Dean candidates to give presentations

Two candidates for dean of the Haworth College of Business will make presentations to the WMU community later this month. Speaking Monday, Jan. 25, will be Nicholas van der Walt, professor of business administration and the dean responsible for the Dubai Campus of the Hult International Business School. Speaking Wednesday, Jan. 27, will be Ajay Samant, WMU professor of finance and commercial law and interim dean of the business college.

Each candidate will speak on the topic, “Building on the Haworth College of Business Foundation in the Michigan and Global Economic Climate.” Their presentations will be from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in 1040/50 Fetzer Center, with receptions following until 4 p.m. Visit www.wmich.edu/provost to review the candidates’ vitae.

Trustees approve AFSCME contract

Acting during a special conference-call meeting Dec. 9, the WMU Board of Trustees approved a new three-year contract with Local 1668 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. AFSCME represents about 420 custodial, dining services, grounds and maintenance employees at WMU.

Under the new contract, made effective Aug. 12, 2009, wages for union members will rise 2 percent across the board during the first year, with that raise retroactive to July 1. During the second and third years, there will be across-the-board wage increases of 1 percent each year. The contract also calls for union members to be covered by the same health plan as other employee groups.

W-2 forms for 2009 available online

W-2 forms will be available next week through GoWMU and be mailed Jan. 30 to the home addresses of those who do not choose to view them electronically. Employees are urged to confirm their home address in their employee records and provide consent for electronically viewing their W-2s. That consent must be renewed this year. Visit https://gowmu.wmich.edu, click the Employee Self Service Channel then click Payroll and Compensation and select the consent form from the drop-down menu.

Western News gets new nameplate

The Western News is starting out the new year with a new front page nameplate that features a block “W.” The fresh look reflects guidelines developed for the University’s new Visual Identity Program, which will be available campuswide later this semester. The guidelines will impact the look of all University communications and address topics such as how to incorporate fonts and colors as well as how to use University marks such as the seal and “WMU.”

Obama IDs WMU role in STEM initiative

WMU is part of a new effort unveiled Jan. 6 by President Barack Obama to develop an elite group of teaching fellows charged with improving math and science education across the state.

At a White House ceremony, Obama lauded the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s new Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship as a model program and named the six Michigan universities and five Michigan school districts selected to be part of the effort. The fellowship program, funded with $16.7 million from the Kellogg Foundation, will train and place in those five districts a corps of teaching fellows who will promote education in what are known as the STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“America’s leadership tomorrow depends on how we educate our students today, especially in science, math and engineering,” Obama said. “That’s why I’m pleased to announce the expansion of our ‘Educate to Innovate’ campaign today and applaud the several new partnerships launched that will help meet our goal of moving American students from the middle to the front.”

Daniel Litynski appointed vice president for research

Veteran researcher and administrator Daniel M. Litynski has been named WMU’s vice president for research, effective Jan. 1.

Litynski, whose appointment is pending approval of the WMU Board of Trustees, assumes the post following a search process that involved Universitywide consultation and feedback. Litynski is a professor of electrical and computer engineering who has served as engineering dean, provost and interim WMU president.

“Dr. Litynski brings an enormous body of experience and a critical set of leadership skills for our research enterprise,” said President John M. Dunn of the appointment.

“Not only is he a highly regarded researcher in his own right, but he has also spent time in Washington, D.C., over the past few years and has become intimately familiar with federal funding practices and the organization of agencies like the National Science Foundation, where he served as a visiting program director.”

Litynski came to WMU in 1999 as dean of the engineering college after 23 years at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He has been active in research in electrical engineering, optics, physics, lasers and electro-optics.

Collaboration key to staging 2010 MLK tribute

WMU is again joining forces with Kalamazoo College, the Northside Ministerial Alliance and the city of Kalamazoo to stage a series of events beginning next week honoring slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Events kick off Friday and Saturday, Jan. 15-16, at both higher education institutions. They will be followed by the Northside Ministerial Alliance MLK Community Celebration on Sunday, Jan. 17, and the city’s Communitywide Day of Service on Monday, Jan. 18. Other events include a march to MLK Park, educational sessions, film presentations, panel discussions and a “diversity lock-in.”

“This year’s theme, ‘The Strength to Love,’ is exemplified in this community by the outpouring spirit of giving, from the Kalamazoo Promise to the United Way campaign and more,” says Martha Warfield, WMU associate vice president of diversity and inclusion.

“Our community is stronger as a result of our collaborations, our caring for each other through good times and tough times, for the well-being of everyone in this community. The observances of Dr. King’s birthday, planned for this year, include all segments of our community, education, health care programs and the city. That is how we define Dr. King’s legacy of ‘the strength to love.’”

Visit www.wmich.edu/mlk and click Events for details about the activities scheduled for this year’s MLK celebration.
Gov. Granholm signs legislation addressing three longstanding University property issues

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm signed new legislation Jan. 5 that will enhance the Business Technology and Research Park, add a new asset to the University’s Oakland Drive Campus and help bring a solution to a vexing vacant property problem.

• First, the bill’s passage means the Legislature has lifted use restrictions from a 53-acre parcel adjacent to the BTR Park known as the Colony Orchard Property. The parcel has been identified as a site for future development of the BTR Park, which is now nearly full.

• Second, the bill removes use restrictions on the Northwest Hospital unit at 1501 Blakeslee St. in Kalamazoo, which is the site of the former State Tuberculosis Sanitarium and is in disrepair. WMU acquired the property in 1998 as part of the transfer of Kalamazoo State Hospital lands to the University.

Although WMU secures the building, it remains a liability and safety concern, and has attracted the attention of trespassers. Releasing the restrictions will allow WMU, and the city of Kalamazoo, to find a use for the property.

• Finally, the legislation authorizes the state to sell to WMU for $1 property at the corner of Howard Street and Oakland Drive known as Noble Lodge. Built in 1919 as a dormitory for Kalamazoo Academy, it was transferred to the Michigan Department of Corrections in 1991 and has been vacant for the past five years.

Acquisition of the property completes the 109-acre parcel known as the Oakland Drive Campus. The Noble Lodge property consists of a 24,000-square-foot building on a 2.55-acre lot contiguous to the state hospital property transferred to WMU by the state in 1998.

“While much of the attention has been on lifting the Orchard Property restrictions for BTR expansion, the other two parts of the bill are also enormously important to the University,” says Greg Rosine, senior vice president for university advancement and legislative affairs.

“The Noble Lodge, in particular, has been on our radar for years. Acquiring it really completes that portion of the campus and opens up all kinds of possibilities for the future. Our local legislative delegation really stepped up and supported our ability to both create jobs and consolidate campus growth.”

H1N1 vaccinations available

Vaccinations against H1N1 influenza are available to members of the WMU community through free clinics being held this month.

Vaccinations will be administered on a walk-in basis in the Sincdleuce Health Center from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. today as well as Jan. 20-22, 25 and 27-29.

H1N1 vaccinations are available at no cost to WMU students, employees and retirees, and residents who are independent age 12 and older. A valid WMU photo ID card may be required to receive a vaccination. Seasonal flu vaccine is no longer available.

WMU is continuing the same practices used successfully during fall semester to reduce the spread of influenza-like illness on its campuses. Visit the Flu Information Center at www.wmich.edu/flu for details.
Thirty-eight feted at gala event to induct new members into 25 Year Club

A total of 38 people who began their service to WMU in 1984 were inducted into the University’s 25 Year Club during a Dec. 8 gala honoring longtime employees. The annual gala in the University’s Bernhard Center honors employees who have built their careers at WMU. With the new class of inductees in place, the club now has 419 active and 591 retired members.

This year’s ceremony included posthumous note of two inductees: former President Dether H. Haenicke, who died in February 2020, and Susan V. Fenchillia, who reached her 25th service anniversary in August, several weeks before her October death. The 38 new inductees in the 25 Year Club are: Jeanne Baron, university relations; Billie A. Blake, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Krista J. Cekola, Human Resources; Christopher S. Cho, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering; Carol R. Dedow, Public Safety; Alyce M. Dickinson, Career and Student Employment Services; Christopher Putti, Facilities Management-Maintenance services; Donnie L. Phelps, Facilities Management-Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering; Rose Hathaway, Facilities Management-Planning; and Christopher Cho, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering.

Career Fair prep events planned

WMU’s 32nd annual Career Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in the Bernhard Center. Although tailored for WMU students and alumni, Career Fair 2020 is open to the public. Several preparation workshops, activities and services are available for students in advance of the fair, including an event for international students Tuesday, Jan. 26. Nearly 100 organizations will be participating in this year’s Career Fair, including employers representing health care, engineering, government, retailing, insurance, non-profits, transportation and construction.

Employers are recruiting for interns and college graduates. Visit www.wmich.edu/career for more information and a list of career preparation events.
