Board of Trustees meeting slated

The next meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, April 9. Details and key agenda items will be posted online at wmich.edu/news closer to the meeting date.

Dunn makes student aid donation

Acting at a special March 19 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees approved raising President John M. Dunn’s base salary by 2.5 percent. As he does each time he receives a raise, Dunn will donate for student financial aid the cumulative total of his pay increase since his $345,000 starting salary. That means that this year, he plans to donate back $37,776.

Bookstore clearance sale ends March 28

The WMU Bookstore is holding a clearance sale through Friday, March 28. Visit the bookstore website at wmubookstore.com for hours and additional information.

Free employee photo sessions set

Employees as well as professionally active retirees are encouraged to have their official WMU photos taken from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 4, May 4, May 29, July 17, Sept. 25 and Dec. 2 in Walwood Hall’s Emeriti Lounge. Contact Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402 to confirm your session or receive your photo.

Major award deadlines coming up

The WMU community has until Tuesday, April 1, to nominate eligible faculty and staff members for the Emerging Scholar, Distinguished Teaching and Distinguished Service awards. Visit wmich.edu/facdev/awards for more information.

 Funds available for diversity projects

Faculty and staff are invited to submit funding proposals for projects related to health disparities and equity and academic readiness and success among populations from racially diverse, underserved communities in West Michigan. Contact Carla Koretsky with questions at carla.koretsky@wmich.edu. Visit wmich.edu/honors for details.

WMU opts out of property purchases

WMU will not proceed with its previously announced decision to purchase 10 homes immediately adjacent to the north edge of the East Campus. The University had said it would demolish the homes to create green space for the community and a more attractive entry point to that part of the main campus. Neither the city of Kalamazoo nor the University want to set what each side believes might be an inappropriate precedent regarding who would have jurisdiction over the homes if WMU owned them. The structures are not considered historic homes, but they do fall within the South Street-Vine Area Local Historic District.

Five engineering dean candidates to visit

Five candidates for the position of dean of the WMU College of Engineering and Applied Sciences will visit the campus in the coming weeks for a series of meetings and public presentations.

The successful candidate will replace Anthony J. Vizzi, who left WMU in mid-2013 to become provost and vice president for academic affairs at Wichita State University.

All presentations are in the Parkview Room of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences building on the Parkview Campus. The candidates, the dates of their campus visits and the times of their public presentations are:

• Thursday, April 3, 9 to 10 a.m., Lizette R. Chevalier, associate dean for undergraduate education and outreach at the University of Southern Illinois-Carbondale’s College of Engineering;

• Thursday, April 3, 9 to 10 a.m., Charles B. Freddmann, associate dean for academic affairs and the Gardner-Zemke Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of New Mexico’s School of Engineering;

• Friday, April 4, 2:15 to 3:15 p.m., Jenna P. Carpenter, associate dean for undergraduate studies and the Wayne and Joannita Sprink Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Louisiana Tech University’s College of Engineering and Science; and

• Thursday, April 10, 2:15 to 3:15 p.m.,erry M. Klein, Office of the Provost, professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering and the Lapierre Professor in

Final design plans for new alumni center revealed

A set of building additions refined to reflect the existing look and feel of East Hall were among the features unveiled March 25 when architects from TowerPinkster revealed the final design for the new WMU Alumni Center.

The renovation design has been done with a goal of achieving LEED Platinum certification. Construction will make use of salvaged materials, using locally sourced new materials, and incorporating geothermal heating.

The two small wings shown in earlier public presentations have been re-envisioned to be clad in brick similar to that on the original structure—possibly using salvaged brick from the building’s south wing. Horizontal architectural lines will tie in the new wings to the details of the original building, as well.

“The additions will be carried out in a way that feels more balanced and

University garners two new grants related to water quality

Stormwater management and related efforts on campus received a big boost this month, when the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality announced that WMU has been awarded two grants totaling $757,214.

Facilities Management applied for the funding from the state’s Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater Program, which aims to accelerate the statewide use of asset management planning practices as well as to improve water quality.

The program only has $97 million available for the 2014 fiscal year, but the environmental quality department received 673 applications seeking $541 million. WMU’s early submission of its applications put it in a lottery to receive a portion of the funds available.

Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for Facilities Management, says the University will use its $516,061 and $241,153 grants to create campuswide stormwater and wastewater asset management plans. These projects will involve inventory data collection, condition assessment, risk assessment, metering, computer modeling and mapping.

Work may start as early as this coming summer but must be completed by June 2017. Daniel Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for Facilities Management, says the University will use its $516,061 and $241,153 grants to create campuswide stormwater and wastewater asset management plans. These projects will involve inventory data collection, condition assessment, risk assessment, metering, computer modeling and mapping.

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Disability services for students office providing testing sites

Due to the increasing number of students who require test accommodations, disability services for students will offer overflow testing sites for final exam week, Monday through Friday, April 21-25.

In a change from the fall semester, the location will be 113 Bernhard Center. The site will provide proctoring for 20 students requiring extended testing time accommodations at 8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. during the week. Disability services for students also provides testing accommodation services with a reader/scribe and adaptive technology by appointment during its set office hours.

Instructors interested in volunteering as exam proctors at the overflow testing location should contact Jayne Fraley-Burgett at (269) 387-2120 or jayne.fraley@wmich.edu. More information is available at wmich.edu/disabilityservices.

 Reserve now for awards event

The deadline to make reservations for the Administrative Professional Association's Awards Reception is Thursday, April 10. Keep checking wmich.edu/apu for details.

Correction

The years of continuous service were incorrectly reported in the Feb. 6 issue of the Western News for Peter Judd, social work. The correct number of years was in - 25.

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.

Chair elected to international group

Abubakr, chair of chemical and paper engineering, has been elected a commissioner for the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Education and Accreditation Committee of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Abubakr is one of seven commissioners representing the institute. As such, he will serve for five years as team chair for site visits of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. ABET is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization that accredits college and university programs in the disciplines of applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology. It accredits more than 3,100 programs at more than 670 colleges and universities in 24 countries. ABET's four accreditation commissions lead and conduct the organization's accreditation activities. The commissions make the final decisions about all program accreditation actions, except for appeals, and are responsible for the continuous review and enhancement of their particular criteria, policies and procedures.

Abubakr

Professor named outstanding mentor

Jessica Frieder, psychology, will receive one of three Outstanding Mentor awards from the Association for Behavior Analysis International during its 2014 convention Friday through Tuesday, May 27-28, in Chicago. The award is a high honor, especially for mentors who are still at the early stage of their careers. Frieder joined the WMU faculty in 2011.

The association is a nonprofit membership organization that seeks to contribute to the well-being of society by developing, enhancing, and supporting the growth and vitality of the science of behavior analysis through research, education and practice. It has 87 affiliated organizations worldwide and accredits behavior analysis undergraduate and graduate training programs as well as publishes three scholarly journals.

Emerita's new book focuses on Iran


In addition, a lengthy article Loeffler co-wrote with her husband, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology Reinhold Loeffler, was recently published. Her book highlights the role of the fairytale and folklore in the creation, transmission and manipulation of regional and national identities. Having carried out anthropological research in Iran since 1965, Loeffler is uniquely placed to analyze the way in which the folklore and fairy tales—both the stories themselves and the telling of the stories—have an impact on the ideas of what it means to be “Iranian.”
Dunn elected to national higher ed board

President John M. Dunn was elected March 10 to serve as a member of the board of directors for the American Council on Education, the major coordinating and advocacy body for all of the nation’s colleges and universities.

He was elected at the 96th annual ACE meeting that attracted some 1,500 American education leaders to San Diego for the March 8-12 gathering. Dunn is one of seven new board members who will serve three-year terms expiring in March 2017.

“I am deeply honored by the faith and responsibility my colleagues have entrusted in me,” Dunn says. “Their vote provides a significant opportunity for me to be deeply involved in the higher education policy issues confronting our nation. I’m looking forward to serving with my fellow board members—all of whom bring experience in leading colleges or universities that, like WMU, play an important role in the national higher education environment.”

Additional new three-year members of the ACE board include the leaders of Case Western Reserve, Drexel, West Virginia and Washington State universities as well as the leaders of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and California Community Colleges. The board is led this year by the president of Allegheny College, James H. Mullen Jr.

Membership in the Washington D.C.-based organization is made up of representatives of more than 1,800 organizations that collectively promote, protect and advocate for students, faculty and administrators in higher education.

ACE represents the presidents of U.S. accredited, degree-granting institutions, including public and private as well as profit and nonprofit institutions. It is the most visible and influential higher education association in the nation and is at the center of federal policy debates concerning legislation that affects campuses across the country.

Applications for tuition remission due April 30

It’s time for eligible employees to apply for undergraduate tuition remission for dependent children, spouses and designated eligible individuals for summer 2014 through summer 2015.

WMU remits 75 percent of tuition and required fees, including the Extended University Programs Technology Fee.

To take advantage of the tuition remission policy, submit a completed application by Wednesday, April 30, to Human Resources in 1300 Seibert Administration Building or by fax to (269) 387-3441.

The application is posted online at wmich.edu/Forms under the Benefit enrollment and changes section.

Community partnership to be part of WMUK spring fundraiser

The spring fund drive for WMU’s public radio station, WMUK, begins on-air pledging Saturday, April 5.

Featuring “The Partnership for Fair Food,” the campaign will raise funds for WMUK and trigger gifts from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation to Fair Food Matters, an organization seeking to improve access to healthy, local food by educating, connecting and empowering the Kalamazoo community.

Pre-drive, mail-in contributions to WMUK and online giving at wmuk.org will play a significant role in helping WMUK raise the funds necessary to purchase NPR programs such as “Grassroots,” “West Southwest” and “Arts & More.”

A Web ticker at wmuk.org will feature up-to-date results of the station’s fundraising effort now through the end of the drive.

Special workshops slated

Faculty and staff members are invited to a day of workshops from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 4, in 2000 Schneider Hall.

The workshops are presented by Hilary E. Kahl, Indiana University-Bloomington, and the day’s topic is “Internationalizing the Curriculum.” Lunch is provided. Register at wmich.edu/international/register.

Spring 2014 outstanding staffers to be honored

Fifteen staff members will be honored as outstanding employees during a reception at 2 p.m. Monday, April 14, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The University community is invited to attend the event, which recognizes the spring 2014 recipients of WMU’s semianual Make a Difference award. The recipients will each receive $300, before taxes, and a commemorative certificate.

The spring 2014 winners are: Bonnie Ayers, student financial aid and scholarships; Mary Lou Brooks, geography; Shona Drake, Haenicke Institute; Elena Gaudio, president’s office; Kevin Hinds, public safety; Tracey Kauppila, College of Aviation; Nancy Landberger, civil and construction engineering; Edward Maring, maintenance services; James Owalt, maintenance services; Gerald Schulz, maintenance services; Tammi Smith, College of Arts and Sciences advising; Debbie Ullranks, Haenicke Institute; Mariann Vorva, Center for Academic Success Programs; Paige Warner, First-Year Experience; and Carolyn Wiley, Valley 1 Dining Service.

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On Campus with Marilyn Johnson

WORLD OF TALENTS, INTERESTS
[Photo by Jeanne Baron]

An eclectic liberal arts graduate, Marilyn Johnson enjoys learning. She serves as administrative assistant for the Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change, and despite the variety inherent in her job, always finds opportunities to don more hats.

In addition to arranging special events, Johnson takes care of payroll, purchasing, inventory and some budgeting as well as paperwork such as invoices and maintenance contracts. But she also does the design and photography for the center’s publicity materials and works directly with clients, doing high-resolution scanning and digital restoration.

“Our main focus is enhanced digital maps,” Johnson says, noting that the Upjohn Center has developed thousands of these maps. “What we want to do now is market them because they’re really a superior product. But I’ve had the opportunity to work on other projects and help clients who want to preserve their art or photographs.”

Johnson has served in administrative assistant posts at WMU since 1998. She began in the College of Education and Human Development, then moved to the Haworth College of Business and in 2007, came to the Upjohn Center.

“It’s a really nice place to work. The people here are wonderful,” she says. “My position has sort of evolved, so I don’t know what might be on the horizon.”

Johnson earned a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in educational technology from WMU. She has a graphic arts background and early on saw the digital direction printing was taking. Through volunteer and professional work, she decided to learn as much as she could, and she continually keeps stretching herself.

She maintains a website at sites.google.com/site/myphotosandstuff where she can display her photography and the photo restorations that she does for family and friends. Johnson also is interested in homeschooling, and her master’s thesis involved developing English literature and Shakespeare materials for homeschoolers. When no longer working full time, she hopes to create a website for such materials, as well as become more involved in animal rescue efforts and get back into civic theater, an arena in which she used to act and design costumes.

Johnson and her family came to the United States from England in 1961. She and her husband, Greg, live in Grandville, Mich. The couple have one son, an Afghanistian veteran.

Continued from page 1

Rare trees officially named state champions

One of WMU’s 29 dwarf hackberry trees has been declared the Michigan State Champion, and two others have been designated Michigan Co-champions.

So says Andy Sawyer, the state’s official representative for the Big Tree Registry, who on March 14 measured three of the campus’ largest specimens of rare dwarf hackberrys.

WMU’s state champion tree earned 99.1 overall points after measurements were recorded in several categories. It beat the national record holder, a specimen in Alexandria, Va., in all but one of those categories.

Notably, WMU’s top tree stands over 50 feet (as does one of the University’s co-champions) yet has a girth of only 36 inches. The Alexandria tree is a mere 41 feet tall but has a 60-inch girth, which pushes its point total to 111.

Continued from page 1

Final design plans for alumni center revealed

in keeping with the original,” says Tower-Pinkster’s Jason Novotney, who outlined the changes and final design.

External plans call for preserving the center part of the North Hall portico to become a landscape focal point, and site work on the east side of the building overlookings the city will extend the usable space near the portico with a retaining wall and outdoor platform.

Interior details were showcased by renderings of a main floor library that features the fireplace salvaged from North Hall, a ballroom with a seating capacity of 180, the fireplace salvaged from North Hall, a lobby...