Design meetings set for dining center initiative

The campus community can take part in the site development process for the new Valley Dining Center by participating in public meeting sessions at 4 or 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, in 159 Bernhard Center.

The sessions will focus on building placement for the new 1,000-seat dining center, which will provide innovative, state-of-the-art food service options to enhance the Valley Residential Neighborhood. Actual construction of the new Valley Dining Center is expected to begin in spring 2015.

The Feb. 25 meeting is the first in a series of such meetings that will take place during different stages of the design process. They have been set for the beginning of the design process.

Additional meetings will be scheduled midway through the process, likely in June, and at the end of the process, as the final plans are ready for presentation.

The upcoming meeting sessions will feature design professionals from SmithGroup JJR, a firm selected early in the planning process. They will present an overview of the project that will explore project goals, site details, building placement options and logistical needs specific to this facility.

Additional topics to be covered include:
- core design elements, focused on the Valley area attributes,
- approaches to entry points and flow from parking and pedestrian areas into the building, and
- benefits for Valley residence hall students.

WMU's Valley Residential Neighborhood encompasses six residence halls in three complexes that were completed in 1965 and currently house more than 2,800 students. The complexes primarily house first-year students and are also home to five specialized academic communities and three interest-based communities.

At present, the Valley residence halls are served by two full-service dining rooms and one limited service dining room along with MugShots Coffee House.
Aviation museum president to make presentation

The president and chief executive officer of the Kalamazoo Air Zoo will be on campus to share insights on building customer satisfaction and brand recognition for the museum. Troy Trush will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28, in 2150 Schneider Hall as part of the 2013-14 Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series.

The event is free and begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required.
WMU earns sixth Tree Campus certification, finds rare tree species

The Arbor Day Foundation announced in January that it has named WMU a Tree Campus for the sixth consecutive time, in recognition of WMU’s commitment to effective community forestry management.

“Being recertified as a Tree Campus for 2013 recognizes the hard work and dedication of our landscape services staff and so many others across the University,” says Darrell Junkins, a University grounds supervisor in landscape services.

Tree Campus USA is a national program that honors colleges and universities and their leaders for promoting healthy trees as well as engaging their students and employees in the spirit of conservation. WMU and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor were among the nation’s 30 inaugural Tree Campuses and until 2012, were the only state schools to earn the certification.

The University’s deeply rooted emphasis on environmental stewardship is helping to preserve a recently discovered population of dwarf hackberry trees on campus property. Rarely found as far north as Michigan, these dwarf hackberry trees on campus property.

For nearly a decade, WMU researchers have been studying Michigan geological features to determine the state’s capacity and potential to store large amounts of carbon dioxide in a process called sequestration. They showcased the potential in a Feb. 12-13 workshop for industry professionals by presenting physical evidence that the Northern Niagaran Reef Trend running under Otsego, Kalkaska and Grand Traverse counties can be developed for carbon sequestration. The researchers’ findings can be readily observed in the actual sample cores collected from wells in the area. Those cores show the pore spaces are capable of storing large quantities of carbon dioxide.

The researchers discovered that Michigan’s new carbon sequestration industry entails capturing and extracting CO2 from the emissions produced by power plants or other large, stationary, industrial emissions sources. Liquefied CO2 is then delivered into deep geological reservoirs, thousands of feet beneath the surface. WMU has been a partner since 2005 in the Midwest Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership. The partnership consists of representatives from leading universities, state geological surveys, nongovernmental research organizations and private companies from nine Eastern States. In Michigan, its partners are studying data and samples from subsurface geological formations relevant to CO2 storage, CO2 containment and the potential for enhanced oil recovery. This regional effort is led by Battelle Memorial Institute, a Columbus, Ohio, research organization. Industry partners include Core Energy, LLC of Traverse City, Mich. William B. Harrison III, emeritus in geosciences and director of the Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education, says WMU’s research suggests that in addition to the CO2 storage potential, the technology involved in carbon sequestration could recover some 180 to 200 million barrels of “stranded” oil in old fields. Harrison along with David Barnes and Duane Hampton, geoscientists, also created a carbon sequestration research center called MidCarb in 2009 with more than $600,000 in federal funding.

Researchers focusing on northern Michigan for CO2 storage

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Award nominations due soon

Nominations are being accepted through Sunday, March 16, for awards recognizing WMU’s lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender communities and their allies. Nominations are being accepted in the individual category as well as the unit, team and organization category. WMU students, employees, units and organizations are eligible to receive the awards, and anyone on or off campus may make a nomination. For guidelines and a nomination form, visit wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion/lgbt.

Obituaries

Michael A. Myckowiak, a former regional director of continuing education, died Jan. 23. He was 89. Myckowiak retired in 1984 after 10 years of service.

Richard R. Williams, a former associate professor in the College of Health and Human Services, died Feb. 5. He was 77. Williams founded WMU’s holistic health program in 1982. A memorial service will be held in April.

Joseph T. Work, emeritus in music, died Feb. 7. He was 82. Work retired in 1993 after 30 years of service.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during February.

35 Years—Luney D. Green, Registrar’s Office; and Sharon L. Nicholson, information technology.

25 Years—Mary J. Carpenter, landscape services.

20 Years—Teresa Ann Coburn, Sindacue Health Center, and Michael A. Matthews, building custodial and support services.

15 Years—Steven R. Cartwright, University Libraries; Elizabeth A. Dafzell, Davis Dining Services; Brian S. Leonard, Sindacue Health Center; Melanie Parish, landscape services; and Rose Marie Roberts, Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs.

10 Years—Donald W. Gribbin, accounting; and Luann M. Harden, WMU Southwestern.

Five Years—Adam Adrianson, University Libraries; Cindy L. Beebe, building custodial and support services; Kevin J. Birdahl, information technology; Darrell E. Claey s, information technology; Sara A. Decker, Haworth College of Business; Maria L. French, Burcham Dining Service; Jeremy Michael Gleke, student financial aid and scholarships; Kristin B. Jones, building custodial and support services; Stacy Ann M. Lindner-Travis, Auxiliary Enterprises; Mark Terrell Robinson, building custodial and support services; and Patrick M. Williams, information technology.
Students to vie for $16,000 scholarships

Some 140 high school seniors will compete in the Multicultural Leader Scholarship competition at WMU from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, in the Bernhard Center.

WMU established the by-invitation-only event in 2012 to broaden diversity and multiculturalism on campus. Only qualifying students from select high schools are invited to compete.

During the competition, they will vie for membership in WMU’s Martin Luther King Jr. Academy as well as one of about 50 Multicultural Leader Scholarships, each totaling $16,000 over four years. Since the event’s inception, some 100 students have received nearly $1.6 million in scholarships.

Students who receive a Multicultural Leader Scholarship automatically become members of local brain bees will compete in the National Brain Bee held each March in Baltimore during Brain Awareness Week.

Southwest Michigan high school students will use their brains while learning about the brain during a neuroscience competition Saturday, Feb. 22, in Wood Hall.

The fourth Southwest Michigan Brain Bee is open to the public and begins at 10 a.m. It is a key part of Brain Awareness Week, an educational outreach mission aimed at increasing awareness about neuroscience.

Following the competition, neuroscience labs personnel will conduct tours and offer participants hands-on neuroanatomy demonstrations.

WMU’s event is being organized by the psychology and biological sciences faculty members and graduate students. The winners of local brain bees will compete in the National Brain Bee held each March in Baltimore during Brain Awareness Week.

The annual event is one of the new splitted programs offered in the computer science and information systems departments.

First WMU Grad Talks slated

The Graduate Student Advisory Committee’s new graduate student symposium, WMU Grad Talks, takes place at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, in the Lee Honors College Building lounge.

Inspired by TED Talks, it gives graduate students a chance to present their research in 10-minute public presentations. Visit wmich.edu/gsoc/gradstalk.html for details.

Area high school students competing in Brain Bee

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Funding technology seminar set

A networking seminar titled “Building University-Industry Research Partnerships to Secure Federal Funding for Your Technology” will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, March 14, in Schneider Hall. Registration is open at misbtdc.net/events.aspx.

This interactive program will explore questions for faculty members and small businesses in the context of funding programs for translational research, university spin-out companies and small business product development.

It also will cover new programs for technology transfer at NSF, NIH, and other federal agencies, as well as the well-known SBIR, STTR programs that award more than $2 billion annually in research and development funding to small business.

Michael Kurek from BBC Entrepreneurial Training and Consulting will be the guest facilitator. In addition, representatives from WMU research centers and business development offices will offer consultation and support to attendees. There will be plenty of time for questions, discussion and networking. Light refreshments will be served.

On Campus with Lewis Hamilton

In his own words, Lewis Hamilton jokes that he’s worked at WMU so long, “They’ve kind of built the University around me!”

During his 33 years as an employee and prior years as an undergraduate student, he says the people at the University have made him look forward to coming to work every day for more than three decades.

“I’ve worked for Western a long time and have met a lot of nice people,” he says. “I’ve looked forward to coming in and doing my job every day.”

Those jobs have included his start in 1981 in accounts payable as well as positions in accounts receivable from 1984 to 1997. The latter year, Hamilton moved from the Seibert Administration Building to Walwood Hall, where he works as a financial assistant processing cash and in-kind gifts for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

A native of Portage, Mich., he earned his bachelor’s degree in advertising from WMU in 1979. Hamilton now lives in Kalamazoo with his wife, Mary. The couple have a grown son, Matthew, who graduated from WMU in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in computer information systems.

The sudden death of their young daughter from an illness in 1992 drove Lewis to writing poetry to help with his grief. When his poems began piling up, he published a book of his work, “The Gardener and my Garden,” in 1997 with illustrations by his sister, Sharolyn Hamilton.

Writing that book led him to start a blog, lightenload.wordpress.com two years ago, where he continues to share stories of inspiration and observation.

During the past two years, his site has had more than 13,000 views from people in 87 different countries.

Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley at the first Michigan Autism Conference (Photo by Amber Hutson)