Two Alumni Appointed to WMU Board of Trustees

On Jan. 18, WMU graduates Jeanne H. Carlson and William D. Johnston were appointed to the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees by Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Carlson, who resides in Novi, Mich., earned a B.B.A. from WMU and is presently president and chief executive officer of Blue Care Network of Michigan. Prior to assuming her current position in September 2006, Carlson served as BCN’s chief operating officer. During her career, Carlson also served Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan in several key positions, including vice president for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Compliance and vice president of the General Motors account. A life member of the WMU Alumni Association, she served on the Association’s Board of Directors from 1995-2002 and as its president in 2000-01.

A resident of Portage, Mich., Johnston received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WMU in 1970 and 1974 respectively. He is the founder, president and CEO of Greenleaf Companies in Kalamazoo, that includes Greenleaf Trust, Greenleaf Ventures Inc., Greenleaf Holdings, LLC, and Greenleaf Capital Inc. He is also chairman of Southwest Michigan First Economic Development Corp. and holds leadership positions on several corporate boards. A long time member of the WMU Alumni Association, Johnson has also served his alma mater as a director and past president of the WMU Foundation.

Carlson and Johnston succeed Peter L. Aseritis, B.B.A. ‘73 of Williamsburg, Mich., and James Holden, B.S. ‘73 of Bloomfield Hills, Mich, both of whose terms expired in December. Aseritis and Holden were honored with emeriti status as a result of their service and unselfish contributions to Western Michigan University.

Alumni Elected to Lead WMU Board of Trustees in 2007

At the annual meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees held on Jan. 26, Dan Pero, B.S. ‘73, was elected chair, and Kenneth V. Miller, B.B.A. ‘69, M.B.A. ‘70, was elected vice chair.

Pero, who was appointed to his current term on the board in 2001, is president of the American Justice Partnership. A resident of Laingsburg Mich., he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from WMU. Pero served as a trustee previously in 1997, but he accepted a vice presidency with Eckerd Corp. and relocated to Florida.

Appointed to the board in 2002, Miller is vice president and chief operating officer of Havirco, a Kalamazoo investment management firm. He is also owner of the Millenium Restaurant Group, which owns and operates several restaurants in southwest Michigan. In addition to his two WMU degrees, Miller earned a juris doctorate from Cooley Law School.

Both men are members of the WMU Alumni Association, and Miller was serving as the association’s vice president at the time of his appointment to the Board of Trustees.

Happy Birthday to Two WMU Centurion Alumnae

On Dec. 30, 2006, Marion Leach celebrated her 105th birthday. A long-time member of the WMU Alumni Association, Leach graduated from what was then Western State Normal in 1926. She taught at Parchment (MI) High School for 30 years before moving to Aiken SC, where she currently resides.

Mrs. Leach is not WMU’s oldest alumna, however, as on Feb. 23, Lillian Tazelaar celebrated her 106th birthday. A resident of Holland, Mich., Tazelaar received her teaching certificate from Western State Normal in 1918. Our best wishes to both of these alumnae!

Golden Apple Award Nominations

The College of Education Alumni Society is currently seeking nominations for its Golden Apple Award. The award is presented annually to accomplished WMU graduates who are currently working or have retired from the many professions involved in the educational field. The award recipients will be selected by their peers as representatives of educational excellence and commitment. Nominations will be accepted through May 1 for the 2007 Awards. For eligibility, selection criteria and a nomination form, visit http://www.wmich.edu/coe/alumni/goldenawd.htm.
WMU—A Clear Winner at the International Bowl

In many newspapers, one rule of the article is that the headline writes the headline. That is not the case with this article. In fact, the headline was the first thing I read. And yes, I did attend the bowl game and am well aware that the Broncos did not win. However, in spite of the final score, Western Michigan University was the clear winner of the inaugural International Bowl held in Toronto on Jan. 6.

I would like to tell you why I say that with such conviction, and I will begin with our Bronco football team. What a great source of pride they are for this University. They staged a terrific comeback on the field of the Rogers Centre, demonstrating to the more than 26,000 people in the stands what great heart and character they have. Every player and every coach gave it their all and never gave up—traits of winners in my book.

The Broncos also give us much to be proud of off the field as Coach Cubit pointed out prior to the game when he addressed the capacity crowd at the Alumni Association’s pregame event. In talking about his players, he proudly announced that 45 members of the team had a GPA over 3.0 for fall semester 2006, and that the team’s overall GPA was 2.81.

Just as the preparing for and playing of the game was a team effort, so too was the entire bowl experience. And here again, WMU was a winner.

On Friday evening, thousands gathered in downtown Toronto for the battle of WMU and Cincinnati marching bands. Although this was an “everyone is a winner” form of competition, the Bronco Marching Band, along with the flag, dance and cheer teams, clearly stole the show and dazzled the crowd with their musical talent, showmanship and spirit. Under the direction of David Montgomery, our band was nothing short of fantastic the entire weekend.

Speaking of winners—special kudos to Buster, clearly the best mascot in Toronto during the bowl. What a joy it is to watch how he interacts with Bronco fans of all ages, but especially the younger ones whose faces light up when they get a high five or a hug from him.

The Alumni Association’s sold-out pregame event at the Rogers Centre Windows restaurant was a hit as well. Not even the great photos taken by WMU alumnus Michael Baker and Gary Shook, two of which are featured on this page, truly capture the great Bronco spirit that filled the room as more than 470 alumni, students and parents enjoyed a great venue, a wonderful meal and great WMU enthusiasm and camaraderie. The Pep Band, Buster and the cheer and dance teams were on hand to raise an already festive atmosphere even higher. This great gathering was all that more special with President Haenicke there to greet everyone collectively from the podium and individually with his warm smile and handshake!

At the game itself, the enthusiasm and excitement demonstrated by thousands of true Bronco supporters was not only tremendous, it was contagious. The spirit demonstrated by the entire WMU contingency spread throughout the stands, and WMU soon became the favorite of the unaffiliated fans.

The sense of excitement and pride among Bronco alumni, students, parents and friends was not limited to Toronto. WMU graduates came together informally in homes and at watch parties around the country, from New York to California and Michigan to Florida. As the photos from the Naples and Clearwater gatherings show, there were proud Broncos everywhere on Jan. 6 as they watched the game on ESPN2. Speaking of the telecast, I understand that Western Michigan University was the toast of the broadcast booth. Former Bronco John Saunders did a bit of reminiscing about his time on campus and both he and Doug Flutie commended Coach Cubit for “doing things the right way”.

And last but not in any way least, the Alumni Association staff was definitely a winning team. With the support and assistance of our family members, the staff worked diligently to make sure the bowl experience was the best that it could be for everyone.

We have all heard the saying, “It’s not whether you win or lose, it’s how you play the game.” In the case of the 2007 International Bowl, this saying is anything but a cliché. Western Michigan University was the clear winner of the International Bowl!
Bronco-2-Bronco Helps Young Alumni

The WMU Alumni Association’s Bronco-2-Bronco program is an initiative designed to provide graduating students and young alumni the opportunity to connect with WMU alumni across the country. In pursuing a career or job, alumni often find themselves moving to an unfamiliar area, which can be stressful. Through Bronco-2-Bronco, these new alumni may connect with a fellow Bronco who is established in an area and thus ease some of their anxiety that often accompanies relocation. The program does just that, and more for Phalgun Chidanand, B.B.A. ’05 who shared his experience in the following note:

I would like to share my story with you. I find it hard to believe how the Bronco-2-Bronco program and events like this can change the rest of your life.

I am originally from Bangalore, India. I moved to Michigan in 2003 to complete the final two years of my undergraduate education. After graduation I had two options—stay in the U.S. and pursue my career or move back to India and to my family. It was the toughest decision I have ever had to make, but I chose to stay in the U.S. to start my career.

I ultimately decided that I wanted to move to New York City and seek out a job in the financial services industry. I started to apply for jobs. In addition, I stopped by the Alumni Association office and obtained a list of all alumni from New York City who had volunteered for the Bronco-2-Bronco program and e-mailed each one of them.

Gregg Slager, B.B.A. ’83, a senior partner in Ernst & Young’s Transactions Advisory Services practice, responded to my note and agreed to meet with me on my upcoming trip to New York to help me learn about the city and the financial services industry job market.

A few months later, I began my first job at Ernst & Young LLP as an analyst in the Transaction Advisory Services Practice. I am having the best experience working with Mr. Slager and his team on high profile transactions with many of the premier global private equity firms and blue chip corporate investors. I thoroughly enjoy my job and owe many thanks to both Mr. Slager and the Bronco-2-Bronco program.

If you are interested in learning more about Bronco-2-Bronco, please visit our Web site at www.wmich.edu/alumni and click on the Young Alumni button, or call (269) 387-8777.

WMU’s First Female Engineering Graduate Returns to Campus to Meet with Students

In addition to describing what it was like to be the only female engineering major, she offered students the following advice based on her experiences in the real world:

- To the women entering a male-dominated profession, develop a thick skin and do not allow stereotypes to prevent you from pursuing your dreams
- Know your industry so that you have a sense of what is coming and can prepare for it
- Continue your education, but get some real world experience before jumping into graduate study
- Have a “can do” attitude
- Develop solid writing skills, technical writing in the case of engineering
- If, and when, you consider a career change, as she did, explore it, test it out before actually making the move

A long-time member of the WMU Alumni Association, Gladysz is currently serving on its board of directors. She attributes much of her success to the well-rounded education she received at WMU.

2007 Take a Bronco to Lunch Focuses on the Sciences

Accepting an invitation from the WMU chapter of the Society of Women Engineers, Margean Gladysz, B.S.E. ’75, was on campus in January to speak to chapter members about her professional experiences as an engineer and how to make your way in what is still today a male-dominated field.

Gladysz, the first female to graduate from an engineering curriculum in WMU’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, is now the senior vice president and regional director of the National Executive Service Corps in Tinton Falls, N.J. After earning her degree in Industrial Engineering, she accepted a position with Bendix Corp. in South Bend, Ind., and has had a long successful career in the aerospace industry. While in South Bend, she earned her M.B.A. from Indiana University-South Bend.

Student Alumni Association members at the 2006 Take a Bronco to Lunch event with 2006 keynote speaker Cynthia Kay, M.A. ’77

The Student Alumni Association will hold its annual Take a Bronco to Lunch program on Fri., March 23, from noon - 2 p.m. in the Fetzer Center at WMU. This event provides students the opportunity to network with WMU graduates who have pursued a career in this field.

This year’s program will focus on the sciences, specifically chemistry, biology, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, geochemistry, geology, geophysics and physics. Over lunch, students will have the opportunity to discuss the wide range of career paths available within these fields with returning alumni. After lunch and informal conversation, Dr. Jason Pinchot, B.S. 2000 and former SAA member, will address the group.

Returning alumni will also have an opportunity to take student-guided tours of the new chemistry facility. The tours are optional, and take place every 15 minutes from 9:30 - 11 a.m.

To participate in this event and have a meaningful interaction with current students, alumni are invited to visit the Association’s Event web page at www.wmich.edu/alumni/events for more information.

Detroit Tigers Brandon Inge, flanked by Coach Gene Lamont on his left and teammates Craig Monroe and Placido Polanco on his right, answers a question from one of the more than 1,000 WMU alumni, students, staff and Tigers fans gathered for the team’s annual Winter Caravan stop in Kalamazoo. Held in WMU’s Miller Auditorium, the January event was sponsored by the WMU Alumni Association. Other team members of the 2006 American League Champions in attendance were Justin Verlander, Chris Shelton and Vance Wilson, along with Manager Jim Leyland and the voice of the Tigers, Dan Dickerson.
March 07

Mar. 13 Lecture, National Public Radio host Diane Rehm, sponsored by Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Bernhard Center Ballroom, 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 16-17 CCHA Championship, Joe Louis Arena, Detroit, Teams TBD

Mar. 16-18 Broadway musical, "Chicago" (through Sunday), Miller Auditorium

Mar. 17 Concert, Western Invitational Jazz Festival, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 21 Bronco Baseball at Notre Dame, 5:05 p.m.

Mar. 22 University Theatre, "Once on this Island" (through April 1), Multiform Theatre, 8 p.m.

Mar. 23-25 Bronco Baseball at Kent State

Mar. 27 Good Morning, Kalamazoo!, Tours of Richmond Center for Visual Arts, 7:30 a.m.

Mar. 28 Bronco Baseball vs. Wayne State, 2 p.m.

Mar. 29 Accent on Alumni is published through the support of the dues-paying members of the WMU Alumni Association.

Mar. 30 Bronco Softball at Oakland, 3 p.m.

Frostic Reading Series, "On Looking," essayist Lia Purpura, Little Theatre, 8 p.m.

Mar. 31-Bronco Softball vs. Bowling Green

Mar. 31-April 1 Bronco Baseball vs. EMU

April 07

April 1 Bronco Baseball vs. Bowling Green, 1 p.m.

Concert, University Concert Band, Miller Auditorium, 3 p.m.

April 3 Bronco Softball at Michigan, 3 p.m.

April 3-4 Bronco Baseball at Illinois

April 4 Frostic Reading Series, "The Years of Smashing Bricks," author Richard Kalvarus, Little Theatre, 8 p.m.

Concert, University Jazz Lab Band, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8:15 p.m.

April 6 Bronco Softball at Ball State, 1 p.m.

April 6-8 Bronco Baseball vs. Akron

April 7-8 Bronco Softball at Miami

April 10 Bronco Softball vs. Michigan State, 4 p.m.

Concert, Gold Company II, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8:15 p.m.

April 11 Bronco Baseball vs. Michigan State, at Fifth Third Ballpark, Grand Rapids, MI, 6:05 p.m.

Frostic Reading Series, "The Art of the One-Act," Little Theatre, 8 p.m.

April 12 Dedication of the Richmond Center for Visual Art, tours follow dedication, 2 p.m.

Bronco Softball @ Loyola-Chicago, 3 p.m. CT

University Theatre, "Doctor Faustus" (through April 22), Shaw Theatre, 8 p.m.

April 13-15 Bronco Baseball @ Buffalo

April 13 Performance, "Cirque Dreams," Miller Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Concert, University Chorale, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8:15 p.m.

April 14 Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation Alumni Honor Academy Induction, Noon-2 p.m., Fetzer Center. Call (269) 387-2687 for more information.

April 20 Bronco Softball @ Toledo

April 21-22 Bronco Softball vs. Buffalo

April 27 WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors Spring Meeting, Walwood Hall

WMU Board of Trustees meeting, 157 Bernhard Center, 11 a.m. (location and time tentative)

Bronco Softball vs Akron, 1 p.m.

April 27-29 Bronco Baseball vs. Ball State

April 28 Commencement, Miller Auditorium, 9 a.m., Noon, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

April 28-29 Bronco Softball vs. Ohio

May 07

May 2 Bronco Baseball vs. Michigan, 3 p.m.

May 4 Bronco Softball @ Toledo 1 p.m.

May 4-6 Bronco Baseball @ Northern Illinois

May 5-6 Bronco Softball @ Bowling Green

May 8 Bronco Baseball vs. Michigan State, 3 p.m.

May 9 Bronco Baseball vs. Olivet, 3 p.m.

May 9-12 MAC Softball Tournament @ Midland, MI

May 11-13 Bronco Baseball @ Central Michigan.

May 17-19 Bronco Baseball vs. Eastern Michigan

May 23 Bronco Baseball, MAC Championship (through May 27), times and locations TBA

May 30 Chicago Annual Spring Reception, 5:30 p.m., location TBA

Events in brown sponsored by the WMU Alumni Association.

For complete schedule of Bronco men’s and women’s athletics, visit www.wmubroncos.com or call (269) 387-3120.

For complete information and tickets for shows at WMU’s Miller Auditorium, visit www.millerauditorium.com or call (269) 387-2300.

For University Theatre, call (269) 387-6222.

Congratulations to WMU graduates Fred Decker, B.S. ’64, M.A. ’68 (left) and Joe Cooper, B.S. ’48, Sp.E. ’65, who were among the nine 2007 inductees into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Both men are also members of the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame and long standing members of the WMU Alumni Association.