APA awards deadline approaching

The deadline is Saturday, March 15, to make nominations for the Administrative Professional Association’s Outstanding New Professional, Outstanding Professional and Tony Griffin Service awards. Any APA-eligible staff member may be nominated in the outstanding professional categories but only APA members may be nominated for the Griffin award. Visit wmich.edu/apa/awards for details and nomination forms. The award winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, in the Fetzer Center.

Applicants sought for executive post

Qualified internal candidates are encouraged to apply for the position of associate dean of the Graduate College before Monday, March 17. The full posting may be viewed online at wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmhu.html. Direct questions or submit nominations to Satish Deshpande at satish.deshpande@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5067.

Assessment in Action Day scheduled

Faculty, staff and graduate teaching assistants are invited to the fifth annual Assessment in Action Day conference, set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 21, in the Fetzer Center. Conference registration is free, but registration at https://wapps.wmich.edu/workshops is required for the luncheon. Log in with your Bronco NetID and scroll to the middle of the page to find the link for WMU Assessment in Action Day 2014.

Conference offerings will include a plenary session that will help participants determine how robust their current assessments are and eight breakout sessions that are geared toward classroom- and program-level assessment of student learning strategies. There will be opportunities to learn how to develop effective assessment tools and to find out more about assessment resources at WMU and beyond.

Conference participants are encouraged to attend any or all of the sessions and to come and go as their schedules permit. During the event, winners of the University Assessment Steering Committee Assessment Excellence Awards will be announced, and there will be a poster session to highlight the assessment projects of the 2013-14 Assessment Fellows.

Photo sessions offered to employees

All employees are encouraged to have their free, official University photos taken between 3 and 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 25 in 2150 Schneider Hall. Other sessions have been slated for 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Walwood Hall’s Emeriti Lounge on the following dates: Friday, April 4, Thursday, May 29; and Thursday, July 17. Contact Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402 to confirm your session or receive your photo.

Medical school named for Homer Stryker

The WMU School of Medicine will be named in honor of Dr. Homer Stryker, the Kalamazoo orthopedic surgeon and medical device innovator who founded the Stryker Corp., it was announced during an on-campus news conference March 11.

Thanks to the generosity of Ronda E. Stryker, granddaughter of Homer Stryker, and her husband William D. Johnston, a WMU trustee, the first class of medical students will be welcomed this fall to the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. Stryker and Johnston are the donors who made a founding anonymous gift in excess of $100 million to the University three years ago to launch the medical school initiative in Kalamazoo. The school is a collaboration involving WMU and Kalamazoo’s two teaching hospitals, Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare.

Ronda Stryker says she feels strongly that this is the right time for the medical school to be launched, and she knows her grandfather would be thrilled that the opportunity for medical education is being enhanced in his community.

“My grandfather always focused on patient outcomes,” Stryker says. “His innovation work and research was never about himself but always about the patient, better health care outcomes and better equipment for doctors. I am certain he would be thrilled to know that medical education and research are taking place in Kalamazoo.

“While he wouldn’t care that the school was named after him, it is without doubt a fitting and lasting recognition to his contribution to medicine, medical research, innovative products and service to patient health care outcomes. We are thrilled to be strong foundational partners in the creation of this new innovative school of medicine.”

Johnston and Stryker are longtime philanthropists with deep roots in the Kalamazoo community. Both are WMU alumni and both have teaching backgrounds. Ronda Stryker has been a member of the Board of Directors of Stryker Corp. since 1984. She also is a trustee of Kalamazoo and Spelman colleges and a longtime trustee of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

Program one of two to achieve CMA certification

The food and consumer package goods marketing program has earned certification for its category management coursework from the national Category Management Association, becoming one of just two university programs in the nation to have achieved CMA curriculum certification.

The certification, awarded to the WMU program in January, signifies that the program offers coursework that meets stringent qualifications for preparing students for certification as category analysts. In some cases, students with applicable work experience may also apply for certification at the category manager level.

“This certification provides employers assurances that the students they hire from our program have met the industry standards set for an analyst position in category management,” says Frank Gambino, director of the food and consumer package goods marketing program. “Our students will be in a position to make an immediate impact in industry upon graduation.”

Category management focuses on retailing and purchasing data to analyze groups of products and service to patient health care outcomes. We are thrilled to be strong foundational partners in the creation of this new innovative school of medicine.”

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WNM and new medical school offer dual M.D.-MBA degree

The Haworth College of Business and WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine have designed a dual-degree program allowing medical students to complete both degrees in just five years of study. Bill Ayers, formerly of the University of Illinois at Chicago, will speak at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, in the Fetter Center’s Kirsch Auditorium. Ayers’ presentation is titled “Teaching Free People: What Democracy Demands in its Schools.”

Muslim acculturation is topic of talk

Dawud Walid from the Council of American Islamic Relations-Michigan will speak on “Challenges of Racism and the Acculturation of American Muslims” from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20, in the Multicultural Center of the Trimpe Building. The talk is part of the Islam in Global Perspectives spring speaker series co-sponsored by the Department of Comparative Religion.

Activist, educator to give lecture

A man known for his radical activism against the Vietnam War and his current work on education reform, curriculum development and instruction visits campus this month. Bill Ayers, formerly of the University of Illinois at Chicago, will speak at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, in the Fetter Center’s Kirsch Auditorium. Ayers’ presentation is titled “Teaching Free People: What Democracy Demands in its Schools.”

Film fest adds weekend session

The Francophone Film Festival of Kalamazoo is celebrating its 13th year this month by adding a second weekend of viewing, offering seven rarely seen, feature-length films from across the globe, two of which will be presented by their award-winning directors. The annual festival rolls out Friday through Sunday, March 21-23 and 28-30, in the Little Theatre. All films are subtitled in English.

International students host festival

The music, dance, food and fashions of 15 cultures will be showcased during WMU’s 25th annual International Festival from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 23, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. Admission is free, and for a nominal fee, attendees may sample traditional foods prepared by international students in campus kitchens under the supervision of WMU Dining Services employees.

Chavez scholarship fundraiser slated

Southwest Michigan will celebrate César E. Chávez this month through an annual scholarship fundraising dinner at 6:45 p.m. Saturday, March 29, in the Fetter Center. The event costs $40 and will include the presentation of three regional awards, one of which will go to Mark Delorey, director of student financial aid and scholarships. Reservations are being accepted at (269) 387-4420 until Monday, March 24.

Around campus and beyond

Next entrepreneurship speaker set

Amy Proos, owner and CEO of Proos Manufacturing and Proos Fabrication, will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, March 14, in 2150 Schneider Hall. The talk is part of the Haworth College of Business Entrepreneurship Forum series. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made at wmich.edu/business/e-event or (269) 387-6059.

Business Communication Quarterly

Mathematics educator to be honored

Christian Hirsch, mathematics, has been selected to receive a 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mathematics Education Trust of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The award honors NCTM members who have exhibited a lifetime of achievement in mathematics education at the national level.

Hirsch was cited for exhibiting a personal commitment to mathematics education and for being recognized as a distinguished leader in the field. He will be recognized during the council’s annual meeting and exposition Friday, April 11, in New Orleans.

“For more than three decades, the mathematics education community has witnessed his dedication and focus on the improvement of secondary school mathematics, as well as the energy, expertise, commitment, persistence, and integrity that he has brought to his work in the field,” NCTM said in announcing the award.

Hirsch was the driving force behind WMU’s Core-Plus Mathematics Project, which, with support from the National Science Foundation, developed a research-based high school curriculum organized around mathematical strands of algebra and functions, statistics and probability, geometry and trigonometry, and discrete mathematics. This integrated curriculum was the first such curriculum to have a significant impact on national adoptions.

“His strong intellectual and managerial leadership of CPMP and his engagement with other like-minded professionals have been strong factors in shaping current U.S. curriculum practice,” said one of his nominators. “With the instructional principles and materials demonstrated in Core-Plus Mathematics, many school systems across the country have transformed their high school mathematics to approaches that are more consistent with international standards of practice.”

Emerita named association fellow

Nancy Schullery, emerita in business and information systems, was recently named a Fellow of the Association for Business Communication. Schullery received the honor at the association’s annual international conference held in New Orleans.

The award recognizes extraordinary excellence in the discipline of business communication and its related areas of study. It is the most respected honor the association can award. A Fellow of the Association is deemed by the Board of Directors to have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the association and contributed significantly to teaching and research.

Schullery, who retired from WMU in 2013 after 16 years of service, is the association’s immediate past president and has presented regularly at ABC international and regional conferences for the last 15 years. She created the Student Writing Competition for business students and serves on the editorial board of Business Communication Quarterly.
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Medical school named for Homer Stryker; additional details about founding gift shared

William Johnston is the chairman of Greenleaf Companies, which include Greenleaf Trust, Greenleaf Hospitality Group and Catalyst Development LLC. In addition to his membership on the WMU Board of Trustees, he is past chair of Southwest Michigan First, an area economic development agency. Both Stryker and Johnston serve in numerous other volunteer and professional capacities.

“Ronda Stryker and Bill Johnston have given our city, state and nation a wonderful gift that honors Homer Stryker in the most appropriate way possible,” says WMU President John M. Dunn. “Their generosity in allowing our community to create a medical school that will enable generations of young people to make their own marks in the same arena he helped revolutionize. The Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine is the ideal name for a school that is being developed around the principle of medical innovation that serves the needs of patients.”

In addition to the couple’s personal gifts, Dunn says, Stryker Corp. also has made a significant commitment to WMU to support the medical school that will bear its founder’s name.

“This is a wonderful development for our community and for this new medical school,” says Borgess President and CEO Paul A. Spade. “Worldwide, the Stryker name evokes a sense of medical innovation and quality. Here in Kalamazoo, it is synonymous with community commitment. What better name for a medical school that is a true community collaboration.”

The medical school’s educational facility will be on the school’s W.E. Upjohn M.D. Campus in downtown Kalamazoo. That site includes a 350,000-square-foot medical research facility currently undergoing renovation and scheduled to open in mid-2014. The site was a late 2011 gift from MPI Research, which is led by William U. Parfer, great grandson of the campus’ namesake. W.E. Upjohn launched the Upjohn Co., a former pharmaceutical industry giant, in 1886 in Kalamazoo.

“Having the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine on the W.E. Upjohn M.D. Campus acknowledges the special life sciences legacy that is unique to Kalamazoo,” says Frank Sardone, president and CEO of Bronson Healthcare.

“Both names reflect the storied traditions that are so much a part of this community—traditions we’ll want to introduce to new generations of medical professionals.”

All of the collaborating organizations’ leaders agree that the medical school would not have been possible without Ronda Stryker and Bill Johnston’s early commitment.

“WMU now stands at the threshold of an important new beginning in medical education that will contribute significantly to the life sciences legacy that is synonymous with Kalamazoo,” says VMU Board Chair Murray Peroff.

Wounded Warrior 5K scheduled

The Wounded Warrior 5K run and walk returns to WMU Saturday, April 12, for its fifth year. All are invited to participate by registering at www.wmunowoundedwarrior.com.

The course begins at WMU’s Army ROTC Battalion, and winds through the hills of campus. The race starts at 9 a.m. Registration is $15 and includes post-race refreshments and a T-shirt.

WMU’s event is sponsored by the Army and Air Force ROTC programs. All proceeds benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit organization that provides care directly to wounded veterans and their families.

“Having the Western Michigan University Department of Theatre participate in this event is an important contribution to our region’s appreciation of military service,” says WMU Theatre’s director of design and technical production. An on-campus celebration of his life and career will be announced soon. Memorial donations may be made in Roehrick’s name to the WMU Department of Theatre.

Left photo: Stryker in his later years.
Right photo: Stryker during his orthopedic specialty residency at U of M. While still a medical student, Stryker began developing devices to better meet patient needs. Among his many patents and most famous innovations was a turning frame to prevent bedsores in bedridden patients and an oscillating saw to remove casts. He began selling his inventions in 1941, and the medical technology company he founded in Kalamazoo has grown into a Fortune 500 company with $9 billion in annual sales and more than 25,000 employees globally. Earlier this year, Fortune magazine named Stryker Corp. one of the “World’s Most Admired Companies” for the 13th consecutive year.

Obituary

Greg D. Roehrick, theatre, died Feb. 25. He was 60. Roehrick, a WMU Teaching Excellence Award winner in 1999, had been a faculty member for 36 years. He was the Department of Theatre’s director of design and technical production. An on-campus celebration of his life and career will be announced soon. Memorial donations may be made in Roehrick’s name to the WMU Department of Theatre.

Campus gears up for Sept. 1 start of tobacco-free status

A campuswide committee has selected a graphic symbol for WMU’s tobacco-free status and has begun extensive work aimed at ensuring the campus and all its visitors are informed and ready for the Sept. 1 start of the new policy.

A simple “WMU tobacco free” graphic was developed by Kim Nelson, university relations, with input from the committee and a number of student groups. The graphic is already being incorporated into WMU websites and being used to alert such audiences as athletic season ticket holders.

“We’ll be using that logo for campus print and digital signage, websites and promotional materials,” says Amy Seth, recreation center implementation committee.

“Our focus right now is on making it known and available to anyone who needs it for upcoming communications with students and prospective visitors.”

The graphic is available for download in both a color and black and white version at wmich.edu/tobaccofree.

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WMU tobacco free.
Performance artist to present program on diversity

A sociologist and performance artist who uses entertainment to illuminate potentially contentious cultural themes will present Kalamazoo County’s 16th annual Respecting Differences program. Kimberly Dark will perform “Complicated Courtesies” at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, and again at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, in the Kalamazoo Public Schools’ Chenery Auditorium, 714 S. Westnedge Ave. in Kalamazoo. Both presentations will include an on-stage American Sign Language translator, and all seating is general admission.

WMU employees are asked to bring the postcard tickets they received in campus mail with them to the performance. “Complicated Courtesies” has been described as entertainment—and then some. It helps people discover that they are creating the world, even as the world creates them, and it inspires people to laugh, think and engage with their lives and others more boldly and creatively.

Dark believes that all people positively affect society by being their “big, beautiful complicated selves” and should accept themselves and others, while understanding that acceptance as well as rejection perpetuates trends and stereotypes within society.

During her Kalamazoo appearance, she will employ characters and narratives to explore themes such as gender and body type. Her characters will have a personal story—a lived experience—and her narratives will be connected to a larger social reality, reminding audience members of their personal and social responsibility regarding the issues her performance raises.

Through storytelling, articulation and poetic style, she will educate and stimulate audience members as well as allow them to experience how to live fully with integrity and respect for differences.

Dark is the author of five award-winning performance scripts and numerous educational programs regarding the body in culture: how appearances and identities influence people’s experiences in the world relative to gender, race, body type and size, beauty, ability, and similar factors.

A writer, storyteller and speaker, Dark lectures in the sociological practice graduate program at California State University San Marcos. She also blogs regularly for the Huffington Post and Ms. magazine, in addition to contributing essays, stories and articles to a wide range of books and publications.

Crowdfunding effort launched

Two WMU faculty members have launched a unique online crowdfunding campaign to raise money locally for a program that benefits both their biological sciences students and the local community. Kathryn Docherty and Sharon Gill, biological sciences, hope to raise $20,000 online by May 1 to support four academically advanced students and their summer research projects while also committing these students to volunteer work.

The Students Advancing Biological Research and Engagement program calls for the students to spend at least 10 hours a week volunteering for a Kalamazoo-area organization of their choice. In September, WMU will host a reception for all donors, at which the SABRE scholars will discuss their research and volunteer experiences.

Support by the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, the program is accepting donations made online. To make a donation, those interested should visit mywmu.com/sabre and click the Make a Gift link.

Final East Hall community input session slated

The third and final session to offer campus and community members input into the design process for a renovated East Hall has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 25.

The session will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. Parking is available in a lot adjacent to the Little Theatre as well as by Walwood Hall in Parking Lot No. 1.

Community members first weighed in on the design process as planning got underway in October. The March 25 session gives architects a chance to present the final plans before construction begins in late spring.

As in previous sessions, it will feature design professionals from TowerPinkster, a Kalamazoo architectural and engineering firm selected last year to guide the renovation, and from Ann Arbor’s Hopkins Burns Design Studio, a firm that specializes in historic preservation.