Event sets academic tone for Class of 2013

More than 3,300 members of the Class of 2013 were the first WMU students to enjoy a matriculation ceremony aimed at welcoming new students to the University and giving them a better sense of the University’s traditions, goals and commitment to academic rigor.

The ceremony, held Sept. 2 in Miller Auditorium, put a formal academic stamp on the opening days of the students’ university careers and featured a pinning ceremony. The event included participation by a large contingent of faculty members, a welcome by Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell and a keynote address by WMU President John M. Dunn.

Afterward, new students joined University administrators and faculty members at the Fountain Plaza for a luncheon event dubbed “Pizza With the Profs.” Both the matriculation ceremony and pizza party were part of WMU’s Sept. 1-4 Fall Welcome activities.

Convocation scheduled for 3:30 p.m. today

WMU is kicking off the new academic year with an Academic Convocation at 3:30 p.m. today in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The annual event will feature President John M. Dunn’s State of the University address, as well as a series of awards honoring faculty and staff achievements.

The longstanding academic tradition of gathering to honor accomplishment and focus on important University issues and initiatives is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the convocation in the adjacent Richmond Center for Visual Arts.

Topics Dunn is expected to address include campuswide strategic planning, University research goals, recent developments in international education and sustainability, and the status of other ongoing initiatives. Dunn’s address will be broadcast on WMUK 102.1 FM, the University’s public radio station, at 6 p.m. today. Audio from the speech will be available at wmuk.org and a print version will be posted at wmich.edu/president tomorrow.

Four awards carrying a $2,000 cash prize each will be presented during this year’s event to seven faculty and staff members. Those honors are the Distinguished Service, Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Distinguished Teaching and Emerging Scholar awards. Summarized biographies of this year’s award recipients are printed on page 3 of this issue of Western News. Go to wmich.edu/news to read more complete biographies of the award recipients.

WMU named one of ‘Great Colleges to Work For’

The University is one of America’s Great Colleges to Work For, according to a Chronicle of Higher Education survey reported in the publication’s July 6 edition.

WMU was named one of the top-10 large colleges in the nation in five separate categories of the Chronicle’s second annual survey of American colleges and universities.

The publication based its assessments on a random survey of the University’s full-time faculty, administrators and professional staff conducted in April, as well as an institutional audit that captured demographics, and workplace policies and practices.

About 122 four-year schools ranked in at least one of the 26 areas measured in three broad categories: work environment, pay and benefits, and institutional policies.

The University’s top-10 placements came in recognition of its offerings and best practices in providing health care benefits, tuition remission, life insurance, disability insurance and post-retirement benefits.

The Chronicle’s Great Colleges to Work For program recognizes small groups of colleges [based on enrollment size] for specific best practices and policies, such as compensation and benefits, faculty-administration relations and confidence in senior leadership.
Jazz group kicks off concert season
The Bullock Performance Institute opens its 2009-10 season with the first public concert by the Cleveland Jazz All-Stars at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The new international ensemble was coined by Tom Knifc, music. Go to www.wmich.edu/mus_bpi for tickets and other details.

Annual Recognition slated
The Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services is sponsoring a “Rainbow Reception and Resource Fair” from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Campus Flagpoles. The free event welcomes LBGT students and their allies to campus. Go to www.lgbt.wmich.edu for more information.

Panel to address German politics
The Institute of Government and Politics is sponsoring a panel discussion on the changing political landscape in Germany at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, in 3301 Friedmann. The event will address domestic and international pressures facing the country, which will hold federal elections late this month.

Research ethics subject of lecture
Nicholas Steneck from the University of Michigan will give a free lecture on “How Governments Have Addressed Ethics in Research” at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, in the Fetzer Center’s Putney Auditorium.

Justice Sotomayor to be discussed
Doctoral students Mark Beougher and Todd Curry will present a roundtable discussion from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, in 3301 Friedmann. During the discussion, the duo will address the impact that Sonia Sotomayor’s appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court may have on decisions related to a few key cases likely to reach the Court in the 2009-10 term.

Physics colloquia begin Sept. 21
The physics department will begin its 2009-10 colloquia with “Sleeping Phonons and Dancing Electrons: Computational Design of Novel Thermoelectric Materials.” It will feature Marco Formani of Central Michigan University and start at 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21, in 1110 Rood.

Research leading national effort
Gary Miron, educational leadership, research and technology, has been asked by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to develop international indicators on school choice and parent voice; the results of which will be reported in next year’s Education At A Glance report.

Miron, a charter schools researcher, previously sat on committees that provided advice on OECD international indicators related to school structure and finance when he was based at Stockholm University.

From Sept. 22-27, he will be working at OECD headquarters in Paris, where he will finalize the indicators after receiving input from an international committee. After leading the effort to establish the new indicators, Miron will develop a questionnaire that OECD will use to collect data from the governments in its 30 member nations.

Fieldwork promoting cultural ties
Yvette D. Hyter, speech pathology and audiology, and W.F. Santiago-Valles, Afri- cana studies, are coordinating an initiative supported by a $70,468 Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad grant. The initiative, Cultural Connections: A Transnational Curriculum Development Project, is aimed at developing a transnational curriculum designed to spark critical thinking about the consequences of globalization and global citizenship.

During the fieldwork phase of the program, local educators, graduate students and others will visit West Africa.

One of the requirements for candidates to participate in the travel stage is completing a 15-week pre-departure workshop. Go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/08/004.html for more information.

Nursing prof receives research award
Mary Ann Stark, nursing, has received the Hill-Rom/Celestee Phillips Family-Centered Maternity Care Research Award for her current study titled “Pharmacologic and Psychological Effects of Therapeutic Showering in Labor.”

The award was presented at the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses 2009 national convention in San Diego.

In addition to being a professor in WMU’s Bronson School of Nursing, Stark is a nurse volunteer in the Pregnancy Care Clinic, also in Kalamazoo. Her articles have been published widely on a variety of topics, including normal birth and the use of hydrotherapy in labor. Stark also has served as a reviewer of the Journal of Obstetric, Gynecological and Neonatal Nursing.
Convocation scheduled for 3:30 p.m. today

Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award

Being named a Distinguished Faculty Scholar is the highest honor the University bestows on its faculty members. Established in 1978, this award program recognizes those whose work is widely known beyond the University and who have significantly contributed to the body of achievement, most of which has been accomplished while a faculty member at WMU.

The 2009 recipient of this award is William W. Liou, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

Liou is an internationally known expert in fluid dynamics, vehicle simulation, computational mechanics and propulsion. He has been a faculty member at WMU since 1997, when he came to the University after serving for four years as senior research associate at the Ohio Aerospace Institute in Cleveland.

Since 2006, he has been director of the University’s Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation—CA ViDS—which is a consortium of public and private sector organizations focused on enhancing product development in the motor vehicle industry.

For the past three years, as director of CA ViDS, Liou has directed externally funded research efforts supported by some $2.5 million from such entities as the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army and various private sector firms.

In 2007, Business Review West Michigan selected Liou as one of the Innovation Michigan Award winners.

Emerging Faculty Scholar Award

Being named an Emerging Faculty Scholar celebrates the accomplishments of WMU faculty members who are among the rising stars in U.S. higher education. Established in 2006, it honors faculty in the first decade of their WMU careers who have gained national recognition and demonstrate outstanding promise to achieve renown in their continuing work.

The 2009 recipients of this award are G. Michael Grammer, geosciences, and Takashi Yoshida, history.

Grammer served as interim director of WMU’s Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education for two years and is a nationally and internationally recognized scientist known for his area of specialty—carbonate geology—and for his comprehensive knowledge of the ancient rock record, modern environments and subsurface data sets.

His expertise is reflected in an impressive publication track record, and Grammer is constantly being recruited by both U.S. institutions and industry. He was named a Distinguished Lecturer by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, one of only 15 in his field of specialization selected in the past 75 years from among nearly 40,000 members.

Yoshida also has compiled an enviable track record in his research. In addition to being a specialist in Japan’s recent history, his work more broadly encompasses the recent history of Asia, World War II and historical memory in the 20th century.

His credits include the book “The Making of the ‘Rape of Nanking’: History and Memory in Japan, China and the United States,” an analysis of cultural and historical significance of the 1937 Nanjing massacre by the Japanese army.

In 2005, the United States Institute of Peace granted Yoshida a yearlong fellowship to conduct research on Asian peace movements. Shortly thereafter, he was awarded the Abe Fellowship, funded by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and designed to “encourage international multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern.”

Distinguished Teaching Award

Being named a Distinguished Teacher is the highest honor the University bestows on faculty members for their work with students. This award program dates back to 1966 and honors up to three full-time faculty members each year.

The 2009 recipients of this award are Chad Edwards, communication, and Peter E. Parker, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging.

Edwards has taught at Texas Tech University, South Plains College, the University of Kansas, Ohio University and Marietta College.

He also has received outstanding teaching awards at both the University of Kansas and Texas Tech University.

Many of those nominating Edwards for WMU’s Distinguished Teaching Award cited him for making his classes rigorous and challenging, yet participatory and fun. He also was praised as a teacher who brings energy and creativity to small classes as well as large ones, such as the introductory course in communication that routinely enrolls more than 100 students.

Graduate students who have worked with Edwards as research assistants note that he mentors as well as trains. As one graduate student put it, Edwards is “kind, considerate and compassionate.”

Parker, who in 2008 received the Outstanding Teaching Award from the WMU College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, is the founder and creator of the University’s chemical engineering program.

The first from that college to earn the campuswide Distinguished Teaching Award, Parker not only teaches, but also advises some 150 chemical engineering students and serves as advisor to the student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineering Club.

He takes students to national meetings, ushering them into the profession, and volunteers in WMU’s efforts to recruit and retain students. He also hosts cookouts for students at his home and works to create a strong sense of community around the campfire.

Distinguished Service Award

Being a recipient of the Distinguished Service award, which was established in 1980, is one of WMU’s highest Universitywide honors. It recognizes exceptional service to the University through innovative and effective programs, service in areas and organizations that contribute to the growth and stature of the University, or service that extends the impact and presence of the University into larger communities.

The 2009 recipients of this award are Eileen B. Evans, institutional effectiveness, and Susan E. Oole, Lee Honors College.

Evans was lauded by those nominating her for her efforts and personal example that “cause others to perform at a higher level.”

In her current position as vice provost for institutional effectiveness, she advises Provost Timothy Green in the areas of accreditation, academic program planning, assessment and sponsored research.

A tenured associate professor of English, she chairs the 2010-11 Higher Learning Steering Committee, a group managing the internal process for WMU’s periodic assessment by its accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges.

Her work on that and other earlier accreditation efforts has been instrumental in the effort to establish a “culture of assessment” at WMU.

Oole is active as a volunteer and organizer in a variety of campus initiatives. She was cited by supporters for exceeding all expectations.

“She gives countless hours to all of her commitments, in an effort to improve her community and make WMU the best university it can be for both students and staff,” wrote a supporter.

“Through her commitment to excellence, she consistently does an outstanding job in many valuable endeavors, resulting in a body of truly distinguished service. We are so lucky to have her as a vital and giving member of our WMU family.”

Oole also was praised by a colleague who said her “caring for students, their interests and their happiness is well known…I have found that she is a tireless advocate for students, a great lister and known to give out laundry money for needy honors students.”

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For rent—Share a professor’s spacious, comfortable home two miles from WMU campus. Female preferred (I am female), but males considered. Separate bedroom, bathroom, kitchenette and sitting-room, with TV. $450/month includes all utilities; $350 for part-time rental (roommates). Must be tolerant of cats. Contact: 276-0059.

Service—August

The following faculty and staff members were recognized for 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and five years of service during August.

40 Years—Dorale N. DeRyke, Haworth College of Business, and Laurel A. Grotting, University Libraries.

40 Years—Richard DePue, art, and Barbara Speas Havita, history.

35 Years—John W. Benson, Spanish; David J. Blowers, facilities management—landscape services; Thomas A. Carey, management; David G. Houghton, political science; Mark S. Libert, College of Arts and Sciences; Kenneth H. McCarrell, facilities—management maintenance services; Bruce Naftel, art; and Peter G. Northouse, communication.

30 Years—Kuriakose K. Athappilly, business information systems; Jane Baas, dance; Kailash M. Batra, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Kathy B. Beaugarde, intercollegiate athletics; Duane E. Channel, mathematics; David P. Cowan, biological sciences.

25 Years—Christopher S. Cho, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Aylee M. Dickinson, psychology; Philip J. Egan, English; Frank M. Gambino, marketing; John W. Geisink, electrical and computer engineering; Mary L. Light, Career English Language Center.

Joseph R. Morris, counselor education and counseling psychology; Dennis F. Penter, mathematics; Stephanie Sponholz, Blinds and low vision studies; Alvin S. Rosenthal, physics; Ikisahn Sahin, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; and Dennis J. Vandenbrink, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

20 Years—Ronald S. Bell, public safety; Sara L. Carlson, Sindsece Health Center; Clifton E. Ealy, mathematics; Karim Ersani, biological sciences; Richard A. Gershon, communication; Ajay K. Gupta, computer science; Suzanne Hedstrom, counselor education and counseling psychology; Joan E. Johnson, information technology; Lynn N. Johnson, teaching, learning, and educational studies; Rand H. Johnson, foreign languages; Paul A. Johnston Jr., English; Emanuel Y. Kamber, physics; Albert LaVerigne, art; Anna Lee Miller, sociology; Michael R. Nor. man, history; Pamela J. Robertson, Registrar’s Office; Silvia Roederer, music; Scott W. Thompson, music; Laura C. Vine, business services; Jung-Chao Wang, statistics; and Victor C. Xiong, history.

15 Years—Eskander Alvi, economics; Steven B. Barta, chemistry; Diane M. Bourgeois, educational leadership, research and technology; Clement Burns, physics; Elisabeth Carnell, Medieval Institute.

Sharon L. Garber, communication; Norman W. Hawk, financial and commercial law; Gunther M. Hega, political science; Elizabeth A. Hoger, business information systems.

Kevin Knutson, College of Arts and Sciences; Christopher M. Korth, finance and commercial law; Joyce M. Kubiski, art; Irma M. Lopez, Spanish; Nilsouer Mackey, mathematics.

Ann Miles, anthropology; Koorosh Naghsheh, mechanical and aeronautical Engineering; Kenneth C. O’Shaughnessy, management; Berth E. Risema, mathematics; Samer Shammas, Haenicke Institute; Laura R. Storvold, mathematics; and Qiji Zhu, mathematics.

10 Years—Elizabeth P. Amidon, English; Nicholas A. Andreadis, counselor education and counseling psychology; Edward Brooks Applegate, educational leadership, research and technology; Ben Jamathachion, occupational therapy.

Gary H. Bischof, counselor education and counseling psychology; Tommie A. Brown, Berrien Conference Center; James F. Center, Office of the Vice President for Research; Brenda L. Chapman, Sindsece Health Center; Stephen E. Craig, counselor education and counseling psychology; Katharine E. Cummings, College of Education.

Diane K. Diette, occupational therapy; Charles Emerson, geography; Leigh Arden Ford, communication; Barbara J. Frazier, family and consumer sciences; Sandra Koy Frazier, public safety; John R. Geiser, biological sciences; Harold Glasser, environmental studies.

Stephen John Hasenick, College of Aviation; Terrell L. Hodge, mathematics; Paula D. Kohler, Office of the Vice President for Research; Steven Koehler, environmental studies; Jennifer S. Lawter-Stevens, Disabled Student Resources and Services; Ho Sung Lee, mechanical and aeronautical engineering; Kathleen A. Macker, chemistry; John M. Miller, music; Patrick H. Munley, counselor education and counseling psychology; Holly J. Nibert, Spanish; Paul Nwulu, communication; Annette Paul, mathematics; Mariam P. Paredes, communication; Kathleen Propp, communication; David W. Rudge, biological sciences; Patrick J. Ryan, health, physical education and recreation; Judith A. Rypma, English; Barbara Speas Havita, business information systems; William F. Santiago-Valles, Africana studies; Thomas V. Scannell, management; Roberta J. Schultz, marketing; Susan A. Simons, mathematics; Gilbert Andrew Sin- clair, College of Aviation; Thomas E. Swartz, industrial and manufacturing engineering.

Gwen Athenei Tarbox, English; Jylhhorg Michael Tarn, business information systems; Heather R. Theobald, University Libraries; Karen M. VanDusen, social work; Gregory Veec, geography; Carol A. Weideman, health, physical education and recreation; Donna M. Weinreich, social work; and Linda J. Young, facilities management—building custodial and support services.

Five Years—Alia I. Alsheba, computer science; Jeffrey Matthew Angles, foreign languages; Susan F. Ayers, health, physical education and recreation; Kathleen M. Baker, geography; Daniel Jay Berkow, theatre; Elizabeth Bredthum, English; Michael C. Breitenstein, Spanish; Walter L. Burt, educational leadership, research and technology; Jon D. Davis, mathematics; William P. Davis, art; Liang Dong, electrical and computer engineering; and Zhong Li, international student life; Rebekah Farrugia, communication; David A. Gall, art; Caroline E. Goe, art; Jofen Han, business information systems; Nancy Joan Hansen, Sindsece Health Center; M. Daniela Hernandez, mathematic; Pamela Hoppe, biological sciences; John B. Idema, nursing; Joni L. Jones, nursing; Thomas L. Kent, College of Arts and Sciences; Melinda Kooling, mathematics; Todd Kuchta, English; Priscilla A. Lambert, political science; Kristina D. Ledbetter, College of Health and Human Services; Tianshu Liu, mechanical and aeronautical Engineering; Jennifer A. Machiottati, communication; Nichole A. Maul, art; and Steven R. Mceli, manufacturing engineering; Lisa Cohen Minnick, English; Susan Kay Nelson, nursing; Sherine O. Obute, chemistry; Jennifer O’Donoghue, health, physical education and recreation; Valerie P. Ort, political science; Carolyn P. Pavlik, dance; Charlotte M. Pease, family and consumer sciences; Heather L. Petcov, geosciences.

Patricia L. Reeves, educational leadership, research and technology; David A. Rutherford, mathematics; Eli Rubin, history; Maria E. Scott, biological sciences; Mohammed Sultan, geosciences; Jeffrey Parker Thompson, art; Charlotte Thralls, English; Mary-Louise Totton, art; Yvonne Utraria, social work; Slobodan Urdevarek, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Nancy R. Van Kannel-Ray, OEAR-UP Learning Center; Maarten J. Vos, hot, biological sciences; and Sarah Wall Emerson, blindness and low vision studies; Kevin Jack Wanner, comparative religion; and Kelly S. Weathers, family and consumer sciences.
Campus gearing up for United Way campaign

WMU has set a goal of $240,000 for this year’s monthlong United Way campaign, which will kick off Thursday, Oct. 1. Campaign organizers hope to shatter last year’s giving record and increase WMU’s community impact.

But to accomplish that ambitious feat, campuswide participation and generous investments of money, time and talent will be necessary.

WMU’s United Way Advisory Board will begin distributing pledge cards to all faculty and staff members and retirees Oct. 1. Gifts can be made as one-time donations payable by payroll deduction, credit card or direct billing from United Way.

Supervisors and department chairs are encouraged to schedule a United Way meeting in their areas as soon as possible. Representatives are available to talk briefly about United Way, distribute pledge cards and answer questions about contributions. Materials also are available for those who prefer to lead their own meetings.

Contact wmuch.united-way@wmich.edu to obtain answers to questions or schedule a United Way meeting.

WMU raises tuition; remains among state's best values

Acting at its July 2 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees approved a 5.7 percent increase in tuition and required fees along with a 7.5 percent increase of $3 million to the University’s financial aid budget.

Trustees also approved new tuition and fee rates for courses offered through WMU’s Extended University Programs.

The 5.7 percent increase will mean a full-time Michigan freshman or sophomore will pay $8,382 to attend WMU for the 2009-10 academic year—an increase of $454 for the year or $227 per semester. The increase, which is effective with the fall 2009 semester, includes a $10 per semester enrollment fee increase dedicated to student health care.

The decision regarding costs puts WMU tenth in tuition and fees among Michigan’s 15 public universities, and maintains its position as the state’s most affordable research university.

“As a board, we struggle with the need to keep our university accessible to the wide range of families we serve and at the same time preserve the value side of the equation—literally keeping WMU in a position in which it can deliver the quality education that brings our students here in the first place,” said board Chair Ken Miller.

“It’s becoming more and more difficult to do that as our state funding shrinks, and we continue to make budget cuts. The budget we’ve built includes an increase, but it is coupled with a commensurate increase in financial aid and another round of campus budget reductions.”

WMU President John M. Dunn notes that in addition to the $5 million in reductions for 2009-10, WMU has enacted additional budget reductions and cost-saving measures totaling more than $50 million since 2002. Those include health-care savings initiatives, buying consortiums to take advantage of large-scale supply and energy purchases, privatizing of some functions and position reductions.

In addition, over the past decade, WMU has avoided more than $18 million in new energy expenditures through aggressive energy-savings initiatives. Administrative overhead at WMU, Dunn pointed out, is the second lowest among Michigan universities.

Go to www.wmich.edu/registrar/tuition for details about the tuition for upper-division, nonresident, graduate students and regional-site students.

Trustees OK four retirements, sign off on other personnel items

The retirements of one faculty member and four staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its July 2 meeting.

Trustees also accepted the resignations of eight faculty members.

David K. Payne, associate professor of paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, is retiring with emeritus status after 32 years of continuous service to the University. His retirement was effective April 30, 2009.

The staff members retiring are: Charles W. Amos, supervisor in facilities management-building custodial and support services, 36 years, effective Aug. 31; Jean Decker, equipment operator I in facilities management-landscape services, 31 years, effective June 30; Roger A. DeKoeckkoek, licensed plumber in facilities management-maintenance services, 22 years, effective June 30; and Patricia K. Rice, custodian in facilities management-building custodial and support services, 24-1/2 years, effective June 30.

The faculty resigning are: Patricia S. Bills, faculty specialist II-lecturer in English, effective April 21; Hubo Cai, assistant professor of civil and construction engineering, effective in August; David A. Gall, assistant professor of art, effective Aug. 1; Don Lee, associate professor of English, effective Aug. 9; Jennifer O’Donoghue, assistant professor of health, physical education and recreation, effective Aug. 9; Craig A. Paiement, assistant professor of health, physical education and recreation, effective Aug. 9; Charlotte M. Pease, assistant professor of family and consumer sciences, effective Aug. 9; and Jeffrey P. Thompson, assistant professor of art, effective Aug. 9.

Obituaries

Several retired faculty and staff members passed away while the Western News was on summer hiatus.

Due to space limitations, information about these members of the WMU community are summarized in this issue of the Western News. More complete obituaries are available online by going to www.wmich.edu/news and clicking Obituaries.

David William Adams, emeritus in education and professional development, died July 22 in Kalamazoo at age 81. He was a former president of the Faculty Senate.

Raymond A. Dannenberg, emeritus in marketing and distributive education, died July 12 at age 83. He was a former chair of distributive education and former director of the Center for Vocational Education.

Jay Easwaran, emeritus in mechanical and aeronautical engineering, died Aug. 13 in Carmel, Ind., at age 67. He was nationally recognized for his research in such areas as polymer coating for engine parts.

Elwood B. “Woodie” Ehrle, emeritus in biological sciences, died July 19, in Kalamazoo at age 75. He was a former provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Ken Macrorie, emeritus in English, died July 11 in Las Cruces, N.M. at age 90. He was nationally known for his methods of teaching writing.

Owen B. Middleton, emeritus in education and professional development, died Aug. 13 at age 86. He opened several student teaching centers for WMU around the state, introduced team teaching, and organized the College of Education’s orientation and advising office.

Enid Florence (Pawson) Simpson, a retired staff member in the Sincenduce Health Center, died July 21 at age 88. The dedicated registered nurse continued working after retirement, staying with Sincenduce as a part-time temporary employee until 1999.
WMU continues racking up variety of prestigious accolades

Designated a top national university

For the 19th consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report has named WMU one of America’s “best national universities.” In the publication’s 2010 ranking of more than 1,400 colleges and universities that was unveiled Aug. 20, the University remained among the 262 schools the magazine singles out as having national standing and being among the nation’s best. This is WMU’s 19th appearance on the overall list and its 11th consecutive time being included in the top three tiers of national universities. Only 112 public universities in America are listed in the top three tiers.

Garners international art recognition

The University’s celebrated outdoor sculpture collection is among a handful of Michigan art resources singled out in the latest edition of the Birkbeck International Directory of Sculpture Parks & Gardens.

Listed among most ‘military friendly’ colleges

WMU also was singled out as one of the top military-friendly schools in the nation on a

Units move, change names

In June, the Office of the Ombudsman moved to 2104 Sangren Hall while the Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs moved to 1353 Ellsworth Hall. Both offices were previously located on the second floor of the Bernhard Center. All contact information for the offices remains the same.

Also, the WMU Board of Trustees approved changing the name of the Academic Technology and Instructional Services—ATIS—to Online Education. The Center for Academic Support Programs to Center for Academic Success Programs.

That center now manages a range of programs, including the Academic Skills Center, Writing Center, Intellectual Skills Development Program, and Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs.

Wellness opportunities opened up for faculty, staff members

Ongoing initiatives are expanding wellness opportunities for faculty and staff members.

For instance, employees in facilities management-planning are encouraged to take walks on “company” time, and now other employees are invited to try out that unit’s newly purchased treadmill.

To try out the Walkstation treadmill, call 387-8567. For more about the system, go to www.wmich.edu/wmushare/news/2009/08/027.html or contact David Dakin, director of campus planning.

Additionally, the pilot initiative called the Western One-to-One Wellness Program is now available to a number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans as students. “We’re the largest public university in the state with the largest number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans as students.”

“WMU is the school of choice for the largest number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans of any of Michigan’s four-year colleges and universities.

Golfers, volunteers take part in campuswide event

About 60 employees, students and friends took part in the third Community Golf Outing Aug. 14 at the Prairies in Kalamazoo.

The event fosters WMU camaraderie and is organized by the Administrative Professional Association and Extended University Programs.

Individuals across campus served on the organizing committee, worked at the event and made donations in other ways.

Several golfers won awards during the event.

• First-place team: Lewis Hamilton, Development Office; facilities management employees Gerry Schulz (maintenance services) and Patrick Lem (construction services); and Steven Doca, guest.

• Second-place team: Craig Pulver and Thomas Revette, ROTC, and Bob Harper and Jim Mayo, information technology.

• Longest drive, men: Steve Prince, ROTC.

• Longest drive, women: Michele Anderson, doctoral student.

Go to http://online.wmich.edu/golf to view or download pictures from the outing.

Academic efforts bearing fruit

Efforts to enhance WMU’s international programs as well as its Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse, or SPADA, are bearing fruit this academic year.

The University is now home to a Confucius Institute, which cements a partnership between WMU and Beijing Language and Culture University, China’s premier international institution for language instruction.

The institute will provide new Chinese language and cultural studies options for WMU students and faculty and dramatically expand international opportunities for area K-12 schools and local businesses.

Also, enhancements have been made to SPADA’s graduate certificate program and undergraduate minor. The new certificate program is being offered in Kalamazoo and at the regional sites in Lansing, Battle Creek, Grand Rapids and Traverse City. The revised minor is offered in Kalamazoo and worldwide via WMU Online Education.
University continues to update flu Web site

WMU is urging students, faculty and staff to prepare for a likely outbreak of the H1N1 virus (swine flu) this fall. Several other universities have already reported cases among students returning to their campuses for the start of the school year.

Recently, WMU officials sent separate e-mail messages to students and to faculty and staff members. Parents and family members of students also were alerted through WMU’s Family Connection newsletter.

One immediate recommendation being made is for individuals who have flu symptoms to stay in their residences until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

“The situation is constantly changing,” says Dr. Lisa Marshall, medical director at the Sincereus Health Center, “which is why we are continuing to monitor the spread of the virus. We will update the WMU community through the Flu Information Web pages and other ongoing communication.”

Go to the Flu Information Center at wmich.edu/flu for links to the health center, other campus resources, and related state, national and international agencies.

Interactive maps make navigating campus easier

Navigating a new college campus can be challenging enough, but for students and visitors with physical or visual disabilities, it can be intimidating and exhausting. To combat that problem, WMU has set up one of the most detailed campus maps available online.

The maps, which are interactive, identify the best routes for mobility and access to every campus building. They even note electronic door openers, the grade of sidewalks and steepness of hills and curbs.

WMU’s Department of Facilities Management tapped students who face physical barriers every day, such as senior Lauren Harkness, to travel across campus and document features inside and outside of buildings that would affect a person’s mobility or accessibility.

Her work, along with that of many others at WMU, has resulted in interactive maps that can be manipulated to show specific details at every point on campus, from tracking the shortest route to an entrance to finding out which floors have accessible bathrooms.

The University has published printed copies of accessibility features on campus, but the interactive Web versions allow them to be updated 24/7 and provide more detail.

Locally grown foods highlighted

WMU Dining Services will feature locally grown foods from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 16, in the Bernhard Cafeteria. Go to www.wmich.edu/dining/green/farmers-market.html for details.

Football schedule set; CommUniverCity Night Sept. 19

WMU is playing three Big Ten opponents in a single football season this year—for the first time in program history. The Broncos fell to the University of Michigan Sept. 5, but also will take on Big Ten opponents when they travel to Indiana University Saturday, Sept. 12, and Michigan State University Saturday, Nov. 7.

The team will kick off its home opener at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, with its annual CommUniverCity Night extravaganza. The evening will include numerous tent and tailgate parties preceding the gridiron contest against Miami University.

WMU’s College of Education Alumni Society and the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency will be hosting a tailgate for educators, community members and others. Call 387-2866 for details.

This year’s Homecoming game is slated for 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, against the University of Buffalo. Keep checking www.wmich.edu/news/events for news about 2009’s Homecoming events.

Go to www.broncos.com to order football tickets or review the schedules for WMU’s other 15 NCAA Division I-A sports.

Personnel changes made

Tightening budgets and a resignation have led to personnel changes in the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Effective Sept. 8, Elaine Gaudio became executive assistant to President John M. Dunn and began managing the president’s calendar, office operations and special projects. She replaces Kathler Schue mann, who stepped down to focus on his doctoral studies.

Gaudio’s post as administrative assistant in the president’s office will be filled by former provost’s office staffer Nancy Dyksterhouse. Her former position will remain vacant and Dixie Edwards, administrative assistant in legislative affairs, will devote part of her work week to academic affairs.

“As all areas of the University work to tighten budgets for the coming year, Provost Greene and I have worked to reduce a clerical position in our area, thankfully without the loss of personnel,” Dunn says.

“ar is often the case, several staff members have graciously accepted added responsibilities or new roles to accomplish this consolidation, and I thank each one of them.”

Event offers ‘major’ excitement

Major Excitement, the increasingly popular annual initiative to help students decide on majors and minors, will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, on the grounds near the Chemistry Building.

The event features information about the many academic programs and resources available at WMU, on-site advising and networking opportunities, as well as music, games and giveaways.

It is hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences and primarily targets first- and second-year students, in addition to undergraduate students who are undecided about their majors.

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Symposium examines gender studies

An authority on Japanese culture, particularly as it pertains to gender, will be the main speaker at “The Symposium on Gender Studies Across Languages and Disciplines,” which will take place from noon to 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21, in 157 Bernhard Center.

Keynoting will be Jan Bardsley, associate professor of Japanese humanities and chair of the Department of Asian Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Also speaking at the symposium will be three visiting scholars from Japan, Yoichi Shimemura and Minae Sasaki, both of Musashino University in Tokyo, and Mayumi Usama of Tokyo University of Foreign Languages. In addition, the program will include Myra Bonet of the University of Illinois, Springfield, and WMU professors Laura Spievogel, anthropologist, and Adrienne Redding, English.

Those speakers also will take part in a roundtable discussion on “Language Pedagogy: Theory, Practice and Technology” from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, in Room 3025 Brown.

Bardsley, who is coming to campus through WMU’s Visiting Scholars and Artists Program, wrote the monograph “The Bluestockings of Japan: New Women Essays and Fiction from Seiito, 1911-16.” She also co-edited the anthology “Bad Girls of Japan” and co-directed the documentary film “Women in Japan: Memories of the Past, Dreams for the Future.”

For more information, contact Rika Saito at 387-3020 or rika.saito@wmich.edu

Talk examines impact of climate change on glaciers

An expert on climate change will be on campus to give a chilling assessment of the impact on glaciers during a talk from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, in Room 2708 Wood.

The talk, “Climate Change and Glacial Recession in Northwestern China,” will be presented by Wang Ninglian, director of the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Division of Cryosphere and Global Change, Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute.

Wang’s research focuses on climatic change and environmental records in ice cores and solar activity, glacier fluctuations and water supply.

His trip here is through the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program and sponsored by the Department of Geography and the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

For more information, contact Rika Saito at 387-3020 or rika.saito@wmich.edu

Time to make directory changes, request privacy-related limits

Monday, Sept. 14, is the deadline to request changes in campus and home information that will appear in the alphabetical employee listing of the 2009-10 WMU Directory.

The deadline applies to requests for changing all or parts of campus and home information as well as for attaching a privacy limitation on home information.

Home information changes may be requested by downloading the Employee Name and Address Change Form.

No action is needed to permit the home information to be published. But those who have not already completed and returned an Employee Home Address Privacy Request Form must do so by Sept. 14 to keep their home information from being published.

WMU has changed its privacy policy for those who have previously indicated that they have an unlisted home telephone number. Beginning with the 2009-10 academic year, all home information will be omitted from the directory for faculty and staff who, in the past, have notified Human Resources that they have an unlisted phone number.

Both the name and address change form and privacy request form are posted on the forms page of the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/forms.html in the Employee Data Forms section. Questions should be directed to Human Resources at hr-bhrs@wmich.edu or 387-3620.

On Campus with Stephan Macomber

Maintenance roofer Stephan Macomber has been doing the same job at WMU since he joined facilities management-maintenance services in 1998.

“I really like it,” Macomber says. “I like the variety of buildings we have, and my scope covers the entire campus, so I keep very busy.”

Macomber is part of a team that includes three full-time roofing specialists, a supervisor and three student employees. It’s responsible for ferreting out and correcting problems with 3.1 million square feet—72 acres—of roofing, along with collecting information for a maintenance database that Macomber spends 30 percent of his time managing.

“We used to chase leaks, but now the industry has moved to more of a preventative mindset,” he says. “We try to locate all of the problem areas in both roofs and walls, track the entire leak, and head off problems before having to call a nine-alarm fire.”

That mindset means using high-tech tools such as an infrared thermal imaging scanner and a nuclear moisture sensor, which emits about as much as radiation as a microwave. The devices are good at locating subsurface moisture, not to mention termites, ants, bees and bats, and Macomber is the only University employee certified to use them.

“I used to carry tools in my tool box. I still do, they’re just more expensive now. With the new technology, we’re able to do the right things at the right time,” he says. “And even though we’ve added 500,000 square feet of roofing in the past several years and don’t have as much money to work with, we’re still able to do more with a lot less. The challenge is the enormity of it all and managing all the database information.”

Luckily, Macomber is a longtime multitasker. He owned and operated a contracting business for 21 years, only giving it up in 2004. Now, the avid gunsmith fills his “spare” time working 40 hours a week on an Outfitter Gora & Gunsmithing, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in management at WMU and restoring old motorcycles and machinery.

The divorced father of two lives near Vicksburg with his longtime significant other, Vicki Cox, WMU’s manager of maintenance stores. The couple enjoys attending Bronco hockey, football and basketball games; traveling on their Harley Davidsons; and filling the nine barns on their property with collectables.

“My grandmother taught me that even if you’re sick, you’ll feel better if you’re productive. I think I took it to the extreme,” Macomber says. “I don’t want to spend one-third of my life, or about 25 years, sleeping. I don’t want to waste a minute.”

For more information, contact Rika Saito at 387-3020 or rika.saito@wmich.edu