

Sindecuse announces summer hours

The Sindecuse Health Center has switched to summer hours, and appointments for laboratory or x-ray imaging services before 8 a.m. Tuesdays are no longer offered. Hours for summer I and II are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday. The pharmacy drive-up window is open until 5:30 p.m. weekdays.

Gilmore ticket discount available

As a benefit of WMU's sponsorship of the Gilmore Festival, University employees are eligible for a 15 percent discount on most festival tickets. Visit thegilmore.org to view festival events or call (269) 342-1166 to request a brochure. To get the discount, order by phone, fax, mail or in person at Miller Auditorium. Use the password "2014."

H.R. now administering certain leaves

For the past few years, WMU has used the services of BASIC for administering family and medical leaves of absence. Effective May 1, WMU Human Resources resumed coordination of family and medical leaves. Employees with a leave or those interested in applying for one should contact their Human Resources representative by visiting wmich.edu/hr/employees/benefits/fmla.html.

Proposals accepted through May 30

Applications are being accepted through Friday, May 30, to have a poster presentation, mini-workshop or resource table included in the Teaching and Learning Bash Friday, Sept. 5. Proposals should be submitted online. Visit wmich.edu/facdev for details.

Database accepting profile updates

Employees may add more content to their Discovery Experts Database profiles through Monday, June 30. Content added during this third phase will be uploaded to the database en masse by September 2014. Visit wmich.edu/research for more information.

Awards given at Lavender Graduation

Several awards were presented during the Lavender Graduation April 24. The event recognizes the contributions and achievements of lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender students and their allies. It also recognizes those making significant contributions to WMU's LBGTA community.

Honored were: James Hallas, student, Emerging Leader Award; gender and women's studies, Bronco Pride Campus Advocacy Award; Christopher Tremblay, associate provost for enrollment management, Lambda Leadership Award; Taja Cato-Jackson and James Hallas, students, Office of LGBT Student Services scholarship; Melissa Hammer, student, Outstanding Ally Award; and Alexander Susienka, Center for Fostering Success, Stonewall Award for Distinguished Service and Leadership.

WMU-Air Zoo relationship being enhanced

Signaling a stronger new relationship between Michigan's premier aviation entities, WMU will be the presenting sponsor for the Air Zoo's Friday, May 16, Science Innovation Hall of Fame Awards Gala and Dinner.

The inaugural benefit gala at the Air Zoo in Portage, Mich., will honor science and arts innovation shown by high school students and K-12 teachers in a 12-county southwest Michigan area.

It also will continue a long state tradition of inducting new members into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame, which is housed at the Air Zoo. Those two sets of honors will be combined at the acclaimed museum with an evening of dancing, dining and a silent auction that will include unique, one-of-a-kind items from the Air Zoo archives.



Students get hands-on experiences. (Photo courtesy of the Air Zoo)

Tickets are \$100 each, and reservations are required by Monday, May 12. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Air Zoo's growing portfolio of hands-on science and technology educational programs that impact southwest Michigan students.

President John M. Dunn says WMU's sponsorship of the gala is a reflection of the University's 75-year history and international

reputation in aviation as well as WMU's commitment to the core values the Air Zoo is promoting with its decision to honor students and teachers in the disciplines known collectively as STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"Aviation, the STEM disciplines and the fine arts are central to our University's

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Advisory group to guide teacher preparation programs

The College of Education and Human Development has formed a new advisory council to oversee professional education programs at WMU.

The Educator Preparation Governing Council is a policy-making and review body for all programs preparing education professionals for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade settings. The council's various committees will review assessment results, make recommendations for program and policy changes, and assure communication among all stakeholders.

The new body is led by Ming Li, dean of the education college, and includes education professionals from area school districts as well as representatives of the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education and Human Development, Fine Arts, and Health and Human Services. The establishment of the Educator Preparation Governing Council addresses a major recommendation of Task Force 21, an 18-month effort to identify areas for improvement in professional education at WMU. The council and its inaugural members were the focus of a recent gala celebration at the college. Implementation of additional Task Force 21 recommendations will now be directed by the council. Information about the new group and its work can be found online at wmich.edu/education.

Researchers get major grant to improve canes used by blind

People who are blind or have visual impairments could be the ultimate beneficiaries of a \$421,125 grant awarded to WMU researchers to improve the design and use of canes.



Kim

The grant, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and National Institutes of Health was awarded to Dae Shik Kim and Robert Wall Emerson, blindness and low vision studies, and Koorosh Naghshineh, mechanical and aerospace engineering. The research team will study how to improve the ergonomic design and cane-use biomechanics to see what has the greatest impact on detecting obstacles and drop-offs in the walking environment.

Kim, the project's principal investigator,

says the long cane and how it is used was developed during the 1940s during World War II and has changed little since then, partly due to lack of research.

Researchers will test whether cane rigidity, length, weight and weight distribution impact the ability to detect obstacles and drop-offs. Part of that will involve experimenting with different materials.

"But no empirical research has shown the advantages and disadvantages of using different cane shaft materials," Kim says. "So one of the things we plan to do is systematically manipulate the rigidity, weight, weight distribution and length to see how those variables affect how well the person can detect drop-offs and obstacles."

How the cane is wielded is also a main focus of the three-year project, which began Feb. 1. The team will study employing the

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Around campus and beyond

Two big campus events start today

Thousands of visitors will be on campus as WMU hosts the 52nd annual Michigan Youth Arts Festival Thursday through Saturday, May 8-10, and the 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies Thursday through Sunday, May 8-11.

The festival is the culmination of a nine-month search for the finest artistic talent in Michigan high schools, with 1,000 being invited to participate in the annual arts spectacular.

Dan Scanlon, film director and artist at Pixar Animation Studios, will serve as the official artist-in-residence and special guest artist at a public film festival with a post-show talk from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts. That presentation is one of many public events offered during the three-day festival. Visit michiganyoutharts.org/festival for details.

Meanwhile, more than 3,000 of the world's leading academics and others interested in the Middle Ages will gather on campus for the Medieval Congress, which is the world's largest annual gathering of professional academics, students, performers, enthusiasts and independent scholars interested in all things medieval.

Registration is required to attend the congress' Exhibition Hall, special musical and theatrical performances, and all other events. A discount is available to Kalamazoo residents and members of the WMU community. For more information, visit wmich.edu/medieval/congress or call (269) 387-8745.

Final humanities center speaker set

Osama Mandany, chair of the Department of English at Menoufiya University in Egypt will speak on "No Country for Old Men: Shifting Cultural Borders in Egypt" at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 15, in 2452 Knauss Hall. Mandany is the final speaker in the Center for the Humanities' 2013-14 Changing Climates Series, which is focusing on how the world's temperature and social climates are changing.

Fundraiser to help Irish senior center

Occupational therapy students are hosting a fundraiser Saturday, May 17, for a senior center in Ireland that has been an integral stop during a study-abroad program. "The Gathering" event is set for 1 to 4 p.m. and will feature entertainers from the Quinn School of Irish Dance in the atrium of the College of Health and Human Services building. The cost is a \$5 donation for a cup of tea and a scone. Students also will show pictures of Ireland.

Chinese culture classes announced

The Confucius Institute is accepting registrations for summer Chinese culture classes that begin the week of Monday, May 19, and run through Friday, June 27. The low-cost classes are open to the public for personal enrichment.

A half-price tuition discount is offered to WMU students and senior citizens age 55 or older. WMU employees pay no tuition. Some classes charge all participants a fee for materials. Visit wmuconfucius.org for details and to register.

Book examines African storytellers

Mustafa K. Mirzeler, English, has written a new book that is an account of his experience listening to storytellers and of how oral tradition continues to evolve in the modern world. "Remembering Nayeche and the Gray Bull Engiro: African Storytellers of the Karamoja Plateau and the Plains of Turkana" was published in April as part of the University of Toronto Press' Anthropological Horizons series.



Mirzeler

It describes a genesis myth of the Jie people of northern Uganda and the Turkana of northern Kenya. From the mid-1990s to 2011, Mirzeler covered more than 1,500 miles by foot during numerous trips to sub-Saharan East Africa to conduct ethnographies on oral traditions of the Turkana, Elmolo, Jie, and Labwor people.

He researches African historiography, African historical tradition and folktales, colonial encounters, Turkish folklore and literature, and African travel writing.

Professor leading national association

Helen Sharp, speech pathology and audiology, has assumed the presidency of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association. She had been serving the past year as president elect.



Sharp

ACPA is an international nonprofit medical society of health care professionals who treat and perform research on birth defects of the head and face. A multidisciplinary organization, it has some 2,500 members representing more than 30 disciplines in 60 countries.

A primary objective of the association is to foster communication and cooperation among professionals from all specialties. Sharp presides over a 16-member Executive Council that establishes association policy and monitors activities as they are implemented through the national office. The council is supported by 25 committees and a staff of nine.

Counselor appointed to state council

Jennifer Wiebold, counselor education and counseling psychology and blindness and low vision studies, was appointed to the Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services in March by Gov. Rick Snyder. Wiebold, who represents disability advocacy groups, will serve a three-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2016.



Wiebold

The 17-member council reviews and evaluates Michigan's rehabilitation programs and services, and advises the department director and governor. It works in partnership with Michigan Rehabilitation Services and the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs' Bureau of Services for Blind Persons.

Wiebold has held several national leadership positions that will support her council work. She joined the faculty in 2000 and is a Fellow of the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association.

Registration deadline looms for campus' annual Poker Walk

Registrations must be received by Monday, May 19, to participate in the 11th annual Poker Walk for all employees.

This fun-filled event to celebrate National Employee Health and Fitness Day is set for Tuesday, May 20. Participants create a team or walk individually around a two-mile



course and collect cards along the way. Those with the best poker hands win prizes.

Poker Walk check-in will be from 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the SRC Indoor Tennis Courts.

Everyone must preregister, either totally online at wmich.edu/rec or by downloading the registration form on that website and mailing or faxing it to Jen Bailey, University Recreation, at Mail Stop 5447 or (269) 387-3766.

Retirement reception

Jeanine Bartholomew, College of Health and Human Services, will be recognized for more than 30 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, in 4010 Health and Human Services Building.

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.

Western News

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W WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Campus community can help select top four staffers for 2014

Twenty-five staff members are in the running for WMU's 2014 Make a Difference Annual Award, which carries a \$1,200 before-tax prize and will be presented during this fall's Academic Convocation.

The prestigious honor is reserved for the University's most outstanding employees. The 25 candidates are recipients of 2013-14 fall and spring semiannual awards through the Make a Difference program. As such, they are eligible to be considered for one of the four annual awards bestowed by this peer-to-peer staff recognition program.

Members of the WMU community have through Saturday, May 31, to decide which of the following staffers will be the "final four." Bonnie Ayers, student financial aid and scholarships; Joanne Beverage, English; Don Beyer, intercollegiate athletics; Deanna Bowling, facilities management-landscape

services; Mary Lou Brooks, geography; Bruce Carpenter, chemistry; Shona Drake, Haenicke Institute for Global Education;

Myla Edmond, College of Arts and Sciences; Elena Gaudio, president's office; Paul Hildenbrand, Haworth College of Business; Tracey Kauppila, College of Aviation; Steve Keto, Landscape Services; Nancy Landsberger, civil and construction engineering; Edward Maring, maintenance services; Nicole Millar, student conduct; Patrick Niemi, theatre; James Oswalt, maintenance services; Dorilee Schieble, history;

Gerald Schulz, maintenance services;

Tammi Smith, College of Arts and Sciences advising; Debbie Uldriks, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Kevin Villadsen, maintenance services; Mariann Vorva, Center for Academic Success Programs; Paige Warner, First-Year Experience; and Carolyn Wiley, Valley I Dining Service.

Employees who wish to provide additional information in support of any candidate should include specific examples of how the candidate has demonstrated dedication to outstanding service.

Visit wmich.edu/makeadifference for details about submitting more information.

Events underway in observance of Foster Care Month

May is national Foster Care Month, and a series of free, public events are underway on campus to mark the observance.

The biggest event is Fostering Success Michigan's third annual summit, set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, May 16, in the Fetzer Center. Registration is free.

In addition, WMU's Center for Fostering Success is sponsoring an open house from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, May 22, in 1111 Faunce Student Services Building. The center includes the Seita Scholars program as well as Fostering Success Michigan.

More information about the summit and other Foster Care Month events is available by visiting fosteringssuccessmichigan.com and clicking the News & Events tab.



WMU now enrolls 160 youth from foster care. (Photo courtesy of Seita Scholars office)

Driving, parking disrupted

Expanded construction fencing by the former Hoekje and Bigelow halls is creating traffic and parking changes through mid-July on North Dormitory Road and by Ellsworth Hall and the Bernhard Center. Visit wmich.edu/news/2014/04/15485 for details.

Even Einstein took breaks, didn't he?—"Between Theorems," a sculpture depicting a frisbee-throwing Albert Einstein, found a new home this spring by the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences building. The sculpture by Montana artist Jim Dolan was a gift from John A. Kapenga, computer science, and his wife, Karen Woodin. The couple first saw the welded steel piece at the 2012 Grand Rapids ArtPrize exhibition and wanted to install it at their home. They opted instead to have it installed near the main entrance to the college to give more people the opportunity to see and appreciate it. The statue has since become the mascot of the University's High Performance Computational Science Laboratory, and there are future plans to install LED lighting and dedicated solar energy panels by the statue. According to the artist's statement about the work, the piece shows "Professor Einstein throwing a frisbee, taking a moment for lighthearted joy amidst his important work." (Photo by Mike Lanka)



Trustees approve retirements of six faculty, 15 staff members

The retirements of six faculty members and 15 staff members were approved by the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees at its April 9 meeting. Trustees also signed off on two faculty resignations.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Esther N. Gray, special education and literacy studies, 18 years, effective April 30, 2019; Christian R. Hirsch, mathematics, 41 years, effective Dec. 31; Dionysios I. Kountanis, computer science, 36 years, effective Dec. 31; Richard M. Oxhandler, physician assistant/integrative holistic health and wellness, 37 years, effective Dec. 31; Allen J. Schwenk, mathematics, 34 years, effective April 30, 2019; and Gerald L. Sievers, statistics, 46 years, effective April 30.

The staff members retiring are: Connie Altman, information technology, 34 years, effective Feb. 28; Terry R. Bettiga, maintenance services, 26 years, effective March 31; Craig L. Boucher, information technology,

25 years, effective Jan. 7; Annette Calvert, WMU-Battle Creek, 19 years, effective April 30; Nancy L. Cardoza, Sindecuse Health Center, 15 years, effective April 30; Sandra Custer, Sindecuse Health Center, 26 years, effective Dec. 31, 2013; Cynthia R. Dunaway, public safety, 30 years, effective Jan. 31; Lunny D. Green, Registrar's Office, 34 years, effective Jan. 31; Caryne M. Hanson, student financial aid and scholarships, 11 years, effective Jan. 24; Patricia M. Holton, environmental safety and emergency management, 26 years, effective March 31; Arthur Hudson, landscape services, 17 years, effective Feb. 28; Joan E. Johnson, information technology, 24 years, effective Feb. 28; Gregg McChesney, maintenance services, 32 years, effective Jan. 31; Frances N. Morrow, Sindecuse Health Center, 11 years, effective April 30; and Loisjean A. Shelton, building custodial and support services, 26 years, effective April 30.

The faculty members resigning are: Akon E. Ekpo, marketing, effective Aug. 17, and Todd P. White, accountancy, effective April 29.

Sustainability video wins viewer-support competition

Second Nature and Planet Forward announced April 21 that WMU's submission was the top vote-getter of this year's Climate Leadership Awards Video Competition.

More than 28,000 votes were cast on videos created by the 2014 Second Nature Climate Leadership Award finalists. WMU came out on top, receiving 8,912 votes from site visitors.

In the Carnegie Doctoral category that WMU won, the University of Massachusetts Amherst came in second with 8,576 votes.

Final overall Climate Leadership Award winners will be chosen by a group of Second Nature directors and announced later.

Obituaries



Doolittle

Francis William "Bill" Doolittle, a retired head football coach, died April 10. He was 90. Doolittle was coach from 1964 to 1974 and Mike Gary Athletic Fund director from 1975 to 1990.

A celebration of his life is set for noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 22, in the Seelye Center. Gifts may be made to the Gary Fund. Visit allenfuneralhomeinc.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.



Phillips

Claude S. Phillips Jr., founding director of the Institute of International and Area Studies, died April 17. He was 91.

Phillips joined the faculty in 1957 and retired in 1990. He developed the Master of Development Administration and helped develop other international-related programs. Visit avinkcremation.com to make a memorial guestbook entry.

On Campus with Doreen Brinson



JOB, THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER
ARE HER TWO LABORS OF LOVE
(Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Doreen Brinson has been drawn to Kalamazoo since her college days. Brinson earned a bachelor's degree in English literature and teaching from WMU in 1973 and has lived in the same historic home in Kalamazoo for the past 30 years.

Now Facilities Management's labor relations specialist, she has most of her career in human resources posts. They began in 1974 at a Veterans Affairs hospital in San Francisco, followed by a job in WMU's Human Resources unit in the town she had missed so much.

Brinson was the University's training and development coordinator from 1985 to 1991 and director of staff collective bargaining until 1997. Then came a professional opportunity she couldn't pass up—heading the city of Kalamazoo's H.R. department. After a decade there, she worked locally as an H.R. consultant and served an interim stint as San Antonio's H.R. director instead of accepting a post as that city's full-time director.

"I love working in labor relations. It's my favorite part of H.R. because it's the hardest part," Brinson says. "Everything gets done through people. That's what makes this place tick—you, the plumber, me, the president. There's a wonderful sense of community in Facilities Management and a common interest in what we're all about. Once a Bronco, always a Bronco."

Brinson's duties include serving as the grievance officer and contract administrator for AFSCME and MSEA and serving on both of those unions' management negotiating teams and on the training committee for the power plant's apprenticeship program.

"My clients are directors and managers needing assistance with contract interpretation and disciplinary issues," Brinson says. "I advise, counsel and work with the unions so we don't get into grievance situations. My job is to have healthy employee relations. And it's fun. It's my life's work."

Brinson is a past management co-chair and 10-year member of the boards of directors for two joint labor and management organizations, but her main extracurricular activity of the past seven years has been volunteering at the Cheff Therapeutic Riding Center in Augusta, Mich., home of her beloved equine buddy, Harvey. She has two adult sons and enjoys gardening, collecting locally made art, and attending theatrical performances, lectures, Art Hops and many other events on and off campus.

This month is excellent time to sign up for SRC membership

Benefits-eligible faculty and non-bargaining staff are eligible to sign up for a Student Recreation Center membership and pay nothing more than the taxes on \$270. The membership year will run from May 5, 2014, through May 10, 2015.

Members may use the SRC Monday through Sunday anytime the building is open. Family hours are anytime during the summer, and kids under 18 can come in free. To sign up, go to wmich.edu/rec and click the orange SRC Access icon, then click Benefit Eligible Faculty/Staff Membership Form. Complete the form and submit it electronically.

The SRC is a convenient way to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Call Cindy at (269) 387-3115 for more details, to schedule an SRC tour or to arrange for an in-office presentation.

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WMU-Air Zoo relationship being enhanced

academic core," Dunn says. "We've been talking with the Air Zoo's new director, Troy Thrash, about a closer relationship between the museum and WMU, and this seemed like the perfect opportunity to launch that partnership."

Thrash says the new awards initiative is meant to boost the local focus on careers that will position southwest Michigan for growth.

"The Science Innovation Hall of Fame Awards will play a major role in encouraging local students and educators to embrace STEAM—science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics—disciplines," says Thrash. "Ultimately, this will ensure we have a robust technical work force and a thriving local economy for years to come"

The colleges of Aviation and Engineering and Applied Sciences will both have a presence at the gala. Moving forward, the aviation college will have a permanent presence at the Air Zoo, and the college and museum will collaborate on various initiatives.

"We want everyone who visits the Air Zoo to realize the nation's top collegiate aviation program is here at WMU," says Dave Powell, aviation college dean. "And we expect our extensive roster of visitors to leave us with a full briefing on the caliber of the aviation museum that we consider a partner."

Gala ticket information is available at halloffame@airzoo.org or (269) 350-2829.

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Researchers get major grant

two-point touch technique, where the user lifts and taps the cane from side to side, bending at the wrist, and the constant contact technique, which keeps the cane tip in contact with the walking surface using a sweeping motion.

The study is actually a continuation of others Kim and his associates have conducted over the years.

Since 2008, he has conducted a series of long cane studies with his colleagues at WMU.

"Some blind individuals use a guide dog for their mobility. But that is a relatively small percentage of individuals," Kim says. "The vast majority use the long cane to get around. So by redesigning and improving its design, and also improving how the cane is used, we hope to improve the safety of blind individuals, which will obviously improve their quality of life."

APA award winners feted—

The Administrative Professional Association honored three staff members April 17 during its annual awards reception. This year's honorees, from left, are; Chris Voss, Student Recreation Center, Tony Griffin Service Award; Jennifer C. Hsu, diversity and inclusion, Outstanding New Professional; and Suzanne V. Beals, development and alumni relations; Outstanding Professional. (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

