Board of Trustees meeting slated

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Tuesday, Sept. 30. Starting times and information about the agenda will be released shortly before the meeting. Most board meetings are held in the Bernhard Center.

Diversity-related proposals sought

The campus climate for diversity, equity and inclusion tactical action group is seeking proposals from WMU employees, including administrators, by the 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, application deadline. Proposals are invited from those who are interested in implementing transformational diversity change initiatives derived from internal assessments and recommendations. Visit wmich.edu/diversity/initiatives for more information.

Expo focuses on employee wellness

WMU Benefits Expo ‘14 will feature more than 30 on- and off-campus vendors that promote a healthy lifestyle. The free event is set for 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. In addition to perusing vendor booths, attendees may enroll in Phase 2 of WMU’s wellness program (Holtyrn screenings); listen to presentations, including one on MPSERS; and take part in gift drawings. Visit http://bit.ly/1wC3TRD for details. Ongoing information about wellness at WMU is available at wmich.edu/wellness.

New resource card being distributed

The Student Concern Resource Card developed by student affairs to assist faculty and staff who notice students exhibiting unusual or troubling behavior has been redone. The new card is being distributed to all WMU faculty and staff this week. Visit wmich.edu/studentaffairs/concern for more information about reporting concerns related to students.

Award applications due Sept. 30

Applications for the Support for Faculty Scholars Award and Undergraduate Research Excellence Award are due Tuesday, Sept. 30. Details and application forms are available by visiting wmich.edu/research and clicking Funding Sources followed by Internal Funding Opportunities.

Grad students share inspiring ideas

The Graduate Student Association’s Grad Talks occur regularly throughout the academic year, giving advanced students the chance to speak for 10 minutes about their research ideas and/or creative projects. During the fall and spring semesters, they take place from 4 to 6 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month in the Lee Honors College lounge. Student presentations are filmed and published on the GSA’s website for reference or future viewing. All enrolled graduate students can apply to participate.

WMU again garners high national marks

For the 24th consecutive year, WMU appears on U.S. News & World Report’s list of “best national universities” and continues to move up in the group of schools the magazine calls the top tier of colleges and universities in the United States. In addition, Washington Monthly has again named WMU one of the country’s top 100 national universities and a “Best Bang for the Buck” school.

The 2015 U.S. News ranking of more than 1,500 four-year colleges and universities was released Sept. 9 and is available online at usnews.com. A print edition will appear at newstands late this month. WMU is listed in the top tier among 280 national institutions—173 public, 100 private and seven in the for-profit arena. For the second year in a row, the University moved up eight spots in that tier. It is now among the schools tied at No. 173, putting WMU among the top-100 public universities on the annual list. The colleges and universities in the best national universities second tier are listed alphabetically rather than on a numeric list.

The rankings are based on 16 criteria that include academic reputation, retention and graduation rates, student-faculty ratios, class size, faculty resources, student test scores and alumni giving. Last year, the rankings were redone to more heavily weigh "output measures that signal how well a school educates its students."

Washington Monthly used similar output measures for the rankings it released in late August. WMU was No. 90 on the publication’s list of top national universities and No. 54 in its “best bang for the buck” category. Washington Monthly bases its rankings on what schools are doing for their students and the country.

Three to receive one of two Universitywide awards

WMU will honor three faculty members for their professional accomplishments in two critical educational areas during this year’s Academic Convocation, which is set for 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Sue Ellen Christian and Autumn Edwards will receive the 2014-15 Distinguished Teaching Award and Fritz Allhoff will receive the 2014-15 Emerging Scholar Award.

Distinguished Teaching Award

This award is the highest honor given by the University to recognize faculty members for their work as educators.

• Christian, who has been a communication faculty member since 2001, is a former Chicago Tribune reporter and teaches journalism. She was praised by her nominators for bringing real-world experience to the classroom and helping her students build the skills they will need to succeed in today’s news world.

Her ability to build a positive teaching environment, her commitment to her students and her ability to connect with them and to stay connected over time also were noted as among her teaching strengths.

• Edwards, who has been a communication faculty member since 2005, focuses on interpersonal communication and communication theory. She was lauded by her nominators for the passion and ability she demonstrates to help students understand cutting-edge theoretical concepts and their use in the research lab as well as their value when applied in an organizational setting.

As the faculty member who teaches the introductory course to the school’s master’s program, she is known for helping graduate students develop a strong research foundation and also for generating interest in research among undergraduate students.

Emerging Scholar Award

This award acknowledges the accomplishments of WMU faculty members who are among the rising stars in U.S. higher education. It celebrates the contributions of those who are in the first decade of their WMU careers and have achieved national recognition and demonstrated outstanding promise to achieve renown in their continuing work.

• Allhoff, philosopher, is an ethicist as well as a philosopher whose research has broken new ground in the areas of cyberwarfare, torture and nanotechnology. He was cited for not only the incredible quantity of his research output, but also its quality, breadth and reach. Nominators also praised his boundless energy.

Continued on page 4
Around campus and beyond

Next political forum scheduled
WMUK and Friends of WMU, a political action committee, are hosting a political forum Wednesday, Sept. 24. to allow voters to meet and learn more about 20 presidential candidates. The event will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Solberg Hall's Brown Auditorium.

Haworth speaker series begins soon
Laura Lottisai, director of community relations and development at Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan, kicks off the 2014-15 Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series. Lottisai will discuss "Care at the End of Life: What Hospice Provides" at 8 a.m. Friday, Sept. 26, in 2152 Solberg Hall. The free event begins with breakfast. Reservations are required at wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp or (269) 387-6059.

Aviation plates anniversary events
To help celebrate WMU's 75 years of aviation education, the campus community is invited to a pancake breakfast fly-in from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at the College of Aviation campus, located at the W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek. Children under 5 are free.

Psychology department holding autism conference

An all-star lineup of autism researchers is on tap for the psychology department's annual Michigan Autism Conference Thursday and Friday, Sept. 25-26, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites in Kalamazoo.

The event, for which registration just closed, builds on the success of last year's conference. WMU's growing national and international reputation in autism treatment and services.

That reputation was further cemented by the recent awarding of a $4 million grant from the state of Michigan to boost autism research and professional training initiatives as well as the 2008 launching of the Kalamazoo Autism Center by Richard Malott, psychology. The efforts funded by the new state money will move forward under the direction of Stephanie Peterson and Wayne Faqua, chair and professor of psychology, respectively, whose longtime focus has been on the use of behavior analysis for the treatment of autism.

During the 2014 autism conference, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will deliver opening remarks. Alan Poling, psychology, will make a keynote presentation while Peterson will lead one of the workshops. Visit michiganautismconference.org for more information.

Correction

The WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School speaker pictured on Page 1 of the Sept. 4 Western News should have been identified as Lawrence F. Nolan, chair of Cooley's Board of Directors.

Duo earns award for retention program
Gerald Heystek and Chris Robinson, Haworth College of Business, have been awarded first place in the Innovation in Business Education Award program sponsored by the MidAmerican Business Deans Association. The award was earned for developing the Phoenix Program, an initiative designed to support the growth and success of business students.

The two developed an academic recovery course designed to provide students with needed support in various areas of study and a system to monitor and follow up with all students on probation.

They also worked to establish a dedicated space in the library—the Bronco Study Zone—for students across campus to complete required study hours.

That effort was in collaboration with Dean Joseph Reith, Associate Provost Christopher Tremblay, and Katie Easley, College of Arts and Sciences.

Emeritus elected to international post
Peter W. Krawutschke, emeritus in world languages and literatures, has been elected an honorary advisor to the International Federation of Translators, or FIT. Krawutschke was elected to the prestigious lifetime position during FIT's World Congress Aug. 4-6 in Berlin.

The organization is an international grouping of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists that promotes professionalism in these disciplines. It has more than 100 professional associations as affiliates and represents some 80,000 translators in 55 countries.

Krawutschke, who is known around the globe, taught German and retired at the end of 2013 after 46 years of service to the University. He is a past president of the American Translators Association, which is a FIT affiliate, and the only ATA member to also have served as FIT's president.

Staff nominations due Oct. 31
Nominations for fall semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Friday, Oct. 31.

Those planning to nominate a staff member for this campuswide peer-to-peer awards program should note that semiannual and annual award recipients may still win more than once, but they are now limited to receiving one award every five academic years.

Visit wmich.edu/makeadifference for full details and nomination forms.

For sale—
For sale—All-season, park model home for relaxation to a peaceful choreigated. Two bedrooms, one bathroom, central air and heat, 400 square feet. Vinyl siding, shingled roof and deck with hard awning. Price: $39,900. Contact: Margaret at (269) 823-2476.

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WMU wins grant, partners with Oxford

The University has been awarded a $779,072 grant to assemble a digital library and interactive Web portal of historical religious philosophical writings in partnership with the University of Oxford, the oldest and one of the most prestigious universities in the English-speaking world.

The project is essentially the brainchild of Timothy McGrew, philosophy, who will be working closely with Oxford’s prestigious Bodleian Library to access philosophical religious writings from about the late 1600s through the early 20th century.

McGrew was among a group of researchers summoned to Oxford a little more than a year ago. It was there that he floated the idea of unearthing philosophical and religious writings that have not been refuted, but have long since been forgotten, leaving gaps in the historical record.

The John Templeton Foundation, a philanthropic organization working as a catalyst for discoveries relating to the big questions of human purpose and ultimate reality, is one of the most prestigious universities in the English-speaking world.

Honors college building earns silver-level LEED certification

The Lee Honors College Building has been awarded LEED silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

This ‘green’ building designation brings the number of LEED-certified structures on the WMU campus to 10, with 10 more going through the certification process.

“That makes WMU a leader in the state and region for LEED-certified buildings,” says Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management.

Strazdas adds that details are being worked out to begin a graduate class next year that offers practical experience in certifying buildings and can give students the opportunity to earn LEED credentialing.

As the result of a major renovation and addition project completed in 2012, energy usage in the honors college building has been reduced by more than 30 percent, despite the 2,500 square foot addition; potable water usage by 10 percent; and irrigation water usage by 69 percent. In addition, all but 3 percent of construction waste was diverted from landfills through reuse and recycling.

Vet office gets new director

Joyce M. Busch, who has many years of experience managing and working with diverse people and teams in as well as out of the military, began duties Sept. 8 as director of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

The office provides a variety of services and information to service members and veterans, and their family members.

A mixer has been slated so faculty, staff and students can meet Busch, as well as the office’s news outreach and recruitment coordinator, Billy Clayton.

The event will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24, in the Student Veteran Lounge on the first floor of Ellsworth Hall.

Final design direction for dining center revealed

The final session to involve the WMU community in the design process for the new Valley Dining Center was held Monday, with representatives from the Detroit firm SmithGroupJJR unveiling the final direction for the center’s placement and design.

The direction incorporates comments expressed during the previous public sessions and should result in the building achieving at least silver-level LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (see related honors college story on this page).

Although designed to primarily serve students living in the Valley, the facility will be open to all WMU students, faculty and staff members, and visitors.

Food service options will be provided in a restaurant-like atmosphere in nine distinct venues offering a wide variety of healthy options. In addition, fresh food will be prepared in front of patrons.

First China Festival offered

An activity-laden China Festival to commemorate the traditional Chinese Moon Festival is set for noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, in the Student Recreation Center. Visit wmich.edu/news/2014/09/18461 for details.

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On Campus with Kathleen MacKenzie

Installation project impacts turnaround, prompts temporary bus stop changes

Construction fencing went up Monday in preparation for installation of a new iconic feature on the University's West Campus that is scheduled for completion in mid-November, weather permitting.

The fencing closes off the turnaround area located at the end of West Michigan Avenue by the Seibert Administration Building and Sangren Hall. It will remain in place while a large symbolic representation of the University seal is installed inside the turnaround.

Although the turnaround was closed to traffic this past weekend, it reopened Monday. Only intermittent closures for specific tasks are expected in the future as work on the project progresses.

However, the Bronco Transit office has decided to avoid using this road area until the construction fencing has been removed. This has resulted in relocation of the bus stops at the Bernhard Center for both the Gold and Brown routes.

Continued from page 1

Three to receive awards

A prolific writer and editor, Allhoff has numerous books and journal articles to his credit. He also has been managing editor for 13 different publication series as well as a reviewer for multiple journals and presses.

Allhoff joined the faculty in 2005 and has served as director of graduate studies since 2008. He recently earned a juris doctorate and is taking a professional development leave this semester to serve as a judicial clerk for an Alaska Supreme Court justice.

Campus United Way campaign for 2014 is officially underway

Distribution of pledge cards to all faculty and staff members and retirees has begun for the 2014 campus United Way campaign.

The campaign launched Sept. 16 with a goal of collecting $282,335. That number symbolizes WMU’s commitment to education and represents all certificates and degrees awarded to WMU graduates since 1904, including the anticipated number to be awarded yet this year.

Eligible contributors will be entered into a drawing by the regional United Way for up to $30,000 toward a new vehicle. Visit change4thestory.org, for more regional United Way information and wmu-united-way@wmich.edu with donation-related questions or to schedule a United Way meeting in your department.