WMU again on top U.S. university list

For the third consecutive year, WMU is one of America's best national universities, according to U.S. News & World Report's 2009 ranking of more than 1,400 colleges and universities. WMU remains among the 262 universities the magazine singles out as having national standing and being among the nation's best.

Six of Michigan's 15 public universities are on that overall list. Four, including WMU, were named to the list's top three tiers. Of those, only 116 are public institutions. Earlier this summer, WMU was named once again as one of the "Best Midwestern Colleges" by Princeton Review.

Updated directory information sought

Changes to home and campus addresses and phone numbers are needed now for the 2008-09 WMU Directory. Faculty, staff and emeriti who have moved but not yet updated their home or campus information with Human Resources should do so by Friday, Sept. 12. Those with questions may contact HR at hr-bris@wmich.edu or 387-3620.

Changes to personal information in the directory's alphabetical (gray-edged) faculty and staff section may be made using the Employee Name and Address Change Form, found on the HR Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/forms.htm. Employees who do not want their home information in the directory and have not previously notified HR of this request may complete an Employee Home Address Privacy Request form, also found at www.wmich.edu/hr/forms.htm.

Several award deadlines approaching

Nominations or applications are being accepted for several annual WMU awards. Among them are the Distinguished Service, Distinguished Teaching and Emerging Scholar Awards. Nominations for these awards are due by Friday, Sept. 12. Go to www.wmich.edu/provost/announcements for criteria and other information.

Applications for the new University Assessment Excellence Award will be accepted through Friday, Sept. 15. The award is described at www.wmich.edu/oa/pa/acu and showcases outstanding efforts in assessment of student learning by WMU employees. Recipients will be announced Oct. 10.

The latest issue of the Inquiry newsletter reports on the deadlines for several research-related awards and grants. Among the prizes mentioned is the recently established Sup- port for Faculty Scholars Award. A workshop is set for Friday, Sept. 12, to explain how to apply for these funds. Go to www.wmich.edu/research/pubs/INQUIRYFall2008.pdf for more information.

Veteran administrators tapped as deans

WMU has named David M. Powell as the new dean of the College of Aviation and selected Daniel M. Litynski to head the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences while a nationwide search for a new dean is conducted.

Powell, formerly assistant dean of aviation and director of flight operations, officially assumed his new post July 1 following a national search. He had been serving in the position on an interim basis since late last summer, after Dean Rick Whitne- ney left the college to become president and chief executive officer of Pentastar Aviation.

Litynski, electrical and computer engineering, took over as engineering college dean Aug. 1 and will serve in the position for the next 11 months. He replaces Timothy J. Greene, who, as previ- ously announced, is WMU’s new provost and vice president for academic affairs.

A campuswide search committee is meeting to help the University identify a new engineering dean. Joseph G. Reish, dean of University Libraries, is chair of the broad- based 15-member group.

Powell came to the aviation college in 2003 from United Airlines, where he had served since 1986 in such capacities as flight manager at United's largest hub as well as a chief pilot, line pilot and captain, and pilot instructor. Prior to that, Powell had served in the U.S. Air Force for 14 years, logging 10 years as a senior pilot, aircraft commander, instructor and flight examiner.

Litynski, is returning to a familiar role, having served as dean of the engineering college from 1999 to 2002 before being tapped to serve as the University's provost. His tenure in that role was interrupted by six months of ser- vice as WMU's interim president. He stepped down from the provost position in June 2004 and most recently has been working with the National Science Foundation as a visiting administrator and acting division director. Earlier this year, Litynski returned to Ka- lamaoo to resume teaching duties at WMU this fall. His background includes 23 years of service at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he ended his tenure as professor and head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sci- ence. He retired from the U.S. Army as a brigadier general shortly before coming to WMU in 1999.

Bus service free to faculty, staff as well as students

WMU students, faculty and staff don’t have to look far to save money at the gas pump.

An agreement renewed July 22 with Kalamazoo Metro Transit entitles anyone with a valid Bronco identification card to ride Metro buses for free around the city and continues free services on the main and Parkview campuses through Bronco Transit, which is run by Indian Trails.

Taking the bus and riding his bike to work at WMU's Walwood Hall on Oakland Drive has cut the gas bill of Development Office staffer Andrew McHugh close to a third from a peak of about $300 a month, and his goal is to cut that number to $50. “...Since I have access to the Metro system, I have elected to preserve my vehicle for non-work purposes. I foresee the bus being very useful during the winter when scraping ice and 40 pounds of snow off my car just to pinball down the street can be replaced by a short brisk walk and hopping on the bus,” McHugh says.

“I really believe more WMU employees should take advantage of this benefit. It would help our health, help the environment and send a signal that we don’t need gasoline to live.”

Both the Kalamazoo and Indian Trails transit companies have reported increased usage as gas prices have climbed. A comparison of WMU passenger numbers from previous years, however, is not an accurate gauge because Metro Transit routes were reduced with the introduction of the Indian Trails service last year.

The Kalamazoo transportation company does report that more than 14,700 Metro...
FYE Seminar plans campuswide common-read event

The University community is invited to participate in the First-Year Seminar’s 2008 Common-Read Program, as well as help welcome one of this series’ authors to campus this fall.

The program’s main theme this year is "purpose." Topics such as relationships and diversity are subthemes. Four books are on the reading list, including the "Battle of Jericho" by Sharon Draper. Draper will be on campus to talk about the book at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1. The location will be determined at a later date.

WMU is hosting her visit in collaboration with Hillsdale Middle School, the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home, the Kalamazoo Public Library and Milwood Magnet School.

Draper is a former National Teacher of the Year, New York Times best-selling author and five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Book Award.

To go to www.wmich.edu/fye/seminar/common-read.html for more information about all of the books on this year’s reading list.

Exchange

- For rent—Rooms 10 minutes from WMU. $250-$350. Call 998-1349.
- For rent—Three-bedroom, one-bath older home. Ten minutes from WMU. Call 998-5441.
- For sale—House on west side of Kalamazoo near campus. $49,999. Call 207-1645.
- For sale—Hoosier cabinet with flour and sugar bins and spice rack. Porcelain-topped counter, tin-lined bread drawer. Comes with matching porcelain-topped kitchen table. $1,000. Call 779-5441.
- For sale—Hillside Middle School, the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home, the Kalamazoo Public Library and Milwood Magnet School.
- For sale—House on west side of Kalamazoo near campus. $49,999. Call 207-1645.
- For sale—Hoosier cabinet with flour and sugar bins and spice rack. Porcelain-topped counter, tin-lined bread drawer. Comes with matching porcelain-topped kitchen table. $1,000. Call 779-5441.

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.

Endowment named after staffer

The College of Health and Human Services has created an endowment, called the Helen Beck Student Emergency Fund, to provide emergency money for qualified students at the WMU School of Social Work. The endowment honors Beck, an active assistant to the school for the past 10 years, for her contributions to the school and students.

Emerita book posthumously published

"Aspects of Early Music and Performance," by the late Audrey Davidson, emeritus in music, has been published by AMES Press of New York. The book, on French baroque music, is not previously published, on such topics as medieval music-drama, music of the Renaissance, and early music vocal performance technique.

Davidson, who died in 2006, came to WMU in 1965 and retired in 1993. She was the founder and director of the Society for Old Music, which for 25 years was known for its early music concerts for local audiences, and WMU’s annual International Congress on Medieval Studies.

Two trustees honored for service

WMU trustees William D. Johnston and Kenneth V. Miller received state and local honors, respectively, this past June for their contributions to the community.

Johnston, who is president and chair of Greenleaf Companies and is in his second year on the WMU board, received the Russell G. Mawby Award for Philanthropy. Both he and his wife, Ronda Strykert, received the award from Gov. Jennifer Granholm at the 2008 Governor’s Service Awards event held in Detroit this past June. The award is sponsored by the Council of Michigan Foundations and the Michigan Nonprofit Association.

Miller, who has served on the WMU board for six years, received the Kalamazoo Rotary Club’s Red Rose award for his contributions to the Kalamazoo community. He is a partner in the Kalamazoo investment management firm Havirco, majority owner of Millennium Restaurant Group and an avid supporter of downtown development.
WMU trustees sign off on personnel report at July 25 meeting

Acting at their July 25 meeting, WMU trustees signed off on a personnel report that included the appointment of a new associate vice president.

Trustees approved the promotion of Martha Warfield to the new position of associate vice president for diversity and inclusion, effective July 1.

The board also approved the appointment of Dianna Hernandez, effective July 1, as interim director of the Division of Multicultural Affairs, which Warfield had headed since 1992. In addition, trustees named Betty Dennis as associate dean of Extended University Programs, effective July 14.

Warfield came to WMU and the Division of Student Affairs in 1992 as a psychologist and associate professor in the University Counseling and Testing Center. She was named director of multicultural affairs soon after, and has taken on several additional roles during the ensuing years.

In 2002, Warfield was promoted to associate vice president for student affairs and two years later, she was tapped to head a presidential initiative on diversity.

Counselor education, counseling psychology department receives national recognition

The Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology gained national attention recently when several of its programs were reaccredited through 2014 and its counseling psychology program received two awards.

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs accredited the doctorate in counselor education and supervision as well as the master’s degree in college counseling, community counseling and school counseling.

WMU was first accredited in 1983, making it the first accredited counselor education program in Michigan and among the first such programs in the country.

In addition, the doctoral program earned the 2008 Richard M. Sinn Minority Achievement Award from the American Psychological Association. Meanwhile the counseling psychology program earned the Department of the Year Award from the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students.

Obituaries

Edsel Lee Erickson, emeritus in education and professional development, died July 17 in Traverse City, Mich. He was 79.

Erickson, who did extensive work with the capacity of education to improve the human condition, came to WMU in 1965 as an assistant professor and retired as a full professor in 1986 after 21 years of service.

He and his late wife, Ruth, began a publishing business, Learning Publications, which provided resources for educators as well as human service providers. The couple also started the Safe Schools Coalition, a national organization dedicated to reducing violence.

Milvern “Mel” K. Ivey, music, died Aug. 19 at his ranch in Evart, Texas. He was 70.

Ivey, who served as a music professor and choral director in 1973 and resigned in 1990 with 17 years service and the faculty rank of professor.

Prior to joining the WMU faculty, he served as choral director at Loyola University of New Orleans for five years. Ivey left WMU to serve as professor and chair of conducting and enssembles in the College of Music at the University of North Texas. He retired in 2000.

Mildred L. Johnson, a member of the University’s original governing board, died Tuesday, July 22. She was 83.

Johnson, of Muskegon, Mich., was a member of the WMU Board of Trustees from 1964 to 1982. In September of the latter year, the board passed a resolution granting her the title of trustee emerita, while citing her “dedicated and distinguished service to the students, faculty and staff of the University.”

While on the board, Johnson was an active member of the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors, deeply involved in community activities in Muskegon, and served Michigan through longterm membership in several gubernatorial committees and commissions.

In 1995, WMU named a four-year, $25,000 Medallion Scholarship after her. In addition, the American Association of University Women named her two international fellowships after her, one in 1962 and the other in 1963.

Late in 2007, WMU President John M. Dunn named her director of the Office of Diversity and asked her to oversee a number of University initiatives, including implementation of the University’s Diversity and Multiculturalism Action Plan; management of University affairs for the Kalamazoo Promise presentation of the 2010 exhibit, “RACE: Are We So Different?”; planning of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation; and community development activities relating to recruitment of students.

Hernandez, a 1985 WMU graduate, had been serving as associate director of the Division of Multicultural Affairs. She joined the division’s staff in 1987 and became director of its Kings/Chavez/Parks Program in 1989.

Dennis, formerly director of University Curriculum, has been a staff member since 1987. During her WMU career, she has served as a coordinator in Career and Student Employment Services, an academic advisor for the Harshaw College of Business, and an advisor and coordinator for the Alpha and Gold programs in University Curriculum. She earned her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from WMU.

Peter J. Schmitt, history, died Aug. 6. He was 72.

Schmitt, who retired in April, specialized in architectural history and was a WMU faculty member for 43 years. He regularly traveled hundreds of miles each week to teach classes at the University’s branch campuses.

A frequent seminar speaker and guest lecturer, Schmitt obtained grant money and served as project director for an effort to photographically survey the state’s Lake Michigan shoreline from New Buffalo to Ludington. But he is perhaps best known for his deep involvement in preserving the local area’s historic past.

Schmitt wrote or co-wrote several books about the area and as a faculty associate in the WMU Archives and Regional History Collections, worked with the Kalamazoo County clerk’s office to painstakingly archive and catalogue old records dating back to the early days of Kalamazoo’s founding. He also researched the history of many old homes in the area, leading to these locations being designated as historic by the City of Kalamazoo Historical Commission.
The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during August.

35 Years—Ronald B. Chase, geosciences; Christine W. Hitchcock, mathematics; Trent P. Kynaston, music; and Bob E. White, industrial and manufacturing engineering.

30 Years—Robertta Allen, business information systems; Gary E. Bigelow, Spanish; Sue M. Hampton, physical plant, custodial and support services; Dionysios I. Kountanis, computer science; Ronald C. Kramer, sociology; Gary D. Lawson, speech pathology and audiology; Joseph W. McKee, statistics; Leisa L. Perry, College of Aviation; Zahir A. Quraeshi, marketing; Greg D. Roebrock, theatre; Christopher J. Schmidt, geosciences; and Stephen L. Zegree, music.

25 Years—Susan Caringlea, sociology; Cynthia R. Dunnaway, public safety; Paul V. Engelmann, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Donna Kamiroski, computer science; Gregory B. Lozeau, information technology; and Bradley A. Wong, music.

20 Years—Christine Browning, mathematics; James M. Butterfield, political science; Gloria P. Culp, registrar; Michael J. Dekau, information technology; Delores R. Gauthier, music; Tarun Gupta, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Kristin B. Gustafson, physical plant maintenance services; David A. Guth, blindness and low vision studies; Tricia Henney, art; Abalaiza Harvey, Unified Clinics; Matthew S. Mingus, manufacturing engineering; Gloriosa Johnson, physical plant building, custodial and support services; Sheldon Langsam, accountancy; Marsha A. Mahan, nursing; Dasha C. Nisula, foreign languages; William C. Olsen, English; and Charles T. Overberger, information technology.

15 Years—Janice L. Bedrosian, speech pathology and audiology; Robert J. Bentley, health, physical education and recreation; Susan M. Carlson, sociology; Steven J. Culver, mathematics; Ellen M. Curtrim, geography; Alexander Eynden, College of Arts and Sciences; Olivia Gipson, admissions; Scott P. Hennessey, admissions; Kathy L. Houser, university budgets; Jeffrey L. Lillard, public safety; Larry A. Mallak, industrial and manufacturing engineering; John Martino, mathematics; Regina Failis Nelson, teaching, learning and educational studies; Lisa Paulias, physics; Robert A. Peters, public affairs and administration; Gerald Pillsbury, teaching, learning and educational studies; Margaret Diana Recchia, foreign languages; David S. Reinhold, chemistry; Gwendolyn Rose, music; Jack M. Ruhl, accountancy; Larry J. Simon, history; Quintin Smith, philosophy; Robert Spradling, music; Amy S. Washington, intercollegiate athletics; and Susan Weinger, social work.

10 Years—Ikhlas Abdel Qader, electrical and computer engineering; Larry L. Ahlem, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; Tammy Marie Boneburg, university relations; Joetta L. Carr, University Counseling and Testing Center; John A. Clark, political science; Michael E. Haines, intercollegiate athletics; G. Dillin, English; Igor Fedotov, music; Bruce G. Ferrin, marketing; Michael E. Haines, intercollegiate athletics; Bernard T. Han, business information systems; Geralyn Heystek, Haworth College of Business; Gregory J. Howard, sociology; Yvette D. Hyter, speech pathology and audiology; Marilyn A. Johnson, geography; Susan Z. Kamman, campus facility development; Karlis Kasgars, computer science; Ronald B. Larson, marketing; Yuanlong Liu, health, physical education and recreation; Vincent Lyon Cullis, anthropology; Susan G. Mireis, Unifed Clinics; Matthew S. Mingus, public affairs and administration; Tabinia Mingu, mathematics; James A. Muchmore, teaching, learning and educational studies; Kim C. Nelson, university relations; David Orchantan, occupational therapy; Christo Donna S. Hettel, accountancy; Jon D. Holtzman, anthropology; Chuyang James Hueng, economics; Pavel G. Ikonomov, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Stephen K. Jones, College of Aviation; Kurt G. Kenyon, accountancy; Wendy Kersher, nursing; Dongil Lee, chemistry; Mustafa Mughazy, foreign languages; Ilana Nash, English; Ginger Y. Owen, art; John A. Patton, manufacturing engineering; Cynthia J. Pietras, psychology; Troy Place, industrial and manufacturing engineering; David M. Powell, College of Aviation; Wendy D. Ransom Hodgkins, biological sciences; Karri;text; B. Friend, accountancy and computer engineering; Renee Schwartz, biological sciences; Kimberly A. Searing, nursing; Gwendolyn J. Thomas, admissions; Gay S. Walker, physician assistant; and Fijian Yang, computer science.

Service—August

Service—July

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during July.

35 Years—Yat-Lam Hong, music; Jamie Jerome, alumni relations; and W. Wilson Woods, Haenicke Institute.

30 Years—Glenn D. Hall, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Robert L. Johnson, information technology; and Vonceal L. Phillips, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

25 Years—Stephanie Armstrong, Center for Academic Support, and Joan E. O’Bryan, information technology.

20 Years—Margurite Clay, Human Resources; Delores J. Minshall, information technology; and Roger T. Yang, accountancy.

15 Years—Delores J. Huber, Malison Institute; Elizabeth R. Steel, geosciences; and Matthew T. Stoops, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging.

10 Years—Janice L. Bedrosian, faculty senate; Mary A. Choker, dining services—Davis; Lisa Joy Jackson, physical plant-building, custodial and support services; Robert J. Laneway, educational leadership, research and technology; Richard G. Long, College of Health and Human Services; Alan D. Rodheier Sr., physical plant-maintenance services; Mary Swartz, Extended University Programs—Traverse City; Laura M. Thomas, registrar; and Gary L. Wegenke, College of Education.

Five Years—Annmarie Bates, College of Education, and Amy German, residence life.
University finalizes 2008-09 budget, still has 11th lowest tuition, fees rate in state

Acting at its July 25 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees approved an estimated general fund operating budget of more than $313 million for 2008-09.

The budget, which is nearly $14.7 million higher than the 2007-08 estimated budget is essentially balanced and represents a 4 percent increase over the previous year’s budget. Major revenue ingredients to the WMU budget include $113,242,202 in anticipated state appropriations and more than $193.5 million in tuition and required fee income.

The tuition and fee revenue includes a 9.2 percent increase in tuition and required fees for on-campus students, along with a corresponding increase of more than $3.7 million to the University’s financial aid budget to help offset the prospect of financial strain on students and their families.

“This is a decision that was necessary to keep WMU sound and whole and able to deliver on the promise that brings students to our campus,” said board of trustees Chair Ken Miller of the tuition increase. “It also is a decision that...will mean WMU will maintain its position as Michigan’s most affordable research university.”

Over the past two years, WMU has enacted among the lowest increases of any of Michigan’s 15 public universities, and the lowest increases of any of the state’s five research universities.

“We are determined to maintain access and work with families to keep their WMU experience as affordable as possible,” WMU President John M. Dunn told trustees as it was considering the increase.

“We also are determined to preserve the level of quality for which WMU is known and protect the resources that are essential for students who want the opportunities and learning environment found at a research university. While we can and have worked creatively to operate with revenue levels lower than those found at smaller and less complex institutions, we cannot serve our students or our state unless we continue to preserve the caliber of our undergraduate and graduate programs.”

Dunn added that WMU’s focus will remain on operating within as tight a budget as possible and finding ways to move students to graduation in the quickest and most efficient way possible. “The Western Edge, a program we adopted last year, is designed to do just that and is attracting the attention of students and their families because they realize the biggest savings will come from avoiding an extra semester or an extra year of tuition and housing while they complete a degree.”

The Western Edge, announced in July 2007, is an initiative that includes incentives to encourage students to be successful and stay on track toward graduation. It includes a freeze on students’ entering room-and-board rates for up to four years, a $500 incentive scholarship for students who complete 30 credits during their first year and earn a 3.0 GPA or better, a graduation compact designed to ensure class availability for participating students, and a number of other advising and academic support programs.

In related budgetary actions, trustees approved a 4.75 percent increase to both residence hall room-and-board rates and campus apartment rental rates for the 2008-09 academic year. The rates will be in effect for students new to the residence hall in 2008-09, but those students also will have their entering-year rates frozen for up to four years if they opt to continue living in the system.

In addition, trustees set tuition and fees for off-campus students—those studying online and at WMU’s seven branch campuses through Extended University Programs. Go to www.wmich.edu/tuition for details of the newly enacted cost structure for on- as well as off-campus students. Housing rates are detailed online in a story at www.wmich.edu/news/2008/05/008.html.

Improvised workflow makes WMU greener institution

WMU continues efforts to increase on-line business and personnel transactions, improving workflow and reducing paper consumption as part of the University’s “green initiative.”

The most-recent change took effect July 26 and included Temporary Appointment Forms and Incidental Payment Forms, previously called One-Time Pay Forms. Those transactions can now be made only online. “The electronic workflow greatly simplifies the previous paper process, reduces processing time and supports the University’s move toward being a ‘green’ campus,” says Michael Meister, project lead and director of university budgets.

“System users will not need to call other areas to track the location of the paper forms. They will be able to view online where the form is within the approval process. The system should also help reduce errors experienced when manually filling out the forms and will include systematic reporting for the relevant departments.”

Eventually, electronic processing will replace all paper personnel forms. The next phase of the project includes moving student and graduate assistantships appointments to the online system, which will be followed by faculty and staff appointments.

The project team is composed of representatives from across campus, including academic and student affairs, budget, Grants and Contracts, Human Resources, information technology and Payroll.

For more information, contact Human Resources at (269) 387-3620.
Upton unveils energy legislation, secures carbon sequestration funding for WMU

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton unveiled a piece of bipartisan energy legislation at WMU Aug. 6 that will set up a $1 billion federal grant program to help develop carbon capture and storage technology. WMU researchers are already actively pursuing the legislation.

Upton, top Republican on the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, teamed up with his Democratic counterpart on the subcommittee to author the Carbon Capture and Storage Early Deployment Act, H.R. 6258. The legislation establishes a $1 billion grant program derived from fees on the generation of electricity from coal, oil and natural gas.

Meeting at WMU’s Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education, Upton also announced that he was successful in securing $650,000 for WMU’s Geo- logical Carbon Sequestration Research and Education Program in the House Energy and Water Development spending bill that is pending consideration.

The $650,000 will help the university partner with Michigan industry, energy utility companies and local governments to examine the potential for carbon sequestration in deep Michigan geological formations.

This year’s Olympic Games in China serve as backdrop for international Broncos

WMU is being well represented in China this year, with various members of the University community using the Olympics to showcase their talent and global connections.

Broncos traveling to China include Peter W. Krawutschke, foreign languages, and Steven Zegree, music.

Krawutschke visited the country to preside over the 18th World Congress of Translators World Congress, a “translation congress of the International Federation of Translation-related topics” in an interview posted by China.org.cn at www.china.org.cn/international/fit2008/2008-07/30/content_16102389.htm.

Zegree was at the Summer Olympic Games to direct a televised performance of the World Youth Choir during the opening ceremony that was being held at the Sha Tin Olympic Equestrian Venue in Hong Kong. Seven current or former WMU students are members of this year’s choir. Go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2008/08/011 for details.

Second APA/ATIS golf outing adds to campus camaraderie

More than 80 golfers and volunteers turned out Aug. 15 for the University’s second campuswide golf outing sponsored by Academic Technology and Instructional Services and the Administrative Professional Association.

The 2008 team earning the lowest score (top photo) was composed of, from left, Bryan Sutton, physical plant maintenance services; Dennis Moore, physical plant maintenance services; Don Beyer, intercollegiate athletics; and Kevin Knutson, arts and sciences advising.

Also winning top awards were: Felix Esquire, closet to the pin for men; Cheri Bales, College of Arts and Sciences, longest drive for women; and Bryan Sutton, longest drive for men.

Buster Bronco (bottom photo) was on hand to “help” WMU President John M. Dunn tee off and keep other participants in stitches.

In addition, students, alumni and others with WMU ties will travel to Beijing to compete in goalball during the 13th Paralympic Games Sept. 6 through Sept. 17 at the Beijing Institute of Technology Gymnasium. Keep checking the WMU News Web site at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news for more information.

State funds WMU initiatives

Two WMU initiatives were among the major efforts funded through the new Michigan Initiative for Innovation and Entrepreneurship initiative launched July 16 in Lansing.

Aimed at helping startup companies and creating new jobs, one of its goals is to speed the commercialization of university research.

The kickoff event included announcement of the initiative’s first $1.3 million in entrepreneurship and commercialization grants.

Fifteen percent of that funding went to WMU researchers: $125,093 to Margaret Joyce, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; $77,500 to Kenneth O’Shaughnessy, management, and Michael Sharer, intellectual property management and commercialization.
CommUniverCity, Bronco Bash parties

Two of the biggest parties WMU throws all year long are just around the corner. First up will be Bronco Bash, the annual fall celebration for students, slated for 3 to 8 p.m. tomorrow, Sept. 5, at Miller Auditorium’s Fountain Plaza. Next up will be this year’s CommUniverCity Night football game against Northern Illinois University at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at Waldo Stadium.

Bronco bash is a gigantic party welcoming WMU students to campus and the Kalamazoo community. The free event features informational booths sponsored by on- and off-campus organizations as well as entertainment, food, games and giveaways. Go to http://broncobash.wmich.edu for more information.

The CommUniverCity game spotlights WMU’s opening home football season and is one of the largest single events in Southwest Michigan each year. More than 30,000 fans regularly attend the event, which features sponsored tailgate parties prior to kickoff and fireworks to cap off the contest. Contact wmubroncos.com or athletic ticket office to see if tickets are still available.

Annual Homecoming celebration

WMU will be treating the campus community and public to a week of exciting activities during its 2008 Homecoming celebration Monday through Sunday, Sept. 29-Oct. 5.

The highpoint of the celebration, which revolves around the theme “Rock on Western,” will be the Homecoming football game Saturday, Oct. 4, against the Ohio University Bobcats.

Many Bronco fans and friends will rev up for the Homecoming game by congregating under one of the corporate tents on the Oakland Drive Campus or at the Alumni Association PepFest, which has become an annual tradition for WMU graduates and their families.

Students will help celebrate Homecoming by staging two wild and wacky events Friday, Oct. 3: the Western Games and soap box derby. Also open to the public during the week-long festivities is the Campus Classic 5K and 1K run/walk and a variety of shows, concerts and athletic competitions.

More information about the activities taking place at WMU during Homecoming week, including registration details, is available by visiting www.wmich.edu/homecoming and clicking on the links for “Student Events,” “Alumni Events” and “Campus Events.”

Family Connection

Students and many of their families will be showing tons of Bronco spirit on Halloween, when the University kicks off WMU Family Weekend Friday through Sunday, Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

The event involves parents, guardians and other family members and friends of WMU students in college for an entire weekend. In addition, it honors and celebrates the commitment parents and guardians show to the University and its students.

Activities include a pre-game tailgate buffet prior to Saturday’s football game against Eastern Michigan University, as well as a variety of other activities both on campus and in surrounding communities.

Go to www.wmich.edu/parents for details.

Recruitment update

Wondering how the University’s new branding initiative is playing out in student recruitment materials? Want to help secure WMU’s future by growing enrollment?

The campus community will be among the first to see “What’s behind the W,” when the Office of Admissions, Extended University Programs and the Office of International Student Services act as hosts Tuesday, Sept. 9, for “Recruitment Reveal.”

In a session set for 2 p.m. in 208-210 Bernhard Center, staff from the sponsoring units will celebrate the year’s achievements in recruiting and offer a look at what’s ahead for the 2008-09 recruiting year. President John M. Dann will offer remarks, new admissions materials will be showcased, and members of the faculty and staff will have a chance to better understand the recruitment process and learn how they can become even more important recruiters for WMU.

Higher education’s future

What the future holds for Michigan higher education will be explored when Michigan Lt. Gov. John D. Cherry comes to campus for a panel discussion at 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24, in Schneider Hall’s Brown Auditorium.

The “Forum on the Future of Higher Education in Michigan” also will feature WMU Trustee and Kalamazoo businessman William Johnston and Provost Timothy J. Greene. WMU President John M. Dann will moderate the forum.

Each of the three panelists will make a short presentation before taking questions from the audience. The wide-ranging program is expected to cover such issues as state funding and tuition, access, the economic climate and Michigan’s need for a work force with higher education credentials.

Additional information about the event, which is being organized by the University’s Emeritus Council, will be available closer to Oct. 24.

November’s weeklong focus on southeastern Michigan

A Nov. 8 Ford Field football game pitting the Broncos against the University of Illinois Fighting Illini will be the focal point for a weeklong series of events in Detroit.

WMU Week in Detroit will include a series of alumni and admissions events, a meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees and a series of college-specific receptions and game-day activities at Ford Field reminiscent of last May’s WMU Day at the Capital.

Admissions, development, athletics and senior leadership members have been meeting with college and department representatives over the summer to plan a slate of activities aimed at illustrating and reinforcing the impact of WMU on Detroit and the communities in southeast Michigan.

Information about tickets and transportation to the game as well as participation in all the other events planned will be coming to members of the campus community in the coming weeks. Tickets are on sale now at www.wmubroncos.com/fordfield.
Staying active is part vocation and part avocation for Jen Bailey, University Recreation’s assistant director of fitness programs and Zest for Life, Bailey supports the WWU community by providing health and wellness programs and advocating for healthy lifestyles.

She came to WMU in 1996 as a student, earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in physical education here. Bailey landed her current job in 2004, and working out of the Student Recreation Center, now supervises nearly 40 student employees.

A certified Group Fitness Instructor and Indoor Cycling Instructor, she coordinates WMU’s group fitness, personal training and aquatics programs; staffing of the rec center pool; and the University’s longstanding Zest for Life wellness program for faculty, staff, emeriti and retirees.

“Some of our Zest programs are separate from the student programming, but I like to integrate many of them,” she says. “One of our overall goals is to give people fitness and wellness tools so they can experience and share the opportunities out there and be active throughout their lifetimes.”

Bailey notes that WWU benefits-eligible employees may receive membership discounts at the Student Recreation Center or West Hills Athletic Club, while only paying taxes on the cost of their memberships.

“It’s all explained in the membership section of the www.src.wmich.edu Web site,” she says. “We want to engage more employees. By offering the rec center membership, we give them access to a lot more activities and equipment.”

Bailey also teaches part time for the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, regularly speaks to employee and student groups, serves on several campus health and wellness committees, including as chair of the Western Wellness Committee, and advises the Pi Beta Phi sorority. She is actively involved in continuing her education by attending additional fitness/wellness certifications and workshops in areas such as resistance training, pilates, yoga, employee wellness and water aerobics.

In her “spare” time, she enjoys reading, listening to music, shopping, active sports such as snowboarding and intramural sports, and, of course, working out.

Brylinsky unveils national coaching report in Washington, D.C.

America needs to increase the kind of training adults receive before they work as coaches for young athletes, according to a new report released Aug. 6 in Washington, D.C., by Judy Brylinsky, health, physical education and recreation. Speaking at the National Press Club, Brylinsky unveiled results of the National Coaching Report, outlining the importance of having coaches well educated and fully qualified so that young people have a quality sport experience.

Brylinsky led the National Coaching Report Task Force, which produced the report under the auspices of the National Association for Sport and Physical Education in partnership with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

A NASPE past president, Brylinsky chaired the writing team for the second revision of the National Standards for Sport Coaches and has participated as an accreditation reader for the National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education. She is a former college coach and athletic director, USOC Project Gold participant and Special Olympic Coach volunteer who provides perspective to current instruction and research interests involving coach education.

The report is the only comprehensive piece addressing both youth and interscholastic sport coaching requirements in the United States. Released only days before the start of the 2008 International Olympics in Beijing, it stresses the importance of qualified coaches for every athlete and notes that many Olympians’ positive athletic experiences were a result of the influence and impact of their coaches.

Malott launches autism center

Richard W. Malott, psychology, debuted a special daycare and behavioral-training center in Kalamazoo Sept. 2 to serve developmentally delayed children.

Called the Kalamazoo Autism Center, the facility is being launched as a pilot project. It is located in the Child Development Center, a well-established, non-profit daycare facility at 4510 W. KL Ave.

Enrollment for this fall was limited and spaces were available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Malott at dickmalott@dickmalott.com or 372-1268 for more information.

Gymnastics camps scheduled

Evening gymnastics and cheer-tumbling instruction for boys and girls, ages 3 to 18, will be offered for eight weeks beginning Sept. 23. Children of faculty and staff members receive a 10 percent discount.

For details, go to www.wmubroncos.com and click “Camps & Clinics” then “Gymnastics Camps,” or call 387-3129.