Trustees to meet in Battle Creek
The WMU Board of Trustees will meet at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 22, at the College of Aviation campus. The agenda will be announced several days before the event. Answering the request of two trustees with Battle Creek ties, the board is revising its past practice of holding occasional meetings in cities where the University has a strong presence. Such meetings have been held in Detroit, Grand Rapids and Battle Creek.

Commencement ceremonies set
Four commencement ceremonies will be held Saturday, May 2, in Miller Auditorium for WMU graduates. They are: 9 a.m., colleges of Education and Human Development and Fine Arts; 12:30 p.m., College of Aviation, Extended University Programs and the Haworth College of Business; 3:30 p.m., colleges of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Health and Human Services; and 7 p.m., College of Arts and Sciences.

Discounts available to faculty, staff
Employees receive 20 percent discounts on tickets to the Gilmore Piano Masters recitals. The next concert is at 8 p.m. today in Chenery Auditorium. It features pianist Hélène Grimaud. Mention the discount code “PianoMasters” when ordering online or at the Miller Auditorium box office.

Sealed-bid vehicle sale coming up
Bids are due by 5 p.m. Monday, April 20, for Surplus Sales’ sealed-bid vehicle sale. Visit wmich.edu/logisticalservices/stores for viewing times and other details.

Free employee photo sessions set
Faculty and staff may have their official University photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in Walworth Hall’s Heining Emeriti Lounge. Employees may have electronic copies for personal use at no charge. Contact Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu (269) 387-5402 to confirm your session or receive your photo.

Faculty, staff mixer slated for May 5
A Fridays With Friends mixer for faculty and staff members will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, in the Fetter Center to celebrate the end of the academic year. It will feature complimentary light hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar.

Consider helping out at fall events
Faculty members and administrators are asked to save the evening of Thursday, Sept. 3, for the fall Matt Riley Cerem ony and Buster’s Buffet. Staff members also are encouraged to get involved in fall Welcome Week by volunteering to help out at an event. Online registration is open at wmnch.edu/eye/fallwelcome/register for all events. Direct questions to adrienne.fraaza@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2332.

WMU course recognized at Americas summit
WMU’s Both Sides of the Fence study abroad program is one of 10 U.S. university programs that have won the latest round in a grant funding competition aimed at new innovative partnerships that will increase student mobility to and from Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced the winners of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund contest the day before the universities were celebrated at a reception during the Summit of the Americas, April 10-11 in Panama City, Panama. The 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative is President Barack Obama’s signature education effort in the Western Hemisphere. Its goal is to increase the number of U.S. students studying in the Western Hemisphere to 100,000, and the number of students from Latin America and the Caribbean studying in the United States to 100,000 by 2020.

Funding was granted to only 10 percent of the proposals submitted to the competition, which was open to higher education institutions in all countries throughout the Western Hemisphere and to all fields of study. WMU’s Both Sides of the Fence course received a $25,000 grant funded by the

YWCA to honor two WMU women leaders in May
Two of four area women who will be honored in May as 2015 Women of Achievement are WMU leaders. Jan Van Der Kley, the University’s vice president for business and finance, and Elizabeth Burns, associate dean for faculty and clinical affairs in the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, will be honored at the 30th Annual YWCA Women of Achievement Award Celebration Tuesday, May 12, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Kalamazoo.

The WMU honorees will be lauded along with Pam Kingerly from Communities In Schools and Sherry Thomas-Cloud from the Douglass Community Association. Carolyn Alford, former Kalamazoo County commissioner, will receive the 2015 Lifetime Woman of Achievement award at the event.

Van Der Kley has been in her current position at WMU since 2011, and she is the first woman to serve as vice president for business and finance and treasurer for the WMU Board of Trustees. The University alumna joined the WMU staff in 1983 as an internal auditor and has served as a role model for other women interested in higher education business operations.

In recent years, she has been instrumental in the development of the WMU Stryker School of Medicine and the affiliation that led to the WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

“Living Mentally Well”—Respecting Differences with Kevin Hines
A mental health advocate will present Kalamazoo County’s 17th annual Respecting Differences program. Kevin Hines will share the powerful story of his unlikely survival and strong will to live in a fire program titled “Living Mentally Well” at 9:30 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 30, in Kalamazoo’s Cherry Auditorium. Both presentations will include an on-stage American Sign Language translator. Two presentations will be open to higher education institutions in all countries throughout the Western Hemisphere and to all fields of study.

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Variety of youth summer programs being offered

Registration for nearly 40 summer camps for young people began at WMU weeks ago, and although registration for some has closed, there’s still time to sign up for many. A variety of programs are available in a wide age range, from sports and music camps to in-depth writing experiences and opportunities to explore careers in aviation, video game programming and other fields. Among the camps available are:

• Programs for youngsters offered by the Western News Academically Talented Youth Program, which also will offer a high school class called Writing the College Admissions Essay. Class registrations are due Monday, June 1.

• Thirteen themed Campus Kids weeks will held at the Children’s Place Learning Center. Formal recognition will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. Visit wmich.edu/research for details. A continental breakfast and buffet lunch will be provided.

Sustainability expert to speak

A leading authority on sustainable value chains will be discussing the complexities of sustainable manufacturing and using Fairphone, a social enterprise and top-five global crowdfunding campaign, as an example. Sean Ansett will speak at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in 2000 Schneider Hall. Ansett is chief sustainability officer at Fairphone.

Graduate students to strut their stuff

This year’s Research and Creative Activities Poster and Performance Day will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 24, in the Bernhard Center. Ansett is chief sustainability officer at Fairphone.

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Lighthouse logbook project sheds light on 1800s coastal life

Whether an account of a shipwreck in rough waters, a body washed ashore, or an inferno on the mainland, the life and times of South Haven lighthouse keepers are coming to a wider audience through the digitization of three carefully preserved logbooks by University Libraries technicians.

Called the South Haven Michigan Lighthouse Logs, the new digital collection is being created to give a lifelike representation of lighthouse journals spanning the years 1872 to 1880. The project represents one of the first comprehensive digital lighthouse logbook collections to be publicly available online anywhere.

The handwritten logbooks are being painstakingly digitized in high-resolution, tagged image file format—TIFF—images, giving a close representation of the original logbooks as possible. The processed images are then made available in an onscreen, page-turning “BookReader” format.

The team of library science professionals also is adding complementary metadata to the three-book collection to aid in searching for or finding online resources to complete or fill in data required for scholarly research.

The digital-image capture is being conducted to illuminate the daily activities of the lighthouse station on South Haven's Lake Michigan shoreline.

Equal opportunity is talk topic

A senior fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution will present a talk on how America is drifting away from the ideal of equal opportunity.

Richard V. Reeves will speak on “The Opportunity Ecosystem” at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 30, in the Fetzer Center. The event is sponsored by WMU’s Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations in collaboration with the City of Kalamazoo’s New Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo Initiative.

Reeves will discuss what local communities can do to close the gap so children who are poor, especially children of color, will have a more equal chance of climbing the economic ladder to prosperity and security.

Medieval Congress free for local residents who register early

Kalamazoo residents and WMU community members may attend the International Congress on Medieval Studies for free if they register online or in person by the Wednesday, April 29, deadline for early registration.

This year’s congress, the 50th, will be held Thursday through Sunday, May 14-17, on the main campus in Kalamazoo. Organizers expect some 3,000 people to register for the event.

Early registrants pay no fee if registering online or in person at the Miller Auditorium ticket office and only a nominal handling fee if registering by mail or fax.

For more information or to register, visit wmic.edu/medieval/congress or call (269) 387-8745.

Obituaries

John Badgerow, who had frequently taught part-time for the environmental studies program since 2006, died Feb. 12. A public memorial is being held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 25, in St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 247 W. Lovell St. in Kalamazoo. A reception will follow in the church. Visit joldersma-klein.com for the complete obituary and to share condolences or a memorial gift.

To view the lighthouse collection, visit wmich.edu/library/collections/digital/collections and click on South Haven Michigan Lighthouse Logs.

Spring Make a Difference award winners to be honored

Twelve staff members will be honored as outstanding employees during a reception at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The University community is invited to attend the event, which recognizes the spring 2015 recipients of WMU’s semiannual Make a Difference Award. The recipients will each receive $300, before taxes, and a commemorative certificate.

They are:
• Rachael Bower, business information systems
• Jonathan Dennis, College of Aviation
• Maria French, cash dining operations
• Jerry Fulbright Jr., landscape services
• Thalia Guerra, Center for Academic Success Programs
• Timothy Holycz, landscape services
• Kevin Knutson, College of Arts and Sciences advising

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Center shares training videos on autism nationwide

A series of free videos on autism assessment and intervention techniques is now available to a national audience of educators and practitioners, thanks to WMU’s Autism Center for Excellence.

The video series includes interviews with experts in applied behavior analysis, referred to as ABA; autism; and behavioral pediatrics. They were developed by Wayne Fuqua, psychology, with support from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. To view the videos without charge, visit wmich.edu/autism/resources.

“The videos also include supplemental materials and clinical simulations that demonstrate the application of essential features of an assessment or intervention technique,” Fuqua says. “The videos are designed to enhance the ability of ABA practitioners and ABA students in academic training programs to understand and to implement important behavior analysis assessment and treatment techniques with children, especially those with developmental disabilities such as autism.”

Additional videos are under development. When ready for distribution, they will be posted to the same website, so those interested in the videos should check back periodically for updates.

Continued from page 1
YWCA to honor two WMU leaders

Burns has not only played an integral role in medical education for many years, but she also contributed in the area of women’s health through her teaching, scholarship, administration and volunteering.

Prior to taking her current role in 2013, she was president and CEO of the Kalamazoo Center for Medical studies and community assistant dean of the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and a professor of family medicine at MSU. Burns also has played a pivotal role in the development of the WMU Stryker School of Medicine.

WMU course recognized at Americas summit

Coca-Cola Foundation. Through Santander Universities, Santander Bank, a N.A. funded grant to the other competition winners, which included California State University, Los Angeles; Northwestern University; and the University of California, San Diego.

Both Sides of the Fence

The 100,000 Strong innovation fund grant will allow for significant expansion of the Both Sides of the Fence study abroad program piloted last summer by the College of Health and Human Services and funded by the Fetter Institute in Kalamazoo.

The four-credit course exposes college students from the United States and Mexico to the challenges of migration and its impact on personal and community health. Both Mexican and U.S. students will learn, live and work together in migrant communities in Michigan and rural villages in Guanajuato, Mexico, gaining insight into the immigrant experience, particularly as it relates to nutrition.

This summer’s course will begin at WMU June 29 and finish in Mexico Aug. 1. The deadline to apply is Thursday, April 30. For 2015, the program will involve students from WMU and the Universidad de LaSalle Bajio in Leon, Mexico. The Community Foundation of the Bajio, a Mexican nonprofit organization working in rural communities affected by migration, will play a supporting role in the project.

“The purpose of this program is to better understand the challenges of Mexican migration from both sides of the fence,” says the program’s co-director, Maureen Mickus, occupational therapy. Mickus explains that students will take part in field visits to Mexican migrant camps and hear presentations from professionals working in migrant services. During their time in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico, they will engage in community-service activities in two small, impoverished communities. These activities will include an intergenerational day camp focusing on traditional cooking, healthy eating and exercise.

Critical educational need

The growth in America’s Latino population continues to outpace the growth in all other minority groups, reports Both Sides of the Fence’s other co-director, Denise Bowen, physician assistant. Moreover, she says, the vast majority of immigrants to the United States are Mexican, with the highest percentage coming from the Mexican state of Guanajuato.

“That’s one of the most important U.S. demographic trends, so there’s a critical need to educate students, particularly future health care professionals, about the cultural, economic and social impact of migration. Health disparities among Latinos, coupled with a lack of trained, culturally sensitive, Spanish-speaking professionals, already present serious problems in the United States,” Bowen says.

“Both Sides of the Fence tries to bridge the gap by preparing students to be informed, compassionate leaders in this complex societal area. It offers students a two-pronged approach to learning about the challenges of migration, both from people living in Mexico and those who have already migrated to the United States. And, at the heart of this program, is the opportunity for U.S. students to develop cultural humility.”