WMU named finalist for national award

WMU is a finalist to win a 2014 Climate Leadership Award as part of an annual competition among the U.S. colleges and universities that are signatories of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment.

WMU is one of four schools in its category for national honors in the awards program. The program is sponsored by Second Nature, a national nonprofit that seeks to create a sustainable society by transforming higher education, and Planet Forward, a Web-to-TV initiative that documents and shares energy, climate and sustainability advances that can be used to tackle some of society's biggest challenges. “This is enormously gratifying,” says WMU President John M. Dunn. “We've been committed to sustainability for a very long time, and we have a record of significant accomplishments. This honor is an acknowledgement of our past work, our current initiatives and our commitment to the future. It's about the culture of sustainability we're building on campus and in our community.”

This year, the award program’s fifth, drew the largest and most competitive pool of nominations to date. The other three schools in the running for top honors are Arizona State University, the University of Washington, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Bikes and EcoMugs are two reasons WMU was named a climate award finalist. (Photo courtesy of the Office of Sustainability)

University pledges to increase study abroad enrollment

The University has committed to increasing study abroad participation by 50 percent over the next five years as part of a national initiative that aims to double the number of U.S. college students studying abroad by 2019.

WMU is one of more than 160 higher education institutions that have pledged to support the goals of the Institute of International Education’s Generation Study Abroad Commitment. The initiative also is supported by study abroad provider organizations, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and several foreign institutions and government agencies.

IIE, a private nonprofit organization, administers the Fulbright Program and Gilman Scholarships for the state department as well as conducts policy research that includes annually publishing the Open Doors Report on International and Educational Exchange.

Through its initiative, IIE hopes to increase the national annual total from the 295,000 students who studied abroad in 2011-12 to 600,000 by the end of the decade.

WMU beats national average

IIE establishes an undergraduate study abroad participation rate for colleges and universities by dividing the number of degree-seeking undergraduates who went abroad by the total number of undergraduate degrees awarded in the reporting year.

A total of 482 degree-seeking WMU undergraduate students were studying abroad during the 2013-14 academic year. The national average for U.S. institutions is 5.3%.

IIE is a co-host of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Since the program started in 1946, more than 300,000 Americans have benefited from international educational opportunities funded by the U.S. government.

Continued on page 4
Entrepreneur to give forum talk

Kevin Brosovich, owner and chief people officer of HRM Innovations LLC, will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, April 11, in 2150 Schneider Hall. HRM Innovations is a local human resource and management company. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made at wmich.edu/business-e-rsvp or by calling (269) 387-6559.

Engineers to showcase their projects

Senior engineering students will showcase and demonstrate imaginative and often highly technical projects during the 54th Conference on Senior Engineering Design. They will present their projects from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences building. The seniors complete projects to solve real business problems.

Conflict in Balkans is lecture topic

Maria Koinova from the University of Warwick will address “Ethnic Conflicts and Governance in the Balkan States” when she speaks at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 17, in the Fetter Center as part of the George Klein Lecture Series. Koinova is interested in why ethnonationalist conflicts vary in the level of violence they generate and why violence at whatever level persists and when and why things change for the better or worse.

Youth summer programs

Westminster United Methodist Church, 233 S. Park St., will again offer a summer program for children who have completed kindergarten through age 8. Priority registration for WMU employees and students runs through Friday, April 11. The camp will run from June 9 through Aug. 29. Parents may sign up children by the week or for the entire summer.

The annual Keith Hall Summer Drum Intensive will again offer a summer program for children who have completed kindergarten through age 9. Priority registration for WMU employees and students runs through Friday, April 11. The camp will run from June 9 through Aug. 29. Parents may sign up children by the week or for the entire summer.

Activities planned for fall include "Life of Pi" during Fall 2002 Man Booker Prize.

Third-year students in the First-Year Experience will be staging activities related to “Life of Pi” during Fall Welcome Week and will continue staging activities until April 2015. In addition, students registered for the First-Year Seminar will be reading the book for class.

Related events planned for fall include a presentation by Martel titled “Healing Journeys: Crossing the Pacific, Dealing With Trauma” Oct. 23 in Miller Auditorium. University departments, groups and programs wishing to sponsor additional events should contact Miranda Howard at miranda.howard@wmich.edu for more information.

Retirement receptions

The following retirement receptions have been announced: Gary D. Lawson, speech pathology and audiology, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, in the Oakland; Ellen Miller, Dining Services, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, President’s Dining Room, Bernhard Center; Gerald Sievers, statistics, 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, April 18, the Oakland.

Jobs

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

"Life of Pi" chosen for Universitywide Common Read 2014-15

WMU’S Universitywide Common Read 2014-15 will be turning the spotlight on Yann Martel’s “Life of Pi,” winner of the 2002 Man Booker Prize.

The common read officially begins the first week in June, when new students arrive on campus for orientation.

First-Year Experience will be staging activities related to “Life of Pi” during Fall Welcome Week and will continue staging activities until April 2015. In addition, students registered for the First-Year Seminar will be reading the book for class.

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*Associate provost co-founds journal

Christopher Tremblay, associate provost for enrollment management, has co-founded the Journal of College Access with Patrick O’Connor, associate dean for college counseling at Kingwood Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. JCA focuses on the current trends, research, practices and development of all types of programs, policies and activities related to the access and success in postsecondary education.

The journal will be housed at scholarworks.wmich.edu/jca through WMU’s ScholarWorks website and also is affiliated with the Michigan College Access Network. JCA is planning to publish biannually, the first in September. Submissions are currently being accepted for that issue.

ScholarWorks
Faculty Senate plans survey

The Faculty Senate’s Ad Hoc Committee on General Education will soon ask employees, part-time instructors and teaching assistants to complete a short survey on general education at WMU. Responses to the five-minute to 10-minute survey will be taken from Monday, April 14, through Friday, May 2. Participation is encouraged.

The survey represents the first effort of the committee to gather baseline data for what will be a process of engaging the full campus community in a ground-up conversation around general education.

The full results of the survey will be made available publicly and will inform the committee’s efforts to facilitate a broad, university-wide conversation on general education.

Professional instructors name first two Outstanding Administrators

Commitment to part-time faculty by professors

College of Arts and Sciences, have each been named Outstanding Administrator. In order of years of service during April, the professional instructors who made this effort are

35 Years—Lori S. Groh, logistical services; and Stacey L. Markin, Haworth Library.
30 Years—Michael P. Deisher, maintenance services; and Sharon Stoken, building custodial and support services.
25 Years—Richard T. Boyd, power plant; and Tammy L. Miller, transportation services.
20 Years—Joseph W. Petto Jr., industrial and manufacturing engineering.
15 Years—Carol E. Bukant, Sindecuse Health Center; and Stacey L. Markin, Haworth College of Business.

Relay for Life fundraiser starts April 11

Colleges Against Cancer at Western Michigan University will host the American Cancer Society’s annual Relay for Life Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12.

The fundraiser begins at noon Friday and continues until noon Saturday at Kanley Track and the Student Recreation Center.

This year’s participants are competing with Central Michigan University to see which school’s teams can raise more money. The contest starts Wednesday, April 9, and runs through noon April 12.

“The overall highest fundraiser from either school between those days gets a brand new Fossil watch valued at $100,” says Caitlyn Hella, Colleges Against Cancer at WMU president. “We have a fun and exciting 24 hours planned. Everyone is invited, rather than releasing it into the atmosphere. Calley signed the bill in WMU’s Michigan Research and Educational Repository for Research and Education. The repository is a primary source for geological research in the state and was instrumental in the development of the carbon dioxide gas-based enhanced oil recovery technology. HB 4885 sets a flat 4 percent severance tax rate for companies using the enhanced oil recovery method, recognizing that this technology revitalizes previously marginal wells. Calley also signed three additional bills that promote the use of enhanced oil recovery. Visit legislature.michigan.gov for more information.

Professional instructors name first two Outstanding Administrators

Jonathan Bush, chair of the Department of English, and Alex Enyedi, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, have each been named an Outstanding Administrator by the Professional Instructors Organization. They are the first recipients of the recently launched award.

It goes to administrators who demonstrate commitment to part-time faculty by promoting teaching effectiveness; including part-time faculty in departmental decisions; providing sufficient support, resources and encouragement for part-time faculty; and recognizing and rewarding excellent performance.

Other nominees were Tricia Hennessy, art school director; department chairs Marc Alpector-Kelly, philosophy, Ben Atchison, occupational therapy, Irma Lopez, Spanish, and Donna Talbot, educational leadership; Lauren Freedman, program coordinator for interdisciplinary studies; Dori Rovato, program coordinator for interdisciplinary health studies; and Gay Walker, program coordinator for integrative holistic health and wellness.

Lt. governor signs new legislation into law at WMU

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley was at WMU April 1 to sign legislation encouraging the recovery of oil that is difficult to extract from existing wells across the state, making full use of these producing sites in an environmentally sound manner.

House Bill 4885 reduces taxes paid by companies that use an enhanced method of extracting the oil—one that does not involve hydraulic fracturing, or fracking as it’s commonly called.

The method uses carbon dioxide, which is injected into previously cAPPED oil and natural gas wells to push the once unattainable oil to the surface. It has the added environmental benefit of permanently trapping the carbon dioxide in the underground wells.

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Local residents may attend Medieval Congress for free

Kalamazoo residents and members of the WMU community may attend the 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies for free if they register online or in person by Wednesday, April 23. WMU’s congress is the world’s largest annual gathering of people interested in the Middle Ages. The 2014 event will take place Thursday through Sunday, May 8-11.

Kalamazoo-area residents and WMU community members may register online in person at the Miller Auditorium ticket office through April 23 at no charge. They also may register through that date by mail or fax for a nominal handling fee. After April 23, they will be assessed a $50 late fee. Register online at wiumedievalcongress.com. For information on registering by mail or fax, call (269) 387-8745.

Obituary

Greg D. Roehrick, a professor of theatre who served the Department of Theatre as director of design and technical production, died Feb. 25 at age 60. A memorial service will take place at noon Saturday, April 12, in the Williams Theatre of the Gilmore Theatre Complex.
Class project results in book of World War II remembrances

A gerontology class project that gathered people’s memories of the World War II era has grown into the book, “There is No Substitute for Victory—Remembrances of World War II.”

It is the result of a spring 2013 class project by students in Janet Hahn’s class, Issues in Aging: Service Learning. The handsomely arranged and illustrated spiral booklet is packed with the reminiscences of nearly 200 area residents who lived through the war.

Twenty-two students conducted the interviews, and Hahn served as editor. Sections include Rationing, Our Troops, Family Life, Our Brave Men and Women, After the War, Patriotism, Rest in Peace, Stories Told From Men and Women Around the World, and Recipes.

The idea for the project came from Barbara Rider, emerita in and former chair of occupational therapy, and Ellen Page-Robin, founding director of the Gerontology Program.

The book can be bought for $20 by going to wmich.edu/disabilitycenter and clicking on Online Store and then Center for Gerontology Book.

On Campus with Bradley Horstman

Maintaining a consistent Web presence and training every department on campus to manage its own website content has been the job of Bradley Horstman, Web manager in the Office of University Relations.

"People are the best asset," says Horstman, who joined WMU 14 years ago. "Give them responsibility and authority, hold them accountable, participate together and things get better."

His initial responsibilities at WMU included computer systems maintenance and designing and maintaining Web pages. His efforts in recent years resulted in the implementation of a new content management system for websites that allows individuals trained in each department to make changes and updates to Web pages on their own.

"With the right training, it’s as easy as updating your Facebook status," he says. "People have responded pretty well to it."

Horstman has been holding face-to-face training sessions as the new system has been rolling out. His next step, beginning this month, will be to set up Elearning for the new system, making it available and convenient to even more faculty and staff. There also will be question-and-answer sessions on best practices.

Along the same lines as having a consistent look to University Web content, Horstman also is involved with developing responsive design with websites—a Web design approach aimed at crafting sites to provide an optimal viewing experience across all devices.

Horstman started in print and multimedia working for marketing and branding firms in Indiana, which also is where he grew up. He holds an associate degree in visual communications from Ivy Tech State College and a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from the University of Southern Indiana.

He and his fiancée, Caitilin Soderstrom, live in Kalamazoo with their four cats. Sweet One, James “Fresh” Townsend, Chum andinkadumb. Horstman also has a son, Otto, 8, who lives in Texas.

Outside of work, he likes to unplag and enjoys playing poker and chess, camping, gardening and traveling.

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WMU named finalist

Among doctorate-granting institutions are the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, University of North Texas and Ohio State University, according to Second Nature.

The four other collegiate categories also are based on higher education Carnegie classifications. Winners will be announced in late spring.

The Climate Leadership Award program features a public, online voting component. Each of the 20 finalists was invited to produce a video that promotes its specific sustainability efforts. The videos may be viewed at planetforward.org/content/climate-leadership-awards-2014. People can vote through that website once daily until Tuesday, April 15.

The WMU video highlights both the University’s long-time strengths in energy savings as well as its commitment to building a culture of sustainability by weaving the institution’s commitment to green and sustainable practices into every part of University life.

Featured in the video are a number of scenes highlighting campus initiatives as well as interviews with Dunn; Harold Glasser, executive director for campus sustainability; graduate student Kate Binder; and undergraduate student Carlos Daniels.

For more information about WMU’s sustainability initiatives, visit wmich/sustainability or contact the Office for Sustainability at wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2947.