Stabenow to present campus talk

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow will speak on "Women in Politics" from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Monday, March 17, in the Fetzer Center’s Kirsch Auditorium. The talk is open to the public free of charge, but seating is limited. Stabenow made history in 2000 when she became the first woman from Michigan elected to the U.S. Senate. Go to www.wmich.edu/womenu for more information about Women’s History Month and WMU’s Gender and Women’s Studies Programs.

Open house to accept walk-ins

Area high school juniors and their parents are invited to attend WMU Spotlight from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 15. This annual open house features current WMU students taking attendees on a guided tour of the main campus so they can get a feel for what life at the University is like. In addition, prospective students and their parents will have a chance to check out a typical residence hall as well as the Student Recreation Center. Walk-in registration and pre-registration check-in for the 2008 WMU Spotlight will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the second floor of the Bernhard Center. Free parking is available all day at all metered spaces on campus property. Go to www.wmich.edu/admissions/wmuspotsight for information about advance registration and other event details.

Trustees meeting set for March 18

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Tuesday, March 18. The board usually meets in 157-159 of the Bernhard Center. Details and key agenda items will be posted online at www.wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date.

Save the date for Detroit events

WMU is scheduling a week’s worth of activities in the Motor City this fall to showcase the University and reconnect with alumni and friends living in the Detroit area. The events will be centered around the Nov. 8 football game at Ford Field against the University of Illinois. Home of the NFL Detroit Lions, Ford Field was the site of the 2006 Super Bowl and is the annual venue for the Mid-American Conference championship game and Motor City Bowl. Some 40,000 WMU alumni reside in Southeast Michigan, and more than 8,500 students or about one-third of the student body hail from this area.

Free tickets needed for Dunn inauguration

Guests from around the state and nation will join with the WMU community to celebrate the inauguration Monday, March 24, of Dr. John M. Dunn as the University’s eighth president. The ceremony, set for 4 p.m. in Miller Auditorium, will formally install Dunn as president, a position he assumed last July following a nationwide search led by the chair of the WMU Board of Trustees, Kenneth Miller. Miller will preside over the ceremony, which will include remarks by Dunn as well as brief comments by a number of University officials and guests.

The inauguration is open to the public, but those planning to attend must secure a complimentary ticket from Miller Auditorium by calling 387-2300. The event will begin with a formal academic procession that will include WMU faculty, staff and administrators as well as invited guests from a number of institutions. Political and business leaders from around the state, county and city also will be in attendance.

Prior to coming to WMU, Dunn served as interim chancellor at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Before accepting that appointment, he held the position of provost and vice chancellor at SIUC. Dunn’s career also has included academic leadership positions at the University of Utah and Oregon State University.

An educator for more than 30 years, he is internationally known for his research and writing about the long-term health of individuals with disabilities. Dunn is the author of more than 50 professional papers and book chapters. He also is president this year of the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

WMU Day at the state Capitol to highlight programs, people

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of WMU are organizing a first-of-its-kind display of pride and achievement at the Michigan Capitol during a daylong event May 28.

Members of the WMU community are planning to meet with lawmakers and have displays, simulations and performances on the front lawn of the capitol in Lansing. Organizers of WMU Day at the Capitol say the purpose of the event is to engage legislators and policymakers on the importance of WMU and the contributions the University makes in providing an educated workforce and advancing the state’s economic development.

Grant available for faculty to explore heading study-abroad programs

Generous funding for WMU faculty interested in gaining first-hand experience of what it’s like to develop and lead a short-term, summer study-abroad program is being offered through a new grant provided by the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Wednesday, March 19, is the deadline to apply for this faculty discovery grant, which offsets the cost of participating in one of 17 summer 2008 study-abroad programs led by WMU faculty. Up to 75 percent of expenses will be covered for eligible participating faculty members. Some of the programs from which faculty members may choose are specific to a major while others offer classes in a range of disciplines. The programs run from two to six weeks, offer varying levels of academic credit and are conducted in some of the world’s most interesting destinations, including Alexandria, Egypt; Beijing; Sao Paulo, Brazil; London; Prague, Czech Republic; Quebec; and Tokyo.
Public mock trial demo tonight

WMU’s mock trial team is taking its case to the public at 6:30 tonight in the Bernhard Center’s Brown and Gold Room, offering a free public presentation in preparation for taking part in national competition this weekend. The team finished fourth during its regional tournament and will be competing at the national level Friday through Sunday, March 14-16, in Waukegan, Ill.

Francophone films and Sunday

Two internationally known filmmakers are taking part in WMU’s seventh annual Francophone Film Festival, which is running through Sunday, March 16, in the Little Theater.

Quebec director Maryanne Zéhil will present her film, “From My Window, Without a Home,” at 7 p.m. Friday and 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Haitian filmmaker and screenwriter Arnold Antonin will present his film, “Does the President Have AIDS?” at 7 p.m. Saturday and 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Go to www.wmich.edu/tiff2000 for ticket prices and a complete list of events.

International Festival slated

The 19th annual International Festival will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 16, in the East Ballroom of WMU’s Bernhard Center. The event is a global open house that showcases the cuisine, dances and fashions of 15 international student groups at the University. Admission is free, and food is sold for a nominal fee.

Panel to discuss political civility

The perceived lack of civility in the current political debate will be the subject of a panel discussion at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, in 105-107 Bernhard Center. Presented by the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, the panel will include politicians, political scientists and members of the news media.

Senior Prom now in 20th year

The campus community and area residents will be able to relive prom night for the 20th consecutive year during the annual Senior Prom from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, March 20, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. The semi-formal event is a fun-filled nostalgic evening that brings hundreds of senior citizens together with WMU students, faculty and staff for a night of Big Band music and swing and ballroom dancing. Admission is free.

Economics lecture goes global

Joseph P. Joyce, professor of economics at Wellesley College will speak on “Global Justice: An Economist’s Perspective” from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, in 3508 Knnaus. The talk is a Werner Sichel Economics Lecture-Seminar Series presentation.

University Webmasters invited to monthly meetings

WMU’s Webmasters’ User Group is open to all permanent, temporary, contract and student employees who have design and/or publishing responsibilities related to a University Web site.

The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next gathering is slated for 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, in the Stewart Clock Tower conference room.

WUG is created in 1999 to offer collegial support and promote Web publishing at the University. It hosts a Web site that includes a full range of online Web design and publishing resources as well as a mailing list through which members can pose questions and share information.

Interested Web workers may join the list by sending an e-mail to oit-web@wmich.edu that includes their name, department and the URL(s) for the WMU Web site(s) for which they are responsible. Go to www.wmich.edu/wug for more information.

Reception set for Weese

Teri L. Weese, information technology project lead, will be recognized for her years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, March 21, in the Oaklands.

Exchange

For rent—South Haven beachfront condo. Fully furnished, pool, sleeps four to five. Within walking distance to town. Summer rates: $1,100 per week. Hurry! Only a few weeks left. Call 323-3198.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Health professional updates book

Barbara Hemphill-Pearson, a retired occupational therapy faculty member, has edited a second edition of her widely used text, "Assessments in Occupational Therapy: Mental Health: An Integrative Approach." The 544-page book was released by SLACK Inc. in November.

It is a compilation of mental health assessments that are used in practice and taught in occupational therapy clinics and academic programs. The book provides information that can be used to scrutinize evaluation procedures and practices while providing a sound foundation for a holistic, integrated approach to client assessment.

Hemphill-Pearson retired in 1999 after 18 years at WMU. She is serving on the editorial board of the Occupational Therapy in Mental Health journal and in 2005, earned a Doctor of Ministry degree. She continues to write, and teaches courses in spirituality to occupational therapy students online and in the classroom as well as at senior centers and retirement homes.

EUP dean elected to national post

Durrell Johnson, dean of Extended University Programs, was recently elected to a three-year term on the Leadership and Management Commission of the University Continuing Education Association. The UCEA is the foremost national organization promoting the development of continuing and professional education.

Johnson came to WMU in 2000 as a doctoral student, already having held staff posts at Grand Valley State University and the universities of Notre Dame and Central Florida. After completing his doctorate, he was named director of WMU-Lansing and a year later also took over as director of WMU-Battle Creek.

He was appointed EUP dean in 2006 following a stint as the division’s associate dean.

Fulbright takes professor to Egypt

Katherine Joslin, English, recently returned from a university in Egypt, where she has been teaching and acting as a curriculum advisor through the U.S. Fulbright senior specialist program. Joslin is a former director of WMU’s American Studies Program and an authority on social reformer and peace activist Jane Addams. She was at Minoufiya University, lecturing to undergraduate and graduate students in American civilization and literature and comparative literature.

While in Egypt, Joslin also attended American studies seminars as well as consulted with faculty who would like to develop an American studies graduate certificate at Minoufiya. In addition, she conducted a needs assessment of that school’s American literature curriculum, advised faculty on methods for enhancing the content of their American literature and culture courses, and gave a lecture on Addams at Misr International University.
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University digitizes historic book on African Americans

A historic book on African Americans in Michigan is now available worldwide to anyone with access to the Internet, thanks to the digitizing efforts of WMU’s University Libraries.

The 1915 edition of “Michigan Manual of Freeman’s Progress” has been fully digitized, including photographs, charts and searchable text, and is available for download as PDF files.

“We are extremely pleased to have this unique primary source available for our students to use,” says Marion Gray, chair of the Department of History. “It is also wonderful that, thanks to Western’s Digitization Center, we can make such a resource available to students and scholars virtually anywhere in the world.”

The project was a collaborative effort by Mitch Kachun, history, and Sharon Carlson, Archives and Regional History Collections, who worked with the WMU Digitization Center.

The goal of the project was to have comprehensive access by history students and scholars to this out-of-print book in the classroom and for research anywhere. Financial support came from the history department’s Burnham Macmillan Endowment and the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research and Teaching Awards program.

Miller, Vincent, major in leadership development, West Chester University.

Obituary

Ruth J. Chapman, a former WMU Dining Services staff member, died March 1. She was 83.

Chapman, a Kalamazoo-area resident for most of her life, came to WMU in 1979.

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Erika Carr is changing the lives of hundreds of Michigan youths. As director of the GEAR-UP/College Day Program in the Division of Multicultural Affairs, Carr and her regular staff of two professional and 10 student employees are acquainting 1,600 eighth and ninth graders from 10 schools in six districts with the benefits of college—regardless of where they choose to enroll.

The initiative she oversees merged last year with the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs federal grant program. As a result, WMU and Michigan’s other public colleges and universities are now assisting a total of 77 individual schools in 38 lower-income districts across the state.

“We focus on helping middle and high school students discover firsthand the potential of higher education and on preparing them to enter and succeed in college,” Carr says. “We start working with the students in the seventh and eighth grade and stay with them until they graduate from high school.”

The WMU GEAR-UP/College Day Program includes campus visits for each student at least once each year, and opportunities for them to learn about career options through such hands-on activities as Saturday career exploration conferences and four-day intensive summer institutes. Carr and her staff also have started providing academic monitoring for the students upon request.

“The best part of my job is seeing students get excited about going to college or inspired about a career they never saw themselves in,” Carr says. “The summer institutes are my favorite part. They’re especially rewarding—the students get a lot out of it, and I get to spend quality time with them.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology from WMU in 1999, Carr decided to go into higher education administration. She started a master’s program, landed a professional staff position as coordinator of the McNair Scholar Program, and in 2004 was named GEAR-UP/College Day director.

Carr lives in Kalamazoo with her husband, Steven, whom she met at WMU as an undergraduate. Not one to let the grass grow under her feet, she picked up a doctorate from WMU in December, is well into earning her private pilot license, and has taken up running in earnest, completing her first marathon last fall.

Tech machine, public discussion focus on race as social, not genetic distinction

WMU is hosting a unique technological experience that allows participants to visualize themselves with the facial characteristics of people of different races.

The Human Race Machine, a booth similar to an instant-photo booth, takes a person’s picture and digitally enhances it to show how faces look when taking on the characteristics of any of six different races—African, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic, Middle Eastern and Native American.

The Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations is making the machine available to the public in 107 Bernhard Center today from noon to 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 9 p.m.; Friday, March 14, from noon to 1:30 p.m.; and Monday, March 17, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The public also is invited to a free session from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday in 212 Bernhard Center that will include the showing of an excerpt from “Race: The Power of an Illusion” and a discussion focusing on educational programming, after which participants will have an opportunity to use the Human Race Machine.

Go to www.wmich.edu/WMU/News/2008/03/011.html for more information about the Human Race Machine exhibit.

Two chances left to attend concerts by top vocal jazz artists

WMU’s “Vocal Jazz Week” runs through Saturday, March 15, with two more great public events still to take place in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Curtis Stigers with special guest Tri-Fi will perform at 8:15 p.m. Friday, March 14, and the University’s award-winning Gold Company will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

Tickets for these Dalton events may be purchased by calling 387-4689 or at the door.

The concerts are part of what Gold Company director Stephen Zegree calls “Vocal Jazz Week.” The week runs through Saturday. It includes special performances, in addition to numerous activities associated with the Gold Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival, which is in its 28th year and brings high school ensembles from several states to campus.

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Talk to address ethics, science

World renowned bioethicist Adrienne Asch from Yeshiva University will speak on “Ethics and Science: Lessons From Bioethics” from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, in the Fetzer Center.

Capitol day continued from page 1

WMU is the first university to have a front-lawn capitol presence for such a broad spectrum of programs and groups, including those from its main Kalamazoo campus and its eight branch campuses across the state.

Transportation to and from Kalamazoo and box lunches will be available for those who register to attend. A Web site with more details and an opportunity to register online will be available by the end of March.

For more information, contact Donna Marks at donna.marks@wmich.edu or 387-2072.