Alumni Return to Campus for Homecoming

Throughout the year, alumni come back to WMU to enrich the classroom experience by sharing their own real-world perspectives with students. The 2007 homecoming weekend welcomed a number of speakers to campus, including three WMU Alumni Association members.

Television and movie producer Bob Hercules, B.A. ’79, spoke to a video production class about his professional experiences. Hercules shared portions of two of his documentaries with the students while explaining some of the challenges moviemakers face while filming in that genre.

CBS National Correspondent Jim Hickey, B.A. ’69, spoke to a class of journalism students. A broadcaster for more than 40 years, Hickey spoke highly of his education in journalism and his start at WIDR. He encouraged students to set career goals and to recognize the value of the education they are receiving at WMU.

Senior VP of Alcoa Aerospace Rick Sharpe, B.B.A. ’77, visited a management and organizational behavior class. Sharpe discussed leadership and how his experiences as an Air Force fighter pilot carried over to the business world.
Become a WMU Mentor  
**Sometimes it is not what you know, but whom you know.**

Did someone help you along your career path? Do you want to be a resource for current WMU students? If the answer is yes, please consider volunteering for the WMU Alumni Association’s Mentor Program. It’s easy to volunteer and to participate in the Mentor Program, designed for networking, sharing information and building connections.

The Mentor Program links current students to alumni with various academic and professional experiences. It has proved a valuable and rewarding experience for both the WMU alumni and the students who have participated in the program since it launched in 2002.

The Mentor Program is a collaborative effort between the WMU Alumni Association and Career and Student Employment Services. You volunteer through the WMUAA Web site, and you will receive additional instructions via e-mail after you sign up. Once you have established a profile, students can use many searchable fields, such as college, major, current employer and industry, to find a mentor whose academic or professional path matches their own.

If you are interested in volunteering as a mentor and would like more information, log onto the WMU Alumni Association Web site at www.wmich.edu/alumni/volunteering/mentor-program.

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Alumni Admissions Ambassadors Making a Difference for WMU

WMU Alumni Ambassadors make a difference by representing Western Michigan University at various college fairs throughout the United States. Janet Moreno, B.A. ’93, and Christopher Lambert, B.B.A. ’94, represented WMU at a national college fair in Milwaukee on Oct. 2. Thousands of high school students and parents attended. Lambert and Moreno shared their enthusiasm and Bronco pride with prospective students, providing information about the University’s academic programs and admissions process.

In partnership with the WMU Alumni Association and the Admissions Office, every year Alumni Admissions Ambassadors from different regions are needed to represent WMU at college fairs. Over the past few years, Ambassadors have participated in college fairs in Minneapolis, St. Louis, Pittsburgh and Milwaukee.

In addition to participation at college fairs, hundreds of Ambassadors send congratulatory postcards to students who have been admitted to WMU. The program makes it as easy as possible for Admissions Ambassadors to make this important contact with prospective Broncos by providing postage stamps, postcards and student address information. The Ambassadors use the postcards to send a short message encouraging the students to enroll at WMU.

If you would like to volunteer to be a WMU Alumni Admissions Ambassador, please visit the WMU Alumni Association Web site, www.wmich.edu/alumni/volunteering/aaa or call Shams Khan at (269) 387-8702.

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Meet the 1955 NCAA Runner-Up Team

Posting a 25-7 overall record and a perfect 9-0 mark in the Mid-American Conference, the 1955 Western Michigan baseball team produced one of the greatest and most memorable seasons in school history. The NCAA runners-up, the 1955 team advanced farther in the College World Series than any other squad in WMU history. The Broncos fell to Wake Forest 7-6 in the national championship. During the 2007 homecoming weekend Oct. 19-20, WMU celebrated and honored the team.

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Prospective Board Members Sought

The Board Development Committee of the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors is asking Association members to recommend prospective board members for the 2008-2011 term. Members of the WMU Alumni Association are encouraged to suggest alumni to serve on the Association’s Board of Directors for a three-year term, beginning July 1, 2008. Potential board members must be members of the WMU Alumni Association, able to attend the fall and spring board meetings in Kalamazoo, and willing to serve on at least one standing committee. Please submit your suggestions no later than January 7, 2008. For more information or to submit a nomination form, visit the WMUAA Web site, www.wmich.edu/alumni/about/board-nominations, or call (269) 387-8777.
Western Michigan University alumnus and Emmy-nominated Hollywood makeup and special effects artist, Robert Maverick, B.S. ’82, was recently inducted into the WMU Department of Theatre Alumni Academy. In accepting the award, Maverick credited WMU with providing students with the tools needed to “discover their own passions, find purpose in life, achieve their goals and travel over the rainbow.”

Maverick was inducted Oct. 12 during a special University Theatre performance of Dracula in the D. Terry Williams Theatre.

2007 Golden Apple Award Recipients

On October 6 the College of Education Alumni Society held a dinner honoring this year’s recipients of the Golden Apple Awards. Pictured with WMU President John Dunn (second from right) are (from left) Rhonda D. VanderVeen, B.S. ’84, Special Education, Portage Public Schools; Dene W. Hadden, B.S. ’69, Social Sciences, M.A. ’73, Educational Leadership, Principal of South Haven High School; and Dr. James Hawkins, B.S. ’63, Elementary Education, Superintendent of Ypsilanti Public Schools.

Legacy Scholarship Applications Due

Don’t miss the February 25 deadline for the 2008 Legacy Scholarship Awards. Sponsored by the WMU Alumni Association through the support of its dues-paying members, a minimum of 10 scholarships will be awarded. Each award totals $1,000 for the first year, with the potential of an additional $1,000 per year for a maximum of $4,000. To be eligible, students must be enrolling at WMU for the first time and have a parent, stepparent, grandparent, step-grandparent or sibling who is a WMU alumnus/alumna and a member of the WMU Alumni Association.

For complete information on award criteria and to submit an application, students may visit www.wmich.edu/alumni and click “Awards.” You may also contact the WMUAA by phone (269) 387-8777, fax (269) 387-8770 or e-mail, alumni@wmich.edu.

Robert Maverick worked with students in the WMU Theatre Department to design special effects makeup for their production of Dracula. Pictured with Maverick (right) is WMU student and Dracula lead Patrick Newton, displaying a severed head designed for use in the production.
WMU Alumni Association Welcomes New Staff

Kristina Ledlow, B.A. ’02, assumes the position of coordinator of student and young alumni outreach, replacing Heidi Purdy, who moved to MSU as a human biology advisor in the College of Natural Sciences.

Ledlow is currently pursuing her master’s degree in the WMU School of Communication. She comes to Alumni Relations from the WMU Office of Admissions, where she was an assistant director of for three years. “I am so excited to be a part of such a wonderful and professional team here in the Alumni Association and am especially glad to be working with Hardy Figueroa, who recruited me to WMU back in 1998.”

Shams Khan, B.S. ’07, joins the WMUAA as a graduate assistant. He is working on his master’s degree in the Educational Leadership: Higher Education Student Affairs Administration (HESA) program within the College of Education.

Khan’s primary responsibility will be the Alumni Admissions Ambassador program; he will also work with various alumni groups to enhance and continue to build the WMUAA Online Alumni Community.

Khan is the president of the Muslim Students’ Association and was also a Student Ambassador for the Office of Admissions and a member of the President’s Student Advisory Committee for Presidents Bailey and Haenicke.

Ledlow and Khan both joined the WMUAA in September.

Alumnus Publishes Book


In The Next Adventures of Guy…more wackiness, Guy, Knob and Thurman try to stop an alien invasion using only their wits, their newfound powers and their knowledge of beer. They do battle with horrible creatures like Big Oil and people who don’t flush after going to the bathroom.

Reviewers have been comparing Cowie’s humorous fantasy series, The Adventures of Guy…written by a guy (probably), and The Next Adventures of Guy…more wackiness, with Christopher Moore and Douglas Adams (Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy).