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A communication link between the WMU Alumni Association and its members

2009 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients

WMU alumni gathered at an event in Atlanta where past President of the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors Chris Womack, B.S. ’79 (front) presented Susan Martin Bunda, B.A. ’86 (holding clock) with her 2009 WMU Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award. Bunda accepted her award at the Atlanta event as she was unable to attend the Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner in October.

Alumni lend career expertise

In response to requests from alumni, the Alumni Association developed and is continually enhancing its WMU Alumni Career Network. The network provides alumni with the various tools to assist in personal career development including an online portfolio of resources and a comprehensive job search database. During the last several months, the Association also offered sessions in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Southfield, Mich. where University staff and alumni working in the human resource profession provided those attending with insightful information to enhance their job search and networking efforts. The Association is indebted to Lynn Kelly-Albertson (see caption) as well as Richard Daudert, B.A. ’90, M.A. ’94, vice president and career management consultant at Right Management Consultants; Maryann Lavender, Ph.D. ’07, WMU director of development; DJ Peck, B.S. ’92, corporate recruiter staffing and diversity at HAWORTH, INC.; and Alexandra Rozema, B.B.A. ’97, PeopleFirst Leadership and Organizational Development at Domino’s Pizza, for sharing their time and expertise with fellow graduates. Visit the career network online at www.wmich.edu/alumni by clicking “Services” then “WMU Alumni Career Network.”

WMU Homecoming and the WMU Alumni Association’s PepFest

WMU Broncos vs. Idaho Vandals
Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010

Photo by Chuck Comer
The 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner honored this year’s recipients of the Association’s most prestigious honor. Pictured with WMU President John Dunn (left), are Ken V. Miller, B.B.A. ’69, M.B.A. ’70, Nancy Diehl, B.A. ’75 and WMU Alumni Association President Rick Bailey, M.B.A. ’85. (not pictured, recipient Susan Martin Bunda, B.A. ’86).

Pictured is Lynn Kelly-Albertson, B.A. ’90, M.A. ’94, executive director of career and student employment services at WMU, offering participants job search pointers.

PepFest 2009
WMU alumni everywhere

WMU Alumni Association events take place throughout the year in various regions where a significant number of graduates live and work. These events provide alumni and friends with an opportunity to network and reconnect with fellow classmates and to network with other WMU Broncos. Keep an eye out for events in your area online at www.wmich.edu/alumni and click “Events.”

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Clemens, Mich.</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 13</td>
<td>Alumni gathering 5:30 - 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo, Mich.</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 14</td>
<td>Leadership Dinner 6 - 8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids, Mich.</td>
<td>Thursday, April 15</td>
<td>College of Business alumni reception 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southgate, Mich.</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 20</td>
<td>Career Development program for alumni 6 - 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saginaw, Mich.</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 21</td>
<td>Alumni gathering 5:30 - 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansing, Mich.</td>
<td>Thursday, April 22</td>
<td>Reception 5:30 - 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Oak, Mich.</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 4</td>
<td>Alumni reception at the new WMU office 6 - 7:30 p.m.</td>
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Alumni attend Gold Pride Receptions

WMU alumni were invited by the Association to participate in each of this year’s Gold Pride Receptions, hosted by the WMU Office of Admissions, for admitted students and their families. Throughout the evening, the alumni volunteers shared their pride and their experiences at WMU with future Broncos, and by doing so contributed significantly to the University’s enrollment efforts. There is no one better to tell the Western story than our graduates. If you would like to make a difference, consider sending us the names of prospective students or volunteering for the WMU Alumni Admissions Ambassador program. To do so, contact the Association at alumni@wmich.edu.

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.
Alumni making a difference on campus

Jenifer Skiba, B.B.A. ’97 (pictured at right), served as a “Mentor on Duty” during Mentor Day, which took place in the fall. Skiba, an accountant at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, Mich., presented her work history and gave resume feedback to a small group of students with accounting backgrounds. If you are interested in participating in Mentor Day, please contact Linda Ickes, Director of the Haworth College of Business Career Center by e-mail at linda.ickes@wmich.edu or by phone at (269) 387-2759.

Alumna discusses social media during Career Day

Erica Finley, B.A. ’06 (pictured at left), Assistant Account Executive at BERLINE in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., was back on campus in February to share her insights on best practices in social media. Finley discussed the importance of establishing your own brand across social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. Finley’s PowerPoint presentation “Utilizing Social Networking,” may be downloaded at www.wmich.edu/alumni/services/career by selecting “Online Resources” and the “Networking” tab of that page.

Get connected online

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/wmualumni

LinkedIn
www.linkedin.com/companies/western-michigan-university

Twitter
www.twitter.com/wmuaa

Don’t miss out on important communication

Did you know the WMU Alumni Association distributes a monthly electronic newsletter called @WMU? It is e-mailed to more than 37,000 alumni every month and contains the latest news about WMU. If you are not receiving @WMU, we may not have your current e-mail address. In addition to @WMU we will notify you about upcoming events in your area. Update your e-mail address online at www.wmich.edu/alumni by e-mail at alumni-donor-update@wmich.edu or call (269) 387-8777.
Talk about WMU pride! Monica Della Pia, B.S. ’04 married Anthony Violante B.B.M. ’03 on July 11, 2009. More than 50 students and WMU alumni are pictured at the reception. All of the bridesmaids attended WMU including the bride’s sister, Lisa Della Pia, B.F.A. ’08 along with her brother (honorary groomsman) Lt. Jacob Della Pia, B.B.A. ’08, who was serving in Iraq. A string quartet from WMU’s School of Music played during the ceremony. All three Della Pia’s have also been recipients of the Association’s Legacy Scholarship.

Decked out in brown and gold for more than 60 years, James B. Ward, B.S. ’49, M.A. ’61 and wife Jean express their WMU school spirit posing in front of their 1939 Model A Ford with dog, “Kipper” in White Cloud, Mich. Look closely (at his hat) and you’ll see even “Kipper” the gold dog is sporting his school colors.

U.S. Army Sergeant Brian Zator (front), B.S. ’04 and WMU Alumni Association member, displayed his WMU Alumni Association membership decal in the window of a M-1151 HMMWV or “Humvee” just long enough to snap a quick photo. He was not able to leave the decal on the tank due to security reasons. These photos were taken at FOB Falcon Southern Baghdad, Iraq, where Zator did a 15-month tour from November 2007 to January 2009.

How do you express your Bronco pride?

As evidenced by these photos, WMU graduates definitely know how to show their Bronco pride in unique ways. Alumni do not necessarily have to be this creative, however. Displaying a WMU Alumni Association member decal in your car window, hanging your diploma on the wall of your office or home, or wearing WMU apparel are all great ways to tell others how proud you are to have graduated from Western. Show us how you demonstrate your Bronco pride by sending a photograph by mail or via e-mail at alumni@wmich.edu.