Western News

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Trustees adopt policy regarding youths

Meeting on April 18, the WMU Board of Trustees adopted a formal policy outlining the responsibilities of campus employees who are part of programs and activities involving minors. The new policy background references earlier measures put in place during recent years.

Those measures include the Duty to Report Criminal Acts policy, President John M. Dunn's Statement on Reporting Illegal and Unethical Activities, and confidential reporting procedures put in place through a private firm called Ethics Point.

A new website at wmich.edu/legal/mi-motion-on-campus was recently developed to support board and administrative policies on campus programs involving minors. The site includes a variety of resources, such as links to earlier policy statements, information on best practices for working with minors, checklists, reporting tools and information about state agencies that can help ensure a safe and protective environment.

Detroit paper calls WMU a green leader

WMU has been named a 2013 Michigan Green Leader by the Detroit Free Press. The University was named the winner in the public sector category in this year’s statewide competition. The names of the paper’s eight 2013 honorees were announced May 5 in a column by business writer John Gallagher.

This year’s winners will be honored Monday, June 10, during a Detroit Economic Club breakfast ceremony in the MotorCity Casino Hotel. U.S. Sen. Carl Levin is scheduled to speak at the event.

WMU was lauded for what the Free Press called “a remarkable range of green activities” that include the campus’ extensive electric vehicle infrastructure, its recycling program and a partnership that allows all students, faculty and staff to ride Kalamazoo public transit for free.

Openings available at Children’s Place

The Children’s Place Learning Center has immediate openings in its toddler program, which serves children 18 months through 3 years of age. Openings are still available in the preschool- and school-age programs, as well. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit wmich.edu/childcare for more information.

Vision Clinic is sole eye-health center

Kalamazoo Optometry P.C. is no longer affiliated with WMU and the Unified Clinics. Full optometric services are available at the Vision Clinic on the Unified Clinics’ fourth floor. Vision Clinic services include discounted frames specially priced for WMU employees and competitively priced contact lenses. No copayment is necessary for services received on campus. Learn more by visiting wmich.edu/unifiedclinics/vision, or call (269) 387-7064 for an appointment.

Dunn issues statement on saving East Hall

More details about how East Hall, the University’s first building, will be restored and used as an alumni center were explained by WMU President John M. Dunn in a May 12 guest opinion published in the Kalamazoo Gazette.

“In the opinion piece, Dunn noted the University’s intent to bring East Hall, built atop Prospect Hill and opened in 1905, to life again as an alumni center. “The building and hilltop were gifts from this community when the University was established in 1903. They will remain as testament to the lasting partnership between this University and its home community,” Dunn wrote.

“Our commitment means we will preserve the white-columned presence and lighted cupola that the Kalamazoo community created and has treasured for more than 100 years. We want future Kalamazoo residents to look to the top of Prospect Hill and enjoy the same view and sense of pride Kalamazoo citizens first enjoyed in 1905.”

Dunn reported that the response from the Kalamazoo community as well as alumni around the world has generally been positive, and in April, the plan to refurbish East Hall received a unanimous endorsement, as well as gift pledges from the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

East Hall to be hilltop’s focal point

Plans call for East Hall to become a resource for the campus and community at large and Prospect Hill’s other three buildings, North Hall, West Hall and the Speech and Hearing Center, to be removed.

“With a new lease on life, East Hall will join other East Campus treasures like Walwood Hall, the Little Theatre and Oakland Gym as buildings we have renovated to again be part of the fabric of daily University life,” Dunn noted.

The renovated East Hall will serve as the venue for receptions, reunions and other celebratory events; a place to showcase artifacts, pictures and remembrances of the University’s history; and a home for the Office of Development and Alumni.

“It was not an easy call, but the slow deterioration of the structures on East Campus could not continue,” Dunn wrote about the decision to focus all of WMU’s efforts on saving the University’s first building.

“Some have urged us to continue mothballing the remaining buildings. I have given thoughtful consideration to those arguments, but that strategy has already been costly, with an annual expenditure of $250,000 for heat and energy to preserve empty space. Limited resources mean we cannot renovate East Hall and continue to spend money on unused buildings,” he wrote.

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Koretsky named new dean of Lee Honors College

Carla M. Koretsky, geosciences, has been named dean of the Lee Honors College, effective July 1.

Koretsky has served as honors college associate dean since 2012 and will replace Nicholas Andreidis, who will retire from WMU June 30.

She was one of three finalists for the position who were identified in early April and made formal on-campus presentations at the end of spring semester.

“During her time as associate dean, Dr. Koretsky has shown leadership and developed a real rapport with the students who are part of our honors college,” says Timothy J. Greene, provost. “She has really shown herself ideally suited to the role of dean, and her interactions with the search committee and during the public presentations reinforced the reputation she has established.”

Koretsky came to WMU in 2000 and has been a faculty member in the environmental studies program as well as the geosciences department. She focuses on aqueous geochemistry and biogeochemistry.

An active researcher, Koretsky received the University’s Emerging Scholar Award in 2007, was associate chair of the geosciences department in 2006, helped to establish a new interdisciplinary geochemistry major and was the geosciences graduate advisor from 2004 to 2012.

She has received more than $1.1 million in external grants from organizations such as the U.S. Department of Energy, American Chemical Society and National Science Foundation. These grants have included a prestigious NSF CAREER Award.
Around campus and beyond

Editor's note: Visit wmich.edu/news/events for details and more events news.

Sculture exhibit at Richmond

Works from sculptors Sarah Lindley and Norwood Viviano are on display through Friday, June 28, in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts/Monroe-Brown Gallery. Lindley is an American ceramic sculptor who teaches art as well as manages the 3-D program at Kalamazoo College. Viviano balances traditional modes of sculpture production and contemporary digital technology and teaches sculpture as well as heads the sculpture emphasis program at Grand Valley State University.

Nature centers next Keystone topic

Willard “Bill” Rose, president and CEO of the Kalamazoo Nature Center, will share his insights on the business paradigm shift for nature centers at 8 a.m. Friday, May 31, in the Dean’s Conference Room of Schneider Hall. His talk is part of the 2012-13 Keystone Community Bank Breakout Speaker Series.

The event is free and open to the public and begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (269) 387-6059 or sending an email to kayla.j.hunt@wmich.edu.

In addition to his duties at the nature center, Rose is a member of the board for Discover Kalamazoo, serves as secretary and treasurer for the Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, and provides management and programmatic consulting services to nature centers throughout the United States.

New Student Orientation starts soon

Some 8,000 people, including beginning students and their families as well as transfer students, are expected to attend orientation sessions this summer.

Most will be on campus for one of the 12 New Student Orientation sessions that begin Monday, June 3, and run through Tuesday, July 2. The sessions are filling up quickly, so students are urged to register now.

In addition, 700 transfer students will take part in Transfer Transition Program sessions being held on four Fridays. The three that have yet to take place are set for June 14, July 19 and Aug. 16. Students are encouraged to register the week before the session they plan to attend.

For more details, visit wmich.edu/foye/orientation or wmich.edu/transfer/services.

Campus to bid goodbye to two residence halls

Current and former students, faculty and staff and other members of the University community will come together Friday, June 7, to mark the end of the line for two longtime campus residence halls.

A public gathering will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. in the main areas of Hocke Hall, which opened in 1959, and Bigelow Hall, which opened in 1961. The event will include building tours, photo opportunities, brief remarks and a reception.

Invitations to the occasion are members of the families of the two faculty members for whom the halls were named. Howard F. Bigelow was an economics professor at WMU from 1924 to 1961. John C. Hocke was a professor of education and psycholgy who also served as registrar, dean of admission and director of extension during his 1916-to-1955 tenure at the University.

In the coming months, both halls will be demolished to make way, in coming years, for new campus residence halls. Replacing the two halls in the short run will be Eldridge and Fox Halls in Goldsworth Valley, which have been offline for several years.

More than 500 invitations to the event were sent to people with particular ties with the halls, either as former residents or employees.

Those wishing to attend are asked to make a reservation at mywmu.com/bigelowhoecly or by calling Erin Kaplan, the event’s coordinator, at (269) 387-2176. The website includes a mechanism for people to share their memories about life in the two residence halls as well as a history of both facilities.

Exchange

For rent—Furnished home from June 1 to July 2014 while owner is on sabatical. Within 15-minute walk to WMU. Three bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, central air, washer and dryer, dishwasher, and gas stove. $1,500 per month plus gas and electricity. Contact: nationsjohns@wmich.edu or (269) 760-1569.

Jobs

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

Student wins coveted NEA fellowship

Traci D. Brimhall, a doctoral student in the creative writing poetry program, was one of 40 people nationwide to be awarded a 2013 National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, which came with a $25,000 cash prize.

The NEA has awarded creative writing fellowships since 1967, providing writers with the time and freedom to pursue their craft. More than 1,100 people have applied for the fellowships, which were among 832 grants totaling $23.3 million awarded through the NEA’s Art Works funding program.

Brimhall, who hopes to graduate in spring 2014, was the only writer in Michigan to receive an individual artist grant; however, many arts organizations in the state also received grants.

Educator’s radio show wins award

Allison Downey, teaching, learning and educational studies, recently won the Excellence in Broadcasting award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters in the Special Interest and Cultural Programming category.

Downey won the award for “The Living Room,” a pilot radio show that aired this past fall on Michigan Radio, a National Public Radio affiliate. She co-produced and hosted the one-hour show as well as served as storyteller and songwriter.

Based on the pilot show’s success, Downey and producer Zak Rosen are bringing monthly installments of eight to 10-minute segments of “The Living Room” to listeners during Michigan Radio’s “Statewide with Cynthia Canty” through October.

Prof earns first TAPPI education award

Margaret Joyce, paper and chemical engineering, was recently honored with a newly established honor by the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry.

Joyce received the Coating and Graphic Arts Division Mentoring Award and MeadWestvaco Prize at the PaperCon conference April 27 through May 1 in Atlanta, Ga.

In addition, Zheng “Rachel” Wei, a master’s student from China, won the Student PaperCon 2013 best student paper award. TAPPI is the world’s foremost pulp and paper industry association.

“Dr. Joyce epitomizes professionalism in education,” says Larry N. Montague, TAPPI president and CEO. “She is an extremely caring and hardworking individual, who demonstrates her passion on a daily basis with her university and her students.”

A faculty member since 1996, Joyce has made a significant contribution not only to students, but also to the paper and printing industries as a research scientist. Her work in the areas of nanotechnology, high-speed curtain coaters and radio frequency identification—RFID—are considered at the leading edge of development.

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Western Michigan University
University gearing up for Midwest Games International 2013

WMU will look like an Olympic sports complex Memorial Day Weekend, when it hosts the Malaysian Midwest Games International 2013. The games, an annual sporting event sponsored by members of Malaysian student organizations at American universities located throughout the Midwest, will be held Friday through Sunday, May 24-26.

Malaysia’s ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Othman Hashim, will officiate at the games as well as award medals in the closing ceremony planned for the evening of Sunday, May 26, in Miller Auditorium.

Satveer Thind, president of WMU’s Malaysian Student Association and director of the game’s organizing committees, says the event fosters sportsmanship and camaraderie among the participating Malaysian student teams, in addition to promoting school pride and friendly institutional rivalries. “The games date back to the 1970s and started out as a modest athletic congregation of Malaysian students studying at Midwest and Malaysia’s very own ‘Sepak Takraw.’

Participants will participate in team and individual sports, including men’s and women’s badminton, soccer, basketball, tennis and volleyball. New offerings for 2013’s games include racquetball, netball and Malaysia’s very own “Sepak Takraw.” Competitions will be held at the Student Recreation Center, the Goldworth Valley field, intramural fields and Sorensen tennis courts.

Anyone wishing to volunteer may contact Michelle Tan at volunteer@mwg2013.com. Visit mwg2013.com for more information.

The Malaysian Midwest Games International 2013 is being sponsored by the Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia, WMU, the WMU Malaysian Student Association, private Malaysian institutions, and other businesses and companies.

WMU partnering to record local military stories

An oral history project honoring veterans, service members and military families is partnering with WMU to record and preserve the stories of local community members.

The StoryCorps Military Voices Initiative and WMU invite veterans to sign up by Wednesday, June 5, to have a one-on-one conversation recorded in July with a family member, friend or colleague. Participants will have 40 minutes of uninterrupted time to talk to each other about anything that is meaningful to them. StoryCorps will record the conversations on CDs, and with the participants’ permission, archive them at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., so they will be preserved for future generations. The recording sessions will take place Tuesday through Thursday, July 16-18, on campus at WMU. The station’s studios are located on the first floor of Friedmann Hall, and parking passes will be provided.

To share a story or obtain more information, contact Tracey Quada, WMU director of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, at tracey.quada@wmich.edu by June 5.

To learn more, visit StoryCorps at storycorps.org or WMU’s military and veterans affairs website at wmich.edu/military.

Music students snare six DownBeat awards

For the second year in a row, WMU music students pocketed six coveted awards in DownBeat magazine’s annual student music competition, third most of any college or university worldwide.

No other Michigan university won an award. The University of North Texas and the University of Miami came in first and second, each with double-digit awards. No other Michigan university won an award. The University of North Texas and the University of Miami came in first and second, each with double-digit awards.

“I continue to marvel at the work of our students and colleagues,” says Tom Knuft, music, who directs the jazz studies program. The results are listed in DownBeat’s June issue. This year’s WMU honorees, along with the category of their award and their director or professor, are:

- Gold Company Sextet, Vocal Jazz Group, Graduate College Winner, Duane Shields Davis, director.
- Bryan Blowers, of Portage, Mich., Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist (guitar), Undergraduate College Winner, Tom Knuft, professor.
- Killian Williams, of Ann Arbor, Mich., Jazz Soloist, Undergraduate College Winner, Charles,” Scott Cowan, professor.
- Youyang Qu, of Beijing, China, Classical Soloist, Undergraduate College Winner, Renata Arman Knut, professor.
- Blake Morgan, of Livonia, Mich., Vocal Jazz Soloist, Undergraduate College Winner, Duane Shields Davis, director.
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APICS Again Honors WMU—The southwest Michigan chapter of the Association for Operations Management, or APICS, has named WMU Educational Partner of the Year for the fourth year in a row. In addition, Rian Caldwell from Kalamaizoo was named APICS student of the year. Caldwell is a student in WMU’s integrated supply management program, or ISM, which ranks 12th in the nation and offers students near perfect job placement. The honors were presented May 14 in the Fetzer Center as part of the association’s top management dinner. The APICS Educational Partner of the Year award is presented to those who have demonstrated achievement in professional education. The ISM program, which offers a BS in Supply Management, is the only program of its kind in the state. For more information, visit apics.org.

The 2012 games offered thrilling action. (Photo courtesy of Malaysian Midwest Games International)
Sarah Curry has worked three very different jobs at WMU during the past 15 years. But her organizational skills have made the transitions easier, and the variety of each job has kept her University career interesting.

In her role as executive assistant to Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Jim Thomas, she is responsible for maintaining his schedule and drafting letters to donors, alumni and internal and external partners, along with other administrative tasks. She serves as the initial point of contact between key stakeholders and the vice president. She also coordinates the meetings and activities of the WMU Foundation Board and the Alumni Association Board.

“My job is to support the vice president. It’s challenging in a new job. There’s always a learning curve. I’m fortunate, and I have been fortunate in the past, to have a supportive boss and co-workers,” she says.

Curry started in her current position in October, after being an office manager in academic advising for the College of Arts and Sciences for 10 years and previously working in the front desk area at Sindecuse Health Center.

“You go from helping people in the medical field, working with students in advising, and then people who are raising money for the University. It’s three very different environments,” she says.

A native of Kalamazoo, Curry was used to change growing up. Her family moved five times in 11 years before settling back in the Kalamazoo area in Portage, Mich., when she was in high school. She and her husband, Joe, still live in Portage. They have a daughter who is a student at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and plans to transfer to WMU this fall to study geology. Their son is a high school sophomore.

Curry enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing and gardening. The spring is also a key time for the entire extended family to go morel mushroom hunting. Low to the ground and sometimes difficult to find, morel mushrooms can be somewhat elusive in the local woods and brush. Curry says mushroom hunting has become somewhat of a family competition each year.

On Campus with Sarah Curry

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Three new programs were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees during its April 18 meeting.

Trustees also signed off on name changes for five existing academic programs.

New academic programs
- The Master of Arts in Biological Sciences is a course-only degree that complements the existing research-oriented Master of Science in Biological Sciences.
- The Master of Business Administration—Health Care Concentration is a response to the demand for health care leaders with a strong business background.
- The M.A. in Teaching allows students to complete state certification requirements for initial certification. There is a secondary sciences teacher education concentration and, for Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellows only, a secondary mathematics teacher education concentration.

Program name changes
- The Doctor of Philosophy in Paper and Imaging Science and Engineering is now the Ph.D. in Paper and Printing Science.
- The M.S. in Paper and Imaging Science and Engineering is now the M.S. in Paper and Printing Science.
- The Accelerated M.S. in Paper and Imaging Science and Engineering is now the Accelerated M.S. in Paper and Printing Science.

Dunn issues statement on saving East Hall

To those who plead 'Save East Campus,' I would say, that is exactly what we are doing. We are following the advice of those who warned us we must act now to save what's most important, or risk losing it all. To do nothing might quell the angst of some, but most important, or risk losing it all. To do nothing might quell the angst of some, but nothing might quell the angst of some, but...