Events staged to honor Martin Luther King

Activities at WMU and across the broader Kalamazoo community to honor slain civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. include a convocation, march, day of service, and educational programs and presentations. “The Courage to Dream: The Determination to Achieve” is the theme of this year’s celebration, which features many events that are free and open to the public. The biggest day of activities will be Monday, Jan. 19—national MLK Day.

Activities will begin with people meeting for the City of Kalamazoo Communitywide Day of Service at 8 a.m. at city hall. Volunteer opportunities for 2015 will be posted at kalamazooicity.org/mlk.

Next will be the annual convocation at 10:50 a.m. in Kalamazoo College’s Stetson Chapel with the Rev. Wendell Anthony giving the keynote talk. Anthony is president of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP and founder of the Freedom Institute for Economic, Social Justice and People Empowerment and the Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee.

Need-based scholarship aids top incoming students

High-achieving incoming students will have a shot at one of 10 new $50,000 scholarships that will be awarded based on both academic performance and demonstrated financial need.

The new Foundation Scholarships have been added to the mix of top scholarships for beginning students. They provide $12,500 per year for four years and are similar to WMU’s famed, merit-based Medallion Scholarships. High-need, high-achieving students may be eligible to enter the running for both types of scholarships, but can only receive one.

“As a University community, our goal is always to expand access and opportunity,” says WMU President John M. Dunn. “Too often, we meet students with real need who are incredibly well qualified for admission and who have the ability to make enormous contributions to society. These new scholarships were designed to provide a foundation that ensures such students have an opportunity to reach their full potential.”

To identify prospective awardees, WMU is asking high school principals, advisors and teachers to nominate students who fit the academic and need requirements of the scholarships. Timing is critical, as such nominations must be received by WMU no later than Dec. 15.

To be eligible, students must apply to WMU by Dec. 22 and be admitted for fall 2015 by Jan. 5. Semifinalists who do not receive the Foundation Scholarship will receive a minimum of $3,000 in scholarships to attend the University. Visit wmich.edu/admissions/freshmen/scholarships/foundation for nomination forms and additional information about timing and eligibility requirements.
Around campus and beyond

Ethics Center closes fall season
Two philosophers will take part in the final two presentations of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society’s fall Lecture Series. Sarah McFarland from Princeton will speak at 5 p.m. today, Dec. 4, in 1201 Moore Hall. Her topic will be “Should We Believe in Moral Experts?” Lindsay Rettler, a WMU graduate now studying at Ohio State, will speak at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, in the Multicultural Center of the Trimpe Building. Her topic is “Oxycotic Blame and Responsibility.”

Event showcases student innovations
The public can review new product innovations by students from kindergarten through graduate school during Innovation Day from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in the engineering college building. The event will showcase work by entrepreneurial Broncos, among other local students. Participating at WMU are “Spark Design Week,” which focuses on professional design developments from some of West Michigan’s leading private sector firms.

Ferguson, Missouri, to be discussed
A discussion on “The Impact of Ferguson,” the Missouri town in the news due to a fatal police shooting, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in 2302 Friedmann Hall. The discussion will be facilitated by College of Arts and Sciences faculty members.

Med school schedules open house
Kalamazoo’s December Art Hop will give area residents another chance to give area residents another chance to see the downtown facility for the WMU Styer School of Medicine. The facility, located at 300 Portage St. on the Upjohn Campus, will be open to the public. The public will be able to visit the medical school will hold a Community Open House at the same time so visitors can take self-guided tours of the lower level as well as the first and second floors.

Travel grants available to employees
Information sessions have been set for those who want to learn about the employee study abroad trip planned to Quito, Ecuador, May 2 through 16, 2015. Twelve grants of $1,000 toward expenses are available to qualified WMU staff members taking part in this international professional development opportunity. The sessions will be held at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, in 4030 Brown Hall and noon, Friday, Jan. 30, in 4030 Brown Hall. Visit wmich.edu/studyabroad/employee for more information.

Music school slates concerts
The School of Music is celebrating the holidays with a variety of concerts. They include “A Choral Christmas,” featuring three singing groups Dec. 6, the annual holiday “Christmas Card to the Community” concert Sunday, Dec. 7, that features more than 150 musicians; and “A Brass Celebration of Christmas” Sunday, Dec. 14. Visit http://wmich.edu/music/events to obtain details and purchase tickets.

Breakfast slates for employees, prospective students
WMU employees with children who are enrolling at WMU are invited to a special breakfast Friday, Dec. 5, just before the 9:30 a.m. start of the final Admissions Open House for 2014. The family event in the President’s Dining Room at the Bernhard Center will feature information about the employee discount and applying to WMU before participants join the overall open house crowd.

The session is intended for high school juniors and seniors as well as college students preparing to transfer. To register or pose questions, email scott.hennessy@wmich.edu. Visit wmich.edu/admissions/openhouse for open house details.

Festive events set for holidays
Two campus venues have planned special holiday events.

The Oaklands will host a Polar Express Event filled with fun activities for kids of all ages from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Details are at wmich.edu/oaklands/believe. In addition, the Fetzer Center will host a special breakfast with Santa Saturday, Dec. 13, and lunch with Santa Sunday, Dec. 14. Details are at wmich.edu/fetzer/santa.

Instructor wins USA Best Book Award
Hedy S. Habra, Spanish, has two books honored in the 2014 USA Best Book Awards. USABookNews.com, an online magazine featuring mainstream and independent publishing houses, made the announcement Nov. 12. Habra’s poetry collection titled “Tea in Heliopolis” took top honors in the Poetry: General category while her book “Flying Carpets” was named one of five finalists in the Fiction: Short Story category. The two awards are the most recent accolades Habra has received for the two works.

“Tea in Heliopolis” was recently named one of five finalists for the 2014 International Poetry Book Award. “Flying Carpets” won an honorable mention for the 2013 Arab American National Book Award and was a finalist for the 2014 Eric Hoffer Book Award.

Prof tapped for national office
Nicolas Winchi, English, has been named the executive secretary of the Western Literature Association. Founded in 1965, WLA is a nonprofit, scholarly group that promotes the study of the diverse literature and cultures of the North American West. Hand-picked by members, Winchi’s research and teaching interests include American literary realism and naturalism, the American West, culture studies, environmental literature, and film history and criticism. His writings include “Traces of Gold: California’s Natural Resources and the Claim to Realism in Western American Literature,” a Western Writers Series monograph on Alton “Old Block” Delano, and many journal articles and essays.

Winchi is working on a book-length study of the contributions of autobiographical writings by famous gunfighters to the development of the western as both a literary genre and a cultural phenomenon.

Evaluation experts update book
Daniel L. Stufflebeam and Chris L.S. Coryn, Evaluation Center, have written the second edition of “Evaluation Theory, Methods and Applications,” which was published by Wiley in October. Called “the benchmark evaluation guide,” it is perfect as a textbook and as a professional evaluation reference. The book starts with an overview of the evaluation field and program evaluation standards, then covers the most widely used evaluation approaches, several of which were not in the first edition.

Stufflebeam, who co-wrote that edition with another author, is an emeritus in educational studies and was founding director of the Evaluation Center. Coryn is director of the doctoral program in Doctor of Philosophy in evaluation and executive editor of the Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation.
WMU international student enrollment continues to grow

WMU’s continuing growth in international student enrollment reflects national trends reported Nov. 17 in the 2014 edition of the annual Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange. Open Doors reports on international student enrollment across the country this past academic year and compares changes to 2012-13. It found that the number of international students at U.S. colleges and universities rose by 8 percent this past year. WMU’s enrollment in that category also increased substantially, rising by 7.1 percent to 1,688 international students.

Wolfgang Schlör, associate provost for International Student Affairs and Development, said that WMU’s total international community exceeded 2,700 members last year, compared to 2,540 in 2012-13. It found WMU hosted or employed 162 international scholars in 2013-14, compared to 167 the previous year. These scholars represented international tenure-track and visiting faculty members, research staff, and other visitors.

Schlör adds that WMU’s total international community exceeded 2,700 members this past year when students, scholars, postgraduates doing practical training and dependent family members are counted. Although not reflected in the Open Doors Report, WMU’s international student body has continued to grow this fall. A total of 1,854 international students representing 100 countries are now studying on campus—a 9.8 percent increase compared to 2013-14. Schlör says the jump showcases some areas of special focus as well as national trends.

For instance, 60 percent more Indian students (271 total) and 44 percent more Brazilian students (95 total) are enrolled on campus this fall. In addition, 49 more students came from Saudi Arabia (456 total). Fulbright students also increased. The campus now hosts 38 Fulbright Fellows in 13 academic programs who represent more than 27 countries. Plus, the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students enrolled 212 full-time, non-degree students this fall and a higher enrollment is anticipated for spring 2015.

The Open Doors Report also includes data on study abroad participation, but those figures cover the 2012-13 academic year. U.S. students engaging in study abroad that year was up 2 percent to a total of 288,408. Meanwhile, WMU saw a slight decrease and sent 558 students abroad.

Unique event touts WMU’s 11th, 12th LEED certifications

New green building honors for two buildings in the Western View II student housing complex were announced Nov. 24 during a simultaneous unveiling of plaques across the campus to mark the University’s commitment to sustainable building practices.

Plaques were unveiled recognizing five buildings, including the two in Western View, as having successfully achieved certification this year by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. In addition to the Western View buildings, LEED plaques were unveiled in Sangren Hall, which has achieved LEED gold certification, and the Lee Honors College Building and Zhan Legacy Collec tions Center, both of which have achieved LEED silver certification.

The unveilings were streamed live to Sangren Hall on large monitors from the three other locations gaining LEED honors.

Taking part in the unveiling ceremony were WMU President John M. Dunn; Cheri Homan, executive director of the U.S. Green Building Council’s west Michigan chapter; and WMU Student Kelsey Pitschel, a mechanical engineering major who has earned LEEDGreen Associate certification.

The celebratory event marked the first time any college or university in Michigan was able to certify five buildings in a single year. It also marked what is believed to be the first time anywhere that five LEED plaques were simultaneously unveiled.

Obituaries

Robert L. Blefko, emeritus in mathematics and statistics, died Nov. 1 at home in Kalamazoo. He was 82. Blefko joined the WMU faculty in 1968 and retired in 1997 after 29 years of service.

William M. Cremin, emeritus in anthropology and a former co-director of the Archaeological Field School, died Sept. 10. He was 72. Cremin joined the faculty in 1975 and retired in 2007 after 32 years of service.

Jean E. Lowrie, emeritus in librarianship and a former director of the School of Librarianship, died Nov. 9 in Florida. She was 96. Lowrie joined the faculty in 1951 and retired in 1981 after 32 years of service.

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during December.

45 Years—Umar F. Abdul-Mutakallim, Human Resources.

40 Years—Robert J. Dlosky, Center for English Language and Culture.

35 Years—Tracie L. Sherburn, accounting.

30 Years—Sharon M. Van Dyken, College of Aviation.

25 Years—Ray T. Cool, human performance and health education; James C. Cotton, information technology; Jean R. Doug las, University Libraries; Nancy Emers, English; Timothy A. Ender, information technology; Susan R. Stapleton, Graduate College; and Sharacene R. Sutton, building custodial and support services.

20 Years—Patti J. VanWalbeck, vice president for business and finance's office.

15 Years—Bradley J. Beazin, electrical and computer engineering; Timothy B. Palmer, management; Kenneth A. Randh, building custodial and support services; Michael P. Smith, public safety; Ineke F. Way, social work; Jennifer Wiedb, blindness and low vision studies; and Li Yang, computer science.

10 Years—Gregory A. Flamme, speech pathology and audiology; Beau C. Hartlerode, Miller Auditorium; Mary E. Peterson, speech pathology and audiology; and Helen M. Sharp, speech pathology and audiology.

Five Years—Charles R. Adams, blindness and low vision studies; Robert S. Armbrister, development and alumni relations; Nancy Lynn Bam, vice president for research's office; Richard Carbonneau, Registrar's Office; Joseph E. Housman, maintenance services; Amelia P. McFletcher, building custodial and support services; Jagjit S. Saini, accounting; Randall Keith Walker, maintenance services; and Brian Young, chemical and paper engineering.
LSAT prep courses being offered in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids

WMU will offer a preparation course for the Law School Admission Test in both Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids during the 2015 spring semester and summer II session.

The Grand Rapids course will be offered in the University’s downtown Grand Rapids facility at 200 Ionia Ave. SW from Tuesday, Jan. 27, to Tuesday, April 21. The Kalamazoo course will be offered in Ellsworth Hall on WMU’s main campus from Wednesday, Jan. 28, to Wednesday, April 22.

Offering nearly 40 hours of live instruction, both courses feature instructor-led, face-to-face meetings where test-taking strategies and techniques are taught. Participants review sample questions, practice taking tests and receive advice from expert instructor Geoffrey Haveman.

The courses cost $699, including books and all the necessary classroom materials. Other comparable test prep courses offer less or no face-to-face instruction and can cost more than twice as much as the WMU courses.

Registration and more information about the courses is available online at wmich.edu/extended/l sat.