Street closures for Girls on the Run
Lane and street closures will re-route traffic from Waldo Stadium through downtown Kalamazoo today for the Girls on the Run 5K run and walk. The detours will be in place prior to the start of the event at 6:30 p.m. and remain until 8 p.m. An expected 2,200 girls will leave Waldo Stadium and head downtown on South Street on their journey through the downtown streets then back on West Lovell to Waldo Stadium.

Donations sought for Seita Scholars
This fall, WMU welcomes its fourth group of Seita Scholars. These students have aged out of foster care, and many will arrive without basic items needed to make their first year a success. Program coordinators are seeking new personal care products and living essentials for Welcome Packs. Contact Marian Hawkins at marian.hawkins@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8357 to help.

Rec Center offers TurboKick training
The Student Recreation Center is offering training for TurboKick, which blends intense intervals and endurance training choreographed to motivating music. Two programs will be offered Sunday, June 5, in 1020 Student Recreation Center. Pro Training to improve form and technique will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at a cost of $195. Instructor Training to earn ACE/AFAA certification or continuing education credit will be held from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at a cost of $229. Visit www.turbokick.com for information or to register.

Sustainability survey results discussed
Sustainability projects that WMU students say should be funding priorities on campus were discussed during a May 24 public forum on the results of WMU's first Student Sustainability Survey. Students identified reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills, expanding healthy and sustainable food options, and encouraging public transit, carpooling and non-motorized transit as among the most important sustainability actions for WMU.

The survey results, along with comments from the forum and input from President John M. Dunn, will help set priorities for the Office for Sustainability in 2011-12.

Graduate research awards go to 24
Twenty-four students received awards for their scholarly endeavors during the fifth annual Research and Creative Activities Poster Day held April 15. Some 275 students and faculty and staff members attended the event. The 2011 Research Day award recipients included first-place winner Lindsay Noakes, mathematics education, and second-place winner, Ashwin Vijayakumar, electrical and computer engineering. The complete list of winners will be posted soon online at www.wmich.edu/news in WMU News.

Recent WMU grad named Oprah’s favorite guest
America’s most celebrated talk show host Oprah Winfrey, who closed out her final week of shows Wednesday, identified a 2009 WMU alumna as her “all-time favorite guest” during a moving May 20 episode of the “Oprah Show.”

The episode, posted online at www.oprah.com, reprise the story of “the woman who buried her dreams.” That woman is Tererai Trent, a Zimbabwean child bride who defied a culture that places little value on the contributions of women and educated herself.

Trent started her adult life as an impoverished cattle-herder, but set a path and an example for her own five children and for other women in similar circumstances. Today, she is an international scholar with extensive expertise on the evaluation of AIDS-prevention efforts.

Her story, which includes earning a doctoral degree in interdisciplinary evaluation from WMU, was retold in the highly anticipated episode in which Winfrey identified her favorite guest among those she has interviewed in a quarter century of broadcasts. In a preview video for the episode, Winfrey urged viewers to tune in and watch as she revealed the guest whose story “epitomizes everything I’ve been trying to say on this show for 25 years.”

Trent originally appeared on “Oprah” in 2009 and became known as the woman who

Asylum Lake service project leaves no child inside
Some 150 youngsters from the Kalamazoo and Mattawan (Mich.) public schools and Kalamazoo’s Montessori School took part in an educational co-operative service project at the Asylum Lake Preserve May 3.

The Springtime Adventure project had them removing the invasive garlic mustard plant and helping with water ecology efforts.

It also allowed the youngsters, mostly third graders, to do some interactive journaling and participate in leadership activities. In addition, they had a chance to meet Buster Bronco, WMU’s mascot.

The project is part of the Outside in Our Schoolyard program, which evolved from the 2009 Kalamazoo No Child Left Inside Community Initiative that resulted in local leaders developing a community action plan aimed at getting kids back outside and reconnected to nature.

WMU’s hosting of the Asylum Lake Springtime Adventure was led by Carri DeLong, Facilities Management-landscape services. Assisting with the event were several volunteers from the University, Kalamazoo Nature Center, parents and community members.

This year’s Outside in Our Schoolyard program is partially funded by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation with support from the Kalamazoo Nature Center, WMU and private donations. Students have the opportunity to meet and get to know kids from other schools through a series of field trips to the nature center, Asylum preserve and each others’ schools.
Area economy subject of program
Ron Kitchens with Southwest Michigan First, will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, May 27, in the Dean's Conference Room of Schneider Hall. Kitchens will provide an update on the local and state economy in his free talk, which begins with a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required by calling (269) 387-6059.

Kendall Center slates health talks
Healthy living is the focus of a series of luncheon talks being offered this summer by WMU-Battle Creek. The free “Self-Health Enhancement Brown Bag Lunch Series” talks are set for noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in the Kendall Center.

The following presentations are slated: June 8, “Out and About in Calhoun County”; June 29, “How Many Ways Can You Be Healthy?”; July 13, “Reduce Your Stress with Rest”; Aug. 10, “Finding the Motivation and Benefits for Exercising”, and Sept. 21, “Calhoun County Challenge, the Weight is Over.”

Bring your lunch and enjoy refreshments provided by WMU-Battle Creek. Registration is required at ke-Kendall-conference@wmich.edu or (269) 964-3001. Visit www.wmich.edu/battlecreek/conferences/brownbag.pdf for more information.

International conference scheduled
WMU’s fifth Facing East Facing West Conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, June 10, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, June 11, in the Fetzer Center. This two-day multidisciplinary, multicultural conference provides a forum to discuss business, social, cultural, legal, economic, political and environmental issues concerning North America’s relations with Asian countries. Visit www.wmich.edu/business/feewconference for more information.

Retirement receptions
Sharon Dwan, institutional research, will be honored for her 16 years of service during a retirement reception from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, June 9, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center.

Bassam Harik, economics and vice president for international academic researchers and business, policy and technology issues as they relate to security challenges from a variety of international academic researchers and business leaders.

It is the culmination of almost three years of work. Many of the same safeguards apply to the virtual realm as the real world, Rea says, such as closely guarding logins, passwords, credit card numbers and other personal information.
Groundbreaking set for honors college addition

A new chapter in the history of the Lee Honors College will begin Thursday, June 9, when the University holds a formal groundbreaking for construction of a $1.7 million addition to the facility from 12:30 to 1 p.m. on the college's outdoor patio.

The privately funded addition to the 21-year-old building will launch a project that will double the number of classrooms in the facility, renovate an existing student lounge, create a small library and add a seasonal outdoor classroom with amphitheatre-style seating. In addition, the project will infuse the entire honors college facility with state-of-the-art instructional technology.

"Enrollment growth, phenomenal growth, is what's driving this project," says honors college Dean Nicholas Andreas, who notes that 1,000 students were members of the college in fall 2008 and 1,400 are expected to be enrolled this fall. "Last year, we had our largest ever enrollment in the college, and we are on target this year to surpass that number for this fall.

In the past three years, the college's enrollment has grown by 40 percent." WMU's Lee Honors College is one of the oldest and most highly regarded collegiate honors programs in the nation. The college serves as academic home to top students from around the nation who are enrolled in disciplines across the University.

The college accepts top transfer students as well as enrolls high-performing WMU students who may not have joined the honors college as freshmen. Incoming freshmen are admitted by invitation only, and the credentials of a typical class of honors college freshmen equal or surpass the credentials of students at the most elite private U.S. colleges.

Twelve new teaching fellows headed to WMU soon

A dozen students will be coming to WMU in the coming weeks as part of a statewide initiative to prepare and place top-quality new math and science teachers in Michigan's public schools.

They were chosen to receive W.K. Kellogg Foundation-Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowships in a highly competitive selection process from a pool of 1,500 applicants and announced May 12 in a ceremony in Gov. Rick Snyder's office at the Capitol.

WMU is one of six Michigan universities invited to recruit both recent college graduates and those seeking a different career for the three-year fellowships that are designed to attract promising educators with strong backgrounds in STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Fellows receive $30,000 to pursue a customized master's degree program that prepares them to teach in high-need urban or rural secondary schools in seven local districts across the state. WMU's inaugural WKFF-WW Michigan Teaching Fellows include newly minted college graduates from colleges across Michigan as well as veteran science professionals who earned their degrees around the nation and as long ago as 1979.

The Battle Creek, Mich.-based W.K. Kellogg Foundation launched the statewide fellowship program in 2009 with $18 million in support. Fellows will make a three-year commitment to teach in one of Michigan's high-need districts as part of the program.

At WMU, the program will focus on preparing teachers for work in urban settings and will lead to certification in mathematics, chemistry and physics and, ultimately, to a master's degree. The University has partnered with three large school districts—Battle Creek Public Schools, Benton Harbor Area Schools and Kalamazoo Public Schools—to ensure fellows have a wealth of experience in the classroom.

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Film shot by WMU students gets Midwest premiere

An independent film shot two years ago with the help of WMU students was screened for the first time in the Midwest at the 2011 Moondance International Film Festival in downtown Kalamazoo’s Rave Theater.

“The Lake Effect,” which was filmed in Southwest Michigan in summer 2009, also will be shown at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Rave and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 28, in the Saugatuck (Mich.) Center for the Arts. Members of the cast and crew will be in attendance at both screenings. Tickets are $12.50 and available at www.brownpapertickets.com or by calling (800) 838-3006.

“The Lake Effect” features local haunts including the Phoenix Film Festival, Phoenix Film Festival and Audience Favorite from prestigious festivals including the Phoenix Film Festival and Moondance International. The Raindance International Film Festival in London named writer/director Tara Miele “a Top Ten American Indie Filmmaker to Watch.”

Visit http://thelakeeffectfilm.com for the trailer and more information.

WMU remains a Tree Campus

WMU has again been recertified by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus. The 116 schools from around the country receiving the 2010 Tree Campus USA designation were announced in an ad in the April 29 Chronicle of Higher Education.

The designation sets colleges and universities apart by recognizing their efforts to engage their student bodies as well as their broader communities in establishing and sustaining healthy community forests for the benefit of current and future residents.

The Arbor Day Foundation began its Tree Campus program in fall 2008. The 30 schools in the inaugural class included WMU and the University of Michigan. WMU and U of M remain the only institutions in the state to have achieved Tree Campus status.

Award Winners—Six staff members received 2011 awards from the Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization May 20 during the APA/PSSO Awards and Spring Luncheon, which had a partly themed "Receiving awards were, from left, Stephan Kato, Facilities Management/Landscape services, prnt WMU Spirit Award; Julie Nemire, Graduate College, APA Tony Griffin Service Award; Daniela Schiester, Evaluation Center, Outstanding New Professional award; Jessica Smith, Career and Student Employment Services, PSSO Service Award; Sheila Atherton, accounts receivable, APA Outstanding Professional Award; and (not pictured) Barbara Peacock, psychology, PSSO Service Award. (Photo by Tammy M. Boneburg)

Obituary

Barbara (Boyle) Mehoke, a former WMU faculty member, died May 17 in Palm Springs, Calif. She was 84. Mehoke joined the faculty in 1966 and retired as an assistant professor emerita of education in 1990 after 24 years of service to the University.

A memorial service for friends and family will be held this summer in Michigan. Memorial donations may be made to the Oakland Press Newspapers in Education Program (www.theoaklandpress.com/nie/).

Portage Central graduate with a burgeoning film career in Hollywood; and a cadre of interns from the University's various film-related programs.

Many were students of Jennifer Machiorlatti, communication, who acted as the film's assistant director. Students worked as interns in pre-production and on the set as the film was being made. In addition, Arnie Johnston, emeritus in English, had an on-camera speaking role.

So far, the film has won awards including Best Screenplay, Best Ensemble Acting and Audience Favorite from prestigious festivals including the Phoenix Film Festival and Moondance International. The Raindance International Film Festival in London named writer/director Tara Miele "a Top Ten American Indie Filmmaker to Watch."
On Campus

Prestigious Gründler Prize awarded to Notre Dame scholar

WMU grad Oprah’s favorite

Four aviation professionals who have made lasting impacts in their fields will be honored with 2011 induction into the College of Aviation Hall of Honor next month. They are: the late Capt. Jeffrey A. Haney of Avon, Ohio, an Air Force fighter pilot and alumnus; Larry C. Hoikka of Kalamazoo, a retired WMU director of aircraft maintenance; Ronald L. Sackett of Battle Creek, Mich., a retired WMU coordinator of flight instruction; and Lester M. Zinser of Brighton, Colo., a former WMU director of aviation.

College of Aviation to induct four into Hall of Honor

This second class of Hall of Honor inductees, as well as donors who have created scholarships in the aviation college, will be celebrated during an induction ceremony and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 17.

Advance registration is required by Wednesday, June 1, at (269) 964-6375. The event costs $17.50 and will be held in the Aviation Education Center on the aviation campus at Battle Creek’s W.K. Kellogg Airport.

The Hall of Honor was established in 2010 to recognize individuals and organizations that have “made a lasting impact on the world of aviation and WMU” and shown the “vision, determination and drive to leave a legacy felt by generations to come.”

Before education students make a foray into the classroom to teach, pre-internship coordinator Joanne Barretta helps match them with the schools most likely to result in a successful experience.

For the past six years, Barretta has annually paired hundreds of WMU students with local school districts for their first classroom internships. The required placement is the first opportunity for students to shadow working teachers in the classroom before later being assigned a student teaching position.

“People go to classes at the beginning of each semester and talk to WMU students about their timeline for an education, about professionalism,” Barretta explains. “We tell them they should put as much into it as possible. This is the beginning of their professional career.”

Barretta joined WMU in 1993, working on a collaboration between the University and Kalamazoo’s Loy Norrix High School on a project to create a smaller, school-within-a-school project called Knights of the Future. The program, named for the high school’s mascot, was aimed at providing low student-to-teacher ratios.

In 2001, she began working on a five-year project that involved videotaping teachers in classrooms. The teachers then edited their own videotapes and produced instructional DVDs that are used by K-12 teachers, WMU faculty and intern teachers.

Barretta also worked on a variety of grant projects in the University’s College of Education and Human Development. She joined the college’s professional staff in 2005, taking on her current role in its Office of Field Placements.

Her interest in education stems from her own experience working as an elementary school teacher right out of college for 10 years at St. Augustine Cathedral School in Kalamazoo.

“I’m so glad to be able to continue my involvement with the Kalamazoo educational community through my work at Western,” she says.

Originally from Chicago, Barretta came to Kalamazoo to attend the former Nazareth College, which closed in 1992. She met her husband, Matthew, here while he was a student at WMU. The couple lives in Kalamazoo and has a grown daughter, Kristen.

Barretta is an avid reader who is involved in two book clubs. One of her recent favorite books is “The Art of Racing in the Rain.” She makes handcrafted necklaces and other jewelry using beads and metal findings. She also loves to play tennis, having played on a Portage YMCA travel team for a number of years, and is an active volunteer for the USTA Boys 18 and 16 National Championships held every August in Kalamazoo.

Among Trent’s goals was traveling to America for advanced education. She went on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Oklahoma State University. Then two months after appearing on “Oprah,” she walked across the Miller Auditorium stage to receive her doctorate from WMU. Trent carried her list of goals with her, and after the ceremony, asked WMU President John M. Dunn to add his signature to the 20-year-old document.

Trent has been fulfilling a two-year commitment to work for Heifer International, which paid for her doctoral studies. Heifer International is a global nonprofit focused on lifting people out of poverty and hunger to self-reliance. Trent plans to return to Zimbabwe in the future. Her dreams of building a school there will become a reality, thanks to a $1.5 million donation Winfrey announced during her May 20 show, as well as a collaboration with Save the Children that will impact 4,000 Zimbabwean children.