Association Proudly Announces the Recipients of the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award

Robert J. Bobb, BS ’69, and Derrick Alfonso Evans, BFA ’00, have been named as the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. This award, the Association’s most prestigious honor, recognizes graduates who have achieved a high level of success in their respective professions.

The 2006 recipients will be honored at the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner, which will take place on Friday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Alumni and friends who wish to join us in honoring Bobb and Evans at this special event may make a reservation by visiting www.wmich.edu/alumni and clicking on “Events,” or by calling (269) 387-8777.

Before making his name in the business world, Bobb accomplished himself in the field of law. After graduating from WMU, he went on to earn his Doctor of Law degree from The University of Notre Dame in 1972. He then served as a law clerk to the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Court, Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Trial Division, and an attorney at Hopkins & Sutter.

Since 1978, Bobb has been a principal equity investor in small to middle market companies engaged in real estate development, financial services, beverage distribution, trucking, steel processing, construction, and agriculture. Such investments have included start-ups, turnarounds, and acquisitions from both private and public sellers. In all of these endeavors, Bobb served as CEO or Chairman of the Board.

In addition to these private investments, Bobb and a partner formed Cardinal Growth L.P., a small business investment company, in 2000. Cardinal, of which Bobb serves as its chairman, is a $100 million fund investing in small to middle market companies and is located in Chicago.

A life member of the WMU Alumni Association, Bobb has maintained close ties to his alma mater. He is currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Western Michigan University Foundation and as a member of the Advisory Board of the Haworth College of Business.

Since 1988, Evans has enjoyed a successful career as an internationally known choreographer, performer, rehearsal director and master teacher. Originally from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Evans was named a Presidential Scholar in Dance at WMU. He finished the University’s program requirements for dance in 1988, but left prior to graduating to pursue performance opportunities. He returned to WMU in 2000 to complete his degree requirements.

As a choreographer, Evans has worked with recording artists Gloria Estefan, Enrique Iglesias, and Eve. He has performed with Michael Jackson on tour, in a national tour of Sweet Charity, and in commercials for Intel, Levi, and Dr. Pepper. Evans was a co-choreographer for the 2005 European Youth Winter Olympic opening ceremony and was one of four choreographers featured in the Emmy-winning PBS documentary Reality of a Dreamer. Evans’ work as an assistant choreographer was nominated for a HOLA Award.

Evans has taught throughout the United States, Europe, and the Caribbean and is currently on the dance faculty at the Broadway Dance Center in New York City. He has been on the faculty at the St. Thomas School of Dance and the Gus Giordano Dance Center, and taught at WMU from 2003-2005.

Evans maintains his connection with WMU by serving as a mentor to numerous dance and music theatre students and has helped WMU graduates find employment in the highly competitive field of performing arts.
Edmondson, BA ’42, lives a life full of energy, involvement, and influence. A resident of Chickasha, Oklahoma and a retired teacher, Eleanor has volunteered her time over the past 25 years with her local hospital, library, historical society, nursing home, and teachers’ association. She has also served as a mentor for the Partners in Education Reading and is a member of the American Association of University Women. Additionally, Eleanor is active with the Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women and is working on the 2006 State Democratic Convention.

Eleanor was recognized in 2000 as Chickasha’s Volunteer of the Year. Most recently, she was honored with the 2006 Public Service Award by the Chevron (Texaco) Retirees Association at their annual meeting in Pittsburgh in May.

According to her longtime friend Betty Olin Robinson, BS ’39, Eleanor is “truly a role model for effective living.” The WMU Alumni Association is proud to congratulate Eleanor on her achievements, her awards, and her inspiring lifestyle!

Bronco Football is Coming to Tallahassee!
Join fellow WMU alumni and friends to cheer for the Broncos as they take on the Florida State Seminoles on Saturday, November 18, 2006. Plan to attend the pre-game festivities at the Civic Center two hours prior to the game.

For more information about this event and accommodations please visit the Alumni Association web site at <www.wmich.edu/alumni> and click on "Events," e-mail the Association at alumni@wmich.edu, or call 267-387-8777.

Legacy Scholarship Recipients Named
The WMU Alumni Association is proud to announce the recipients of the 2006 Legacy Scholarship Award.

Nicole Eggleston of Tecumseh, MI, is the daughter of Timothy Eggleston, B.S. ’81, MPA ’04, and Mary Eggleston. She is a graduate of Tecumseh High School.

Nicholas Facca of Rochester Hills, MI, is the son of Patrick Facca, B.B.A. ’79, and Carol Facca, B.S. ’80. He is a graduate of Rochester Adams High School.

Jacob Fowler of Parma, MI, is the son of John Fowler, M.S. ’79, and Janet Fowler. He is a graduate of Western High School and has attended Olivet Nazarene University and Jackson Community College.

Kaylin Gillette of Union City, MI, is the daughter of Phyllis A. Moody Gillette, M.A. ’94, and Thomas Gillette and the sister of Nicole Frihey Hart, B.S. ’96, M.A. ’10. She is a graduate of Union City High School and has attended Kellogg Community College.

Jared Girsch of Kalamazoo, MI, is the step-son of Richard Montague, B.B.A. ’87, and son of Janice Montague, B.S. ’85. He is a graduate of Portage Northern High School.

Roxanne Goodgine of Jenison, MI, is the daughter of Mary Lee Haas Goodgine, B.A. ’74, and Donald Goodgine. She is a graduate of Jenison High School.

Courtney Lemons of Jackson, MI, is the daughter of Cheryl Southwick-Lemons, B.A. ’80, and Donald Lemons, Jr., B.B.A. ’80. She is a graduate of Jackson High School.

Daniel Rickli of Kalamazoo, MI, is the son of Pamela Gillhespy Rickli, B.S. ’81, M.A. ’96, and Ronald Rickli. He is a graduate of Loy Norrix High School.

Bethany Utting of Zeeland, MI, is the daughter of Randy Utting, B.B.A. ’81, and Shari Utting. She is a graduate of Zeeland West High School.

Kelsey West of Nashville, MI, is the daughter of Steven West, B.S. ’11, and Lori West and the sister of Phlicia West Takeshima, B.S. ’05. She is a graduate of Maple Valley Junior Senior High School and has attended Kellogg Community College.

Beginning in 1990, the Association has annually awarded scholarships to the children and grandchildren of Association members. To date, 116 scholarships have been awarded. The Association wishes all of the recipients luck as they begin their academic careers at Western Michigan University, and thanks their parents and grandparents for making WMU a family tradition. The scholarship committee would like to extend thanks to all Association members whose legacies participated in the scholarship application process.

Recipient of the 2006 Chicago Chapter Scholarship Named
Kiley Tkaczyk was awarded the 2006 Chicago Chapter Scholarship for the 2006-07 academic year. Kiley is the daughter of Richard Tkaczyk, BSME ’82. A graduate of Illinois’ Mundelein High School, she is currently undecided about her major at WMU.
Results of Graduate Program Appeals Announced

After a four-week appeals process, the WMU Board of Trustees received recommendation to approve closure of fewer than half the number of programs originally slated to close as the result of a yearlong, campus review of all of the University’s graduate programs.

The recommendations were based on the results of the review process and the findings of an appeals committee that has been working since the beginning of June to hear the appeals of 15 of 23 programs originally recommended for closure. It was recommended that the WMU Board of Trustees approve the closure of 11 programs, including eight programs that chose not to appeal the original decisions as well as three that did appeal. The three are a doctoral program in comparative religion and master’s-level programs in art and the teaching of geography.

In addition to recommending closure for those 11 programs, 12 other programs received recommendations, each of which had appealed the earlier closure recommendations. For those 12 programs, the recommendations fall into one of three options: continuation; continuation with conditions; or suspension to allow for time to reconfigure curricula and initiate program improvements.

Following the appeals process, the final recommendations on all 23 programs originally slated for closure are as follows:

- Continuation of the doctoral programs in applied economics, clinical psychology, computer science and Spanish.
- Continuation with conditions imposed for the doctoral program in statistics, a specialist program in educational leadership and the master’s degree programs in socio-cultural foundations and industrial/organizational psychology. In addition, the master’s programs in elementary school teaching and learning and teaching at the middle school level will also be recommended for continuation while the College of Education conducts a planned reorganization and curricular review.
- Suspension of the doctoral program in public administration and the Master of Fine Arts degree in art, to allow each time for program reconfiguration and improvement.
- Closure of 11 programs: doctoral programs in comparative religion and school psychology; master’s degree programs in applied sociology, art, biostatistics, molecular biotechnology, operations research, teaching of earth science, teaching of geography and teaching of music.
- Students in the programs slated for closure will have the opportunity to complete their degrees. Those in doctoral programs will have up to seven years to finish their studies from the time they began their programs. Students at the master’s level will have up to six years from their program start date to complete degrees.

Sharing Gold Pride Moments

As executive director of the WMU Alumni Association, not a day goes by when I don’t experience at least one “gold pride moment,” as I like to refer to them. These may occur as I look at the University’s website and read about an award one of our current students have received or of a research grant that a team of faculty members was awarded. Gold pride moments often occur when I am reading my mail. A note from Betty Olin Robinson, BS ’39, telling me about the recognition for volunteer service her long time friend and WMU alumna recently received was one such moment, as was the Grand Rapids Press article, sent to me by Plyna Strong, BA ’42, about a 2001 graduate landing a role on TV’s “The Shield.” Gold pride moments also occur during casual conversations, such as when former WMU assistant football coach Chuck Comer told me about one of our former players success in another highly competitive field—show business. Gold pride moments also occur as I write the copy for plaques to be added this year to the Distinguished Alumni Award recognition wall. As you read further in this issue, you will find we have shared these gold pride moments with you, our members.

Because it evoked such an emotional response in me, I wanted to personally share with you another one of my gold pride moments. On Sunday, June 25, I was sitting with my husband, Frank, in Broadway’s Al Hirschfeld Theatre waiting for “The Wedding Singer” to begin. The curtain rose on what else, a wedding reception in progress with the spotlight on the lead male character, Robbie Hart, played by WMU graduate Steven Lynch. I got a lump in my throat and, yes, there was even a tear in my eye as I thought to myself, “he is one of ours.” It wasn’t that long ago, at least by my frame of reference, that this young man was a student on our campus, and now here he is with a lead role in a Broadway play, a 2006 Tony nomination and several CDs to his credit. During the play’s intermission, I actually enjoyed standing in a long line outside the women’s restroom door as I conversed with those around me, telling them all that Steven Lynch was a graduate of Western Michigan University.

Of course, Steven is not the first WMU graduate to star on Broadway or receive a Tony nomination. Barbara Marineau and Marin Mazzie immediately come to mind. But I have never had the pleasure of seeing one of their Broadway performances, so watching Stephen was truly an hour and a half’s worth of gold pride moments. If you are going to be anywhere near New York City in the near future, do make a point to have your own gold pride moment and go see “The Wedding Singer”.

While some of our graduates shine on stage or screen and their accomplishments are more visible, you don’t have to go to New York or watch our graduates on television to have your own gold pride moment. Just think about the fact that each and every day in towns all across this country and throughout the world, there are gold pride moments as WMU alumni shine in classrooms and board-rooms, in clinics and cockpits, in laboratories and design labs, in offices and studios. There is, of course, one other place that you can fine a source of gold pride—the mirror!

As always, we thank you for being a great source of pride for your University and for sharing your own pride in your alma mater with those with whom you come in contact.

On behalf of the Alumni Association’s Board of Directors, we also thank you for your continued interest and support of the Association through your membership.

I look forward to seeing many of you at this year’s Homecoming celebration and to sharing a moment of gold pride with each of you!
Homecoming PepFest

Join the WMU Alumni Association at PepFest, the Official Homecoming Celebration of 2006, for food, fun, and memories. Get reacquainted with old friends and make new ones, and visit with the deans and administration of the University. This free event will have entertainment for alumni and their guests of all ages.

PepFest at Kanley Track, is the place to be on October 14th from noon to 1:30 p.m., with free admission, games, prize drawings every 15 minutes, and much more. The Bronco Marching Band will stop by to provide some entertainment, along with a live broadcast from WFAT, the Official WMU Sports Station. The WMU cheer and dance teams will be there along with, of course, Buster Bronco!

There will be a vendor selling food and a speed caricaturist drawing free portraits. Bring your family and your appetite for this fun and spirited event. Don’t forget to make sure to you head over to the GMAC Bowl Campus Tour tent for more excitement. Then walk across the street to join the rest of the Bronco family in cheering on the football team as they face off against the Huskies of Northern Illinois at 2:00 p.m.

The WMU Bookstore will be offering members of the WMU Alumni Association a discount on WMU apparel and merchandise equal to the number of years since they graduated, or a minimum of a 10% discount. The discount will be applied to purchases at both the WMU Bookstore and the new store Campus Trends, both located in the Bernhard Center. Don’t forget to bring your membership card!

Special Homecoming Events

College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Award Reception
Friday, October 13, 4:30 p.m., Bernhard Center
This award is given annually to alumni who are recommended to the Dean by their departments in recognition of the recipient’s achievements in their fields and for their service to the departments.

The Campus Classic
Saturday, October 14, 2006, 7:00 a.m. Bernhard Center
This annual tradition is open to individuals, families and three- to five-person teams. The 5K Run, 5K and 1K Fun Walk & Run through the beautiful WMU campus are open to all ages. For more information and to register, visit <www.wmich.edu/race>.

School of Communication Tailgate at the Tower
Saturday, October 14, 10:30 a.m., Sprau Tower Plaza
Join us for the third annual School of Communication Homecoming Open House. This event brings together Communication and Journalism alumni with current faculty, students, and emeriti for a morning of fun. For more information, call the School of Communication office at (269) 387-3130.

H.O.W.I. Society
The H.O.W.I. Society provides a networking opportunity for alumni who have graduated from WMU over the last ten years. For a calendar of events, please contact Harlin Thomas, ’01, at harlinthomas@hotmail.com.

Latino Alumni Gathering
Come and join the fun as Latino alumni gather at the 2006 Homecoming PepFest. For more information, please contact Mike Ramirez at (269) 387-3329 or e-mail to miguel.ramirez@wmich.edu.

Homecoming Calendar of Events

Friday, October 13, 2006
8:30 a.m. WMU Alumni Association National Board of Directors Fall Meeting, Walwood Hall
Noon-5 p.m. Homecoming Games, IM fields
4:30 p.m. College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Award Reception, Bernhard Center
6:30 p.m. Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner, Bernhard Center
8:00 p.m. An Evening with Colin Moche and Brad Sherwood, Miller Auditorium
8:00 p.m. The Lion in Winter, Shaw Theatre
9:00 p.m. Onyx Society: Roger’s Thang, American Legion Post 143

Saturday, October 14, 2006
7:00 a.m. The Campus Classic, Bernhard Center
10:00 a.m. Onyx Society Tailgate, Lovell Park
10:30 a.m. School of Communication Tailgate at the Tower, Sprau Tower Plaza
12:00 p.m. WMU Alumni Association PepFest, Kanley Track
2:00 p.m. Bronco Football vs. NIU, Waldo Stadium
2:00 p.m. Marching Band Alumni, Waldo Stadium
6:00 p.m. Kappa Alpha Psi: Roll Call 58th Banquet, Bernhard Center
7:35 p.m. Hockey vs. MSU, Lawson Ice Arena
8:00 p.m. The Lion in Winter, Shaw Theatre
9:00 p.m. Onyx Society Annual Alumni Ball, Bernhard Center

Sunday, October 15, 2006
2:00 p.m. The Lion in Winter, Shaw Theatre

Onyx Society Tailgate
Saturday, October 14, 10:00 a.m. Lovell St. Park
This event will be hosted by JT’s Coffee Service, Inc. For more information call JT Slaughter at (313) 839-7414.

Marching Band Alumni
Saturday, October 14, 2:00 p.m. Waldo Stadium
Alumni of the WMU Marching Band are invited to perform during the football game’s half-time show. To sign up, visit www.wmich.edu/marchingband.

Kappa Alpha Psi: Roll Call 58th Banquet
Saturday, October 14, 6:00 p.m. Bernhard Center, East Ballroom
For more information please call: Michael Baker (313) 567-2005, JT Slaughter (313) 839-7414 or Ed Harris (269) 349-5112.

Onyx Society Annual Alumni Ball
Saturday, October 14, 9:00 p.m. Bernhard Center, East Ballroom
Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. They are available at the International Profyle Barber and Beauty. For more information, please call (269) 375-7285.

Alpha Phi Alpha Epsilon Xi Fraternity, Inc.—Centennial Celebration
Events celebrating the fraternity’s celebration will take place throughout the Weekend. Join Alpha Phi Alpha Epsilon alumni at PepFest before the homecoming football game. For information specific events, please contact Michael Rollins at mrollins@verizon.com.

Delta Upsilon Fraternity, Inc.—50th Reunion
The Fraternity will celebrate with events throughout the weekend. For information regarding specific events, please contact John Wagner at jlw@michiganlighthouse.com.
Broncos on the Tube

While watching this fall's much-anticipated television programming, you'll likely see a few Bronco alumni. One will play a hard-working father, another will portray a gangster, and two others will compete in the NFL.

Terry Crews, '84, will resume his role as Julius, Chris' frugal and hard working father on the UPN network's Everybody Hates Chris. Crews attended WMU on an art scholarship, and planned to become a special effects artist in Hollywood. During his freshman year, he walked on to the Bronco football team and helped to win the 1988 Mid-American Conference championship. Crews went on to play professional football before establishing himself as a successful television and film actor. He has appeared in a number of movies, including “The Longest Yard” and “White Chicks,” and recently completed filming a movie with Eddie Murphy.

Bronco alumnus Greg Jennings, '06, will play wide-receiver for the Green Bay Packers after being chosen in the second round of the draft. While at WMU, Jennings was named Mid-American Conference Offensive Player of the Year. Tony Scheffler, '06, was also drafted in the second round as a tight end for the Denver Broncos. He finished his tight-end career at WMU ranking second in receptions and yards. Both men are eager to prove that their respective teams made the right decision during the upcoming NFL season.

LaFleur Chosen to Receive WMU Alumni Association Medallion Scholarship

In support of the University's commitment to bringing the best and brightest students to Western Michigan University, the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors, during the spring meeting, passed a motion to sponsor a Medallion Scholarship and allocated the necessary funds for this academic-based honor. The board further stipulated that the WMU Alumni Association Medallion Scholarship would be awarded to the child, grandchild, or sibling of an Association member. This is the fourth Medallion Scholarship that the Alumni Association has funded since the prestigious scholarship program was initiated by the University.

The Association is proud to introduce the 2006 WMU Alumni Association Medallion Scholarship recipient, Katy LaFleur. A graduate of Jenison High School and a resident of Grandville, Michigan, Katy is the daughter of Association members David LaFleur, BSEE '87, and Lynda LaFleur, BA '85, BS '89. Katy is one of only 16 incoming freshmen who were selected out of 177 competitors to receive the merit-based Medallion Scholarship, valued at over $40,000.

Katy plans to major in music, with a special interest in performance and composition. During her first year as a Bronco, Katy will live on-campus in the honors residence hall.

When asked why she chose WMU, Katy explained that she has found both a personal and a professional connection with a number of the University's faculty members. In particular, Katy has been taking lessons from Trent Kynaston, a professor of saxophone and jazz. Katy also cited WMU's reputation for excellence, the warmth and friendliness of the University community, and the beauty and musical culture of the city of Kalamazoo as reasons why she decided to become a Bronco.

When asked in August if Katy was looking forward to beginning her first semester at WMU, she said, “Oh my goodness, I'm already packed!”
### September 06

- Sept. 1  Volleyball vs. Indiana-Purdue Indianapolis, University Arena, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 2  Volleyball vs. Charleston Southern, University Arena, 10 a.m.
- Sept. 4  Labor Day, WMU Offices closed
- Sept. 8  Bronco Bash, Campus Flagpoles and Promenade, 3 to 9 p.m.
- Sept. 9  Football vs. Toledo, CommUniversity Night, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 12  Volleyball vs. Loyola Chicago, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 14  Dallas/Fort Worth Alumni Happy Hour, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 15  Women's soccer vs. Oakland, 2 p.m.
- Sept. 23  Football vs. Temple, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 26  Good Morning, Kalamazoo! 7:15 a.m.
- Sept. 27  Men's soccer vs. Oakland, 3 p.m.
- Sept. 28  Volleyball vs. Northern Illinois, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 8 - Remnants from Senegal, University Theatre
- Oct. 30  Volleyball vs. Miami, 7 p.m.

### October 06

- Oct. 1  Men's soccer vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, 1 p.m.
- Oct. 5  Reception in Detroit with Dr. David Shields, 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 5 - 15  The Lion In Winter, Shaw Theatre
- Oct. 6  Men's soccer vs. Northern Illinois, 3 p.m.
- Oct. 6 - 7  Volleyball vs. Eastern Michigan, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 8  WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors Fall Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 13  An Evening with Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.
- Oct. 14  WMU Homecoming PepFest, noon
- Oct. 19 - 29  Crimes of the Heart, Multiform Theatre, 8 p.m.
- Oct. 20  Board of Trustees meeting, Bernhard Center, 9 a.m.
- Oct. 22  Bronco women's soccer vs. Ball State, WMU Soccer Complex, noon. Information: wmubroncos.com
- Oct. 25  Men's soccer vs. Michigan State, 3 p.m.
- Oct. 26 - 29  Family Festival (parents’ weekend), Information: <www.wmich.edu/parents_wmich.edu>
- Oct. 26  Break! The Urban Funk Spectacular, Miller Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 27  Men's soccer vs. Bowling Green, 3 p.m.
- Oct. 28  Volleyball vs. Toledo, 7 p.m.

### November 06

- Dec. 2  Hockey vs. Michigan, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 7 - 10  Next Stop Broadway, Multiform Theatre
- Dec. 9  Sandi Patty and the KSO Pops, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.
- Dec. 15  Board of Trustees meeting, Bernhard Center, 9 a.m.
- Dec. 16  Commencement, Miller Auditorium

### December 06

- Nov. 1  Grand Rapids Alumni Gathering, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 3 - 5  Stomp, Miller Auditorium
- Nov. 4  Football vs. Miami, 3:30 p.m.
- Nov. 9  East Village Opera Company, Miller Auditorium
- Nov. 10  Volleyball vs. Buffalo, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 11  Volleyball vs. Akron, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 12  Hockey vs. Northern Michigan, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 18  Hockey vs. Northern Michigan, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 25  Christmas in Vienna, Vienna Boys Choir, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Events in brown sponsored by the WMU Alumni Association. For complete schedules of Bronco men's and women's athletics, visit <www.wmich.edu/athletics> or call 269.387.3120 to have a schedule faxed or mailed.

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**Heanicke named Interim President of WMU**

In his motion for termination, he cited unsatisfactory performance and breach of contract. Holden expressed the trustees’ gratitude to Haenicke for agreeing to take the position. He cited Haenicke's intellect, ability to reach out to the rest of the University and skill at setting strategic priorities as traits that will help in the coming months.

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Accent on Alumni is published through the support of the dues-paying members of the WMU Alumni Association.

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