**University program named best in nation**

WMU has been recognized by American Humanics for having the best nonprofit leadership program in the nation for 2008-09.

The University earned the designation by winning the American Humanics Program Excellence Award during a final round of competition at the AH Management/Leadership Institute Jan. 3-6 in Phoenix. The prestigious annual award goes to the higher education institution that demonstrates best practices in all nonprofit leadership program areas.

WMU’s program was honored for its particular strengths in the areas of institutional support, fundraising, nonprofit management curriculum and community service, as well as its consistent excellence in all other areas.

The University was named a finalist for the AH excellence award along with the University of Central Florida. Before traveling to Phoenix, students and other representatives from each school produced a video about their program. WMU’s competition video is posted on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=5L1fuqTnWul. After arriving in Phoenix, each team made a formal presentation to the Program Excellence Award Review Committee.

Headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., AH is a national alliance of nearly 70 colleges and universities and more than 60 nonprofit organizations dedicated to educating, preparing and certifying professionals to strengthen and lead nonprofit organizations.

The organization is supported by some of the country’s largest nonprofit agencies, including the American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the National Urban League and the United Way. Its AH certification program is an innovative course of study that equips students to

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**Tennessean appointed to lead education college**

John J. Wheeler, associate dean and director of doctoral studies at Tennessee Technological University, has been named dean of the College of Education and Human Development, WMU’s oldest college.

Wheeler replaces Gary Wegener, who is retiring. He will take the reins July 1, pending approval by the WMU Board of Trustees.

In addition to his position as TTU associate dean, which he has held since 2002, Wheeler has served for 16 years as principal investigator and project director of the school’s Make a Difference Project.

That state-funded effort offers behavioral consultations, behavioral assessment, behavioral interventions and training resources to schools in 23 rural and underserved Tennessee counties.

Wheeler has been a Tennessee Tech professor of special education since 1994. Prior to that, he was associate professor of special education and director of interdisciplinary training at the South Dakota Center for Disabilities in the Department of Pediatrics of the University of South Dakota’s School of Medicine. He is a founding member of the South Dakota Autism Project, and served that organization for five years.

Wheeler began his career as a teacher of students with severe disabilities in his home state of Illinois. His background includes experience there as a K-12 special education teacher and a high school football assistant coach.

He earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Southern Illinois University in 1985, 1986 and 1989, respectively.

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**MLK celebration events will continue being staged through March 25**

Numerous activities in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.’s life and legacy have been taking place across campus this month. Among them was a visitation day in the Bernhard Center for public school students, where they got some one-on-one time with WMU employees like Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or 387-8402 and providing the spelling of their full name.

Dean presentations postponed

Nicholas van der Walt from the Hult International Business School has withdrawn his candidacy for dean of the Haworth College of Business.

The college’s interim dean, Ajay Samant, remains a strong candidate, but the search process will be continued to identify additional candidates for the dean’s post. Samant’s Jan. 27 meetings with campus groups and his public presentation will be postponed until then.

Faculty invited to apply for exchange

All faculty members are invited to submit applications for a monthlong visiting professorship at the University of Passau in Germany.

The professorship is a short-term faculty exchange set for summer 2010. Visit http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/19302/ for complete details.
Around Campus

Faculty artists offer tribute concerts

The School of Music continues its celebra-
tion of composer Robert Schumann’s 200th
day with concerts at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan.
wmi.edu/wmu/news/2010/01/014.
shtml for times and other details.

Big league umpires visit campus

Brothers Bill and Tim Welke will
discuss “The Business of Blue (Baseball
Umpiring)” Friday, Feb. 5, as part of the
Keystone Speaker Series. The talk by these
umpires for Major League Baseball begins
with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are
required and may be made by calling 387-5620.

Annual winter dance concert slated

Dance students will present their annual
Winter Gala Dance Concert Thursday
during Sunday, Feb. 4-7, in Williams
2010/01/034.shtml for cost and other
details.

Student-affairs staffer to give talk

Kristin S. Fouts, student activities and
leadership programs, will discuss vari-
ous student-affairs research topics from
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, in
213 Bernhard Center. Those attending
this free event are asked to register to
alex.a.garrett@wmi.edu.

Week of Feb. 15 set aside to honor student employees, supervisors

Career and Student Employment Services
is accepting nominations through Tuesday,
Feb. 9, for the annual awards it bestows in
conjunction with Student Employment
Appreciation Week, which will begin Monday, Feb. 15.

The week recognizes the hard work and
contributions that student employees make to the
University community. Faculty and
staff members are encouraged to celebrate
the week and show their student employees
how much they are appreciated.

Nominations are being sought for two awards, Supervisor of the Year and Gary L.
Belleville Student Employee of the Year.

H1N1 vaccinations available

Vaccinations against H1N1 influenza are
available to members of the WMI community
through free clinics from 10 a.m. to
3 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 1-2,
in 105 Bernhard Center.

Vaccinations will be administered on a
walk-in basis—no appointments needed.

Additional clinics will be held later in
February in the Valley residence halls,
Student Recreation Center and Sincere
Health Center. Dates, times and locations
will be published on the Flu Information
Web page at www.wmi.edu/flu.

Jobs

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

Professor named Educator of Year

Debra Berkey, health, physical education
and recreation, was named University Edu-
cator of the Year for 2009 by the Michigan
Association for Health, Physical Education,
Recreation and Dance. Berkey was honored
at the association’s annual state convention
this past November.

In announcing the accolade, the award
selection committee noted that all of the
finalists impressed with their credentials,
but Berkey’s combination of accomplishments,
community leadership and dedication to the physical education profession warranted top honors.

Berkey has been a tireless advocate for
physical education at the national, district,
state and local levels. She has been a val-
ued member of many prestigious organizations and is recognized as a scholar within her profession as well as a
talented teacher.

Chemist earns ‘Trailblazer’ designation

Sherine Obare, chemistry, will be feted as a
Trailblazer during Black Engineer of the Year
awards ceremonies at the 24th BEYA STEM
Global Competitiveness Conference Thurs-
day through Saturday, Feb. 18-20. Obare was
selected by the Council of Engineering Deans of
the Historically Black Colleges and Universi-
ties, Lockheed Martin Corp., and U.S. Black
Engineer & Information Technology magazine.

Musician honored for life achievement

David S. Smith, music, received the
Lifelong Achievement Award from the
American Music Therapy Association at its
2009 national conference. The AMTA’s first
president, Smith guided the new organization as
it developed out of the merger of the National
Association for Music Therapy and American
Association for Music Therapy in 1998.

“These were often strenuous times,” the
AMTA said, “but Smith handled them with
professionalism, enthusiasm and purpose,
ever losing sight of the goals of the unifi-
cation agreement and working tirelessly to
make them become a reality.”

The association also presented Smith with
such national honors as the President-
ial Award for Distinguished Professional
Contributions, Outstanding Service Award,
Spirit of Unification Award and Presidential
Leadership Award.
Students take first in national competition

A team of four WMU students won the national iOMe Challenge competition, earning a trip to Washington, D.C., Thursday, Feb. 4, to meet with members of Congress and discuss its ideas for saving the nation’s Social Security system.

The team, which bested proposals submitted by 40 other schools in 17 states, also earned a $20,000 cash prize. Susan Hoffmann, political science, is the team’s faculty mentor.

Hundreds of students from some of the nation’s top colleges and universities participated in the first-ever event. This year’s challenge revolved around the U.S. retirement system and finding solutions to make it solvent for future generations.

Entries included a 30-second video intended to capture the attention of young adults, and an extended paper that explains the issue’s problems and proposes solutions. WMU’s entry was selected as the winner by a blue-ribbon panel that met in Miami Beach, Fla., Jan. 3 and 4. Visit www.iomechallenge.org to review the University’s winning essay and video.

The team from Texas Tech University came in second, followed by the team from St. Norbert College. In addition, three teams, including one from Harvard University, were named competition finalists.

WMU, Kalamazoo College offer foreign policy talks

WMU is again partnering with the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan in Grand Rapids to present timely talks on international issues as part of the council’s 2010 Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series.

Locally, WMU will be offering two live lectures in the Butterer Center’s Kirsch Auditorium while Kalamazoo College will be offering a third program. All three events are free and open to the public.

• Tuesday, Feb. 2, WMU will present “The Global Financial Mess—Crisis or Just a Crunch?” at noon. The speaker will be Jim Zaramoli, a National Public Radio reporter who covers a wide range of economic subjects. Zaramoli is a contributor to NPR’s “On the Media” and is heard regularly on “Morning Edition” and “All Things Considered.” He has reported on the accounting scandals at Enron and WorldCom, the trials of Martha Stewart and Bernard Ebbers, and topics ranging from employment and trade to the Federal Reserve System and deregulation.

• Tuesday, Feb. 16, Kalamazoo College will present “Using Peacebuilding Tools—Military Might Doesn’t Always Do It.” at noon in the Dalton Theatre in the Light Fine Arts Center at the corner of Academy and Thompson streets.

• Tuesday, Feb. 23, WMU will present an “Update on Persian Gulf Issues” at noon. The speaker will be Fred Pearson, professor of political science at Wayne State University and director of its Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

This year, the Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series offered by the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan will feature eight talks at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. Go to www.worldmli.org for costs and other details.

Sindescue sets up ergonomic room for faculty, staff

If you have difficulty with your chair or desk, or if your neck or back are becoming sore as you work, the Sindescue Health Center may be able to help. It has a variety of seating solutions from Hawthor and Steelcase for you to try.

Sindescue staffs will demonstrate the products personally and guide you through purchase decisions if applicable. You may schedule a visit to the chair room through Deb Karmemaat at 387-3283. The chairs on site are for testing only.

Board of Trustees approves sabbatical leaves for 35 faculty members in 2010-II

During a Dec. 9 conference-call meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees granted sabbatical leaves for 35 faculty members.

All of the sabbaticals will take place in the 2010-11 academic year. Nineteen faculty members were granted sabbaticals for the full academic year and will be on leave during both the spring and fall semesters.

The remaining 16 faculty members were granted sabbaticals for half the academic year and will be on leave during either the fall or spring semester.

Those granted full-year sabbaticals, along with their academic units, are: Brooks Applegate, educational leadership, research and technology; Pnina Ari-Gur, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Kathleen Baker, geography; Valery Bliznyuk, mathematics and science; and Jose Antonio Brando, history.

Allison Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies; James Kiddle, chemistry; Ok-Kyeong Kim, mathematics; Priscilla Lambert, political science; Mahendra Lawoti, political science; Turi Ledyavev, mathematics; Jennifer Machiorlatti, communication; Jun-Seok Oh, civil and construction engineering; William Olsen, English; Carl Ratner, music; Jumpei Shen, educational leadership, research and technology; Joseph Stolman, geography; Daneen Wardrop, English; and Takashi Yoshida, history.

Make a Difference Award nominations due Feb. 28

Nominations for the spring round of WMU’s semiannual Make A Difference awards are due by Sunday, Feb. 28.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual awards every fall and spring that go to a maximum of 15 people as well as annual awards that go to a maximum of four people.

Those selected for one of the semiannual awards receive a certificate and $250 prize and are recognized at a special reception. They may win the award more than once, but are limited to one per academic year.

To be eligible, nominees must provide exceptional services to the University and be members of the Staff Compensation System, AFSCME, MSEA or POA.

Nomination forms are available year-round at www.wmich.edu/hr/makeadifference/nom-forms.htm and may be submitted online, by campus mail to Mail Stop 5217 or by e-mail to Make-A-Difference@wmich.edu.

Retirement reception

The University community is invited to attend a retirement reception for Sabine Hayes, Dining Services, from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, in the Gilmore Alumni House.

Hayes retired Nov. 30 as the head cook for the Bernhard Center. At the time of her retirement, she had contributed 23 years of service to WMU.

Obituary

Jeanette Fisher, a longtime member of the University Libraries staff, died Dec. 29.

Fisher was archives curator in University Archives and Regional History Collections. She came to WMU in 1970 and retired at the end of 1985 after nearly 16 years of service to the University.

She was married to John M. Fisher, emeritus in paper and printing science, who died March 1, 2009, in Kalamazoo.
WMU joins 351 other schools in recycling competition

WMU is participating in RecycleMania 2010, a nationwide recycling competition among more than 350 colleges and universities. The 10-week competition runs through Saturday, March 27, with the goal of increasing awareness of and participation in campus recycling and waste reduction programs.

"Recycling and waste reduction are critical to sustainability, and sustainability is an essential element as we plan for the future," said WMU President John M. Dunn.

WMU participates in three of five concurrent RecycleMania competitions.

- Per Capita Classic—the original competition—measures total materials recycled per person.
- Waste Minimization measures the total amount of waste, including recycled material, per person. WMU was 21st out of 148 schools in 2009 in lowest amount of waste per person.
- Grand Champion ranks schools factoring both recycling and waste reduction.

RecycleMania began in 2001 as a competition between Miami and Ohio universities to improve recycling in their residence and dining halls.

By 2005, when WMU residence halls joined the competition, there were eight participating schools. Since 2006, WMU's rating has been based on recycling and waste reduction efforts across the entire campus. In addition to 352 colleges in this year's competition, another 162 are participating—but not competing—by providing data about recycling on their campuses.

University program named best

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Arbor Day group recertifies University as Tree Campus

In mid-December when most people were thinking about Christmas trees, landscape services staffers were thinking about the wide variety of trees growing on campus.

That single-minded focus continues to bear fruit for the University, which was re-certified recently by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus USA. The designation is similar to the foundation’s popular Tree City USA honor.

“These schools have made a major commitment to protecting, caring for and adding to their campus forests,” says John Rosenow, founder of the Arbor Day Foundation.

“The results of this commitment will have a lasting, positive impact, not only on campus but in the overall community.”

The Arbor Day Foundation began its Tree Campus program in fall 2008. The inaugural class is made up of 30 schools from across the nation.

WMU and the University of Michigan are the only members of that class from Michigan.

Visit the landscape services Web site at www.pp.wmich.edu/has for more information.