuehl, a senior from Charlotte who is student coordinator for the program. "The Peace 'N It Together program is a way for us to play a proactive role. This year's theme, "Reputation and Pride," is especially fitting because we haven't had any major problems with rowdiness since we began our peace patrols."

Bonnie L. Hanson, Off-Campus Life Office, is the Peace 'N It Together Committee chairperson. She says the reason for implementing the patrols dates back to 1997 when a student party became unruly. In subsequent years, administrators and students worked with local officials and landlords to promote orderly fall celebrations.

Patrol volunteers attend training sessions facilitated by the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety and WMU staff members. They use two-way radios to notify city police of possible problems, but do not attempt to intervene in any situations themselves.

This year, two staff members from the Kalamazoo Public Library are joining the patrol effort. The volunteers will be in force between 9:30 a.m. Saturday, 2:30 a.m. Sunday patroling the Arcadia, Knollwood, Vine and West Main neighborhoods. They will be wearing grey sweatshirts bearing the Peace 'N It Together logo, which incorporates the peace sign and the words: "A Tradition of Peace, 1992-1999."
Event lets campus community members celebrate Homecoming on the run

The field is primed for campus runners who want to begin their run jump-starting of the Homecoming Campus Classic. The Saturday, Oct. 23, event includes a 5K run at 9 a.m., a 10K run at 10 a.m. and a kids’ fun run. The 5K run is open to students, faculty and staff members and other community members. Those competing can run as individuals or as members of three-person teams.

“The classic is yet another opportunity for the campus and community to come together to celebrate Homecoming,” said Kurt Kieu, associate vice president for university relations and the race organizer. “There’s something for everyone—whether you’re a competitive runner or just want to take a walk around campus with your family or go for a fun run. The events begin and end in front of the Bernhard Center. The 1K events will begin at 9 a.m. and the 5K run will begin at 9:30 a.m. Registration is $10 for adults and $5 for students. Three-person student teams can register for $10. Adult teams are $20 and families can register for $15. A $5 late registration fee will be charged for entries received after Oct. 10.

Top finishers in a variety of categories will receive ribbons and other prizes. All runners will receive long-sleeve T-shirts, admission to a pre-game tailgate at Hyanmacy and discounts on game tickets. A variety of door prizes also have been donated by members of the community.

For more information or to register, call the Office of University Relations at 7-8402.

Insurance in Asia explored

An international insurance executive with experience with a group of all-female students at WMU. Those competing administrators and the general public. Presentations will be made by a variety of professionals Women With Tattoos” to “Gang professionals Women With Tattoos” to “Gang members.”

Student sociologist group sponsors tattoo seminar

Tattoos will be the focus of a day-long campus seminar Saturday, Oct. 2.

Session topics will range from “Professionals with Tattoos” to “Gang Tatooers” to “History of History of Chinese Tatooers” to “History of History of Chinese Tatooers.” Presentations will be made by a variety of guest speakers in the event, which is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Knauss Hall. Attending also will see professional demonstrations and a tattoo gallery exhibition by professional artists and vendor displays. "The Tattoo Forum: History, Culture, Art" is the first academic conference sponsored by the Association, WMU’s undergraduate sociology organization. The forum will also include an art exhibit traveling from the Space Gallery in Knauss, which is sponsored by the Diversity Council. Cost of attending the seminar is $5.

Chinese agriculture, water resource experts to visit

Dengyi Tang, deputy director of the Institute of Geography at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, and Xie, deputy director of the Institute of Geography’s Yuncheng Comprehensive Institute, have been invited to visit the University as part of its Visiting Scholars and Artists Program. Tang will make three presentations in all 2734 Wood Hall. Their talks are free and open to the public.

Speaking at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 6, Tang will present his views on China’s food supply. His talk will be based on more than 30 years of research and field experience.

At noon on Friday, Oct. 8, Xie will speak on the local resources changes in China and the impact of those changes on agricultural productivity in the lower reaches of the Yellow River. That talk will describe the serious hydrological, economic and environmental impact of depleted water levels in the lower reaches of that river.

Also on Friday, Oct. 4, Xie will give an overview of his research project, which was done at the Yuncheng Experimental Station on such topics as groundwater, surface water, remote sensing and modeling of the plant-atmosphere-soil system. That facility is a leading hydrologic research station and the nation’s premier laboratory.

"Both of these visitors are well-known scholars and authority figures in China’s agricultural ecosystem and water resources management areas," says Chanseng He, geography, who is coordinating their visit.

Designer is Visiting Artist

A renowned Detroit area designer will visit the campus Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 12-13, as part of the WMU Arts and Artists Program.

Ruth Adler Schaefer, whose work represents a blend of conceptual and classical solutions, will deliver a free public talk on "What Modern Was..." at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday in Oakdell Hall. She will deliver campus talks the following day on "Design Around Us" at 10 a.m. and "From Design to Fabrication" at 1 p.m. in 1008 Tripp. Schaefer’s work includes textile collections, interior planning and design of a wide variety of commercial and residential spaces, and teaching at several universities. Her design work is held in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Institute of Architects International Color Award.

She runs her own design firm, Schaefer & Schaefer, in Southfield. Schaefer’s visit to the University is being coordinated by WMU’s interior and industrial design programs in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Department of Interior Design Engineering, Materials Engineering and Industrial Design.

For more information, contact Pat Yard, family and consumer sciences, at 7-3708.

Messianic researcher to talk

An expert on Jewish messianic movements will present a talk, "Our Less Common Tour of Heaven’s miscellany," at the Haworth College of Business with a talk on campus today.

Dengyin Tang, deputy director of the Institute of Geography at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, will speak on "China and Open National Laboratory." Tang has been involved in international research on Chinese agriculture, water, remote sensing and modeling of the plant-atmosphere-soil system for more than 30 years of research and field experience.

At noon on Friday, Oct. 8, Xie will present his talk on China’s food supply. His talk will be based on more than 30 years of research and field experience.

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Ferreira to warm up audience for Leslie Nielsen's 'Clarence Darrow' Friday night

On a given day during the academic year, James Ferreira typically can be found in front of a large group talking about a picture of early 20th century America. But on Friday, Oct. 8, the longtime WMU history professor's audience will be a lot different—and a lot bigger.

Ferreira has been asked to kick off registrations for an upcoming Miller Auditorium show "Leslie Nielsen as Clarence Darrow" by delivering opening remarks about the lawyer, jurist and crusader against injustice.

"I'm looking forward to it," says Ferreira. "I hope it's a full house. I teach classes in front of 260 people anyway. I do it all the time. It's just a few more people, that's all."

Thanks to Hollywood, many people are familiar with Darrow and the famous film "Inherit the Wind" and by Henry Fonda and Orson Wells.

Ferreira will talk about Darrow's upbringing as the son of immigrants in the Underground Railroad, his involvement in the labor wars, his crusades against censorship and capital punishment—and the death penalty and the Scopes trial.

He will end with Darrow's final trial, the successful defense in 1926 of a black doctor named Clarence Norris in Detroit who was about to be lynched for murder.

"He's been the attorney for the damned," Ferreira says. "He always felt he was wronged by the omission of his name in the film. I think that's all."

He adds that some of his immediate family are involved in many other landmark cases that helped strengthen the labor and civil rights movement.

Ferreira plans to shed some light on Darrow's life, how he grew up and cases he handled. "I'm looking forward to it," says Ferreira. "I hope it's a full house. I teach classes in front of 260 people anyway. I do it all the time. It's just a few more people, that's all."

New Southwest Regional Center director takes reins on post in familiar territory

Leonard Seawood is back home and back at WMU.

The Benton Harbor native returned to Michigan and his alma mater Sept. 13 when he took over as director of the new Southwest Regional Center on the WMU campus.

He replaces Tanya Ryskind, who resigned.

As center director, Seawood is responsible for managing the WMU Campaign for Southwest Michigan and his responsibilities include overseeing the regional center.

Prior to joining WMU, Seawood was Illinois State University's director of multicultural affairs. His duties included managing the overall operation and budget of the office as well as working on developing grants and coordinating programs designed to help students of color succeed in school and in the workplace.

He worked from 1986 to 1998 at Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor, most recently as assistant director for multicultural and diversity affairs. In his role, Seawood was also a visiting professor of social studies.

He also served as chair of the Multicultural Affairs Committee at Lake Michigan College and as assistant director of the Dislocated Worker Services Program and placement specialist with the Dislocated Worker Services Program.

Seawood earned two degrees from WMU; a bachelor of science in applied behavioral studies in 1988 and a master of arts in educational leadership in 1995. Currently, he is finishing a doctoral degree in educational administration and foundations at Illinois State University.

Zest for Life

Zest for Life is the wellness program available to all WMU employees and retirees and their spouses.

The program offers a wide range of fitness classes, including an Aqua Fitness class currently underway. This cross-training class provides a great workout alternative, due to its non-weight bearing nature.

Class size is not restricted and no swimming is involved. The class is held at Gabel Natatorium on the Lawson Ice Arena. The class runs through Thursday, Dec. 2, with sessions meeting at the following times: Monday 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., Wednesday 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.

Jobs

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunities Program by employment services in the Department of Human Resources. Interested benefits-eligible employees should check with a job aide or with the transfer office to see if the position is still available to the public.

(R) Assistant Professor (Tenure track, full year), 1-20, Bronson School of Nursing, 99/00-924, 9/28-10/4/99

(R) Utility Worker (5 FTE, 37.50 hours per week), F-O/F-I, Dining Services, 99/00-930, 9/28-10/4/99

(R) Utility Worker (6 FTE, 37.50 hours per week), F-O/F-I, Dining Services, 99/00-930, 9/28-10/4/99

(R) Utility Worker (6 FTE, 37.50 hours per week), F-O/F-I, Dining Services, 99/00-930, 9/28-10/4/99

(R) Utility Worker (6 FTE, 37.50 hours per week), F-O/F-I, Dining Services, 99/00-930, 9/28-10/4/99

(R) Aviation Maintenance Technologist (One year, terminal; hourly), P-04, College of Aviation, 99/00-941, 9/28-10/4/99

Conference reception will honor Robert Kotecki

The University community is invited to attend a reception Thursday, Oct. 7, in honor of the retirement of Robert G. Kotecki, emeritus in teaching, learning and scholarship.

The reception, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Oakland, will mark Kotecki's retirement Aug. 31 after serving as a faculty member for 37 years.

Campus community urged to attend alumni celebration

The time is now for members of the University community to make reservations to attend the annual Distinguished Alumni Dinner and help celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding WMU graduates.

The annual event, which takes place on Saturday, Oct. 23, this year, will honor the recipients of the 1999 WMU Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Awards. An aerospace executive and a well-known Michigan educator will be the evening’s recipients.

Cost of attending the event is $30 per person and the registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 8. For more information, call the Alumni Office at 7-8777.

Committee seeks faculty scholar nominations

The Distinguished Faculty Scholar Committee is seeking nominations for the 1999-2000 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Awards.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, Jan. 14. Up to three awards may be made each year. Those honored during this cycle will be announced late next year. Each winner will receive a $2,000 honorarium, which can be used to purchase an item of personal or professional value, such as a watch, a plaque and an opportunity to present a lecture, exhibition or performance for the University community.

All current, continuing board-appointed persons with faculty rank are eligible, including part-time as well as full-time faculty. They must have at least seven academic years of service to WMU prior to nomination. Nominations may receive the award more than once.

The awards are based on outstanding professional and creative achievement. Accomplishments may be artistic, historical, literary, philosophical, scientific or technical. Writers recognized beyond WMU are essential.

The award will be based on a body of achievement rather than a particular piece of work and a substantial part of the work must have been accomplished as a WMU faculty member.

Graduate and nomination forms have been distributed on campus recently. For more information about the process, contact Emeritus Ernst A. Breisch, chairperson of the selection committee, at 7-6607 or ebreisch@wmich.edu.

Exchange

FOR SALE—1997 Galant, loaded, 33,000 miles, $12,600. Call Dave at 382-0615.

Animal resources

Open enrollment continues

Benefits-eligible employees interested in switching health insurance plans or in making dependent changes to their coverage may do so during open enrollment, which continues through Friday, Oct. 8.

To initiate such a change, employees can stop by the Benefits Office, 1310 Seibert Administration Building, to obtain forms and instructions. The Benefits Office staff is also available to answer questions and can be reached at 7-3659.

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March to the Millennium Lecture Series/Visiting Scholars and Artists Program, "You Make the Messiah, The Messiah Makes You," Harris Lenowitz, professor of Hebrew, University of Utah's Middle East Center, 3512 Knauss Hall, 7:30 p.m.;

*Concert, University Jazz Orchestra with guest soloist trombonist Conrad Herwig, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 8**

*Hispanic Heritage Month talk, "Minorities and the News Media," Juan Gonzalez, New York Daily News columnist, 208 Bernhard Center, 10:30 a.m.

*PI U Epilsion presentation, "Mathematical Mindsets and Toolsets," Ed Moylan, Ford Motor Company; slide show in Connable Room, sixth floor of Everett Tower, 4:10 p.m.;

Emerging Scholars in American Studies Speakers Series, "Practicing Ethnobiography in the Americas," Barbara Brotherton, art, and Catherine Julien, history, Meader Rare Book Room, Waldo Library, 3-5 p.m.

*Friday night art, Miami Law Ice Arena, 7 p.m.

*University Theatre production (through Oct. 17), "The Imaginary Invalid": Friday and Saturday, Oct. 8 and 9; 8 p.m.

*Volleyball vs. Toledo, University Arena, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 9**

*Visiting Scholars and Artists Program lecture, "What Modern Was...," designer Ruth Adler Schnee, Schnee & Schnee, Southfield, Mich., Oakland Recital Hall; Friday and Saturday, Oct. 8 and 9, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.;

*Film showing (through Oct. 10), William Wenders' "The Buena Vista Social Club," Campus Cinema, Oakland Recital Hall: Friday and Saturday, Oct. 8 and 9; 8 and 9:30 p.m.;

*Clarence Darow," Miller performance starring Leslie Nielsen (through Oct. 10), Miller Auditorium: Friday, Oct. 8, 8 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 9, 8 and 9:30 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 10, 2 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 10**

*Volleyball vs. Toledo, Western Michigan University, 7 p.m.

*Hockey vs. Miami, Lawson Ice Arena, 7 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 11**

Faculty recital, Western Brass Quintet, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 3 p.m.

Concert, University Symphony Orchestra with guest soloist Anthony Roso, cello, Miller Auditorium, 7 p.m.

**Monday, Oct. 12**

Art exhibition (through Nov. 2), etchings, Gladys Nilsson and Jim Nutt of Wilmette, Ill., Gallery II, Sangren Hall, weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.;

*Faculty recital, pianist Louri Sims, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

**Tuesday, Oct. 13**


Ten Years After the Wall lecture series, "Transforming Education for New Democratic Societies," Elena B. Lisovskaya, teaching, learning and leadership, Lee Honors College, 7 p.m.

*Volleyball vs. Northern Illinois, University Arena, 7 p.m.

*Faculty Senate meeting, Fetzer Center, 5 p.m.

*Admission charged