Alumni Admissions Ambassador program a success

During the last eight months, more than 600 alumni supported the University's enrollment efforts as Alumni Admissions Ambassadors. Ambassadors sent postcards to more than 10,000 high school seniors, congratulating the prospective Broncos on their admittance and encouraging them to enroll at WMU. This important contact with students is made easy for Ambassadors who volunteer their time from all over the United States, as the WMU Alumni Association provides postal stamps, congratulatory postcards and student address information.

If you would like to volunteer to be an Admissions Ambassador, please visit the WMU Alumni Association Web site at www.wmich.edu/alumni/volunteering/aaa or call Shams Khan at (269) 387-8702.
Hit the road with pride
Let’s face it; we spend a lot of time in our cars these days. And what better way to show your school spirit than with a WMU license plate.
Tell the world that you have “WPRIDE” and you “LUVWMU” by purchasing a Western Michigan University license plate. With a visit to www.wmich.edu/wmuplates, Bronco fans can get complete information on how to order a WMU plate through Michigan’s University License Plate Program. WMU sees average annual income of about $70,000 from plate purchases.
With nearly 5,000 Bronco plates on the road, WMU loyalists currently rank third among those who purchase university plates, behind Michigan State and Michigan. Central Michigan University is a close fourth to Western, so let’s band together and get more of our WMU plates on Michigan roads.
And, if you don’t live in Michigan but you still want to show your school spirit through your license plate, consider the fact that many states offer drivers the opportunity to personalize their license plates. So you can still show the world that “WMUROX,” whether you live in Michigan or elsewhere.

The WMU Alumni Association is always looking for ways to connect students with alumni. In March, Phi Chi Theta, a coeducational professional business fraternity, reached out to the WMU Alumni Association asking for help in connecting the group with WMU alumni in Chicago. The Association reached out to three Chicago area alumni, all members of the WMU Alumni Association. Bill Bolton, B.S. ’68, Robert Trainor, B.B.A. ’78, and Tim Hill, B.B.A. ’97, all volunteered their time to connect with current WMU students and share their business experiences with the fraternity members. The students had a great learning experience and were very appreciative of the Alumni Association’s support in connecting them with WMU alumni.

Alumna co-creates school readiness program
WMU Alumni Association member and Admissions Ambassador, Amy Wagenfeld, B.S. 84, in concert with two Australian colleagues, recently completed a publication called “The Fingergym™ Fine Motor Skills School Readiness Program,” a group rotation program that uses motivating fine motor-based activities to help children become more independent in the classroom.
The program is designed for preschool, kindergarten, prep or primary educational settings and incorporates play-based learning to encourage problem-solving by “having a go,” no matter what the outcome. This helps to encourage children to learn confidence and resilience in the classroom while mastering developmental skills.
Wagenfeld and her colleagues are experienced occupational therapy and education professionals.

Special moments during Florida events
Just like last year, numerous local alumni enjoyed the WMU Alumni Association’s annual events in Sarasota (right photo), and Naples (top photos below).
During the Sarasota alumni event, WMU President John Dunn, left, shared a special moment with Howard Chapel, B.A. ’37, right, of Clearwater. Meeting Dunn kept Chapel’s “record” intact as Chapel has known all eight of his alma mater’s presidents, having met many of them through his attendance at WMU Alumni Association events.
The 2008 Naples event, bottom photo above, was a success this year thanks in large part to Ted Smith, B.S. ’47, who sponsored the event at the Royal Poinciana Club. Sadly, Smith (picted at left during a 2005 Naples event) was unable to attend the event due to failing health and passed away on March 18. The WMU Alumni Association extends its sincere condolences to the Smith family.
SAA is top registered student organization of the year

The WMU Alumni Association would like to congratulate its Student Alumni Association for being named the RSO of the year for 2008. Every year, WMU’s Office of Student Activities and Leadership Programs recognizes excellence in student organizations, advising and student leadership through its Golden Bronco Awards program. The SAA received that program’s top organizational honor during a recognition ceremony April 4.

2008 golf outings

Mark your calendar to golf with fellow alumni at the 2008 golf outings.

Grand Rapids-area alumni and friends

Mon., June 9
8:30 a.m. registration/10 a.m. tee off
Egypt Valley Country Club
For more information, call Bill Thompson (616) 366-6043 or Stacy Vallier (269) 387-3062.

Southeastern Michigan alumni and friends

Fri., June 20, 9 a.m.
Glen Oaks Country Golf Course
For more information, call Jeff Doud, (800) 933-2411; Dave Kopka, (248) 568-0576; or Barry Roberts, (586) 492-5597.

For additional information on WMU Alumni Association events, visit www.wmich.edu and click “Events.”

SAA launches ‘Buster’s Tip of the Week’ campaign

The Student Alumni Association launched its “Buster’s Tip of the Week” campaign with tremendous success this past March. The three tips put Buster in different career/etiquette settings, giving students quick tips they can use out in the real world. Buster’s tips were displayed in the Bernhard Center and in weekly ads in the Western Herald that showed him dining out, tying a tie and asking questions during an interview. The campaign has been widely accepted throughout campus as a huge success, and highlighted the visibility of both the WMU Alumni Association and SAA.

Alumni return to campus

Dennis Nally, chairman and senior partner of Price-waterhouseCoopers and a 2007 recipient of the WMU Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award, returned to campus in February to meet with students and faculty in the Department of Accountancy. Nally discussed major issues facing the field and offered suggestions for how accountancy educators might help public accounting firms meet these challenges. He also noted how impressed he was with the students and the quality of his interactions with them.

Charles Binder, B.A. ’71, and a former member of the Lee Honors College, returned to campus in January to speak with students in Carrick Craig’s Legal Environment class. Binder is serving on the WMU Alumni Association’s Board of Directors. He is a magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan.

Pictured above with members of the Student Alumni Association are Larry Leatherwood, B.S. ’69, M.A. ’82; J.T. Slaughter, B.S. ’80 and Randy Watkins, B.S. ’76, M.A. ’85. The three returned to campus in January to share personal stories from their days as students and talked about their experiences as African American’s on campus during different periods of time and how Martin Luther King made an impact on their lives. SAA planned and sponsored this program featuring the life members of the WMU Alumni Association as part of the University’s week-long celebration of Martin Luther King.
Golden Apple Award nominations being sought

The College of Education Alumni Society is seeking nominations for its Golden Apple Award. The award is presented annually to accomplished WMU graduates who are currently working or have retired from the many professions related to education. The award recipients will be selected by their peers as representatives of educational excellence and commitment.

Nominations will be accepted through June 1 for the 2008 Awards. For eligibility, selection criteria and a nomination form, visit www.wmich.edu/coe/alumni/goldenawd.htm.

Alumni Association provides warmth during Polar Plunge

The WMU Alumni Association was on hand Feb. 23 to deliver some warmth, serving hot chocolate to the brave participants of the University’s first Polar Plunge. Hundreds of students, along with President John Dunn, plunged into Goldsworth Valley pond. The event was sponsored by the Western Student Association and raised nearly $7,000 for the Special Olympics.

Alumnus participates as Professor of the Day

Karan Kohli, B.S. ’06, was one of several alumni to participate in the WMU College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Professor of the Day program. The program connects students with industry leaders in the classroom, providing an opportunity to learn business concepts from experts in their professional fields. Kohli is a product engineer for Dana Corp.

Showcasing WMU in Southeast Michigan

Earlier this spring, WMU’s Division of Intercollegiate Athletics announced that the Bronco football team will play the University of Illinois at Detroit’s Ford Field on Saturday, Nov. 8, marking the first time WMU will host a game at a professional venue. With more than 8,500 of our current students coming to WMU from Southeast Michigan and nearly 40,000 Bronco alumni living and working throughout the region, President John Dunn noted that the game “provides us with a great opportunity to showcase not just our football team and our outstanding marching band, but the entire University.” He went on to say, “The Nov. 8 game will be just the capstone to a series of events to be held throughout the greater Detroit area during the preceding week.” The University’s academic colleges, the admissions office, and the WMU Alumni Association are just a few areas of the University that will participate in the celebration of WMU in Southeast Michigan. Details of the events will be available on the Web throughout the summer and fall.

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