Survey confirms BTR Park is huge success

The Business Technology and Research Park on the Parkview Campus is thriving, according to a survey completed May 20.

“The park houses 41 companies and 816 employees who work in businesses located in the park. All told, 1,235 employees work on the Parkview Campus. Of that total, 419 are WMU faculty and staff members working in College of Engineering and Applied Sciences facilities. In addition, Miller says 183 WMU students have held internships with private companies in the park since the first company opened there in 2001.”

Bob Miller, associate vice president for community outreach and BTR Park point person, says the park is now full and looking toward expansion in a nearby parcel of land already designated for that use.

The park houses 41 companies and employs 816 people, up from 280 in 2001. According to the survey, the park is full and looking toward expansion in a nearby parcel of land designated for that use.

Among the most recent companies to open an office in the BTR Park is FAiST Light Metals, a global firm headquartered in Italy and the first company to use the park to establish a North American presence.

FAiST Light Metals opened its sales and engineering office for North America in the Weidenhammer Building May 1. The company specializes in high-quality aluminum die-casting, precision machining, and surface plating of components and assemblies for the telecom, automotive, electronics and industrial markets.

Company officials have been preparing for the launch of the new location with a hiring initiative to identify both new engineering staff and WMU interns to work for the firm. The 1,000 square feet of space FAiST is leasing in the Weidenhammer Building comes with an option on additional space for the company to fill as it grows. Miller says the leased space is one that has opened up in an existing facility.

“All of the space for building is committed.”

Summer events mark WMU’s return to Fort St. Joe site

WMU archaeologists returned in May to Niles to continue excavation of the Fort St. Joseph archaeological site, and with the local community’s help, to launch a new monthlong archaeology lecture series.

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“Seeking Shelter From the Storm: Architecture in Archeological Perspective” is the focus of four free public lectures that will offer the views of top scholars in a series of Wednesday evening presentations at the Niles District Library, 620 East Main St. in Niles.

All four Wednesday lectures begin at 7 p.m. The presentation dates, speakers and topics are:

• June 3, Jan Kuelper, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame, “Hearing Voices, Finding Houses: The Archaeology of 18th-19th Century Irish Architecture”;

• June 10, Jan Brasheir, Department of Anthropology, Grand Valley State University, “Structures for the Living and the Dead: The Archaeology of Pre-Columbian Architecture in Michigan”;

• June 17, Kevin Finney, executive director of the Jijak Foundation, Gun Lake Band of Potawatomi, “Neshnabec Architecture”; and

• June 24, Michael S. Nassaney, Department of Anthropology, WMU, “French Colonial Architecture.”

The series is sponsored by the city of Niles, the Niles District Library, the Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France, the Conference on Michigan Archaeology and WMU’s 2015 Archaeological Field School and Cultural Events Committee.

The Fort St. Joseph mission, garrison and Fort Park on the Parkview Campus is thriving, according to a survey completed May 20.

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, June 3. Starting times and information about the agenda will be released shortly before the meeting. Most board meetings are held on campus at the Bernhard Center.

Free employee photo session set

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to have their official University photos taken between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday, June 4, in Walwood Hall’s Veterans’ Memorial Lounge. Employees may have electronic copies for personal use at no charge. Contact Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402 to confirm your session or receive your photo.

New library search tool announced

A new library search tool is available at wmnch.edu/library. The new system will replace the previous Books+, PowerSearch and Classic Catalog search tools, and will take the place of the previous Journals button on the Library homepage. Direct questions to the Ask-a-Librarian service at http://wmich.libanswers.com or to the University Libraries Reference Desk at (269) 387-5178.

Jazz students roll a ‘lucky seven’

WMU’s jazz students came up big in DownBeat’s 38th annual Student Music Awards, rolling a seven and tying for second place in the world. The strong finish puts WMU’s strong showing in the contest over the previous three years.

The only program to win more awards was the University of North Texas, with 18. Rounding out the top five were the University of Miami, with 15, the Manhattan School of Music, each with four, of Indiana, Eastman School of Music and University with five, and the University of Texas with six awards, California State University, the top five were the University of North Texas, with 18. Rounding out the top five were the University of Miami, with 15, the Manhattan School of Music, each with four, of Indiana, Eastman School of Music and University with five, and the University of Texas with six awards, California State University with 18. Rounding out the top five were the University of North Texas, with 15, the Manhattan School of Music, each with four.

The strong finish puts WMU’s strong showing in the contest over the previous three years. WMU’s strong showing in the contest over the past several years places the University squarely among the top five award-winning programs in the world. Results of DownBeat’s 38th annual Student Music Awards are presented in the magazine’s June issue.

Sales program nationally recognized

The University’s sales and business marketing program has again been identified by the Sales Education Foundation as a top sales program among universities. This is the ninth year in a row that the program has been recognized by the foundation for preparing students for careers in professional settings and helping elevate the sales profession.

With 280 students and more than 1,500 alumni, the WMU program is one of the largest in the nation, and more than 90 percent of its graduates find full-time careers in their field within six months of graduation.
Osher offers new classes, trips

Early registration is underway for both members and nonmembers of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to register for summer courses and trips. Courses start Tuesday, June 2, and run through Tuesday, July 28. They usually meet once a week for two to four weeks. Three trips are planned, starting with a visit to the Automobile and Military Vehicle Museums of Auburn, Indiana, Wednesday, June 3.

The courses and trips are for personal enrichment and aimed at older adults. Visit wmich.edu/olli/courses to view the summer activities brochure or register online. Those interested also may register by phone at (269) 387-4200 or in person in 3202 Ellsworth Hall.

Annual Bowling Extravaganza slated

The Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services and the WMU Gay and Lesbian Resource Center are hosting the fourth annual Bowling Extravaganza from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 31, in Eastland Lanes, 5570 Gull Road in Kalamazoo. Event proceeds will be split evenly between the LGBT office and the annual Kalamazoo Pride celebration, which the resource center sponsors and this year will take place Friday and Saturday, June 12-13, at the Arcadia Creek Festival Place.

A friendly-family pre-Kalamazoo Pride event, the Bowling Extravaganza will feature unlimited bowling as well as music and raffle prizes that include a grand prize trip to Chicago. Call (269) 349-4373 by May 29 to pre-register by Friday, May 29, and save $3. Visit pride.kgkoi.org/pre-pride-events for cost and other details.

Center to be represented at Art Hop

The work of artists in the Center for Disability Services' Creative Abilities Art Studio will be featured Friday, June 5, during the Kalamazoo Art Hop. Their abstract landscape paintings, mixed media and garden art will be on display from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Sunnix Gallery in the Park Trades Building, 326 W. Kalamazoo Ave.

Soccer teams hosting summer camp

The men's and women's soccer teams will be hosting a youth soccer camp for kids age 3 through 9 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, June 15-18, at the WMU Soccer Complex. All members of the men's and women's coaching staff will be present during the camp, which will focus on basic skills, fundamentals of the game and having fun.

Visit wmich.edu/admissions/camps for details about the soccer camps and many other activities taking place across the campus this summer.

Doctors Without Borders official to present talk

A board member of Doctors Without Borders will present the next talk in the Mercantile-Rsvp Speaker Series. Martha Huckabee, vice president of the organization's board, will discuss “From Average to Extraordinary and Unexpected Life” at 8 a.m. Friday, May 29, in 210 Dave Schneider Hall. The event is free and open to the public and begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m.

Prof honored for brain-injury work

Barbara Barton, social work, has received the 2015 Education/Public Awareness Award from the Brain Injury Association of Michigan. The prestigious honor was presented during the association's annual meeting May 2 in Frankenmuth.

“Through her work as a social worker and educator, Barb has brought brain injury awareness to the general public with her unique perspective,” said association President Michael Dabbs in presenting the award. “She is valued as a speaker and educator because of her personal experience with neurologic disease, her presentation expertise and her academic leadership.”

Barton is a certified brain injury specialist with more than 20 years of practical experience in the brain injury and rehabilitation field. She is experienced in planning education for returning military veterans with combat disabilities and developing educational tools for brain injury survivors and their family members.

Counselor named ‘ Disability Scholar’

Wanda Hadley, educational leadership, research and technology, has been recognized by the American College Personnel Association for her research on students with disabilities. Hadley was one of 25 U.S. researchers selected as a “Disability Scholar” during ACPA's annual conference March 5-8 in Tampa, Florida, in honor of this year's 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A WMU faculty member since 2014, she focuses her research on the academic issues first-year students with learning disabilities experience in their transition to college.

Hadley is a licensed professional counselor in Ohio, serves on the editorial board of numerous journals and is an active member of ACPA’s Standing Committee on Disability. She recently completed a term as the director of divisions on the board of the Eastern Educational Research Association.

CHHS researcher wins state grant

JoAnne McFarland O’Rourke, director of research for the College of Health and Human Services, has received the 2015 Raymond Bauer Research Award for $20,000 from the Michigan Parkinson’s Foundation. It supports research and fosters the study of Parkinson's disease among individuals with career interests in neurological disorders.

A chief aim of O’Rourke’s research is to delineate treatment methods that address comorbid conditions that accompany Parkinson’s disease. The progressive nature of Parkinson’s disease makes early diagnosis and treatment important and creates a need to find ways to alleviate and delay symptoms. Her research will include a new, controlled study evaluating two neuro-feedback treatment protocols.
Dining hall project to close part of Ring Road; groundbreaking set

Utilities work associated with construction of the new Valley Dining Hall will result in closure of a key portion of the Ring Road for five to six weeks this summer. Full details about the closure were not available by Western News press time. But they were expected to be announced soon after a scheduled meeting May 27, between Facilities Management officials and representatives of campus units most affected by the closure.

Discussions to date have centered on closing all of the Goldsworth Drive portion of the Ring Road from Monday, June 1, to Tuesday, July 7. Fencing already is up around the main construction area, which consists of the parking lots in front of the Valley halls overlooking the Goldsworth Valley Pond.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new dining hall is set for 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 12, at the construction site in the parking lot off of Rankin Avenue north of the pond. During the closure period, the Valley II and III halls will be affected only for short periods—one to two days. The Valley I Hall, the location for orientation, as well as the intramural field and its adjacent parking lot, will be accessible throughout.

Traffic is expected to be allowed to enter campus from Howard Street at Valley Drive, but it would only be allowed to move south—counter-clockwise—on Rankin. Travel to the Student Health Center and Goldsworth Valley Apartments would not be affected.

Conn Macomber, construction, says the closure is needed so crews can relocate all utilities for the Valley residence halls.

Workers are breaking up ground to make way for construction of the Valley Dining Hall. But the official groundbreaking has been slated for Friday, June 12. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

“We’ve explored alternative methods of excavation and we’re utilizing the best techniques available to accomplish this task in the minimum required time,” Macomber says. “We recognize that this is a major disruption to the University. We’ve delayed this closure to the extent possible and still be able to build our new $30 million dining facility in 13 months—a challenge even in the best of conditions.”

Signage along the ring road will address visitor needs, directing them to travel counterclockwise. Maps have been developed and will be posted at wmich.edu/visit.

For more closure details, contact Macomber at conn.macomber@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8671. For information about the Valley Dining Hall, including a video showing renderings of what the facility’s exterior and interior will look like, visit wmich.edu/dining/locations/halls/valley.

WMU inventors win Lemelson-MIT ‘Cure it!’ prize

A WMU senior and a May graduate are the winners of a prestigious national prize for inventing NeoVent, a life-saving, low-cost respiratory support device designed to treat critically ill infants in developing nations.

Alumna Sandra John of Portage and senior Joseph Barnett of Kalamazoo are among the winners of the Lemelson-MIT National Collegiate Student Prize Competition, a nationwide search for the most inventive team of undergraduate and individual graduate students. The two, who are both bound for medical school, won $10,000 in the “Cure it!” category for students with inventions that can improve health care.

Babies born preterm sometimes have underdeveloped lungs and need some degree of respiratory life support. But, due to expense, ventilation equipment commonly available in developed nations is not always readily available in medical centers in underserved parts of the world. They estimate that

WMU inventors win Lemelson-MIT ‘Cure it!’ prize. (Photo by Mike Lanka)

NeoVent will be priced at around $25 versus the thousands of dollars a ventilator costs.

The inventive duo and their life-saving device, which was refined in a campus lab and aided in development by several individuals in the Kalamazoo community, are featured in the Spring 2015 WMU Magazine posted at wmich.edu/magazine.

The University is turning the spotlight on Art Spiegelman's graphic novel “Maus I: A Survivor’s Tale,” which in 1992 became the first graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize.

WMU has selected the work, subtitled “My Father Bleeds History,” as the 2015-16 University Common Read. It is part one of the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Polish Jew who survived Hitler’s Europe, and Art Spiegelman, Vladek’s cartoonist son and the novel’s author.

All first-year students are expected to read the book. Members of the Kalamazoo community as well as all WMU students and employees are encouraged to read it this summer and participate in public activities that are being planned for the fall.

Details about the book, reading kits and upcoming events will be posted at http://libguides.wmich.edu/wmucomonread2015-16 as they become available.

Questions about “Maus I” and sponsoring related events should be directed to Toni Woolfork-Barnes at tony.woolfork-barnes@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2303.
Growing up in a family of tennis players, Drew Martin picked up a racket at an early age and, predictably, became competitive with his three older brothers. His love of the game grew as he went to school and eventually played for Methodist University in North Carolina. Today, he’s director of junior tennis at WMU’s West Hills Athletic Club, instructing about 60 students of all levels from ages 4 to 18, as well as coaching four women’s adult teams.

Martin was drawn to WMU and the Kalamazoo area because of the community’s tennis reputation, gained in part through the city’s summer hosting the U.S. Tennis Association’s boys national championship for the past 71 years. “I really like the community and the people and, hopefully, I can shape my students’ perspective of the game,” he says.

Martin credits his parents, who also played tennis, with signing him up for lessons at age 9 and his brothers with encouraging him to get better over the years. “If you can imagine, there was a lot of competition in our family,” he says, smiling. “They wouldn’t let me play against them until I got better, and that was my goal.”

For his students, though, he aims to not only help them improve, but also to help them enjoy the game and stay active. Martin came to West Hills in 2013 after teaching tennis in Virginia and Chicago following his graduation from Methodist University.

He met his wife, Rachel, in Chicago; and the two live in Kalamazoo with their dog. They are new homeowners so, “There is always something to do with the house or a new project now,” he says. Martin also enjoys fishing, recently trying his hand at fly fishing, as well as playing sports and spending time with his family.

**Auditorium adds new shows**

Miller Auditorium has added three additional shows to its recently announced Lake Michigan Mailers Spotlight Series: The Piano Guys, Gold Company’s “Anything You Can Sing, We Can Swing Better!” and Daniel Tiger’s “Neighborhood Live!”

Tickets are now available as part of season subscription packages from the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at (269) 387-2300 and (800) 228-9858. Additional season events will be announced as they are confirmed.

To view Miller’s schedule of upcoming shows and keep up to date on additions, visit millerauditorium.com.

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**Survey confirms BTR Park success**

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

30 Years—Alan J. Hovestadt, counselor education and counseling psychology, and Linda L. Wallace, public safety.

25 Years—David W. Dakin II, planning; Jodie Laraway, student financial aid and scholarships; and Ryan N. McGregor, public safety.

20 Years—Julie Hayward, University Libraries; Leesa Jaquays, geography; and Dominic Nicolai, College of Aviation.

15 Years—Helen J. Beck, College of Health and Human Services; Beverly A. Green, building custodial and support services; Jodie S. Grinn, building custodial and support services; Ronicka D. Hamilton, Center for Fostering Success; Stephanie L. Johnson, building custodial and support services; and Sherry A. Peake, building custodial and support services.

10 Years—Arthur R. Priest, power plant, and Lisa C. Youzy, marketing.

5 Years—Jamie L. Bennett, Center for Fostering Success; Jane Blyth, Haenicker Institute; Anthony P. Helms, Lee Honors College; and Mary Sue Wilson, blindness and low vision studies.

**On Campus with Drew Martin**

1691 to 1781 along the St. Joseph River in the north of the city of Niles. Since 1998, WMU faculty researchers and students have been working to identify, investigate and interpret the physical remains of the fort, one of the most important colonial outposts in the western Great Lakes.

WMU has conducted its annual archaeological field school at the site for 11 of the past 13 years, in partnership with the city of Niles, the Fort St. Joseph Museum and Support the Fort, a nonprofit organization focused on preserving the fort’s history. Researchers are back in the field this year after taking a brief hiatus to allow Nassaney, the field school director, a Sabbatical leave to assess the path forward for the project and to write a book on the archaeology of the North American fur trade, which is due to be released in September 2015 by the University Press of Florida.

This year, the WMU Field School participants began their work at the site May 18, and they will remain there until June 30. An annual open house is planned for the field school’s final weekend in June—Saturday and Sunday, June 27-28. That event essentially opens up the dig to members of the public, as students interpret the archaeology and history of the fort for site visitors. The open house has annually attracted more than 2,000 visitors eager to see the site and hear the explanations and interpretation of those working there. Attendees have an opportunity to hear lectures, visit an outdoor museum, take site tours, watch historical reenactments and demonstrations, and enjoy period music and food.

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project also sponsors a public education and outreach program. Field school students help instruct and work alongside adult, teacher, and high school student participants in weeklong archaeology summer camps.

**Summer events mark WMU’s return to Fort St. Joe**

Continued from page 1

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