Become a certified brand ambassador
The Behind the W Brand Ambassador program has dates available through December 2015 for all three of its workshops. The workshops have been designed to strengthen the University’s internal brand-building efforts and to provide employees with knowledge and tools to talk about WMU’s brand. They are offered to all faculty and staff members, and each one in the series lasts three hours. The workshops are on “Understanding the WMU Identity,” “Understanding WMU Audiences and Ways to Communicate with Them,” and “WMU Communications Guidelines and Standards.” Full-day sessions encompassing all three are being offered July 10 at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences building and July 24 at the College of Aviation campus in Battle Creek. The workshops also are being held individually in August and other months. Space is limited, so register soon at wmich.edu/behindthew.

Google Apps for Education expanded
Bloggers, Group owners and YouTube are now available in WMU’s Google Apps for Education, a service for all WMU students and employees detailed at wmich.edu/google. They are part of the service’s consumer apps group. Consumer apps are governed by a contract between the user and Google. WMU’s Google Apps for Education also offers several core apps through an agreement between the University and Google and covered by WMU’s existing Google Apps terms of service. The value of enabling consumer apps is that users can sign in through their Bronco NetID. To maintain or create a personal account for YouTube, Google Plus or another consumer app, simply sign in using a non-WMU email address.

Free Microsoft products available
Office 365 ProPlus provides desktop versions of Microsoft Office for both PC and Mac to WMU students and employees at no cost. It also provides access to mobile Office apps as well as cloud-based, online collaboration tools. These include OneDrive for Business, Word Online, Excel Online, PowerPoint Online and OneNote Online. Only currently enrolled students and currently employed faculty and staff are eligible. Eligibility ends 30 days after students are no longer enrolled and faculty and staff members are no longer actively employed. Visit wmich.edu/helpdesk/office365 for details.

Western News to go on hiatus soon
The next issue of Western News will be distributed on Thursday, June 25. This will be the last issue for the summer. The deadline to submit items for the issue is 5 p.m. Friday, June 19. Western News will resume publication at the beginning of the fall semester.

Psychologist receives $416,385 NIH grant
A veteran WMU psychology professor has landed a three-year, $416,385 grant from the National Institutes of Health to conduct research with her students on the behavioral pharmacology of novel stimulant drugs, commonly known on the street as “bath salts.” Lisa Baker, psychology, will implement animal models of substance abuse to evaluate the abuse potential of various chemical constituents of bath salts. She will conduct her study with the aid of several undergraduate and graduate students, who will gain valuable research experience.

Valley Dining Center groundbreaking set for June 12
The WMU community will gather in Goldworth Valley Friday, June 12, for a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction on a dramatic new dining facility that will be open for fall 2016. The 1:30 p.m. event on the site directly across from Goldworth Valley Pond will feature WMU President John M. Dunn, Vice President for Student Affairs Diane Anderson and Dining Services Director Judy Clipper. Students, administrators, dining staff and others from across the campus are expected to attend.

Goldworth Valley Drive is partially closed for site preparation and utility work. Those attending the groundbreaking should approach the area traveling clockwise on the campus Ring Road, driving around the road closure barricades to park near the intramural-held end of the road.

The two-story Valley Dining Center will overlook the Goldworth Valley Pond and have nine dining venues as well as a retail cafe and convenience store. It will serve all 12 residence halls in the Valley and be open to all WMU students, faculty and staff members, and visitors.

Trustees set 2015-16 budget, keep tuition within state cap
Trustees approved that increase June 3, as well. It meets Michigan’s tuition restraint request, and WMU remains the state’s most affordable research university.

Big expense changes in the budget include increases in compensation levels that range from 2 to 3 percent for WMU employees. In addition to the $6.3 million in new compensation costs to cover those increases, a nearly $1.8 million compensation system adjustment has been added due to the market-based Staff Compensation Project completed in May. The study of WMU compensation levels was the first in six years and resulted in pay increases for 355 people.
Thirty-three faculty members receive promotions

The WMU Board of Trustees approved promotions for 33 faculty members at its June 3 meeting. The promotions are effective with the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year.

Promoted to professor are: Ala Al-Fuqaha, computer science; Julie Apker, communication; Michal Becht, University Libraries; Sue Ellen Christian, communication; David Curwen, dance; Jill Herrmann-Wilmarth, teaching, learning and educational studies; Ok-Kyong Kim, mathematics; Mustafa Mirzeler, English; Mustafa Mustafa, world languages and literatures; Debasri Mukherjee, economics; Jennifer Palmke, mathematics; Mejda Raja, special education and literacy studies; and Gwendolyn Rose, music.

Promoted to associate professor are: Kevin Wanner, comparative religion; Kristina Wirtz, anthropology; and Takashi Wirtz, anthropology.

Promoted to assistant professor are: Adam Manley, family and consumer sciences; Heather McGee, psychology; Natalio Millerau, political science; and Stamatis Papadopoulos, computer science.

Promoted to assistant professor II are: Hannah Morin, English; and Hui-Ying Ulric Ho, English.

Promoted to faculty specialist II are: Tracy DeMars, teaching, learning and educational studies; Linda Dove, family and consumer sciences; and Anna Mettling, communication.

Promoted to research assistant professor II are: Elizabeth Abbott, English; and Andrey Asefa, political science.

Promoted to research assistant II are: Mary Beth Blakemore, political science; John Blum, English; and Jeffrey Paul, English.

Promoted to research assistant are: Leendert Veerman, political science; and James Williams, psychology.

Promoted to instructional assistant professor II are: Donald Allen, psychology; and Mary Peterson, psychology.

Promoted to instructional assistant professor are: Sarah Appel, English; and Diana Long-Scheumeyer, English.

Promoted to instructional assistant are: Tessa Mitchell, political science; and John Pavlopoulos, political science.

Promoted to research assistant are: Tricia Anderson, political science; and Lea Goones, English.

Promoted to research assistant II are: Kristina Wirtz, anthropology; and Takashi Wirtz, anthropology.

Promoted to research assistant are: Debasri Mukherjee, economics; Jennifer Palmke, mathematics; Mejda Raja, special education and literacy studies; Gwendolyn Rose, music; Kevin Wanner, comparative religion; Kristina Wirtz, anthropology; and Takashi Wirtz, anthropology.

Promoted to research assistant II are: Tracy DeMars, teaching, learning and educational studies; Linda Dove, family and consumer sciences; and Anna Mettling, communication.

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Trustees grant tenure to 23 faculty members

At its June 3 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees approved the tenure of 23 faculty members, effective with the beginning of the 2015–16 academic year.

The names of those granted tenure, along with their unit or program affiliations, are: James Dunn, mathematics; Lofton Durham, the family and consumer sciences; Andrzej Benac, history; Scott Boerma, music; James the 2015–16 academic year. members, effective with the beginning of Trustees approved the tenure of 23 faculty

Dales coached many athletes, including Olympic Gold Medalist Ira Murchison, the world record holder in the 100m and 1956 Olympic winner in the 4x100m. Under Dales, the Broncos earned 25 All-American honors, producing 11 track and field and another 14 in cross country. His 1964 and 1965 NCAA championship teams were

The inaugural Activate: Midwest New Play Festival is free and set for Friday through Sunday, June 19-21, in the Gilmore Theatre Complex. Tickets for the festival can be reserved by calling the box office of the Gilmore Theatre Complex at (269) 387-6222.

Performance schedule

Friday, June 19—Keynote talk by Sarah Ruhl at 8 p.m. and staged reading of Ruhl’s new play, “The Oldest Boy,” at 8:30 p.m. followed by a question-and-answer period.

Saturday, June 20—“Home is a Passing Feeling” by Karina Cochran at 4 p.m. followed by a discussion with the playwright and “Spin” by Emilio Rodriguez at 8 p.m. followed by a discussion with the playwright.

Sunday, June 21—“Cane River King” by Jeremy Llorence at 2 p.m. followed by a discussion with the playwright and “Ghost-beat!” by Eric Appleton at 5 p.m. followed by a discussion with the playwright. About the festival

The festival is organized by the departments of English and Theatre and is made possible by contributions from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and private donors. Playwrights from across the region submitted their work to a reading committee, and four plays were selected for staged readings. After the festival, one of these plays will be selected to receive a workshop production in August at the Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago. “New play development is vital to the future of American theatre and it is happening at every major theatre in the country so why not here on our college campus?” asks Mark Liermann, theatre. “We are very excited to be training our students in this work—to be engaging with these tremendously talented playwrights creating new work.”

WMU night at Growlers game set

Friday evening, June 19, is WMU Faculty and Staff Appreciation Night at the Kalama-zoo Growlers’ Baseball Game. The game will begin at 7:05 p.m. at Homer Stryker Field.

Students and faculty staff members can purchase adult admission tickets to attend the game that night for $7 each. To help Bronco families attend, WMU President John M. Dunn will cover the cost for children 18 and under. The offer is good for the first 300 child ticket requests from employees, with up to two child tickets available for each adult ticket purchased. Tickets may be purchased by calling (269) 492-9966. In addition to WMU employees, WMU alumni are expected to be out in force to attend a special alumni gathering at the field that evening.
Three Bronco teams honored for top academic scores

Golf, men's basketball and women's tennis at WMU are among the more than 1,000 teams to be honored by the NCAA for top scores in the classroom.

Based on their most recent multi-year Academic Progress Rate, ending with 2013-14, these teams have earned NCAA Public Recognition Awards this year for posting scores in the top 10 percent of their sports.

The Bronco golf team earned its first NCAA Public Recognition award last season and won its second this year.

With its 2015 designation, the men's basketball team earned recognition for the sixth time since the NCAA began bestowing the honor with the 2004-05 academic year, more than any other Bronco athletic program. The team has been honored three times in the past five years and is the only men's basketball team in the Mid-American Conference to be recognized this year.

Women's tennis is marking its third public recognition in four years and fifth overall. It is the only MAC women's tennis program to receive the honor this year.

Peer education program gains regional recognition

Theatre for Community Health, a peer education program of 25 students led by Christine Laderosa, received the 2014-15 Outstanding Program Award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

The association's BACCHUS Initiatives, which support collegiate peer educators and advisors, this year recognized WMU as having the most outstanding program among all colleges and universities in a four-state area. BACCHUS is an acronym for Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students.

For more than 20 years, WMU's award citation notes, Theatre for Community Health has demonstrated outstanding work addressing student health issues utilizing the strategy of social change through applied theater.

The program was honored for its work throughout the school year. That work includes performing during Fall Welcome, for First-Year Seminar classes, and in residence halls on topics such as alcohol use, sexual health, rape culture, bystander intervention, and privilege and power.

Program members attended the BACCHUS Regional Conference in April and performed “Great Sexpectations” as the keynote presentation in addition to conducting a workshop on how to use theatre with peer education. WMU’s peer educators are trained and nationally certified by BACCHUS. They do more than 50 performances a year that are seen by about 5,500 students.

Visit wmich.edu/healthcenter/healthpromotion/theatre for more program details.