Campus getting ready for visit by Obama

President Barack Obama will address the graduating seniors of Kalamazoo Central High School in a commencement ceremony set for 7 p.m. Monday, June 7, in University Arena.

The decision to hold the event in WMU’s arena, which seats more than 5,000 people, was made by Kalamazoo Public Schools to accommodate a larger-than-usual crowd.

The president’s decision to speak at the Kalamazoo Central commencement was the culmination of a national Race to the Top Commencement Challenge. That contest attracted proposals by more than 1,000 schools to have Obama give their commencement address.

The Kalamazoo Central entry was one of three finalists in the contest, and the president personally made the final selection to speak at Kalamazoo Central.

Obama’s visit will mark the second time this decade that a sitting president has visited the WMU campus. President George W. Bush came to campus in March 2001 to deliver an address on tax cuts that was sponsored by Southwest Michigan First and the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce. The first sitting president to visit the campus was William Howard Taft, who visited what was then Western Michigan Normal School in 1911.

Tickets to attend Kalamazoo Central’s commencement ceremony are not available to the general public. Kalamazoo Public Schools will distribute tickets to members of central’s graduating class as well as some other students who attend central and Kalamazoo’s other two high schools.

WMU names new business, honors college deans

Deans have been named to fill vacancies at the helm of two colleges. Both appointments would be effective July 1 and are pending approval of the WMU Board of Trustees.

Kay M. Palan, associate dean for undergraduate programs at Iowa State University’s College of Business, has been selected to head the Haworth College of Business. Additionally, Nicholas Andreadis has been selected to head the Lee Honors College, which he has been serving as acting dean since January.

Palan, an associate professor of marketing at ISU, was chosen following a national search. He selection as dean includes an appointment as a tenured professor of marketing. She replaces David Shields, who accepted a new deanship at Mercer University in Atlanta last summer.

An ISU faculty member since 1994, Palan is a business educator with an extensive background in marketing, the health care industry and managing collegiate entrepreneurial programs. She has been ISU’s associate business dean since 2006, and began serving in that role on an interim basis in 2004.

Previously, Palan was at Texas Tech University, where she completed her doctoral degree. Her background also includes marketing-related consulting projects with various civic, nonprofit and corporate entities.

Her current research focuses on gender and youth-based marketing issues, especially teenage girls’ autonomy and competence as shoppers and how children learn to be consumers and make consumption decisions.

Andreadis, an associate professor of counselor education and counseling psychology, was chosen following an internal search. His selection as dean includes tenure with his faculty post. He replaces Keith M. Hearit, who now serves as WMU’s vice provost for strategic enrollment management.

In addition to leading the honors college, Andreadis also will continue his role as director of the college’s Academically Talented Youth Program, which serves gifted middle and high school students from more than 50 school districts in West Michigan.

A faculty member since 1999, Andreadis led the University’s regional education efforts from 2005 to 2006 as dean of Extended University Programs. At the time of his acting honors college dean appointment in January, he had been serving as interim associate dean of the college since 2007.

As an assistant professor of counselor education and counseling psychology, Andreadis coordinated WMU’s master’s program in human resource development and has taught in the doctoral programs in interdisciplinary evaluation and in interdisciplinary health studies.
Around Campus

Graduate College workshops slated

The Graduate College’s Center for Re- search and Retention has scheduled two workshops over the next few weeks.

First up will be “Overview of SPSS” by doctoral associate Lincoln Jiang from 6 to 9 p.m. tomorrow and Friday, June 11, in C-226 Engineering and Applied Sciences Building.

“How to get Published in Peer-reviewed Journals” by writing consultant Jan An- derson starts at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 9, in the Fetzer Center’s Purney Auditorium.

Visit www.wmich.edu/grad to register, download materials and obtain details.

Two-day printed electronics event set

The Center for the Advancement of Printed Electronics is offering a “Mastering Printed Electronics Principles Workshop” Wednesday and Thursday, June 9-10, in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Building.

The registration fee is $795 with a deadline of June 8. Visit www.wmich.edu/pilotsplants/printing/mpep/index.html for more information, a seminar schedule and a registration form. People may also register by calling Margaret Joyce at 276-3500.

Scott to be honored posthumously

The life work of the late Herbert S. Scott, an award-winning poet and WMU English professor, will be celebrated Thursday, June 10, during a reading from a new selected collection of his poems.

The free, public event is set for 5:30 p.m. in the Edwin and Mary Meader Rare Book Room of WMU’s Waldo Library. A reception will follow the reading from “The Other Life,” a 126-poem collection of Scott’s works from 1974 to 2005 published by Carnegie Mellon University Press.

KFS to show ‘Greenberg’ June 11-13

“Greenberg,” a film that brings together actor Ben Stiller with Academy Award-nominated writer/director Noah Baumbach to tell the funny and moving tale of housesitter Roger Greenberg will be shown Friday through Sunday, June 11-13 in the Little Theatre. The Kalamazoo Film Society screenings are set for 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday; 4:30, 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday; and 2:30 and 5 p.m. Saturday.

WMU slates info sessions for MPSERS employees

The University has scheduled two information sessions for employees who are part of MPSERS—Michigan Public School Employee Retirement Services—and who are eligible to take advantage of new retirement incentives recently approved by the Michigan Legislature.

Sessions are 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 27, and Tuesday, June 1, will take place in the Kresge Auditorium of the Fetzer Center. Richard Schaper, manager of WMU retirement services, will conduct the sessions to answer questions eligible employees have about the decision-making process and the impact of the incentives on retirement planning.

He also will discuss timing, benefits, coordination and issues relating to employees who meet MPSERS eligibility requirements but not those of the University.

Translator wins national book prize

Jeffrey M. Angles, foreign languages, has been awarded the 2009 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature for his forthcoming translation of Tada Chi-mako’s “Forest of Eyes: Selected Poems of Tada Chimako.”

Columbia University’s Donald Keene Center for Japanese Studies annually gives out one prize in modern literature, which Angles won, as well as one prize in classical literature. The 2009 prizes were presented during an April ceremony in New York.

An associate professor, Angles is the director and advisor for WMU’s Japanese language program. He has been spending 2009-10 at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto, Japan, as a visiting professor.

Service project earns state funding

Debra Lindstrom-Hazel, occupational therapy, co-designed the Home Fit Program, which has won a Michigan American Association of Retired Persons’ AARP Member Value Innovation Award.

An accompanying $10,000 prize will be used to improve the program in collaboration with the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Prof to head national organization

Jennifer Wiebold, blindness and low vision studies, has been chosen president-elect of the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association.

Wiebold will serve as president in 2011.

An associate professor and certified rehabilitation counselor, she coordinates the dual master’s program in rehabilitation counseling and rehabilitation teaching offered through the departments of Blindness and Low Vision Studies and Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology.

The NRCA is the largest national organization representing practicing rehabilitation counselors. It helps advance the profession by promoting public understanding, setting ethical standards and establishing supportive programs that assist all persons with disabilities in becoming self-sufficient and contributing members of society.

Job

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.
University receives $1 million to help prepare high school teacher-scientists

A $1 million grant to WMU from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute will put prospective high school science teachers to work in laboratories to help them learn how to translate science into practical experiences for their future students.

The grant, announced by HHMI May 20, is one of a round of awards totaling $79 million made to research universities around the United States to strengthen undergraduate and precollege science education. HHMI, the nation’s largest private funder of science education, has spent $1.6 billion since 1980 to reform life sciences education from elementary through graduate school.

In the current round of funding, 50 research universities in 30 states and the District of Columbia have been awarded a total of $70 million through HHMI’s Precollege and Undergraduate Science Education Program. An additional $9 million will be shared by 13 leading research scientists through the HHMI Professors Program to support their efforts to make science more engaging to undergraduates.

The four-year award to WMU will focus on building cohorts of prospective high school science teachers who are trained first as scientists and will then learn how to turn their own research experiences into practical tools that will help them convey scientific principals to their students.

Six staff members received 2010 awards from the Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization. The annual awards were presented during the APA/PSSO Awards and Spring Luncheon held on campus May 21.

Receiving this year’s APA awards were Amy Seth, University Recreation, Outstanding Professional award; Tom Krolikowski, medieval studies, Outstanding New Professional award; and Joe Odenthal, Facilities Management, Tony Griffin Service Award.

Receiving this year’s PSSO Service Awards were Vicky Meinema, accounting services, and Nancy Johnson, investments and endowment management.

The final honor presented during the luncheon, the joint APA, PSSO WMU Spirit Award, went to Tim Holysz, Facilities Management.

For more information about the CASP move or reorganization, contact Randy Ott, CASP director, at randy.ott@wmich.edu or 387-4413.
MERRION STUDY PRESENTED TO WHITE HOUSE

A study done by a WMU administrator that assesses undergraduate arts education 10 years into the future has found its way to the White House and beyond.

Margaret Merrion, dean of the College of Fine Arts, conducted the study for the academic magazine Change. Her findings were presented early this year to Kalpen Modi, associate director of public engagement for the Obama administration.

The study, titled “A Prophecy for the Arts in Higher Education,” was conducted by a WMU administrator. It used the Delphi technique, a forecasting tool where the opinions of a panel of experts are gathered, critiqued and evaluated before arriving at a consensus.

The experts, who made predictions in eight key areas, came from the likes of Ohio State University, Bradley University, California State University Long Beach and the University of Utah. “The panel of experts shaped a provocative view of the future with welcoming and alarming predictions,” Merrion says.

HAENICKE HONORED

Enedelia Cruz connected with the Division of Multicultural Affairs as a youngster and has been associated with DMA almost nonstop ever since.

Cruz participated in the division’s GEAR UP/College Day Program as a middle schooler, then worked for the program as a student employee after enrolling at WMU in 1996. In 1999 while still working on her undergraduate degree, DMA hired her as an administrative assistant, first for the Upward Bound program and a few years later, for the Upward Bound Math and Science program.

In 2004, Cruz completed her college studies, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in photography. That same year, her grant-funded job ran out, so she accepted the post of office coordinator in the Environmental Institute. Cruz returned to her old stomping grounds this past fall as DMA’s administrative assistant.

“It’s nice to be back. Some faces have changed, but everyone has been welcoming,” she says. “And being familiar with the programs we offer here makes the job easier. I don’t think many people realize everything we do. We have a lot going on, just check out our website at www.wmich.edu/multicultural and see.”

Cruz’s primary duties include taking care of payroll for more than 50 employees, monitoring and processing paperwork for several program budgets, processing student funding requests and awards, helping with multicultural events, and supporting numerous academic- as well as diversity-related activities and collaborations within and outside the University. She also serves on DMA’s Student Employment Committee, helping to organize two annual employment seminars for the division’s student workers.

“I love the budget work. I like numbers so that’s not the challenging part of my job,” Cruz says. “What’s difficult is finding topics for our employment seminars that will help our students grow but aren’t repetitive. The best part of my job is collaborating with students and staff to get things done—regardless of what project we’re working on.”

Cruz and her husband, Umberto, live in Hartford, Mich., and have five children. The youngest child is 3 and the oldest is a freshman in high school. “Between my job, commuting and home life, I’m quite busy and don’t have a lot of time for hobbies,” she says, noting that Umberto has been a stay-at-home dad since she rejoined DMA.

Most of the free time Cruz does have is spent supporting her children and their activities. She likes to garden and sew, and she is a volunteer teacher at her church. Although photography takes a back seat these days, her talent in that arena is displayed in the large, framed photos of two of her children that proudly adorn her office walls.

WMU has launched a new program called Kick the Nic to help its employees and students and their eligible dependents quit smoking.

“The first step to quitting is wanting to quit,” says Lisa Marshall, University medical director. “Recent changes in the law have made nearly all public spaces in Michigan smoke-free, and that coupled with growing interest in improving personal health and wellness has led a lot of people to seek help kicking the tobacco habit.”

Kick the Nic is a confidential, nonjudgmental program administered by the Sincere Health Center. It provides a variety of resources, including phone or appointment consultations with tobacco cessation specialists, clinician appointments for prescription products and online programs.

Benefits-eligible employees and dependents may receive full reimbursement of the cost of tobacco cessation products by enrolling in Kick the Nic. The program provides 50 percent reimbursement on nicotine replacement products and prescription expenses after being tobacco-free for three months. The remaining 50 percent of the total cost is refunded after successfully quitting tobacco for one year.

Visit www.wmich.edu/shc/kickit for more information.