Comprehensive Review Leads to Sweeping Changes in Graduate-level Programs

After nearly a year of reviewing graduate-level degree offerings, WMU has announced a comprehensive plan designed to reallocate resources so that every graduate program has the fiscal support necessary to excel.

The plan includes development of new programs, allocation of new financial resources for 15 degree programs, mergers of several programs and elimination of programs that do not match the University's strategic plan and resources.

The sweeping changes will not result in layoffs of tenured or tenure-track faculty, but faculty and staff assignments will be adjusted to reflect shifting priorities. A final appeal process has been set up to give faculty additional time to provide input on recommendations that will result in program closures.

“What will emerge from our Graduate Program Review is a graduate education environment with increased strength in the sciences, engineering, education and health care—exactly the strengths that will position WMU to meet Michigan's needs in the coming years,” WMU President Judith I. Bailey says. “We’ll continue and enhance our current strengths in disciplines as diverse as engineering management and medieval studies. And we’ll build additional national recognition in some important new areas.”

The Graduate Program Review was launched in July 2005. The effort involved review teams made up of faculty members and department chairs from every part of the University.

The final appeal process is expected to be completed by June 29, so that Bailey can bring the final recommendations to the July meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees. If approved, the changes would become effective with the start of the fall 2007 semester.

In a very real sense, Bailey says, the University is self-funding its strategic move forward by reallocating existing resources. She adds that the decisions being made as the result of the Graduate Program Review do not constitute a reduction in funds but rather a redeployment of funds that will ensure the University's graduate programs become stronger, larger and more vibrant.

Complete details of the proposed graduate program changes are available at <www.wmich.edu/provost/AcademicProgramReviews/index.html>. The full text of Bailey's Faculty Senate presentation on the changes is available through <www.wmich.edu/president>.
Alumna Gives WMU Students an Inside Look at the Capital

A WMU alumna who serves as a high-ranking drug control official helped three WMU students and a faculty member get a behind-the-scenes look at our federal government. Mary Ann Solberg is the White House deputy director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and a 1964 graduate of WMU’s political science program.

The March visit was part of a three-day Washington, D.C., trip sponsored by the WMU College of Health and Human Services. It came about after Solberg visited campus last fall and invited a WMU contingent to come to the nation’s capital to see her.

Timothy Gottwald of Kalamazoo, a senior majoring in social work; Amy Allen of Muskegon, Mich., a senior majoring in sociology; and Michael Holland of Kalamazoo, a member of a joint program offered through WMU and KVCC; traveled to our nation’s capital with Dr. Kieran Fogarty, associate professor in WMU’s interdisciplinary health studies doctoral program.

The group visited U.S. Representative Fred Upton’s office and spent time with Solberg, who took the group on a tour of the White House’s West Wing, including the Oval Office. Solberg also brought them to her National Drug Control Policy office, where they met with her key staff and advisors.

Solberg, who was named to her current post in 2002, has vast experience as a leader in community-based anti-drug coalitions. Prior to her appointment, she served in Michigan as the executive director of both the Troy (MI) Community Coalition for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse and the Coalition of Healthy Communities. She was also a member of numerous other advisory, civic and community organizations, and served as co-chairperson of the President’s Commission on Drug-Free Communities.

The students came away from the visit with a deeper understanding of our national drug control policy. “She portrayed more knowledge and passion about drug control policy than I had ever imagined one person could know about any subject,” said Allen.

Accomplished Communications Alumna Shares Wisdom

Award-winning small business owner Cynthia Kay, M.A. ’77, was the keynote speaker at the Student Alumni Association’s 2006 Take a Bronco to Lunch event. This year’s sold out function brought students and alumni of the WMU School of Communication together. Kay, an industry leader in media production and corporate communication, shared with the audience lessons that she learned while searching for her first job, starting her own business and planning for the next phase of life.

• There is value in every experience, even a bad experience.
• Never exaggerate or lie about what you can or can’t do.
• Don’t be afraid to ask for help.
• When you know you are right, stand up for yourself.
• Surround yourself with people who care about you, not about what you do.
• There is a difference between being busy and being profitable.
• When looking for a job, there has to be a fit. A business and its culture has to suit your personality.
• Realize that the fit doesn’t necessarily last forever. Know when its time to move on.
• Plan how you are going to leave and do it before you begin to resent what it is you are doing.
• Finally, love what you do. No one can pay you enough to do something you don’t like to do.
Bestselling Alumnus Releases First Golf-Inspired Novel

To write The Caddie Who Knew Ben Hogan, author John Coyne, M.A. ’65, drew on his passion for and knowledge of golf and his lifelong fascination with Hall of Famer Ben Hogan. The result is a suspenseful and nostalgic tale of how the game of golf can affect one’s life.

Born in Chicago, Coyne became a caddie at age 12, and at 16, was promoted to caddie master. He received his master’s degree in English from WMU, and then joined the Peace Corps. Coyne has written and edited over 20 books, fiction and nonfiction, including seven bestsellers.

For additional information, visit <www.thecaddiewhoknewbenhogan.com>.

WMU Graduates Record Number of Students

More than 3,200 degrees were granted during the April 29 commencement ceremonies at WMU. President Judi Bailey presented 2,613 degrees at the bachelor’s level, 575 master’s degrees and 18 doctorates. This total surpasses the previous record of 2,824 degrees granted last spring. The 2006 graduates received their degrees in a transformed University Arena. This commencement ceremony marked the first time since 1992 that the event was held in University Arena, in Read Fieldhouse. In the early 1990s, when the Fieldhouse was renovated, commencement was moved to Miller Auditorium, where ceremonies have been held since. Miller was unavailable for the April ceremony because of the national tour of “The Phantom of the Opera.”

It’s a small WMU world! (l to r) Clare Richardson, B.S.E. ’73, Anthony Boldi, B.S. ’92, and Joel Steven Warner, B.A. ’90, met at the May 4 alumni event in Los Angeles. Boldi and Warner were not only students at the same time but lived together in Stinson Hall. Until attending the event, neither had any idea the other was living and working in L.A. When Richardson heard Stinson Hall mentioned, he joined their conversation, only to find out that he and Warner both lived in the same room—two decades apart!
Bronco alumni gathered in Scottsdale, AZ, to reconnect with former classmates and to network with other alumni.

Fellow alumni gathered in Dallas on April 6 to share Bronco memories.

Everyone was smiling at the May 2 alumni event in Foster City, CA, just outside of San Francisco.

Alumni from Florida gathered in Sarasota to hear about the University's recent accomplishments from WMU president Judi Bailey.

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

1  WMU Commencement, Miller Auditorium, 9 a.m. and noon (tickets required)
4  University Closed
14 University Board of Trustees meeting, Bernhard Center, WMU Campus, 9 a.m. (time and location tentative)

JUNE 06

7 Chicago Alumni Chapter Annual Spring Reception
12 Grand Rapids Area Alumni & Friends Golf Outing
16 Southeast Michigan Alumni & Friends Golf Outing
30 End of the University Fiscal Year

JULY 06

1 WMU Commencement, Miller Auditorium, 9 a.m. and noon (tickets required)
4 University Closed
14 University Board of Trustees meeting, Bernhard Center, WMU Campus, 9 a.m. (time and location tentative)

SEPTEMBER 06

2 Football at Indiana, 7 p.m.
3 Fall Semester Classes Begin
8 Bronco Bash, WMU Campus
9 Football vs. Toledo, CommUniverCity Night, Waldo Stadium, 7 p.m.
16 Football at Virginia, time T.B.A.
23 Football vs. Temple, Waldo Stadium, 7 p.m.

OCTOBER 06

7 Football at Ohio, 7 p.m.
12-13 WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting
13 Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner
14 WMU Homecoming Events
WMU Alumni Association PepFest

Events in bold 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.