Grant-related training scheduled
The grants-and-contracts’ spring training schedule is now available on the Web, along with slides from previous presentations. Visit www.obf.wmich.edu/grants-contracts for details about the schedule or to register. Contact the office at grants-services@wmich.edu or 387-4707 for more information.

Financial reps to be on campus
TIAA-CREF representatives will be on campus Tuesday through Thursday, March 16-18. To schedule a private consultation for investment or retirement planning, visit www.tiaa-cref.org and click Consultations and Seminars under Services. If unable to register, contact Richard Schaper at richard.schaper@wmich.edu or 387-3580.

Fidelity investment advisors will be available for personal consultations in the Bernhard Center on Thursday, March 11, 18, and 25. To schedule an appointment, visit Fidelity online at www.fidelity.com/work/reservations or call (800) 642-7131, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to midnight.

WMU wins blood challenge—again
WMU took top honors in the spring blood challenge with Central Michigan University Jan. 19-28. WMU collected 520 units of blood compared to CMU’s 276. The Red Cross estimates that those tallies combined will help save an estimated 2,388 lives.

‘Vets on Campus’ webinar slated
A half-day live distance-learning webinar titled “Vets on Campus” will be offered free to faculty and staff members from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, on the 9th Street campus of Kalamazoo Valley Community College. The Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs is partnering with KVCC to offer this six-session, four-hour seminar.

Attendees will learn about what’s working in veteran’s programs and ways to meet the unique needs of student service members, veterans and their families. Participants should bring a brown bag lunch; water and dessert will be provided. Send an e-mail to tracey.moon@wmich.edu to register and obtain room and parking information.

Gilmore festival discounts available
Because WMU is a sponsor of the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, University employees will receive a 15 percent discount on festival tickets. The world-class event will run from April 17 to May 8, and many performances may sell out early.

Discounted tickets may be ordered from www.gilmorekeyboardfestival.org or call (800) 642-7131, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to midnight.
Public comment period near for self-study report
Since October 2008, WMU has been engaged in a process of self-reflection and analysis in preparation for its 10-year evaluation review by the Higher Learning Commission. The results of that self-study have been compiled into a first-draft report that the University’s HLC self-study steering committee will release tomorrow.

The committee invites members of the WMU community to read the draft report for accuracy, errors of fact and fulsomeness.

Monday, Feb. 22, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Hopewell’s talk, titled “From Leadership to Legacy,” will address how students can leave their legacy as leaders, both on campus and in the community.

The luncheon is free, but registration is required by Monday, Feb. 15. Limited seating will be available for WMU faculty and staff members. To register or obtain more information, send an e-mail to melissa.green@wmich.edu or sherrie.fuller@wmich.edu.

Muslim students to host event
The Muslim Students Association will host the next installment of its free dinner-lecture series starting at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The event is open to the public, but online reservations are required at www.ero.wmich.edu/ssa by Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The evening will include a multicultural dinner and mahriban exhibition as well as a keynote address titled “One God, Many Names: Muslims, Christians and Jews all Call Upon the Same God.” The address, which explores similarities among those faiths, will be presented by Umar Faruq Abd-Allah, a former teacher at universities in the United States, Canada and Saudi Arabia.

Talk to examine God, Google
Similarities between modern-day media and religion will come to light when John Durham Peters, an internationally renowned media historian and social theorist, speaks on “God and Google” from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, in 2022 Armstrong.

The talk is free and open to the public. Peters will discuss how both media and religion provide ways of making sense of each other, ourselves and the universe. His visit is through the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program.

Jobs
Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.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.

Doctoral student wins poetry contest
Gary L. McDowell, a doctoral student studying poetry and American literature, has won the 2009 Orbic Prize for Poetry from Dream Horse Press, an independent publishing firm. McDowell earned a $1,000 cash prize and will have his first full-length poetry collection, “American Amen,” published late this year. He also is the faculty athletics representative to the NCAA, Central Collegiate Hockey Association and Mid-American Conference, and has been a member and chairperson of the WMU Athletic Board.

Prof named state’s best string teacher
Bruce Uchimura, music, has been selected as Teacher of the Year by the Michigan chapter of the American String Teachers Association. Uchimura was presented with the honor at the Michigan Music Conference Jan. 21-23 in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Uchimura joined the WMU faculty in 1987. He directs the University Orchestra and is a member of the Meffing Trio, a faculty chamber music group. He is the principal cellist and associate conductor of Georgia’s Augusta Symphony Orchestra and has performed as a member of the Sera phim String Quartet and as a soloist and conductor throughout the United States.

W' Club selects 2010 award winners
Judy Brlynzki, health, physical education and recreation, and Fred Sitkins, industrial and manufacturing engineering, have been named the Varsity "W" Club's 2010 Woman and Man of the Year.

Brlynzki coordinates the University’s Master of Arts Degree in Sport Performance and is a former WMU women's basketball coach and college athlete, coach and athletic director. She also is a past president of the National Association of Sport and Physical Education, is an inductee into the NASPE Sport Hall of Fame, and chaired the writing team for the first and second revision of the “National Standards for Sport Coaches.”

Sitkins serves as director of Cooperative Education for the College of Engineering and Applied Science and is a 1959 alumnus who was briefly a member of WMU’s track team.

He has been a caller as well as a team and campaign chair for the Mike Gary Athletic Fund's annual fund-raising efforts. He also is the faculty athletics representative to the NCAA, Central Collegiate Hockey Association and Mid-American Conference, and has been a member and chairperson of the WMU Athletic Board.
Bowl games showcase BTR Park product

Holiday collegiate football bowl games this year showcased a new product from a division of Tekla Inc., a Kalamazoo-based company located in the University’s Business Technology and Research Park.

Introduced last year, the MEDIC mobile athletic training table already is a standard part of home and away games for teams including WMU and Clemson, Princeton, Purdue and Michigan State universities.

With the close of football season, the product has moved indoors to the nation’s basketball courts. In addition, interest has been triggered among NFL, NBA and X-Games trainers.

The MEDIC takes injury assessment and treatment off the ground or bench and onto a sturdy and rugged unit that can serve as a base of operations near the playing field.

WMU was presented with a MEDIC XL table this past fall during an event with, from left: Dennis Corbin, WMU assistant athletic director; Kathy Beauregard, WMU athletic director; Kris Eagar, Tekna president; Mike Razewicz, Tekna’s product business manager; and Bob Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach. (WMU photo)

More H1N1 clinics offered

H1N1 vaccinations are available at no cost to WMU students, employees and retirees, and their legal dependents age 12 and older.

Walk-in clinics have been set for 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 16-17, near the Student Recreation Center Service Desk as well as 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 24-25, in 3230 Sindecuse Health Center.

No appointment is necessary, but a WMU Bronco Card or other valid photo ID may be required.

Visit the Flu Information Center at www.wmich.edu/flu for more information about flu prevention and treatment. Questions should be directed to the Sindecuse Health Center at 387-3295.

Dining hall to close until Sept. 3

The Davis Dining facility will close Friday, Feb. 26, to begin significant renovations. The project will continue until the end of August, and the dining hall will reopen Sept. 3. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/dining/davis or contact Judy Gipper at judy.gipper@wmich.edu or 387-4846.

Obituary

Lillian T. Wilcox, a former staff member at Western Michigan University, died Jan. 31. She was 79.

Wilcox came to WMU in 1980 as a secretary in the Department of Geography and subsequently held several secretarial positions at the University. She retired in 1993 as a secretary executive II in Media Services after 12 1/2 years of service.

The family will receive friends on Friday, Feb. 12, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Life Story Funeral Home, 409 S. Main Street, Vicksburg, Mich. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church, 936 Lake St., Kalamazoo.
Diversity subject of student-led discussion series

A student-led discussion series called the Real Talk Diversity Series will kick off at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the Trimpe Building's Multicultural Center.

The first program in the monthly series is "Campus ISMS." It will feature students as well as faculty members discussing student attitudes about racism, sexism, homophobia and classism. Audience members will be able to participate in the discussion.

Real Talk is geared toward raising awareness, eliminating false ideologies and stimulating dialogue on diversity and inclusion among WMU students.

The group of students that organized the discussion series invites other students at the University to help plan future events by participating in the group's weekly meetings at 10 a.m. Thursdays in the Multicultural Center.

For more information, contact Zarinah El-Amin in the WMU Office of Diversity and Inclusion at zarinah.el-amin@wmich.edu or 387-6524.

Heartit overseeing enrollment

Honors College and interim vice provost for enrollment management since mid-2007, Willard "Heartit will continue to oversee admissions operations, but Bassam Harik, vice provost for budget and personnel, will now oversee the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships and the Bronco Express Services Team.

Nicholas Andreadi, acting honors college dean, will lead that college while an internal search for a permanent dean is conducted. The search committee will be headed by Donald McCloud, dean of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

WMU launches apartment complex

Phase I is the first part of a multi-year effort to address changing student needs and replace on-campus apartments that have been demolished or are slated for future demolition.

"We know many students still want to live on campus after their freshman year, and we know that students who live on campus are more successful academically," says Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs.

"Our current residence halls are designed for beginning students and are meant to encourage interaction and the establishment of a circle of friends. As students mature, they prefer the kind of privacy and independence apartment living provides. Our waiting list tells us there is an unmet need for such housing, and Phase I of this project is our first step toward meeting that need."

The estimated $12 million for Phase I will be financed by floated a bond issue for that purpose. Annual debt service for the bond will be paid from the rents derived from operation of the facilities. The apartment complex will be the first undergraduate student housing built on WMU's West Campus in nearly half a century.

The new complex will feature three-story buildings with two-color brick façades and a traditional look similar to WMU's East Campus. Parking for resident students will be included as part of the complex.