Events slated for employees’ children
The children of WMU employees who are considering attending the University, as well as their parents, are invited to one of two breakfast programs at 8:30 a.m. Friday, March 20, or Saturday, March 21, in the Bernhard Center.

Those who are admitted high school seniors can attend the Admitted Student Event (wmich.edu/admissions/futurebronco) at 10 a.m. after the Friday breakfast. High school juniors can attend the WMU Spotlight program (wmich.edu/admissions/wmuspotlight) immediately after the Saturday breakfast. To register, contact Scott Hennessy at scott.hennessy@wmich.edu.

Funding applications due April 1
Faculty members are invited to apply for funding to support projects that improve international education at the University through the International Education Faculty Development Fund. The maximum award is $1,200. Application deadlines via email submission for each academic year are Nov. 1 and April 1 for travel and projects that occur within the following 12 months. Visit wmich.edu/international/iefdf for details.

Campus Kids enrolling for summer
Enrollment is now open for the 2015 Campus Kids Summer Program offered by the WMU Children’s Place Learning Center. The program, open to children who have completed kindergarten up to age 12, will run from June 8 through Sept. 4 and feature weekly themes. Enroll by the week or for the entire summer. Visit wmich.edu/childrensplace/campuskids for details.

Time to make APA award nominations
The Administrative Professional Association seeks nominations by Wednesday, April 1, for its Outstanding Professional Award, Outstanding New Professional Award and the Tony Griffin Service Award. Find the criteria and nomination form online. Visit wmich.edu/apawards for nomination guidelines and forms.

Assessment in Action conference set
Full- and part-time faculty members, staff members, and graduate teaching assistants are invited to attend the annual Assessment in Action conference from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, April 3, in the Fetzer Center.

The conference is free, but registration is required by Friday, March 27, for the luncheon. To register, visit https://wapps.wmich.edu/workshops, log in and scroll down to the Assessment in Action link.

New President’s Perspective online
The latest edition of the President’s Perspective is available online at wmich.edu/president-perspective-2015-03. Highlights include state budget developments, enrollment updates and notable achievements.

Three grad programs named best in state
The latest annual U.S. News & World Report rankings of the top graduate programs in the nation shows WMU has seven offerings among the top-100 in their disciplines, with three of them named the best in Michigan.

In the round of rankings released March 10 in the magazine’s graduate education edition, two occupational therapy programs and the speech-language pathology program captured the highest rankings in Michigan in those disciplines.

All seven programs ranked among the nation’s top 100 are part of WMU’s celebrated College of Health and Human Services. They are occupational therapy-Kalamazoo (21), speech-language pathology (35), occupational therapy-Grand Rapids (36), rehabilitation counseling (37), audiology (49), physician assistant (57) and social work (66).

Engineer wins NIH grant for research on heart disease
James Springstead, chemical and paper engineering, has been awarded a $416,816 grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue his research into understanding the underlying biological mechanisms that lead to heart disease.

Springstead began studying the science behind what leads to blockage inside arterial walls as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California at Los Angeles. He obtained his doctoral degree in chemical engineering at UCLA in 2008.

In the early stages of atherosclerosis, the underlying condition leading to heart attacks and strokes, oxidized LDL—low-density lipoprotein—accumulates inside arterial walls. LDL is known as “the bad cholesterol.” Springstead’s research is focused on measuring the biological activity of oxidized phospholipids, which have been shown to inflame and eventually form lesions in arterial linings, and more recently is focused on oxidized fatty acids. He is trying to find the mechanism by which oxidized phospholipids initiate the beginning stages of heart disease.

The chemical engineer already has made the surprising discovery that an important active oxidized phospholipid, PEIPC, strongly inhibits inflammatory pathways.

WMU icon being installed inside West Campus turnaround
Now that the weather has started cooperating, efforts are in full swing to complete the installation of a new iconic feature inside the turnaround in front of the Sangren Hall pedestrian mall.

The icon, a large symbolic representation of the University seal, will serve as a visual reminder of WMU’s history and traditions. It also was intended to offer a more inviting entry to the pedestrian mall as well as celebrate WMU’s connection with the local community.

Designed by Kalamazoo artist Joshua Diedrich, the piece features a raised University seal—titled at an angle—with the seal’s stylized tree rising up some 17 feet. The base will be a combination of concrete and granite, and include dedicated lighting, landscaping and two ring fountains. Water will flow and cascade between the two fountains.

Markings on the seal as well as the tree have been done in bronze. Several of the tree’s leaves contain the faces of WMU students, faculty and staff members, and historical figures.
LGBTQ students and their allies have about
admissions process. It will address questions
nationwide and obtain information about
transgender and queer students connect
ational LGBTQ-friendly Online College Fair

Free art education events scheduled
A widely respected art education researcher, Olivia Gude, will make two presentations next month.
Gude will speak on “Evocative and Provocative Projects for a Contempo-
arious Comprehensive Curriculum” from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2, in the
Richmond Center. Both the lecture and its broadcast as a webinar are free,
but registration is required. For more information or to register, visit wmich.
edu/online/guidewebinar.

Annual ‘Senior Prom’ set for April
It’s time for area senior citizens to lace up
their dancing shoes and come to campus
for the 27th annual Senior Prom Thurs-
day, April 2, in the Bernhard Center’s
East Ballroom. Pre-entertainment begins
at 5 p.m., and the dance will run from 7
to 10 p.m. For more information, email
Dr. Dean Kruse at dean.kruse@wmich.edu
or contact the Ernest and Smith Bumbah
residence hall office at (269) 387-6632.

WMU participating in first online LGBTQ-friendly college fair
Admissions will take part in the first
national LGBTQ-friendly Online College Fair from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 19.
The fair will help lesbian, gay, bisexual,
transgender and queer students connect
nationwide and obtain information about
LGBTQ-friendly campuses and the college
admissions process. It will address questions
LGBTQ students and their allies have about academics, student life and campus safety.

Christopher Tremblay, associate provost for enrollment management, says the fair will include a live chat from 1:30 to 6 p.m. with college representatives, giving the University an opportunity to showcase a variety of its friendliness factors.

To make a reservation or obtain more information, visit campuspride.org/collegefair.

Exchange
For sale—House at 320 S. Dartmouth in a private area of all home owners just three minutes from campus. Colonial, 1,870 square feet, three bedrooms, 2.5 baths and two-car garage with large workshop. Price: $185,000. Contact: briacris@yahoo.com or (269) 424-5576.

For sale—Two-story, 2,100-square-foot home in Portage. Four bedrooms, two reno-
vated bathrooms and renovated basement. New kitchen with granite countertops, por-
celain tile floor and stainless steel appliances. Two-car attached garage, new storage shed and fenced-in yard. Call (269) 998-5980 before home goes on the market April 3.

Jobs
Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/jobs. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.
Engage with world cultures at annual International Festival

Officials from nearly all 17 participating groups invite the campus and local community to the 2015 International Festival. (Photo courtesy of the Haenicke Institute)

The music, dance, food and fashions of 17 cultures will be showcased on campus during the 26th annual International Festival from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 22, on the second floor of the Bernhard Center.

The popular event features cultural display tables and four hours of staged performances. Admission is free, and for a nominal fee, attendees may sample traditional foods prepared by international students in campus kitchens under the supervision of WMU Dining Services employees.

The International Festival annually attracts about 5,000 students and community members. It has outgrown its former venue in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom, so the center's entire second floor will be utilized to host the 2015 festival.

WMUK wins 8 state awards; readies for spring drive

WMU’s public radio station, WMUK-FM, will begin its annual spring campaign Saturday, March 21, on the heels of winning eight Broadcast Excellence Awards from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

The station will once again feature a shorter pledge drive designed to raise all of the dollars needed in half the live on-air pledge hours. Supporters can contribute by mail, online at wmuk.org or during the live portion of the pledge campaign.

Contributions offset the cost of purchasing programs and producing local ones, such as the MAB award-winning productions. All told, WMUK picked up five major awards, from Best Public Radio Marketing Materials & Promos to Best Public Radio Mini-Documentary or Series, as well as three merit awards.

Inclusiveness talk follows up campus diversity-climate study

“Strategic Diversity Leadership at WMU: Building Capacity for Inclusive Excellence” is the topic of a public lecture from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in 157-159 Bernhard Center.

Damon Williams, senior vice president and chief education officer of the Boys and Girls Club of America, will present the talk.

It is sponsored by WMU’s Campus Climate for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Tactical Action Community with funding from the K.W. Kellogg Racial Healing Initiative.

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

25 Years—Jacqueline E. Bezell, College of Arts and Sciences; Erica J. Krol, Sindecuse custodial and support services, and Theresa Russell, technology.

35 Years—Rebecca Thiele and Gordon Evans.

Four groups were honored for five years of service during March.

Five Years—Connie Ann Fox, building custodial and support services; James Hilliker, United Clinics; and Emelda M. Rhodes, Valley I Dining Service.

Five Years—Terylle D. Lavender, University Libraries; and Thomas Bruce Maida, Bernhard Center Dining Services.

Five Years—Anne-Marie Adams, University Libraries; and Cleon Ludwick, building custodial and support services.

15 Years—Phyllis LaRue Dangey, University Libraries; Jeremy C. Hiebholzer, College of Aviation; Thuy T. Martin, Bernhard Center Dining Services; and Norma L. Sylvester, University Libraries.

10 Years—Anita Marie Adams, University Libraries, and Sherry L. Sandlin, Bernhard Center Dining Services.

Five Years—Joel M. Fletcher, information technology.

35 Years—Dennitta L. Hill, building custodial and support services, and Theresa Paul, building custodial and support services.

25 Years—Joel M. Fletcher, information technology.

30 Years—Dennitta L. Hill, building custodial and support services, and Theresa Paul, building custodial and support services.

25 Years—Joel M. Fletcher, information technology.

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34 Years of service. The Merit awards went to Chris Killian, Rebecca Thiele and Gordon Evans.


Merit awards went to Chris Killian, Rebecca Thiele and Gordon Evans.

During the event, attendees are able to “travel” around the world in a single evening while gaining an appreciation for the diversity of cultures represented on campus.

The University enrolls more than 1,800 international students from some 100 countries and has numerous international student groups.

This year’s festival is being hosted by 17 of those groups: the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars, Brazilian Students Association, Fullbright Student Organization at WMU, Dominican Student Organization, German Club, Indian Student Association, Indonesian Overseas Association, Iraqi Students Union, Japan Club, Korean Student Association, Malaysian Students’ Association, Pakistani Student Association, Persian Student Organization, Saudi Arabian Students Association, TRIO Student Success Program, and Association of Vietnamese Students at Western.

In Obituaries

Obituary

Editor’s note: Visit wmich.edu/news/obituaries for additional details.

Ellen Page-Robin, emerita in community health services, will be honored during a memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21, in the Kiva Room at Friendship Village, 1400 N. Drake in Kalamazoo. As previously announced, she died Jan. 3 at age 82.

Marjory Spradling, emerita in biological sciences, died Feb. 12. She was 92. Spradling joined the faculty in 1959 as a part-time instructor, becoming a full-time instructor in 1963. She retired in 1983 after 24 years of service.

Judith Peppel, a former staff member in the Department of Sociology, died Dec. 30, 2014. She was 74. Peppel was an office assistant when she retired in 2005 after 16 years of service.

Shirley C. Woodworth, emerita in communication, died Feb. 26. She was 86. Woodworth joined the communications department in 1963 and retired in 1997 after 35 years of service to the University. She was honored as WMU’s Woman of the Year in 1987.

Steve Zegree, legendary jazz educator and former Gold Company director, died in Bloomington, Indiana, March 7. He was 61. Zegree retired from WMU in 2012 after 34 years of service. The same year he was inducted into DownBeat magazine’s Jazz Education Hall of Fame and became Burks Professor of Music and director of the Singing Hoosiers at Indiana University.
WMU icon being installed

WMU icon being installed

A WMU icon being installed

Continued from page 1

WMU is active with building projects across campus, and it’s DeVon Miller’s job to make sure they are constructed as planned.

As building commissioner administrator in Facilities Management, Miller oversees the commissioning process for new construction and renovations to ensure design work meets the standards approved by the University. His current projects include the renovation of East Campus, construction of a new residence hall complex in the center of campus, and planning for the new Valley Dining Center.

“There are some challenges but, at the end of the day, it’s good to know that what was designed is what was received—and that it’s a building everyone’s happy with,” Miller says.

He also works with several entities in Facilities Management, including the Office for Sustainability as well the planning and projects, and construction teams, to ensure that LEED initiatives are incorporated into construction projects, work that led Miller to be recently elected to the Board of Directors of the U.S. Green Building Council’s West Michigan chapter. On this board, Miller has input and insight into sustainability initiatives as a whole across West Michigan, including in schools and universities.

WMU is a model for other institutions for its building information modeling, or BIM, system that transfers physical specifications of a building into a digital, three-dimensional modeling software system. Miller oversees this system at the University and conducts presentations for other institutions on BIM for existing structures.

A native of Lansing, he earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University. Through an internship and after graduation, Miller worked as a mechanical engineer for Meijer Inc., where he became interested in energy initiatives and systems.

He left Michigan to work for a few years in Atlanta for a company focusing on energy projects. He returned to the state to take a job as a commissioning agent for an architectural and engineering firm in Grand Rapids, a position he held before coming to WMU.

Miller and his wife, Angela, live in Plainwell. The couple have two children: a daughter age 8 and a son age 4. When not working at WMU, he enjoys playing golf as well as spending time with his family.

Discovery successes recognized during special event

University research took center stage recently during the first Excellence in Discovery luncheon hosted by President John M. Dunn and Provost Timothy J. Greene.

During the event, Daniel M. Litynski, vice president for research, praised WMU faculty members as a whole as well as singled out those most responsible for record external funding dollars received in the first quarter of the 2014-15 fiscal year.

This year alone in the first quarter, grants to WMU topped $13 million, and by mid-year reached $21 million, Litynski said.

Continued from page 1

Three grad programs named best

In a new listing unveiled this year, the WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School was named Michigan’s most diverse law school, based on total proportion of full- and part-time minority law students. WMU-Cooley tied for 36th place nationally with schools at such other universities as Harvard, Northwestern and Illinois, Urbana Champaign.

Film festival expands scope

A new name, a new location and a broader array of foreign films are on tap for the first Kalama-zoo World Languages Film Festival. Formerly the Francophone Film Festival, the event unfolds Friday through Sunday, March 20-22 and March 27-29 in 1025 Brown Hall. Visit wmich.edu/worldfilmfestival for details.

Engineer wins NIH grant for heart research

Furthermore, PEIPC is likely to exist in humans and has potential to be an important anti-inflammatory mediator in the body. This particular lipid will be the main focus of Springstead’s new NIH grant.

“As an engineer, I like to look at the beginning process,” he says. “The take I’d like to go after, is to try to block initial stages so that the body can take care of itself.”

Stents can hold open arteries, he says. But since they are a foreign object, they can cause more inflammation. Springstead likes the idea of choking off the beginning stages.

He is collaborating on the grant with Sangulkar Lee of the Saha Cardiovascular Research Center of Kentucky, Mee Civelek of the UCLA Atherosclerosis Research Unit, Greg Cavey of the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center and Walt Shaw of Avanti Polar Liods.