WMU Day waiting list growing
More than 700 WMU students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends have registered to converse on the grounds of Michigan's Capitol from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, to highlight the successes of WMU as a premier research institution.

If you're one of them, you should have received a confirmation e-mail with “WMU Day at the Capitol” in the subject line. If you haven't, contact Donna Marks at donna.marks@wmich.edu or 387-2072.

Equally important, if you registered but can no longer attend, contact Marks to cancel your registration. There's a waiting list of people who would like to participate.

New driving rule near Walwood
It's now illegal for motorists to make a left-hand turn from southbound Oakland Drive onto Austin Street, the roadway on the south side of Walwood Hall.

Violators of the no-turn rule are being fined $110 and will have two points added to their driving records.

In addition, motorists should note that Oliver Street remains closed to through traffic at the intersections of Oakland and Stadium drives due to construction.

Fulbright applications sought
The Council for the International Exchange of Scholars in Washington, D.C., is seeking applications for the Senior Fulbright Scholar program for part or all of the 2009-10 academic year.

CIES, which is now part of the Institute for International Education, has posted the application online at www.cies.org under the “Fulbright Programs” link. The application deadline is Aug. 1.

Given that a campus letter of support will be needed to complete the application, those planning to apply are asked to inform Donald McCloud, dean of the Haenicke Institute and WMU's Fulbright officer. Contact McCloud at dg.mccloud@wmich.edu to obtain more information or indicate your interest in applying.

President's Grant for Study Abroad program awards $100,000
Thirty-nine students were recently awarded more than $100,000 to study a foreign language abroad through the President's Grant for Study Abroad program.

The awards were announced during an April 17 awards ceremony, with WMU President John M. Dunn presiding.

The event also honored two students who received full-fare scholarships to study in Japan and Germany for the 2008-09 academic year. Janelle Garchow, a senior majoring in economics, will attend Keio University in Tokyo and David Gregg, a senior majoring in psychology, will attend Freie Universitat of Berlin.

In his remarks at the awards ceremony, Dunn emphasized his commitment to international education and said he hopes to “double or even quadruple” WMU's current annual average of sending more than 500 students overseas to study or work.

The 39 president's grant recipients are enrolled for summer, fall or academic-year overseas programs in various destinations to study such languages as Afrikaans, Arabic, Chinese, Mandarin, Spanish and Zulu. Many students will complete additional non-language courses taught in the native tongue or English that are applicable to their WMU degrees.

President Emeritus Diether H. Haenicke created the program 1994. The deadlines to apply are March 15 to study abroad the following fall semester or academic year and Oct. 15 to study abroad the following spring semester.
Gold Company to perform at concert featuring Johnny Mathis

It’s not often you’re invited to perform with a high-profile orchestra on the same bill as a legendary vocalist who’s sold millions of records. But when you’re a member of Gold Company, WMU’s award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, you expect the unexpected.

Gold Company has been invited to perform with the Chicagoland Pops Orchestra in a concert featuring Johnny Mathis Saturday, May 31, in the Rosemont Theatre in Rosemont, Ill. WMU’s globe-trotting, urbane groups have already been sold for the concert.

The Chicagoland Pops Orchestra is comprised of some of the Chicago area’s most talented and experienced musicians and features world-class artists during its entire season. It performs a wide variety of works, stretching the boundaries of the traditional symphony orchestra.

There’s a possibility Gold Company may sing background vocals for Mathis himself. That’s not determined until the day of the concert, when Mathis has a chance to check Gold Company out for himself.

This is a great opportunity for Gold Company, says Stephen Zegree, the WMU Bobby McFerrin professor of jazz and Gold Company director. More than 3,000 tickets have already been sold for the concert.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held Friday, June 13. 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.

A wide variety of news and event announcements is available online at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news in greater detail.

Prof selected as leading scholar

Matthew S. Mingas, associate professor and director of public administration, has been recognized as one of the top 50 people in his field, qualifying him to attend a selective retreat for emerging scholars.

Mingas has been chosen by a panel of senior public administration scholars as one of the top 50 emerging scholars in public administration.

As a result, he is invited to the Minnowbrook III retreat in September. The emerging scholar group will meet for three days at the Minnowbrook Conference Center, then present its views on the future of public administration to the full Minnowbrook III conference in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Also at the full conference, Mingas and Catherine Hortis from the University of San Francisco will present their paper on “Resilience: Developing State-level Capacity to Rise above Societal Limitations.”

English teacher named fellow

Christopher Nagle, associate professor of English and gender and women’s studies, has earned a prestigious fellowship at the University of Notre Dame to explore the work of female writers in the wake of the 1798 Irish Rising.

Sponsored by the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies and the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, the $4,000 award provides for Nagle to be a visiting scholar in residence at the institute this summer.

While at the institute, he will conduct research for a scholarly monograph about the contributions of Romantic-era women writers to Anglo-Irish political and cultural conflict. Nagle’s first book, “Sexuality and the Culture of Sensibility in the British Irish Rising,” was recently published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Aviator earns master certification

Dominic Nicolai, a lead flight instructor with the College of Aviation, has earned his Master Certified Flight Instructor accreditation. The master instructor designation is the only industry professional accreditation the FAA recognizes.

To date, there are about 91,000 CFIs in the United States, but fewer than 600 of them have achieved the prestigious title of master. Only 24 Michigan aviation educators have earned this accolade, none of them from WMU.

It is earned by candidates through a rigorous process of continuing professional activity and peer review, and it must be renewed biennially.

Nicolai is a former Flight Standards District Office aviation safety inspector who specializes in progress checks, stages checks and flight instructor standardization.
New unit focuses on campuswide communication efforts

Comprehensive oversight of WMU’s electronic communication initiatives is the focus of a new unit in the Office of University Relations that is being headed by a veteran University employee.

Supervising the electronic communication unit is Thomas A. Myers, who was recently appointed its director, formalizing and expanding the role he plays in overseeing the University’s public Web presence and other electronic communication tools.

In addition, Tonya R. Hernandez has been named assistant director of electronic communication and Deanne Molinari was hired as a specialist in university relations’ news and communications unit.

In addition to Myers and Hernandez, the electronic communications unit includes Web manager Bradley Horstman. Together, this team is guiding redevelopment of the University’s Web presence and implementation of a new content management system that will bring a greater level of consistency and accuracy to WMU’s campuswide Web presence.

The team also is responsible for WMU News, the University’s online news site; WMU Today, the informational e-mail sent periodically to faculty and staff; and announcements in GoWMU, the University’s intranet portal.

“For many years, Thom Myers has been our point person in balancing the technical aspects of emerging media with the professional communication demands so often neglected as organizations embrace electronic tools,” says Cheryl Roland, executive director of university relations.

“More recently, he has taken on the critical job of restructuring the University’s Web presence and bringing to that medium the level of quality, accuracy, visual appeal and consistency that will best showcase this university’s stature. The team approach and staff additions will allow him to spend more time on developing and maintaining the quality of the tools already in place.”

Myers has been a WMU employee since 1987 and Horstman since 2001. Hernandez and Molinari have held part-time posts since fall 2006.

WMU-Grand Rapids site for Midwest counseling meeting

The doctoral program in counseling psychology will be hosting the 2008 Great Lakes Regional Counseling Psychology Conference Friday and Saturday, June 6-7, in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Registration is required for the event, which will be held at the University’s Grand Rapids branch campus in the Graduate Center-Downtown. Registrations are being accepted now through the morning of the conference.

This year’s conference theme, “Counseling Psychologists as Scientist Practitioners in a Changing World, celebrates counseling psychology’s role in an increasingly global society through scholarship and practice as well as the profession’s work in bridging differences and developing more effective interventions.

Go to www.wmich.edu/coe/cecp/great-lakes/index.htm for more information.

Dean’s list available online

The spring 2008 dean’s list is now available online.

Members of the media and general public may view the list at www.wmich.edu/registrardeanonline as well as copy information from the site.

A drop-down menu allows visitors to view dean’s lists from previous academic terms.

To be eligible for the dean’s list, students must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average in at least 12 hours of graded class work.

For sale—1971 antique Chevy C10 four-wheel drive truck. Black in color. Clean, well maintained four-speed. Newer engine and rebuilt transmission with less then 2,000 miles on them. Asking $7,200 or best offer. Must sell. Call 806-6293 for information.

For sale—2005 Honda CRF 70. Bought in 2006 from dealer stock. Well maintained, clean, low hours, stored inside and just serviced. Four-stroke, just add gas. Easy to start. Comes with adult lock-out key, so you can control when they ride. Only $1,150 or best offer. Kimberly Horstman for photos.

Oblivious

Albert L. Edwards, a longtime WMU trustee, died Jan. 26 in his sleep, it was recently learned. He was 86.

Edwards served on the WMU Board of Trustees for 16 years, starting in 1981. The board granted him the title of trustee emeritus in 1997 in recognition of his service.

The resolution recommending him for that honor cited his “long, dedicated and faithful service to WMU and to the people of Michigan.” It also praised him for serving as board chair four times as well as numerous other occasions, “always with wit and good humor, while providing valued continuity and perspective…”

Edwards was professor emeritus of business administration at the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business.

Obituary

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For more information and pictures, call Kimberly Ritter, ritter@wmich.edu or 385-3892.

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Branch campus stages four-day open house to showcase new program, existing programs

The University opened the doors of its East Beltline Campus in Grand Rapids, Mich., to prospective graduate students this week, starting with a “drop-in” open house May 19.

For flexibility and convenience, the open house is continuing from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through today. Those who attend can obtain information on available graduate programming and application requirements, and they can take a complimentary career assessment test.

The Graduate Center-Beltline offers some 24 graduate degree options, including programs in education, business, engineering, social work and wellness.

Additionally, James Schultz, WMU-Grand Rapids campus director, notes that a new health care degree program will be offered soon in Grand Rapids, as well.

The University’s renowned master’s program in occupational therapy is about to expand and for the first time, it will be offered at the Graduate Center-Beltline.

“We are extremely pleased to offer such a well-respected program to the expanding health care mix in the Grand Rapids community,” says Schultz.

“The OT program has existed in Kalamazoo for over 85 years and will start in Grand Rapids with the fall 2009 semester. Those needing prerequisites can begin taking them here in fall 2008. This master’s program is designed as a way for anyone possessing a bachelor’s degree in any field to make a career change into health care,” Jean Hibbard, student services coordinator for WMU-Grand Rapids, says the University is providing an added incentive for people to pursue a degree through the branch campus in Grand Rapids.

She notes WMU will pay the application fee for all students who attend the graduate program open house and apply to a Grand Rapids-based program by May 30.

Go to www.eup.wmich.edu to learn more about the programs, facilities and people associated with the University’s eight branch campuses in Michigan.