Dr. Richard K. Koehn is the president and CEO of SentrX Animal Care Inc. in Salt Lake City, Utah, a start-up company that delivers cutting-edge animal care products. After graduating from WMU, Koehn earned his doctorate from Arizona State University and went on to teach at the University of Kansas for three years. He accepted a professorship in ecology and evolution at the University of New York at Stony Brook in 1970 and spent the next 22 years of his career there. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Koehn served as the dean of biological sciences and was the founding director of the university’s Center for Biotechnology for New York State.

In 1992, Koehn was appointed vice president for research and professor of biology at the University of Utah, where he worked until 2001. He then became president and CEO of Salus Therapeutics, an oncology drug company acquired by Genta Inc. in 2003. One year later, he co-founded SentrX Surgical, a medical device company and a spin-off of research at the university. As president and CEO of SentrX Surgical, he negotiated a major investment by a leading venture group that resulted in the creation of Carbylan BioSurgery and SentrX Animal Care, which also was founded on technology from the University of Utah.

Credited with advancing science and technology in Utah both as a research leader and entrepreneur, Koehn is a recipient of that state’s Governor’s Medal for Science and Technology. He has received other honors, including being named a Guggenheim Fellow, a NATO Senior Science Fellow and an Ernst & Young’s “Entrepreneur of the Year.”

Dr. Nick Triantafillopoulos, an internationally recognized expert in coating process technologies and rheology, is the director of polymer innovation for the Akron Technology Center of OMNOVA Solutions Inc. Triantafillopoulos received a bachelor’s degree in physics from the University of Athens in 1979. He then came to WMU to earn a bachelor’s degree, and a master’s degree in paper science and engineering. Over the course of the next five years, Triantafillopoulos worked as a research scientist, engineer and scientific advisor for several Midwest companies while earning a doctorate in 1991 from the Institute of Paper Science and Technology in Atlanta. OMNOVA Solutions, known for its innovative emulsion polymers and specialty chemicals, hired Triantafillopoulos as a senior research associate in 1992 and since then, he has held several positions of increasing responsibility.

Named to his current position in 2000, Triantafillopoulos oversees OMNOVA’s activities in the areas of polymer innovation, analytical solutions and new product development for paper and carpet. He added to these responsibilities in 2003, when he was named director of new technologies for RohmNova, OMNOVA’s paper coatings joint venture with Rohm & Haas.

Triantafillopoulos holds four patents and is a technical editor for several professional journals. He has received numerous honors for his technical innovation and leadership in the paper science and printing industry, including a fellowship from the Technical Association of the Paper and Pulp Industry, a recognition given to only one percent of the association’s 24,000 worldwide members.

Charles Valluzzo is CEO of McDonald’s of Baton Rouge, La, and as such, is one of McDonald’s largest franchise holders, with 53 stores. Valluzzo, a marketing major at WMU, purchased his first McDonald’s franchise in Joplin, Mo., immediately after graduating. Two years later, he moved to Baton Rouge, a larger market suitable for expansion beyond one store, and opened the first McDonald’s in that area. A second and a third store soon followed and by the end of the 1960s, he had seven stores throughout the area. With his strong work ethic and sound understanding of every facet of business, he more than tripled his number of stores by the end of the 1980s.

As the operation has grown, Valluzzo has continued to prove his business acumen by creating his own distribution center, McBR Distribution, and becoming one of only three franchise operators to supply their own goods. Growth also has resulted in the business becoming a family affair, with key divisions being led by Valluzzo’s four sons and son-in-law.

In addition to winning McDonald’s marketing excellence award three times, Valluzzo has received the corporation’s highest recognition—the prestigious Golden Arch Award. He has served on the boards of every significant social and civic organization in Baton Rouge. His many awards for community service and philanthropy include the McTLC Award from McDonald Children Charities, which is given in recognition of efforts to improve the lives of children; Caring Award from the Louisiana Red Cross for humanitarian services; and Philanthropist of the Year honor from the Association of Fund Raising Professionals.
WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors selects new leadership

Twelve officers, executive committee members and directors have been elected to terms on the 2008-09 Western Michigan University Alumni Association Board of Directors, effective July 1. Serving one-year terms as officers are:

- President—Christopher Womack of Atlanta, executive vice president for external affairs at the Georgia Power Co. in Atlanta. Womack earned a Bachelor of Science from WMU in 1979. He was elected to the board in 2004, and has served on the Executive Committee for two years. He also has been chairperson of the Alumni Membership Committee as well as a member of the Scholarship and Distinguished Alumni committees.


- Treasurer—Philip Chludzinski of Kalamazoo, CPA and partner of Brink, Key & Chludzinski, P.C. in Kalamazoo. Chludzinski earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from WMU in 1980. First elected to the board in 2005, he is serving his second term as treasurer. He also has co-chaired the Student Engagement Committee and served on the Executive and Finance and Scholarship committees.

- Past president—Kirk Hoffman of Jackson, Mich., vice president of planning services at King Trust Co. in Spring Arbor, Mich. Hoffman earned a B.B.A. from WMU in 1986. First elected to the board in 2001, he has served two terms as president. He also has served as treasurer and vice president, chair of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Alumni Relations, Executive, Bylaws and Scholarship committees.

- President-elect—Margean Gladysz of Tin-ton Falls, N.J., B.S. from WMU in 1975, senior vice president and regional director at National Executive Service Corps in New York; Jonathan Knowles of East Lansing, Mich., Bachelor of Arts from WMU in 2003, staff member in the executive office for Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox; James Koessel of Grand Rapids, Mich., B.A. from WMU in 1972, senior vice president at Director Premier Banking Group in Grand Rapids; and Sue Neumann of Wildwood, Mo., B.A. in 1976 and Master of Arts in 1984 from WMU, senior vice president at Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. in Creve Coeur, Mo.

Four Alumni Association members were elected to three-year terms on the board as directors. They are:

- Albert J. Allison of San Diego, B.B.A. and M.B.A. from WMU in 1971 and 1977, respectively, manager of financial investigations at Baker Street Group, Inc.;

Six directors ended their terms on the board June 30. They are: Jeffry Bothwell, Bettie Goodman, Terry Olson, Dale Tanis, Britney Starr (SAA representative) and Wendy Westbrooks.

For a complete listing of the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors, visit www.wmich.edu/alumni and click “About Us” then “Board of Directors.”

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 2009-2012 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, 2009. 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 December 15, 2008. For more information or to submit a recommendation, visit the WMUAA Web site, www.wmich.edu/alumni/about/board-nominations, or call (269) 387-8777.

Did you know?

The WMU Alumni Association produces @WMU, an electronic newsletter which is e-mailed monthly to more than 25,000 alumni. @WMU includes University and alumni news and events and features a Young Alumni Spotlight section. If you are not receiving @WMU and would like to, please send your updated e-mail address to records-update@wmich.edu.
Other Alumni Scholarships

Onyx Society scholarship recipients

The Onyx Society is proud to announce the most recent recipients of its endowed scholarship:

- Theresa Jackson, medieval studies major;
- Marina Johnson, exercise science major; and
- Trena Sanders, educational leadership major.

The Onyx Society Endowed Scholarship is funded by private gifts and earnings generated by the society’s annual Homecoming Dance. It was established in 2000 with the purpose of awarding money to full-time students attending Western Michigan University. The scholarship ranges from $1,000 to $1,375.

Recipient of 2008 Chicago Alumni Scholarship

Laura Marie Morris of Orland Park, Ill., was awarded the 2008 Chicago Alumni Scholarship for the 2008-09 academic year. Laura is the granddaughter of Peter Petkovich, a varsity football player from 1947 to 1951. A graduate of Alamos Alonzo Stagg High School, she is currently undecided about her major at WMU.

Upcoming Alumni Events:

Reception with President John Dunn

Thursday, Oct. 16, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., Kendall Center, Battle Creek
You are cordially invited to meet and greet Dr. Dunn at this reception. For additional information or to make a reservation, please visit www.wmualumni/events or call (269) 387-8777.

College of Education Alumni Society Golden Apple Award Dinner

Thursday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m. Fetzer Center
The Golden Apple Award is given to honor an outstanding individual who attended or graduated from the WMU College of Education and is presently working or retired from the many professions involved in the educational experience. The individuals will be personally selected by their peers as being representative of educational excellence and commitment. For information or to make a reservation, please contact Amy Burns at amy.burns@wmich.edu.

Sixteen named 2008 Legacy Scholarship recipients

The WMU Alumni Association welcomes to campus the 16 recipients of its 2008 Legacy Scholarship. Recipients are given $1,000 for the first year, with the potential of an additional $1,000 per year for a total of four years. To date, more than 150 awards of up $4,000 have been distributed. The WMU Alumni Association is proud of the Legacy Scholarship recipients and wishes them well as they begin their academic careers at Western Michigan University. The Association would also like to thank the families of the Legacy Award recipients for making attending Western Michigan University a family tradition.

Each year since 1990, the Association has provided awards to the children, stepchildren, grandchildren and stepgrandchildren of WMU Alumni Association members entering WMU for the first time as freshmen or transfer students. The criteria were expanded in 2006 to include siblings of Association members.

For information on how to apply for the 2009 Legacy Scholarship, please contact the Alumni Association at alumni@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8777.

The recipients, listed in alphabetical order, are:

- Andrew Beaver of Rochester Hills, Mich., son of Patricia A. Beaver, B.B.A. ’77;
- Anthony Bell of Lansing, Mich., son of Scott, B.B.A. ’90, and Tia Bell, B.A. ’93;
- Kathryn Doherty of Oscoda, Mich., daughter of Julia Ann Doherty, B.S. ’76, and granddaughter of the late Robert Clark, B.S. ’49, and Kathryn Louise Clark, B.S. ’42;
- Ryan Clubine of Boyne City, Mich., son of Russell Clubine, B.B.A. ’77, and Joann Frances Townsend, B.A. ’80;
- Jill Dutkowski of Flushing, Mich., daughter of Thomas Dutkowski, B.A. ’77;
- Michael Krawczak of Sturgis, Mich., son of Francis, B.S. ’85, M.A. ’95 and Robyn Krawczak, B.M. ’77, M.A. ’86;
- Barbara Lanning of Bangor, Mich., daughter of the late Tom Lanning, B.S. ’75, M.A. ’81, Ed.D. ’95;
- Jared Lindberg of Plainwell, Mich., son of Brian Lindberg, B.B.A. ’82;
- Molly McLaughlin of Corunna, Mich., daughter of Sean, B.S. ’84, and Nancy McLaughlin, B.A. ’86;
- Jillian Newton of Muskegon, Mich., daughter of Susan Hoecker Newton, B.S. ’86, M.P.A. ’94;
- Jonathon Pleva of Pentwater, Mich., brother of Joseph Charles Pleva, B.S. ’08, and Stephanie Pleva, B.B.A. ’01;
- Adam Sobeck of Schoolcraft, Mich., brother of Joshua Sobeck, B.A. ’07;
- Lindsey Truitt of Dowagiac, Mich., daughter of Judy Truitt, B.S. ’78;
- Kim Ullery of Caledonia, Mich., daughter of Bruce Ullery, B.B.A. ’79;
Homecoming Weekend—Calendar of Events

- WMU Department of Theatre
  How I Learned to Drive
  Thursday, Oct. 2 - 4, 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 5, 2 p.m., York Arena Theatre
  With haunting vision and subtle humor, this Pulitzer Prize-winning drama explores the complex relationship between a young girl and her uncle. It is a surprising story of growing up, survival, and forgiveness. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/theatre.

- WMU Honors College Homecoming Dance
  Friday, Oct. 3, Time: TBD
  The Honors Student Association and the Lee Honors College will host this semi-casual affair. For more information, please e-mail info@wmuhlsa.org.

- WMU Alumni Association
  Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner
  Friday, Oct. 3, 6:30 p.m., Bernhard Center, West Ballroom
  Join us for a reception and dinner to honor the recipients of the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Awards, Richard Kohlin, B.A. ’63; Nick Triantafillopoulos, B.S.E. ’81, M.S. ’85; and Charles Valluzzo, B.B.A. ’62. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.wmualumni.com/events.

- Roger’s Thang, sponsored by the Onyx Society
  Friday, Oct. 3
  9 p.m. - 2 a.m., Location to be announced
  Contact Ed Harris for more information (269) 349-5112.

- The Campus Classic
  Saturday, Oct. 4, 8 a.m., Bernhard Center
  This annual tradition is open to individuals, teams and families. The 5K run, 5K and 1K walk and run through the beautiful WMU campus are open to all ages. For more information and to register, visit www.wmich.edu/race.

- Campus Tour for High School and Transfer Students of WMU Alumni
  Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 - 11:30 a.m.
  The WMU Alumni Association and the Admissions office are partnering once again to bring you a relevant, quality program. If you have children, a relative or a friend planning to go to college in the next few years, bring them to WMU for a special campus tour. Show them your alma mater and how proud you are to be a Bronco. To make a reservation, please call (269) 387-2000.

- Tailgate at the Tower
  Saturday, Oct. 4, 10:30 a.m. – noon
  Sprau Tower and the fountain area
  Brown Hall renovations are complete! Plan to join us for an open house with COM alumni, faculty and emeriti. And while you’re here, get a tour of the School of Communication’s great new spaces in the newly renovated Brown Hall. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/communication.

- WMU Bronco Football Homecoming Game
  Saturday, Oct. 4, 2 p.m., Waldo Stadium
  Cheer the Broncos on to victory as they take on the Ohio University Bobcats. For more information, visit www.wmubroncos.com.

- WMU Bronco Exhibition Game
  Saturday, Oct. 4, 7:35 p.m., Lawson Ice Arena
  Watch the Bronco hockey team as they take on the University of Windsor in an exhibition game. For tickets call the WMU Athletic Ticket Office at (888) 4-WMU-TIX (toll-free) or (269) 387-8092. View the full WMU Hockey schedule at www.wmubroncos.com.

- Capitol Steps
  Saturday, Oct. 4, 8 p.m., Miller Auditorium
  The Capitol Steps began as a group of Senate staffers who set out to satirize the very people and places that once employed them and now pride themselves on putting the “MOCK” in Democracy. Taken together the performers have worked in eighteen Congressional offices. For more information, visit www.millerauditorium.com.

- Onyx Scholarship Ball
  Saturday, Oct. 4, 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
  Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo
  Make your advanced reservation online, or for more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.wmualumni.com/events. The cost is $20 in advance or $25 at the door. Contact Robyn Carter at (219) 877-4982 or Joan Harris at (269) 349-5112 for more information. Tickets are also available at International Profyle 3101 W. Main St. in Kalamazoo.

- D.E.A. Homecoming Party
  Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 p.m. – 2 a.m.
  Bernhard Center, East Ballroom
  We are inviting our alumni back for the third annual alumni party. We are bringing an unbelievable experience to WMU homecoming weekend. For additional information, please contact dea@wmub.org.

- Onyx Society Annual Meeting
  Sunday, Oct. 5, 10:30 a.m.
  Room 204 Bernhard Student Center, WMU
  At the time Accent on Alumni went to press, many details about various Homecoming events were not yet confirmed. For more up-to-date information about Homecoming alumni and student events visit www.wmualumni.com/events or visit the official homecoming Web site at www.homecoming.wmich.edu.

Alumni Association events are listed in brown.
Volunteer to be a WMU Alumni Admissions Ambassador

The WMU Alumni Association is once again looking for alumni to volunteer for the Alumni Admissions Ambassador program. This program offers alumni from all over the United States an opportunity to play a role in WMU’s enrollment efforts. The Association provides Ambassadors with the names and addresses of students who have been admitted to WMU. The Association also provides congratulatory postcards to send these students, along with a short message encouraging them to enroll at WMU. As opportunities become available to expand WMU’s participation in college fairs around the United States, the WMU Alumni Association may also call on Ambassadors to represent their alma matter at these events.

To become an Alumni Admissions Ambassador, please apply online at www.wmich.edu/alumni and click “Volunteering” then “Alumni Admissions.” Or fill out the form and submit it to us via mail or fax, (269) 387-8770. Thank you for supporting the Western Michigan University Alumni Association!

WMU Day at the Capitol a success

Among the many alumni who joined President John Dunn, left, and more than 700 students and faculty and staff members at this year’s WMU Day at the Capitol in Lansing were, (center) Kirk Hoffman, B.B.A. ’85, and Bill Parsons, B.A. ’67, M.A. ’71. The event was a huge success, with participants gathering May 28 to share their WMU pride with the state’s legislators and policy makers and to demonstrate the University’s importance as one of Michigan’s five research universities. "It exceeded all our expectations in every way imaginable—in terms of number of participants, number and quality of the exhibits, and the positive impact of having such a powerful demonstration of pride on the doorstep of the Capitol building," Dunn said. “Best of all, it appears that everyone had a great time.” During the day, Hoffman and Parsons, both members of the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors, visited the offices of state senators and representatives who are WMU graduates.

Mark your calendar for May 27, 2009, and plan on attending the event next year.

2008 WMU Athletic Hall of Fame inductees

Congratulations to the 2008 WMU Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. Since its inception in 1973, the WMU Athletic Hall of Fame has grown to include more than 150 former student-athletes, coaches and administrators. Athletes are eligible for nomination 10 years after graduation or their final year of competition. Inductees must have earned at least two letters in one sport, or one letter in two sports. Coaches and athletic administrators must have served the University for a minimum of five years. In addition to athletic contributions, professional careers and character are taken into consideration.

The 2008 Hall of Fame inductees represent athletics from men’s and women’s track and field, hockey, baseball, football and women’s tennis.

The ceremony honoring the 2008 inductees will take place Friday, Oct. 31, at WMU’s Fetzer Center. The new inductees will also be honored at halftime Saturday, Nov. 1, during WMU’s home football game against Eastern Michigan University. For more information visit www.wmubroncos.com.
WMU Alumni Association
Homecoming PepFest

The Official Homecoming Celebration for Alumni of All Ages!

Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

Celebrate WMU’s 2008 Homecoming at the WMU Alumni Association’s PepFest!

• Enjoy food and beverages from “Cheeseburger in Paradise”
• Free Admission
• Food is free for ALL Alumni Association members, $5.00 for member-guests and $10.00 for non-members
• Alumni of all ages are welcome
• Reconnect with old friends and make some new ones
• Casual, fun and welcoming atmosphere

• Walking distance from Waldo Stadium
• Please make your reservation by September 15, 2008 by calling (269) 387-8777 or online at www.wmich.edu/alumni and click “Events” then “Homecoming PepFest 2008.”

PepFest attendees spanned generations and graduate years at the 2007 event. The party was a great success as alumni spent time together with family, got reacquainted with old friends and reminisced with students and WMU staff.

Cheer the Broncos on to victory as they take on the Ohio University Bobcats at 2 p.m. More details inside.