June commencement ceremonies set
WMU will stage two commencement ceremonies Saturday, June 29, in Miller Auditorium. The 9 a.m. ceremony is for graduates of Extended University Programs as well as the colleges of Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health and Human Services. The noon ceremony is for graduates of the Haworth College of Business as well as the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, and Fine Arts.

New visual identity guidelines posted
The Office of University Relations has updated WMU's Visual Identity Program. Members of the campus community are encouraged to review the associated guidelines and download the most current versions of approved University logos. The guidelines are posted at wmich.edu/universityrelations and apply to all publications, signage, promotion materials and the plethora of other visual ways used to represent WMU. They address topics such as colors, logos, fonts, photography and trademarks. Downloadable logos and art are included, along with approved PowerPoint templates. Questions should be directed to Kim Nelson, director of university creative services, at km.nelson@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8404.

Several special golf outings planned
A variety of golf outings are taking place this summer, including one honoring Van Cooley, the education dean who died in July 2012. The University community is invited to participate in that inaugural outing, which will begin with a 1 p.m. shotgun start Monday, July 8, at the Moors Golf Club in Portage, Mich. Visit http://bit.ly/15Rdlz to register for the event.

In addition, sports-related golf outings are being held throughout the summer. They include events by football Head Coach P.J. Fleck Saturday, June 29, as well as the following teams: hockey, Friday and Saturday, July 26-27; volleyball, Sunday, Aug. 25; and women’s basketball, Sunday, Sept. 8. Visit wmubroncos.com/events and click Golf Outings for details about all of those events. The hockey weekend will bring friends and alumni together to socialize and golf with past Bronco greats and to meet the 2013-14 team. The weekend features a Friday evening social and reception in Kalamazoo followed by activities at the Moors Golf Club in Portage Saturday that include lunch, an 18-hole best-ball scramble, dinner, silent and live auctions, and a program.

Western News now on summer hiatus
Today’s issue of Western News is the last issue for the summer. Western News will resume its regular publication schedule Sept. 5. During the hiatus, go to wmich.edu/news to keep up with campus news and announcements.

New dean named for College of Fine Arts
Daniel Guyette, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts at Western Michigan University, has been named dean of WMU’s College of Fine Arts. Guyette has a professional theatre background in addition to his career in higher education. He brings 24 years of experience in teaching and administration to the position.

His appointment is effective Aug. 15, pending approval of the WMU Board of Trustees. He replaces Margaret Merriion, who is scheduled to retire at the end of June. Guyette was named in 2009 to his current post at Western Washington, where he oversees the departments of art, design, theatre and dance, and music as well as the Western Gallery and the top-10 nationally ranked Outdoor Sculpture Collection.

During his tenure, he has increased student enrollment by 7.5 percent, lowered time to degree, created a Community Advisory Board, and founded the Bellingham Arts Business Accelerator in partnership with WWU’s College of Business and Economics.

Previously, he was dean of the fine arts college at the University of South Dakota for five years and a professor of theatre as well as chair of the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance at the University of Northern Colorado.

More changes to campus coming this summer
Among the less visible projects going on this summer is the installation of four stormwater retention systems to naturally filter out contaminants before they enter nearby Arcadia Creek.

The systems are being paid for by a $393,845 federal urban stormwater management grant and will involve creating retention ponds. Stormwater retained in the ponds will be filtered through the ground before it enters the creek and the 2,020-square-mile Kalamazoo River Watershed.

The most noticeable pond will be located by the corner of Stadium Drive and Howard Street. The others will be near Schneider Hall and Lawson Ice Area.

“In the first flush of a rain, a lot of contaminants are washed from nonpermeable areas such as roads, parking lots and sidewalks. That water never gets cleansed before it enters Arcadia Creek. But the ground is a wonderful natural filter. Now, we’ll be cleansing it before it enters the creek and our aquifer,” says Peter Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management.

“Western is a national leader in becoming a stormwater-neutral campus. We have an 807-acre campus with a substantial amount of impervious cover. Our goal is to be a stormwater-neutral campus and have a net-zero phosphorus load going into Arcadia Creek.”

Grants key to water quality efforts
Strazdas notes that WMU has been working diligently for years to help improve Arcadia Creek’s water quality.

The University has completed 15 best management practice projects since 1998, and now is managing the runoff from 60 percent of the main campus and from 100 percent of the Business Technology and Research Park at the Parkview Campus.

But Strazdas says progress is dependent on grant funding, so there’s no set schedule for when the University will achieve its goal of becoming a stormwater-neutral campus.

“We don’t have millions of dollars to spend on that when we have to replace roofs, update fire alarms and repave roads. We’ll continue pursuing grants, although it takes a lot of time and effort to apply for them,” he says.

“WMU has been successful in garnering more than $2 million in grants for its urban stormwater management plan, and Dan Wyatt, director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, toured WMU’s various stormwater grant projects last year.

“WMU was the first large university or municipality in the state to achieve a 50 percent phosphorus reduction,” Strazdas says. “During his campus tour, Wyatt told participants, ‘This puts focus on being a leader in environmental stewardship. We would like to hold [WMU] up as a model to others.’”

Stormwater management achievements on campus were reported in the Journal of Green Building recently, highlighted at the Michigan Stormwater Floodplain Association conference in March and will be presented...
Deferral tuition option to be offered
Starting with the summer II session that begins Thursday, June 27, WMU will offer a payment deferral option to students whose employers will reimburse the cost of tuition.

The move is designed to ease the path of mid-career professionals who want to enhance their credentials but have a difficult time balancing family finances and semester-start tuition costs. Previously, many of those students paid their tuition costs and waited for reimbursement for several months until they had successfully completed the course and could document that fact.

“We’ve heard from both students and their employers that access to the caliber of degree programs WMU offers is what they want, and a strategy like this would greatly impact that access,” says Susan Stapleton, dean of the Graduate College.

The Employer Deferral Payment Plan is open to all students whose employers provide reimbursement. For more information and the required form, visit wmich.edu/accounting-services and click Accounts Receivable, then For Students.

Trustees approve tuition rates, student-initiated fees
Acting at its June 12 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees approved recommendations to increase both tuition and required fees for 2013-14 in a way that will keep WMU the best value among Michigan’s 15 public universities.

Trustees also approved an estimated general fund operating budget of just over $366.6 million for the fiscal year that will begin July 1. Major revenue ingredients to the WMU budget include $97.2 million in anticipated state appropriations and $259.9 million in expected tuition income.

Effective with the start of the fall 2013 semester, annual costs for a full-time Michigan freshman or sophomore to attend WMU will be $10,355—an increase of $373 or 3.75 percent more than the previous year’s cost.

The increase includes a 3.57 percent tuition increase, plus a $47 increase in required fees to support student bus transportation and media. Students initiated and by majority vote approved $26 of the fee increases.

University officials expect WMU to remain among the most affordable schools in the state and to retain its status as Michigan’s lowest-cost research university. Visit wmich.edu/registrar/tuition for a complete outline of tuition and fees for the 2013-14 academic year, including those for students taking courses online or through one of the University’s seven regional locations.

Board OKs 10 faculty, staff member retirements
The WMU Board of Trustees OK’d the retirements of five faculty members and five staff members at its June 12 meeting, as well as the resignations of two faculty members.

All of the retiring faculty members are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Stephen G. Jones, music, 42 years, effective April 30, 2014; Albert LaVergne, art, 23 years, effective Aug. 18, and Robert Spradling, music, 20 years, effective April 30.

The staff members retiring are: George D. Broomell, information technology, 24 years, effective June 30; Carol A. Eddy, Sindecuse Health Center, 30 years, effective June 30; Shirley A. Franklin, Center for Disability Services, 16 years, effective July 31; Martin L. Rosser, family and consumer sciences, 36 years, effective June 30; and Arthur J. Smith, information technology, 19 years, effective July 31. In addition, the effective retirement date for Dianne Town, Valley 1 Dining Service, who has 16 years of service, was changed to Aug. 15.

The faculty members resigning are: Michael A. Famiano, physics, effective Aug. 18, and Yue Guo, comparative religion, effective Aug. 18.

For rent—One hundred-year-old home on 10 acres in Mattawan, Mich., for up to two faculty members or graduate students.

Floor one has been completely renovated. Large kitchen, laundry, one bathroom, one bedroom, office area, glassed-in porch and two-car garage. Landlord lives next door and provides lawn care and snow plowing. Rent is $650 per month for one-eight year lease. Renter pays natural gas and electric. Contact Robert Griffin at (269) 686-2188.

Exchange
For rent—Tent—One hundred-year-old home on 10 acres in Mattawan, Mich., for up to two faculty members or graduate students.

Floor one has been completely renovated. Large kitchen, laundry, one bathroom, one bedroom, office area, glassed-in porch and two-car garage. Landlord lives next door and provides lawn care and snow plowing. Rent is $650 per month for one-eight year lease. Renter pays natural gas and electric. Contact Robert Griffin at (269) 686-2188.

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

Official elected to national board
Bettie Dennis, associate dean of Extended University Programs, has been elected to a three-year term on the Executive Board of the Michigan American Council on Education Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education.

The MU-ACE Network is committed to identifying, developing the leadership of, advancing and supporting the retention of women in higher education throughout the state. The organization was formed in 1978 and provides professional development, networking, mentoring, advocacy and support for women in Michigan’s higher education system.

Dennis has served on the Women of Color Collaborative for the past four years and will chair that committee for the 2014 MU-ACE annual conference. The collaborative encourages and increases the number of women in higher education as well as builds understanding of the unique challenges that face women of color on college campuses.

Professors awarded NEH grant
Dini Metro-Roland and Jeffrey Jones, teaching, learning and educational studies, have been awarded a $21,365 National Endowment for the Humanities—Enduring Questions Grant to develop and teach a course titled, “What is Human Flourishing?”

Drawing from philosophy, literature and the social sciences, the course will introduce students to conceptions, visions, and conditions of human flourishing.

The course will also examine human flourishing’s changing usage and understanding throughout the periods of Western history, its manifold expressions in contemporary life, and its pursuit in the local community.

In addition to attending classes, students will participate in a series of site visits to various intentional communities, outreach facilities, and musical performances and speaking events. They also will hear from organizations and artists working to cultivate flourishing in the local community.

Chef wins annual competition
Todd Gerry, assistant chef for the Fetzer Center, won first place in the seventh Chefs Against Hunger competition. The annual Ministry With Community fund-raiser highlights the challenges faced in its kitchen each day as staff work to serve delicious, healthy meals—sometimes without basic ingredients, for as many as 300 people.

For the contest, nine of the best local chefs created a three-course meal using ingredients from Ministry With Community’s pantry. Each chef was assisted by a celebrity sous-chef and had just 45 minutes to prepare and present their creations.

The culinary staff of the Fetzer Center has a tradition of earning local recognition. Just last August, Executive Chef Ken Taylor captured first place in the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission Christos Chef Cook Off.
University is part of EPA research effort

WMU is one of 13 top research universities around the nation that have been tapped to conduct a multyear $4.3 million research effort to determine the impact of organic aerosol materials on climate and air quality.

The 13 grants announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be pursued in conjunction with other efforts funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with additional support from the Southern Co. and Electric Power Research Institute.

The goal is to better understand how atmospheric gases interact with and affect the production of aerosols—tiny particles that form and are suspended in the atmosphere and, in large quantities, are visible as haze.

Annual bike race coming up

A weekend of activities next month for area cyclists will feature WMU’s eighth annual Miller Energy Criterium, the University’s competitive cycling day.

The 2013 event is set for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 13, at the Business Technology and Research Park on the Parkview Campus. It will include 11 separate races for participants of every age and ability level.

Online registration ends at 10 p.m. Thursday, July 11. A total of $6,000 in prize money will be awarded. Visit wmnch.edu/bitracerace for details about the criterion and other cycling activities taking place July 13 and 14.

Promotions of 41 faculty members granted promotions at June board meeting

Forty-one faculty members were approved during the June 12 meeting of the WMU Board of Trustees.

All of the promotions are effective with the beginning of the 2013-14 academic year.

Promoted to professor

Susan F. Ayers, human performance and health education; Robert J. Balik, finance and commercial law; Jay Berkow, theatre; Ineke F. Way, social work; and Richard W. Zmser, family and consumer sciences.

Promoted to associate professor

Kelly D. Ackerson, nursing; Barbara A. Barton, social work; Luigi A. Berto, history; Marcia L. Fellers, educational leadership, research and administration; Dominic Spybrook, educational leadership, research and technology; and Li Yang, geography.

Promoted to master faculty specialist

Alice DeYoung, nursing; Janice Maatman, public affairs and administration; Dominic Nicolai, aviation sciences; and Barbara L. Sagara, business information systems.

Promoted to faculty specialist II

Steven W. Tkachuk, aviation sciences.

Fellows for 2013-14 named

Five doctoral students are Graduate College fellows for the 2013-14 academic year. They received either a Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowship or a Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

The scholars’ names and dissertation advisors are:

• Clara Adams, of Charlotte, N.C., advisor Sherine Obare, chemistry;
• Liyana Wajira Ariyadasa, of Kalamazoo, advisor Sherine Obare, chemistry;
• Christine Haskill, of Grand Rapids, Mich., advisor Todd Kuchta, English;
• Racha EI Kadiri, of Tetouan, Morocco, advisor Mohamed Sultan, geosciences; and
• Michael Romano, of Tempe, Ariz., advisor John Clark, political science.

Building Community One Block At A Time—Stu-

dents such as Gillian Asque (pictured) in social work’s Community Organizing class are working in Kalamazoo’s Edisson, Oakwood and Vine neighborhoods this month. The intense service-learning class is taught by adjunct instructor Kim Cummings in partnership with Building Blocks, a small grassroots nonprofit organization Cummings founded to aid low-income neighborhoods. Students in the class organize small beautification and renovation projects for residents in collaboration with their neighborhood associations. “What we’re working to do is connect people at the street level and to create networks of residents who live on the same street and can continue to advocate for their street,” Cummings says. “The students love the out-front responsibility. In essence, it’s an internship that is incorporated within a regular course.” (Photo by Mike Lanka)

Obituaries

Youssef Alavi, emeritus in mathematics, whose death was previously reported, will be remembered during a memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 13, in St. Monica Catholic Church.†

Pamela J. (Douglas) McElroy, a former staff member, died May 29. She was 59. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 13, in St. Monica Catholic Church in Kalamazoo.

Robert H. Luscombe, a fine arts dean emeritus, died June 8. He was 77. Services have taken place. Memorial gifts may be made to the Luscombe Collaborative Projects Endowment of the College of Fine Arts in c/o the WMU College of Fine Arts.

Ronald J. Peln, a retired associate registrar, died June 3. He was 77. A memorial service will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. today in the Beacon Club in Portage, Mich. He is survived by his wife, Diane, who also is a WMU retiree.

WMU’s grant of $387,483 will be used through late 2014 for research focused on the southeastern United States to investigate the regional climate implications of organic aerosol formation.

The principal investigator on the project is Steven Bertman, chemistry, who is leading a team of researchers and students from WMU and collaborators at Oakland and Purdue universities and West Chester University of Pennsylvania. The team has been in the field since late May. Its work is part of an umbrella effort known as the Southern Oxidant & Aerosol Study.

“This is an unprecedented study in terms of scope,” Bertman said from his field location near Centreville, Ala.

He also says the Alabama site was selected because it is in an area of the country in which current methods of controlling smog have not worked well, despite their success in other regions.

An obituary for Ronald J. Peln, a retired associate registrar, died June 3. He was 77. A memorial service will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. today in the Beacon Club in Portage, Mich. He is survived by his wife, Diane, who also is a WMU retiree.

Edmund Tsang, associate dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, is interim dean of the college, effective July 1.

Tsang will lead the college during the national search to replace Anthony Yezini, who is leaving at the end of June to become the vice president for academic affairs at Wichita State University. Earlie Washington, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, is heading the campuswide search committee.

Tsang has served as associate dean for undergraduate programs and assessment in the engineering college since 2001. He has been instrumental in improving retention and graduation rates among WMU’s engineering students, and has netted more than $6 million in state and federal grants to support his teaching and learning research.

Building Community One Block At A Time—Stu-

dents such as Gillian Asque (pictured) in social work’s Community Organizing class are working in Kalamazoo’s Edisson, Oakwood and Vine neighborhoods this month. The intense service-learning class is taught by adjunct instructor Kim Cummings in partnership with Building Blocks, a small grassroots nonprofit organization Cummings founded to aid low-income neighborhoods. Students in the class organize small beautification and renovation projects for residents in collaboration with their neighborhood associations. “What we’re working to do is connect people at the street level and to create networks of residents who live on the same street and can continue to advocate for their street,” Cummings says. “The students love the out-front responsibility. In essence, it’s an internship that is incorporated within a regular course.” (Photo by Mike Lanka)
Whether they know it or not, hundreds of employees across campus have worked with Celeste Bertholet in Human Resources.

A human resources assistant, Bertholet routinely helps with employment-related paperwork for faculty and staff members as well as student workers.

“We do I-9s for new employees, go over benefits, process unemployment and leaves of absence, and do data entry for every transaction regarding employment status,” she explains. “We also handle incoming calls—I probably took 200 in just the last two weeks.”

Bertholet and her colleagues have to note everything from changes in employees’ names, pay and titles to transfers and promotions right up through separations from the University.

She says the most challenging part of her work is remembering and staying current with all the human resources guidelines and state and federal laws associated with employment. That’s especially true with the Family and Medical Leave Act because it changes frequently and now has a new component pertaining to families of military personnel.

Bertholet joined WMU’s staff in 1999 as a clerk in parking services. Looking for something different, she moved to Human Resources three years later.

“We have a super staff that works very well together as a team. They’re a diverse group, and I get to meet new people every day. Western is a very welcoming place,” she says. “And I really like to help people. Even if you’re not sure it’s an HR question, you can always call us. We’ll do the research and call you back.”

Bertholet served on the Professional Support Staff Organization board for several years as either secretary or a member at large and also coordinated the group’s annual picnic sale for a while. A full-time employee, she’s nearly halfway through earning a bachelor’s degree in human resources management from WMU.

But she still finds time to serve on a committee for her professional organization, the Michigan Council of the Society for Human Resource Management, and the campus committee that organizes the annual 25 Year Club induction and dinner.

Bertholet lives in Kalamazoo and used to bowl and play softball on leagues. Class work takes up most of her spare time these days, but her love of art has influenced her to get back into doing drawings in the pen-and-ink technique known as stippling. She also enjoys making candles.

The teams for women’s tennis, men’s tennis and women’s soccer have been recognized by the NCAA as being in the top 10 percent in the nation according to their Academic Progress Rate.

This is the second-straight year the women’s tennis program has landed in the top 10 percent and the fourth time since the APR Awards began in 2004-05. This is the first such acknowledgement for men’s tennis and women’s soccer.

During the past semester, WMU athletes earned the highest GPA on record—3.11—and had a collective GPA of more than 3.0 for the 14th consecutive semester dating back to fall 2006.

The top five team GPAs for spring 2013 were: women’s gymnastics, 3.86; women’s tennis, 3.65; women’s soccer, 3.59; cross country, 3.56; and men’s soccer, 3.53.

Bronco gymnasts earned the highest GPA during a given semester on record. Eight members of the team achieved a 4.0 while helping this year’s squad win a share of the Mid-American Conference title.

In all, 224 student athletes earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher in spring 2013. In addition, 141 earned GPAs of 3.50 or better, while 88 had a 3.75 or better GPA and 39 achieved perfect 4.00 GPAs.

Bronco athletes also maintained high cumulative GPAs. In this academic category, 238 garnered at least a 3.0, 118 at least a 3.50, 59 at least a 3.75 and nine had a 4.0.