



Western NEWS

For and about WMU faculty and staff

MARCH 27, 2008
volume 34, number 13

Semiannual staff award winners named; recognition event slated

The University community is invited to attend a reception for this spring's semiannual Make a Difference award winners at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

The four honorees are Gerald Ditto, student financial aid and scholarships; Betty Merrifield, dining services-Valley II; Arthur Smith, information technology; and Margaret Watson, information technology.

During the reception, the award winners will each receive \$250 and a commemorative certificate in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the University.

The WMU Make a Difference program is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. Visit www.wmich.edu/makeadifference for more information about the awards program.

Year-end Finals Finish scheduled

Faculty, staff and administrators are encouraged to volunteer to help out Tuesday, April 22, during the semiannual Finals Finish. The event, which helps students ease into finals week, runs from 6 to 11 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center as well as various other venues around campus.

Volunteers are needed to work two-hour shifts so that the event will go smoothly. Complete event details and a volunteer form will be posted online soon at www.finalsfinish.wmich.edu.

Alumni points of pride sought

The WMU Alumni Association is compiling a list of points of pride. Between now and April 1, graduates of the University are encouraged to submit the things about WMU that make them the most proud. All respondents will be entered into a drawing for WMU apparel and goods. E-mail the association to make submissions.

Tenure, promotion workshop set

A Tenure and Promotion Workshop will be held from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, in 157 Bernhard Center for faculty and graduate students. Thomas Kent, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will be participating from 1 to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Elke Schoffers, chemistry, at elke.schoffers@wmich.edu or 387-2265.

Western News to go on hiatus

The next issue of *Western News* will be distributed April 10. This will be the last issue for the spring semester. The deadline to submit items for this issue is 5 p.m. Friday, April 4. *Western News* will resume its regular publication schedule May 8 after the start of the Summer I Session.

Dunn pledges to keep WMU advancing

The inauguration of John M. Dunn as WMU's eighth president March 24 drew college presidents and faculty from around the state and nation as well as area political and business leaders and campus community members.

Speaking during the ceremony, Dunn pledged to focus on core values and keep the University growing and moving forward, despite a challenging financial environment.

"Mine will be a presidency that celebrates and extends this University's values and accomplishments, and it will also be a presidency that embraces opportunity. Any opportunity to expand our reach and enhance our students' success will have my undivided attention," Dunn said.

Dunn praised an institutional commitment to being "compassionate, dedicated to civility and committed to building character." But WMU has also built a reputation, he noted, for being "a University community that is never, ever complacent."

"We cannot be intimidated by cyclical economic challenges," he said. "The price of doing so—lost momentum and missed

opportunities—is too great in this competitive environment. Those who came before us did not flinch in the face of challenge, and neither will we."

Go to www.wmich.edu/president to read the complete text of the president's inaugural remarks.



President Dunn, left, and Board of Trustees Chair Kenneth V. Miller. (Photo by Isaac Johnson)

Provost candidate visits planned for April

The search for WMU's new provost is on track, and up to four final candidates will visit the campus to make presentations during the weeks of April 14 and 21.

Earlie Washington, dean of the College of Health and Human Services and chair of the campuswide search committee, says the original list of more than 70 nominees was narrowed to 29 applicants.

From that list of 29, the search committee selected 12 candidates to interview late this month. From the 12 interviewed, the committee will invite up to four to campus in April for a round of on-campus meetings and public presentations.

"The committee was pleased with the applicant pool and is looking forward to being the host for the final candidates next month," Washington says.

WMU approves in-state tuition for military personnel, dependents

Active-duty military personnel and their dependents will be eligible for in-state tuition thanks to a motion approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its March 18 meeting.

Military personnel who are Michigan residents and haven't established residency elsewhere, as well as those who are stationed in Michigan, will be eligible for the in-state rates.

Their spouses and dependents also will be eligible for the benefit. Once the active-duty military person or dependent qualifies for the benefit, eligibility will continue for as long as they are continually enrolled and there is no change to the military or dependent status.

"WMU and its sister universities in Michigan have recognized the difficulty active-duty military families have in meeting residency requirements," said Lowell

P. Rinker, vice president for business and finance, in describing the rationale behind the proposal. "We're doing this because we think it's important to recognize the valuable contributions our military personnel make to our country."

Rinker says the move dovetails nicely with a program adopted by WMU last year at this time. The Returning Veterans Assistance Program, which has been called a "mini-G.I. Bill," is designed to help returning veterans make the transition from military to student life easier by offering a semester of free tuition while they complete the transition and in-state tuition for their remaining time at WMU.

According to Rinker, some implementation details need to be worked out, but more information will be available from WMU's Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs at 387-0740.

Around Campus

Levin to speak on Iraq, primary

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin will speak at 8 p.m. today in 157 Bernhard Center. The event is open to the public free of charge, but seating is limited. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Levin's remarks are expected to focus primarily on the war in Iraq and the Michigan Democratic primary election. He will answer questions following the talk.

Levin serves as chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, co-chair of the Senate Auto and Auto Parts Task Force, chair of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force.

Great Lakes water subject of talk

Challenges in managing Great Lakes water resources will be addressed by the University of Wisconsin's Jean Bahr in a public lecture at 4 p.m. Monday, March 31, in 1104 Rood. The discussion is titled "Midwest Water Follies: Some Current Challenges in Managing Water Resources of the Great Lakes Basin."

Ted Nugent to speak at Miller

Rock musician and outspoken political conservative Ted Nugent will give a free, public lecture at 7 p.m. Monday, March 31, in Miller Auditorium. Nugent's speech is titled "God, Guns and Rock 'n' Roll," which is also the title of his best-selling book. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

Panel to debate science, ethics

A panel will debate "Science, Ethics and Politics: Are They Compatible?" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, in 210 Bernhard Center. The panel will feature a cross section of WMU professors, ethicists and a longtime newspaper science writer.

Two grant workshops slated

The final two grant development workshops this semester will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Walwood's Heinig Emeriti Lounge. Attendees may bring their lunches and a laptop. Friday, April 4, E. Brooks Applegate will present "Evaluation Plans for Research and Service Training Grants" and Friday, April 18, Mike Sharer will present "Special Topics Related to 21st-Century Proposals." To register, go to www.wmich.edu/research/workshop-registration.html or call Charlotte Kelley at 387-8205.

Disney Co. to recruit interns

The Walt Disney Co. will recruit WMU students on campus Monday, April 7, for a one-of-a-kind education and work program at the "Magic Kingdom" in Florida.

Representatives from the Walt Disney World College Program will be on hand at noon and 5 p.m. in 105 Bernhard Center to provide information about the real world of make believe and becoming a Disney "cast member." The program offers a paid fall semester internship at the Disney World amusement park near Orlando, Fla.

Prof named geologist of year

Alan Kehew, geosciences, was named Michigan's 2007 Outstanding Geologist by the Michigan Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists. He was



Kehew

lauded for contributing to the understanding of glacial geology and the glacial events that shaped Michigan's rich geologic past.

In particular, he was honored for his contributions to a mapping project funded by the

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Kehew joined the WMU faculty in 1986 and has served as geosciences chair. The main focus of his career has been researching the hydrogeochemistry of natural and contaminated aquifer systems and the glacial geology of southwestern Michigan.

Micklin co-writes featured article

Philip Micklin, emeritus in geography, has had a feature article he co-wrote published in the April issue of Scientific American. Micklin wrote "Reclaiming the Aral Sea,"



Micklin

with Nikolay Aladin from the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The article describes the desiccation of what was the world's fourth largest lake in surface area and the resulting

consequences, but points out that there is new hope for the once-forsaken water body.

Micklin has conducted research on the Aral Sea since the mid-1980s and has written numerous papers on it and related water management issues in Central Asia. Most recently, he and Aladin led a month-long expedition around the sea, funded by the National Geographic Society, in August and September 2005 and a two-week return visit in September 2007.

Physicist praised by colleagues

John Tanis, physics, has been selected by the American Physical Society as one of a small number of peer reviewers named this year as outstanding referees. Tanis was



Tanis

one of the inaugural group of 534 referees honored from among 42,000 who do this essential work for the society's journals. His selection is considered lifetime achievement recognition for service to the profession.

"Your reports and advice have helped to advance and diffuse the knowledge of physics, while creating a resource that is invaluable to authors, researchers, students and readers," the APS said of Tanis in announcing the award. "Although most scientists understand that participation as a referee is necessary for maintaining the integrity of the scientific enterprise, not all have given of their time and wisdom as generously as you have."

Faculty members encouraged to participate in national survey

WMU is participating in the 2008 Faculty Survey of Student Engagement, a national research project that studies faculty perspectives on student engagement.

The survey period starts this week and will end at the beginning of June. FSSE officials, under the signature of Eileen B. Evans, vice provost for institutional effectiveness, will e-mail a random sample of faculty members an invitation to participate and then the survey, followed by a reminder.

"We encourage faculty to share their observations by completing the FSSE," Evans says. "The survey gathers information through anonymous online responses and takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. It will help identify areas of strength at WMU, as well as aspects of the undergraduate experience that may need attention."

The FSSE, now in its sixth year, works in conjunction with the National Survey of Student Engagement. Data collected by the two surveys can be compared to identify gaps in perceptions between faculty and students at participating institutions.

"Both FSSE and NSSE data will support and reinforce student engagement efforts already under way at WMU," Evans says, "including the First-Year Experience Program as well as academic and co-curricular programs."

Exchange

Wanted to buy—Used keyboard in good condition; 61 keys or similar size. Call Cheri at 207-1978.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.



EDITOR: Jeanne Baron. CONTRIBUTORS: Tonya R. Hernandez, Deanne Molinari, Thomas A. Myers, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Schwerin. GRAPHIC DESIGN: Tammy M. Boneburg.

WESTERN NEWS (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and Summer I session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Western News*, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Spring semester publication dates are Jan. 10, Jan. 24, Feb. 7, Feb. 21, March 13, March 27 and April 10. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail jeanne.baron@wmich.edu.

WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.



WMU to host Michigan's geographic bee

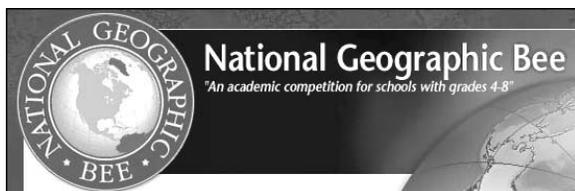
Western Michigan University will host the Michigan Geographic Bee for the first time in its history on Friday, April 4.

The event will be held in the Bernhard Center, after being held in previous years at Central Michigan University. Preliminary rounds in the competition will begin at 9:30 a.m. and take place in various areas of the center. The top geography whiz kid in Michigan will be selected from a field of 10 students in a final round at noon in the North Ballroom.

The state-level competition will feature 100 fourth- to eighth-graders from around the state vying to represent Michigan in the National Geographic Bee set for Tuesday and Wednesday, May 20-21, in Washington, D.C. The championship round will be moderated by "Jeopardy!" quiz show host Alex Trebek for the 20th year.

The National Geographic Society developed the National Geographic Bee in 1989 in response to concern about the lack of geographic knowledge among young people in the United States. First prize in the national competition is a \$25,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society. Second- and third-place finishers will receive \$15,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships.

Up to 100 students in each of the 50 U.S. states, District of Columbia, U.S. territories and Department of Defense Dependents



Schools have qualified to participate in the state bees being held simultaneously April 4. Each state winner will receive \$100, a National Geographic globe, and an all-expenses-paid trip to the finals and the chance to be crowned national champion.

The state Bees are the second level of the annual competition. The first level began last November with contests in almost 14,000 U.S. schools, in which millions of students participated.

Visitors to the Bee section of the National Geographic Society Web site at www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee can hone their geography skills by checking out the new GeoBee Challenge online game.

Academic changes approved

Acting at their March 18 meeting, WMU trustees approved changes to 13 academic programs recommended by the University administration after review by the Faculty Senate's Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Studies councils.

The changes at the undergraduate level include: creation of an accelerated bachelor's/master's degree program in industrial and entrepreneurial engineering; revision of the mathematics minor to include an actuarial science option; and creation of minors in political science education, geography education and history education.

At the graduate level, changes approved include: deletion of a master's degree program in performing arts administration; separation of the master's program in rehabilitation counseling from the vision rehabilitation therapy program; and name and program changes to create a master's degree in international development administration to replace the master's program in development administration.

Trustees approve three faculty, five staff member retirements

The retirements of three faculty members and five staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its March 18 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignation of one faculty member.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeriti status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Richard G. Cooper, occupational therapy, 31-1/2 years, effective Dec. 14, 2008; Norman M. Kiracofe, counselor education and counseling psychology, 22-1/2 years, effective Dec. 31, 2008; and Steven C. Rhodes, communication school director, 34 years, effective July 1, 2009.

The staff member retirements are all effective this year and are for: Donna G. Areaux, psychology, 20 years, effective March 31; Thomas E. Campbell, physical plant-landscape services, 32 years, effective July 31; Mark Domlovič, information technology, 25 years, effective March 6; Rosemary G. Hubek, dance, 14 years, effective April 30; and John D. Tucker, information technology, 18 years, effective Feb. 4.

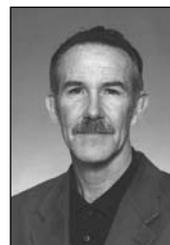
The faculty member resigning is: Lori Muse, assistant professor of management, effective Aug. 21, 2008.



Cooper



Kiracofe



Rhodes



Campbell



Domlovič

Register now for Medieval Congress

WMU community members and Kalamazoo County residents can attend the 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies for free if they register by April 15. A \$25 late fee will be assessed after this date.

This year's congress will take place Thursday through Monday, May 8-12, and will include more than 600 sessions featuring scholarly papers, panel discussions, roundtables, workshops and performances. There also will be nearly 70 exhibitors.

Go to www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress to register or obtain more information about the congress.

Obituary



Engels

Carl Joseph Engels, emeritus in natural science, died March 11 at his home in Kalamazoo. He was 86.

Engels came to WMU in 1953 and retired in 1985. He initially taught at WMU's University High School and later served as chair of the science area in the College of General Studies.

During his career, Engels was part of a group of some 30 WMU faculty members who helped develop the Ibadan Technical College in Ibadan, Nigeria, in the 1960s. He was science advisor at the college from 1964 to 1968. Engels also founded the WMU sailing team, led the University High tennis team to five state championships and was a Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame inductee.



Meader

Mary Upjohn Meader, a longtime WMU benefactor and director emerita of the WMU Foundation, died March 16 in Kalamazoo. She was 91.

Meader was an aviation pioneer, an ingenious photographer and a philanthropist who gave generously to education and the arts and was active in the local community. She and her late husband, Edwin E. Meader, geography, were among the most-generous donors in the University's history.

Mary Meader served on the boards of directors of the Upjohn Co., Kalamazoo Nature Center, and Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation.

A private family memorial service will be held for Meader at a later date.



York

Zack L. York, former chair of the Department of Theatre and a legend in WMU theatre history, died March 17, in Kalamazoo. He was 95.

York was a WMU alumnus and a faculty member from 1940 to 1978, when he retired with emeritus status. Shortly after his retirement, the WMU Board of Trustees named the University's arena theatre in his honor.

While at the University, he served in nearly every phase of theatre work. He was named the first chair of the newly formed Department of Theatre in 1976. The department's most prestigious scholarship is named in his honor.

A memorial service is to be held at a later date.

On Campus with Marc Fawley and Thomas Penar



DEPENDABLE TAG TEAM
Marc Fawley, left, Thomas Penar, right
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

"Teamwork" is more than a word for Marc Fawley and Thomas Penar in BCSS-building, custodial and support services. It's the way these two skilled tradesmen who make up the division's appliance repair shop do business—every day.

"BCSS is a team-oriented unit, and we're support staff for the custodians," Fawley explains. "We maintain all of the unit's equipment so they can keep working."

Fawley and Penar stay plenty busy just trying to keep up with the demand for repairs and changing technology in the cleaning industry. But they also disburse equipment to campus buildings, order parts, keep stock, investigate what equipment to purchase, and attend conferences on how to use new equipment, then train the WMU personnel who will be using it. In addition, they improve safety by serving on the Accident Investigation and Prevention Committee for BCSS and tend to many details of getting new buildings on line, such as setting up custodial closets and installing coat hooks and shelving.

"We enjoy what we do, and we work well together," Penar says. "We each brought a lot of skills with us. Basically, we have to be electricians, mechanics, welders and plumbers. Even today's vacuum cleaners have circuit boards."

"We're definitely not in a rut," Fawley chimes in. "We love our job and pride ourselves on saving Western money. We want people to let us know if there's a problem so we can help. We just got an award for outstanding service from our peers—100 custodians—and that means more than anything to us."

Penar came to the University in 1995, serving as building operations supervisor for the WMU-Grand Rapids campus. He moved to the main campus a year later and worked as a millwright in the physical plant until accepting his current post in 1999. In his off hours, he spends time with his significant other, WMU employee Sharon Stoken, and builds motorcycles as well as model railroads.

Fawley, a mechanic at Holiday Lanes in Kalamazoo for 17 years, came to the University in 1990 as the maintenance mechanic in WMU's bowling center. He landed his current job when the center was being phased out a decade later. Fawley spends his free time boating and fishing. Two of his sisters, Dana Ball and Christin Fawley-Zehner, also work on campus.

WMUK hoping listeners achieve shortened spring fund drive

The University's public radio station, WMUK-FM, has its sights set on a shortened spring fund drive and hopes to reduce on-air pledge hours by more than 50 percent during pledge week.

The station seeks to repeat the success of its Fall 2007 Short Drive and is encouraging listeners to donate prior to the spring drive, scheduled to begin on Friday, April 4. The drive has a goal of raising \$175,000.

"We are counting on pre-drive mail and online support to help us reach our \$175,000

goal quickly," says Gordon Bolar, WMUK development director.



To date, mail-in contributions and pledging online at the station's www.wmuk.org Web site have helped WMUK make substantial progress toward its goal.

A Web ticker on the site features up-to-date results of the drive's progress.

The station will enlist the support of more than 80 volunteers to answer pledge calls during the drive. Those interested in volunteering can go to the volunteer section of the WMUK Web site.

Advocacy office schedules military deployment seminar

WMU will present a seminar for family and friends of student members of the military who are about to deploy.

The free, informational event is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10, in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. It is open to members of the general public as well as the University community.

Karen Blaisure, family and consumer sciences, will present the seminar, which is titled "The Deployment Cycle," and is being sponsored by the Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs.

The one-hour seminar will address experiences common to friends and family of deployed or deploying military service personnel.

Topics to be covered include preparing for deployment, reactions during deployment, resources available, and reunion expectations and realities.

Those attending the seminar also will learn about what to say when they are worried about a member of the military, how to take care of themselves during deployments, and how they can support service members as they transition from deployment to home.

To reserve a seat or obtain more information, contact Eric McConnell in the advocacy office at eric.mcconnell@wmich.edu or 387-0740.

Japanese educators examine WMU's retention, mentoring efforts

A group of Japanese educators was on campus March 19 and 20 examining WMU's undergraduate retention and mentoring efforts.

The five-member delegation from Kanto Gakuin University in Yokohama, Japan, was in the United States on a fact-finding mission. WMU was on the itinerary because of its long-established mentoring programs now administered through the federally funded TRIO Student Success Program.

"We help first-generation, income-eligible college students and college students with disabilities transition to college and progress through graduation," says Charlotte L. Giscombe, program services coordinator for TRIO, which hosted the visit. "Mentoring has always been a big part of doing that"

While on campus, the delegation met with TRIO students, sat in on two TRIO classes, and were briefed on a variety of campus programs that acclimate students to the demands of college life and/or help them locate careers that suit their abilities and personalities.



Charlotte Giscombe, center, and the Japanese delegation participate in a Career and Student Employment Services briefing. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)