2009 Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award

Susan Martin Bunda, B.A. ’86, Nancy J. Diehl, B.A. ’75 and Kenneth V. Miller, B.B.A. ’69, M.B.A. ’70, are the 2009 recipients of the WMU Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award. This award, the Association’s most prestigious honor, was established in 1963 to recognize alumni who have achieved a high level of success in their professions.

The 2009 recipients will be honored at the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner, which will take place Friday, Oct. 23. The reception starts at 6:30 p.m. and dinner follows at 7:15 p.m. in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Alumni and friends who wish to join us in honoring Bunda, Diehl and Miller at this special event may make reservations by visiting www.wmich.edu/alumni and clicking “Events,” or by calling (269) 387-8777.

Susan Martin Bunda, B.A. ’86, was appointed executive vice president of content development and strategy for CNN Worldwide in 2007. She is responsible for program creation and development and leads the network’s continuing integration of television and the Web.

As a communication student at WMU, Bunda produced the 11 p.m. newscast at WWMT, a CBS affiliate in Kalamazoo, and continued working there after earning her bachelor’s degree.

She began her career in 1987 at CNN, where she was the executive producer of the network’s legal analysis show, “Burden of Proof,” and of “CNN and Company,” a talk show featuring a panel of female experts debating current events.

As a senior vice president, Bunda assumed responsibility for all talk shows/guest bookings. She was an executive producer with the CNN Special Event Unit, the network’s series of prime-time specials that provided same-day coverage of breaking news. That unit produced CNN’s extensive coverage of such significant world events as Princess Diana’s funeral in 1997 and Great Britain’s handover of Hong Kong to China in 1999.

Named to senior vice president for CNN/U.S. in 2001, Bunda led the network’s Atlanta-based programming, which was instrumental in the network’s coverage of major events, including Hurricane Katrina and the South Asian tsunami.

Bunda is the recipient of the 2008 Multichannel News Wonder Woman Class. She is also an executive member of Women in Cable and Television and a founding member of the CNN Diversity Council.

Nancy J. Diehl, B.A. ’75, retired this year after serving for 28 years in the Wayne County (Mich.) Prosecutor’s Office.

A political science major at WMU, Diehl went on to earn a juris doctorate from Wayne State University in 1975.

She began her career as a staff attorney for the Misdemeanor Defender’s Office in 1978 and two years later, was named assistant corporation counsel for the City of Detroit.

Diehl joined the Wayne County prosecutor’s office in 1981 as a trial prosecutor working in Recorder’s Court. She worked in several other capacities, including as director of the Child Abuse Unit and chief of the Projects and Training Division. In 2004, she was named chief of the Felony Trial Division, overseeing general trials, child and family abuse, homicide, auto theft and major drugs.

A sought-after-speaker and trainer, Diehl lectures on domestic violence and child abuse investigation, prosecution and related issues. She is recognized as a leader on issues concerning child abuse and family violence. She is also the author of several booklets focusing on children dealing with abuse and the legal system.

Diehl was the 70th president of the State Bar of Michigan and the third woman in a decade to lead that organization of more than 36,000.

She also serves on the Executive Committee of the Governor’s Task Force on Children’s Justice.

Diehl has been honored with many awards, including the 2004 Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Champion of Justice Award, the 2003 Women’s Justice Center Outstanding Advocate Award and the 2000 Governor’s Award.

Kenneth V. Miller, B.B.A. ’69, M.B.A. ’70, is president/CEO of The Millennium Restaurant Group, LLC, which owns and operates several southwest Michigan restaurants. He is also a principal of Havirco, an investment-management firm he started in 1983.

A marketing and business major at WMU, Miller earned a juris doctorate from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1977.

After practicing law in Kalamazoo for several years, Miller began to shift his focus away from his law practice to a series of business ventures, many of them in partnership with his brother. Eventually closing his law office, Miller applied his business acumen to a wide range of venture capital opportunities, including Indiana-based Biomet, a manufacturer and marketer of orthopedic and surgical products, and a Houston-based oil company. As president/CEO of Radio Associates Group, he owned and operated radio broadcast properties in Michigan, Nevada and California.

Miller was a director and co-founder of TEAM Industries Inc., a manufacturer of expanded polystyrene in Grand Rapids, Mich., and Winchester, Va., and of AvTech Laboratories in Kalamazoo, a full-service contract research organization serving the pharmaceutical industry.

Appointed to the WMU Board of Trustees in 2002, Miller is currently serving his second term as its chair. He has a long history of serving in leadership positions on numerous community and corporate boards and is a driving force in the promotion of economic development in Kalamazoo.
WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors selects new leadership for 2009-10

Fourteen officers, executive committee members and directors have been elected to terms on the 2009-10 WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Serving one-year terms as officers are:
• President—Richard D. Bailey II of Sarasota, Fla., executive vice president and chief lending officer at Home Banc in Tampa, Fla. Bailey earned a master’s degree in business administration from WMU in 1985. First elected to the board in 2003, he served two terms as vice president and previously served two terms as treasurer. He also has served on the Executive, Finance and Scholarship committees.
• Vice president—Neumann of Wildwood, Mo., senior vice president at Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation, Creve Coeur, Mo. Neumann earned a bachelor’s degree in 1976 and master’s degree in 1984 from WMU. First elected to the board in 2003, she has co-chaired the Alumni Engagement Committee and served on the Executive, Marketing, Nominating and Distinguished Alumni committees.
• Treasurer—Margean Gladysz of Tinton Falls, N.J., senior vice president and regional director at National Executive Service Corps, N.Y. Gladysz earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering from WMU in 1975. First elected to the board in 2004, she is serving her first term as vice president. She has also served two terms on the Executive and Finance committees and has served on the Scholarship, Nominating, Bylaws and Distinguished Alumni committees.
• Past president—Christopher Womack of Atlanta, executive vice president of Southern Company and president for external affairs at Southern Co. in Atlanta. Womack earned a bachelor’s degree from WMU in 1979. He was elected to the board in 2004 and has served on the Executive Committee for three years. He also has been chair of the Alumni Membership Committee as well as a member of the Scholarship and Distinguished Alumni committees.


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.”

Did you know?
The WMU Alumni Association relies on you to keep it up-to-date on changes in your contact information such as your e-mail address, telephone number, mailing address and job changes. Update your contact information at alumni-donor-update@wmich.edu.

Get connected online
Find thousands of WMU alumni and Association members already online on Facebook (Western Michigan University Alumni) and Linkedin (WMU Alumni Association). For more information or if you have difficulty finding the groups online, e-mail us at alumni@wmich.edu.

Join the WMU Alumni Career Network
The WMU Alumni Association asked thousands of WMU graduates: What one career search option could we offer that would benefit you the most? Overwhelmingly, you asked for career advice and a job search database. In collaboration with the University’s Office of Career and Student Employment Services, the Association is pleased to provide you with both. Join online at www.wmich.edu/alumni.
WMU Alumni Association year in review

During the 2008-09 fiscal year, the WMU Alumni Association provided opportunities to more than 75,000 Western Michigan University graduates to reconnect with their alma mater as well as to network with one another. The Association hosted regional events from coast to coast. WMU President John Dunn attended many of the events, chatting informally with alumni and speaking about the many accomplishments of current students, faculty and staff. In addition to these events, alumni volunteers, with assistance from the Association staff, organized informal gatherings. Whether it was watching a game on TV or another event, Broncos took advantage of the opportunity to get together with fellow alumni. Whether they came with others or by themselves, those who attended these regional events left having forged new friendships and adding to their professional network.

The Association is also proud to report that again this year more than 600 alumni volunteers played a critical role in the University’s admission efforts through their involvement in the Association-sponsored Alumni Admissions Ambassadors Program. Alumni Ambassadors sent handwritten postcards to more than 10,000 admitted students, congratulating prospective Broncos on their admission and sharing their pride as WMU graduates. Throughout the year, WMU graduates are also frequent visitors to campus, enhancing the educational experience for current students as classroom speakers and presenters at student events. For those who can’t make it back to campus, the Association is pleased to provide opportunities for alumni who want to serve as a resource for current students and their fellow alumni through its Mentor and Bronco-2-Bronco programs.

In 2004, the Association initiated the monthly publication of @WMU, its electronic newsletter, as a means of providing all alumni for whom the Association has current e-mail addresses with timely news from campus along with information about Association programs and events. That first year, @WMU was sent to approximately 28,000 alumni. This year, the July issue was distributed to more than 35,000. As the Association continues to look for ways to increase its support of the University’s sustainability initiatives, it will expand its electronic communication as well as social networking communities—Facebook (Western Michigan University Alumni), LinkedIn (WMU Alumni Association) and the WMU Online Alumni Community. Thousands of Broncos are already using these groups to connect with the Association and one another.

As of June 30, there were 11,698 dues paying members of the WMU Alumni Association. As noted in the expenses and income charts below, the alumni and friends who pay their Association dues each year provide more than three-quarters of the Association’s operating income. The Association is totally reliant on alumni volunteers as they provide not only its primary means of support but also the heart and soul of all its programs, activities and services. Each and every photograph in this issue illustrates the critical role Association members play in the vitality and success of the Association. Thank you for your commitment, for your involvement and for your membership.

New members double in 2009

The Association is proud to report 1,986 new members, a 100 percent increase over 2007-08 and the largest total number of new members in six years. This unprecedented increase is due primarily to a very successful spring campaign, and thus more than 950 new members are receiving their first issue of Accent on Alumni. To all who joined the Association for the first time this past year, we say thank you. Through your membership, you have not only demonstrated your ongoing commitment to Western Michigan University but you also enable the Alumni Association to continue its service to WMU, its graduates and its current students. To all the new members we welcomed during the last fiscal year, as well as to all those who continue to renew their membership year after year, we cannot thank you enough.

Broncos stampede Lansing at second WMU Day

Western Michigan University Broncos shined at the Michigan Capitol during WMU’s second annual display of pride for state legislators.

“This is a great demonstration of Bronco pride,” WMU President John M. Dunn told the cheering crowd assembled in front of the main Capitol entrance. “It just doesn’t get any better than this.”

More than 700 WMU students, faculty, staff and friends attended the event.

Alumni Admissions Ambassadors make a difference for WMU

WMU Alumni from across the nation are getting ready to welcome the freshman class of 2010. Through the Alumni Admissions Ambassador program, more than 600 alumni volunteers sent handwritten postcards to 10,000 admitted students in 2009 alone. Planned changes to the program for 2010 include updated postcards and an extended program that will match alumni to students who plan to study in the same area.

The program allows WMU alumni to function as a valuable resource for new students. Their personal insight gives prospective Broncos an inside look at WMU. Deciding which college to attend is an important process and this program provides alumni with the perfect opportunity to help WMU make a great impression. The personal touch of an Alumni Ambassador’s postcard helps WMU stand out from other universities while helping students connect with alumni.

Alumni Admissions Ambassadors have great things to say about the program including, “I enjoy this exercise!” and “Thank you for the opportunity to be an ambassador. It feels good to make a difference.”

To become an Alumni Admissions Ambassador, apply online at www.wmich.edu/alumni and click “Volunteering” then “Alumni Admissions Ambassadors,” fill out the form and fax it to (269) 387-8770 or call Kate Binder at (269) 387-8702.
Twenty-six named 2009 Legacy Scholarship recipients

Due to the record number of new members in 2008-09, and thus the increase in member income, the WMU Alumni Association is proud to grant a record number of scholarships for the 2009-10 year. The Association welcomes to campus the 26 recipients of its Legacy Scholarship. Recipients are given $1,000. To date, more than 175 awards 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 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:

- **Lukas Ayers** of Lansing, Mich., son of Lee, B.B.A. ’77 and Geralyn Ayers, B.A. ’77
- **Brandon Bell** of Farmington Hills, Mich., son of Terrian Bell, B.S. ’78
- **Barbara Buehler** of Delton, Mich., daughter of Martin, B.S. ’88, M.A. ’93 and Sheila Buehler, B.S. ’87
- **Ryan Clarey** of Saginaw, Mich., son of Timothy Clarey, B.S. ’82, PHD ’96
- **Rory Closz** of Muskegon, Mich., son of David, B.A. ’74 and Clare Closz, B.A. ’74
- **Bradley Crofoot** of Kinglsey, Mich., son of Ronald Crofoot, B.B.A. ’92
- **Abbigail Doubleday** of Battle Creek, Mich., daughter of Robert Doubleday, B.S. ’00
- **John Duemling** of China, Mich., son of Thomas Duemling, B.B.A. ’83
- **Brian Gardner** of Northville, Mich., son of Lee Gardner, B.B.A. ’73, M.B.A. ’74
- **Chelsea Helm** of West Bloomfield, Mich., daughter of Paul Helm, B.M. ’84
- **Casey James** of Kalamazoo, daughter of Douglas James, B.A. ’92
- **Amanda Jeppesen** of Portage, Mich., daughter of Richard Jeppesen, B.S. ’74 and Mary Carter, B.S. ’79
- **Joshua Kallen** of Kalamazoo, son of Hugh, B.B.A. ’83 and Kathleen Kallen, B.S. ’90
- **Nicholas King** of Port Huron, Mich., brother of Chris King, B.S. ’08
- **Michael Leppek** of Novi, Mich., grandson of Kathleen Leppek, B.A. ’61
- **Timothy Lewis** of Hastings, Mich., son of Julie Andrews, B.S. ’79
- **Kameron Potts** of Westland, Mich., son of Kelly Kendrick Potts, B.S. ’89, M.A. ’92
- **Nicole Powell** of Novi, Mich., daughter of Norman, B.B.A. ’76 and Nancy Powell, B.B.A. ’77
- **Austin Roberts** of Jackson, Mich., brother of Kelsey Roberts, B.A. ’08
- **Jamison Russell** of Kalamazoo, son of Scott, B.S. ’92 and Betsy Russell, B.S. ’07
- **Katherine Salow** of Stockbridge, Mich., daughter of Patrick Salow, B.S. ’81, M.P.A. ’89
- **Chad Stecker** of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., brother of Brittany Stecker, B.A. ’08
- **Amber Winn** of Southfield, Mich., daughter of Shantel Brown-Winn, B.B.A. ’90
- **Melissa Woodward** of Augusta, Mich., daughter of Rick, B.S. ’85 and Mary Woodward, B.B.A. ’85

*Pictures not available.

Recipient of 2009 Chicago Alumni Scholarship

Sarah Turransky of Orland Park, Ill., was awarded the 2009 Chicago Alumni Scholarship for the 2009-10 academic year. She is the daughter of alumna JoEllen Turransky (Steffel), B.S. ’76. A graduate of Carl Sandburg High School, Turransky is planning to study Engineering Management.
Homecoming Weekend—Calendar of Events

2009 WMU Homecoming Delta Alpha TKE Alumni Reunion
Friday, Oct. 23 - Sunday, Oct. 25
Check online calendar for details and multiple events taking place over the weekend.

Family Weekend
Friday, Oct. 23 - Sunday, Oct. 25
All around campus
This is a great time to celebrate our WMU heritage with your student. For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/parents.

WMU Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner
Friday, Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Bernhard Center, East Ballroom
Join us for a reception and dinner to honor the recipients of the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards, Susan Martin Bunda, B.A. ’86, Nancy J. Diehl, B.A. ’75 and Ken V. Miller, B.B.A. ’69, M.B.A. ’70. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.wmualumni.com/events.

WMU Bronco Volleyball
Friday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m., University Arena
Watch the Broncos take on Kent State. For tickets, visit www.wmubroncos.com or call (888) 4-WMU-TIX.

Onyx Society Friday night meet and greet (formerly known as Roger’s Thang)
Friday, Oct. 23, 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Enjoy the company of fellow Broncos and friends at this fun event. For more information please contact Gale Tabron at 269-598-1841 or e-mail gale.tabron@sbcglobal.net.

Campus Classic
Saturday, Oct. 24, 8:15 a.m.
1K fun run 8:15 a.m.; 5K run and walk 9 a.m.; registration opens in Bernhard Center 7 a.m.
This annual tradition is open to individuals, teams and families. For more information and to register, visit www.wmich.edu/race.

Haworth College of Business Flapjacks and Photos
Saturday, Oct. 24, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
No speeches, just pancakes! Join fellow Haworth College of Business alumni, friends and their families, faculty emeriti and current professors for a pancake breakfast on Homecoming morning. For more information, contact Stacey Markin at stacey.markin@wmich.edu.

Campus Tour for Relatives and Friends of WMU Alumni
Saturday, Oct. 24, 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 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.

Alpha Phi Alumnae Homecoming Brunch
Saturday, Oct. 24, 10:30 a.m.
The Delta Theta Chapter of Alpha Phi invites all chapter alumnae to the chapter house for Homecoming Brunch before the football game. Join us to meet the current collegiate members, take a tour of the chapter house, and meet and catch up with your sisters.

2009 WMU Alumni Association PepFest
Saturday, Oct. 24, 11:30 a.m.
Everyone is welcome to attend this event. See details on the back of this newsletter or visit www.wmualumni.com/events.

WMU Bronco Football Homecoming Game
Saturday, Oct. 24, 2 p.m., Waldo Stadium
Cheer the Broncos on to victory as they face the University of Buffalo Bulls. For more information, visit www.wmubroncos.com.

Onyx Alumni Society Scholarship Dance
Saturday, Oct. 24, 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Radisson Plaza Hotel
The cost is $22 in advance or $27 at the door. For more information, contact Gale Tabron at (269) 598-1841, Robyn Carter at (219) 877-4982 or Joan Harris at (269) 349-5112. Make your advanced reservation online at www.wmualumni.com/events.

Onyx Society Annual Meeting
Sunday, Oct. 25, 10:30 a.m.
Room 204 Bernhard Student Center, WMU

Cantus Femina and Amphion Men’s Ensemble Concert
Sunday, Oct. 25, 3 p.m.
Dalton Center Recital Hall, admission is free.

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.
The official Homecoming celebration for alumni of all ages!

Saturday, Oct. 24
11:30 a.m., Pre-registration is required.

Celebrate WMU’s 2009 Homecoming at WMU Alumni Association’s PepFest!

- Enjoy food and beverages from TGI Friday’s (chips and salsa, cheese burgers, pulled pork sandwiches, veggie wraps, turkey burgers, baked beans, coleslaw, fruit salad, cookies and Coca-Cola products)
- $5 for members and their guests; $10 for non-members
- Live music performed by Los Bandits de Michigan
- 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 Oct. 16 by calling (269) 387-8777 or online at www.wmich.edu/alumni and click “Events” then “Homecoming PepFest.”

More details inside.
Take advantage of member pricing on this and other Association events by joining today!

Cheer the Broncos on to victory as they take on the University of Buffalo Bulls at 2 p.m.